Texas Government  
POLS 2306  
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OFFICE HOURS: MW 11-1, M 2:15-8:15  

REQUIRED TEXTBOOK  
Mora and Ruger’s The State of Texas is the textbook assigned for the course. It is available through the publisher's website and www.amazon.com.

COURSE DESCRIPTION  
This class is an introduction to Texas government and politics. Online PowerPoint presentations will supplement textbook readings. Postings, papers and exams will assess student learning outcomes.

COURSE OBJECTIVE AND LEARNING OUTCOMES  
This course is part of the ASU core.  
CT: Students will develop critical thinking skills and the ability to critically evaluate their political environment.  
CS: Students will gain and be able to demonstrate a basic knowledge of Texas government.  
SR: Students will gain and be able to demonstrate a basic knowledge of Texas government.  
PR: Students will exhibit the skills necessary to understand and evaluate political outcomes.

EXAMINATIONS AND MEANS OF ASSESSMENT  
Exams (15% Each, 60% total): I will administer four exams, including a final exam consisting of short answer questions and fill in the blanks. Questions will be drawn from the readings, clips and documentaries used in class and the lectures. A review sheet will be given prior to each exam through Blackboard. MAKEUPS WILL BE GIVEN FOR DOCUMENTED MEDICAL REASONS ONLY.  
Short Papers (14%, 7% each): 2 short two page papers on the Texas Legislature will be given with information available on Blackboard.  
Postings (26%, 2% each): Postings of 250 words will be due weekly based on prompts provided through Blackboard.

RELIGIOUS OBSERVANCES  
Every effort will be made to accommodate all forms of religious observance in compliance with ASU OP 10.19. Students who require additional arrangements to be made should make these known in good time in order that arrangements can be made.

SPECIAL NEEDS  
In accordance with OP 10.15 of ASU’s Operating Policies and Procedures, persons with disabilities which may warrant academic accommodations must contact the Student Life Office, Room 112 University Center, in order to request such accommodations prior to any accommodations being implemented. You are encouraged to make this request early in the semester so that appropriate arrangements can be made.

ACADEMIC INTEGRITY  
Angelo State University Honor Code http://www.angelo.edu/forms/pdf/Honor_Code.pdf: Angelo State University expects its students to maintain complete honesty and integrity in their academic pursuits. Therefore, you are responsible for understanding the Academic Honor Code. Click on the link to access the code.

WITHDRAWAL FROM THE COURSE
The last day to drop a course or to withdraw from the University will be March 28, 2019.

COURSE OUTLINE

1/14 Week 1: Introduction to Texas (Mora and Ruger, Chapter 1)
Posting 1 Due 1/18

1/22 Week 2: Texas Constitution and Federalism (Mora and Ruger, Chapter 2)
Posting 2 Due 1/25
1/28: Exam 1 Due at 11:59pm
1/29 Texas Legislature (Mora and Ruger, Chapter 3)
Posting 3 Due 2/1

2/4 Texas Legislature Assignment

Texas Legislature Assignment Due 2/6
2/7 Texas Executive Branch (Mora and Ruger, Chapter 4)
Posting 4 Due 2/15
2/18 Texas Judiciary (Mora and Ruger, Chapter 5)
Posting 5 Due 2/22
2/25 Exam 2 Due 2/25
2/26 Texas Legislature Current Events Exercise

Current Events Short Paper Due 3/1

¾ Local Government (Mora and Ruger, Chapter 6)
Posting 6 Due 3/8
3/18 Voting in Texas (Mora and Ruger, Chapter 7)
Posting 7 Due 3/22
3/25 Elections in Texas (Mora and Ruger, Chapter 8)
Posting 8 Due 3/29
4/1 Parties in Texas (Mora and Ruger, Chapter 9)
Posting 9 Due 4/5
4/8 Interest Groups in Texas (Mora and Ruger, Chapter 10)
Posting 10 Due 4/12
4/15 Exam 3 Due 4/15
4/16 Public Policy in Texas Part I (Mora and Ruger, Chapter 11)
Posting 11 Due 4/19
4/22 Public Policy in Texas Part II (Mora and Ruger, Chapter 12)
Posting 12 Due 4/26
4/29 Financing State Government (Mora and Ruger, Chapter 13)
Posting 13 Due 5/3
5/8 Final Exam Due