

ANGELO STATE UNIVERSITY
COLLEGE OF ARTS & SCIENCES
POLITICAL SCIENCE 2306 TEXAS GOVERNMENT
Fall 2019

Section 90: Tuesday and Thursday 11-12:15 in Academic 135

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PART 1: THIS COURSE

COURSE DESCRIPTION: Political Science 2306 is designed to introduce the student to the Texas state system of government. This introductory survey course covers the origin and development of the Texas Constitution, structure, and powers of state and local government, federalism and inter-governmental relations, political participation, the election process, public Semester, and the political culture of Texas.

CORE OBJECTIVES:

Critical Thinking: gather, analyze, evaluate, and synthesize information relevant to a question or issue.

Communication: develop, interpret and express ideas through effective written communication

Social Responsibility: demonstrate knowledge of civic responsibility

Personal Responsibility: demonstrate the ability to evaluate choices, actions, and consequences as related to ethical decision-making

COURSE LEARNING OUTCOMES:

1. The student will demonstrate knowledge about Texas government and politics.
2. The student will explain the origin and development of the Texas Constitution.
3. The student will explain the origins and evolution of the Texas political system, with a focus on the growth of political institutions, the key components of the Texas political system, and federalism.
4. The student will describe how different political systems divide and share power between the state and local governments.
5. The student will demonstrate knowledge of the legislative, executive, and judicial branches of Texas government.
6. Students will evaluate the role of public opinion, interest groups, political parties,

campaigns, and elections in the Texas political system.

7. Students will describe the rights and responsibilities of citizens and be able to comment on the role of civic engagement in Texas politics.
8. The student will analyze political issues, demonstrate critical thinking skills, and develop a critical approach to the study of policies and the political culture of Texas.

Accommodations for Disability: Notify me as soon as possible if you need an accommodation for any of the requirements of this class.

The Student Affairs Office is the designated campus department charged with the responsibility of reviewing and authorizing requests for reasonable accommodations based on a disability. It is the student's responsibility to initiate such a request by contacting the Student Affairs Office, Suite 112 of the Houston Harte University Center, at 325-942-2047 (phone) or 325-942-2211 (fax) or by e-mail at studentservices@angelo.edu to begin the process. The Student Affairs Office will establish the particular documentation requirements necessary for the various types of disabilities.

LEARNING RESOURCES:

REQUIRED TEXT: *Inside Texas Politics* by Brandon Rottinghaus (Oxford University Press, 2018) ISBN9780190299514. **You may use either the first or second edition of this book.**

You will also be required to read the web news site Texas Tribune <https://www.texastribune.org/> There may be other required readings noted in the course schedule. These will be available via the web or class BlackBoard page.

Optional supplemental material which I think may assist you with the required material may also be posted to BlackBoard this material will be marked optional supplemental.

REQUIRED ERESOURCE: You are required to purchase access to Top Hat e-system from TopHat.com. Instructions on purchase and access are posted to the class Blackboard page. If you have purchased Top Hat for another class, you do not have to purchase new access. You merely add this class to your roster.

CLASS REQUIREMENTS:

Attendance: You are expected to attend all classes. Attendance will be taken for every class through Top Hat, and the student is cautioned that excessive absences will jeopardize their final grade for the course. A portion of your final grade is based on your attendance and participation in general class sessions.

- Sleeping/Talking/Using Earbuds/Surfing the web/Texting during class will be counted as an unexcused absence. You will be given one warning and one unexcused absence. *If it continues, you will be marked down one full grade on your final grade.* Any student may anonymously alert me to a concern over a distraction, and I will then determine if there is a problem.
- Arriving late or leaving early without prior permission will be counted as an absence. You must be present when attendance is taken via Top Hat.
- Students who have five or more unexcused absences will not receive credit for attendance. Two unexcused absences will receive a 10 point deduction; three a 20 point deduction, and four a 30 point deduction.

- Excused Absences: To receive an excused absence: .
 - You may use one (2) no-questions-asked (NQA) excused absence. You may not use this absences on an exam or group discussion day. To use an NQA excused absence, you must notify me by email at least 30 minutes before the start of class that you will be absent that day.
 - Other excused absences require written proof such as a doctor’s note, faculty notice that you are out on ASU business, etc. If you are using a written proof excuse on an exam or group discussion day, you must make arrangements with me before the absence to complete the makeup work
 - All make-ups must be taken within 24-hours of the end of your excused absence.
 - **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 so that arrangements can be made.

Classroom etiquette: A proper learning environment is one in which all points of view, all questions asked, and all questions answered are treated with tolerance and respect. The overall goal of classroom decorum is for all of us to treat each other with respect and dignity. Any behavior that disrupts this learning environment such as late arrivals or early departures is unacceptable, and inappropriate behavior will be subject to appropriate sanction.

Grading: This course uses an accumulated points system.

Quizzes: BB and TH	270	Grading scale	
In-class Exams	250	1008-1120	A
Attendance	100	896-1007	B
Participation	100	784-895	C
Project Proposal	100	672-783	D
<u>Semester Project</u>	<u>300</u>	671-Below	F
Total Points	1120		

Extra credit is built into the quizzes and exams. **Extra credit will not be awarded individually to assist you to bring up a bad grade.**

Assignments: All deadlines are firm. Extensions due to excused absences are granted as noted below.

Readings: Readings are listed by the class in which they will be discussed. You are expected to have read the material before that class period. Reading assignments are not a substitute for attending class. We will discuss additional material in class, which will be included in graded assignments.

Quizzes:

In-class quizzes: Periodically during a lecture, I will post questions which will be answered using Top Hat. These questions will be over the material discussed in lecture.

Reading Tests in BlackBoard (BB tests): During the semester, there will be thirteen (13) online tests in BlackBoard over the reading. The deadlines for these tests are on BlackBoard and in the course schedule. BlackBoard uses Respondus Lockdown Browser. It is your responsibility to install the program and to know how to use it. You may access installation and tutorials for Respondus Lockdown Browser via the technology tab on the opening page of Blackboard. You will NOT use a Respondus webcam. If you have any problems consult ASU Tech Services. **Extensions for BB Tests:** It is very rare that an extension for not completing a test before the deadline will result in an extension of time.

Exams: There will be five in-class exams. YOU MAY NOT USE ANY AIDS WHILE TAKING THE IN-CLASS EXAMS. The in-class exams will be T/F and MC. It is your responsibility to notify me ASAP if you will miss an in-class exam. If I do not receive the notice promptly, you will not be allowed to make-up the exam. I decide what is prompt notice. You may NOT use an NQA absence for an in-class exam. The make-up exam must be completed before the next class period or one weekday after your written excuse expires. You must make an appointment to take the makeup exam at my office M-F 8-5

Participation: Your participation grade will depend on (1) your in-class participation through Top Hat, and (2) your group activities.

Group Discussion: Group Discussion dates are noted in the syllabus and discussion topics posted to BlackBoard well before the discussion date. Your grade will be based on peer and professor review of participation in the group discussion. I will choose the groups. Attendance will be taken each class period by Top Hat. *Unexcused absence from any class group discussion period will result in the loss of 10 points from your participation grade. An excused absence from group discussion will have to be made up by writing a two-page project of the student's thoughts on one of the scheduled topics for the missed discussion which must be turned in through Blackboard portal for submission of the discussion day's peer review not later than seven days after the missed discussion period.*

Discussion Board: If an emergency occurs and a particular group discussion is moved to posting Blackboard Discussion Board your grade for this discussion will be based on your postings. The date listed in the course schedule for the group discussion is the deadline for discussion board postings. You must post a discussion thread for one topic, and at least one reply to a different topic in each discussion period posted. The quality and quantity of postings will be used to determine your grade. I alone determine the quality of your postings.

Semester Project: There is a two part semester project. The first part is your project proposal and the second is your final project paper. See Blackboard for specifics about the project proposal and final submission.

TurnItIn: This course will use TurnItIn for written assignments. You will submit your proposal and final project through the assignment listed on Blackboard. TurnItIn will automatically review your proposal and final project. TurnItIn only accepts Word or pdf format. If you do not

know how to use TurnItIn see the tutorials on Blackboard. DO NOT submit your project through TurnItIn.com.

Extensions for Proposal and Project Submission: Rarely do I allow extensions of the proposal and final project deadlines. Only extraordinary unforeseeable events will receive extensions.

FYI: Computers crash—it is your responsibility to save a backup copy of your project off your hard drive; thus this is not an excuse for a late project. Also, the clock on your computer may not align with the one on Blackboard or TurnItIn. The Blackboard and TurnItIn clocks control submission deadlines. Further, it takes time for uploads to be completed. If they are not completed before the Blackboard or TurnItIn clocks reach the deadline your submission will be blocked, and you will not receive an extension of time.

Dr. Norton's Fall 2019 POLS 2306- 90 (TR 11-12:15, A 135) Course Schedule:

Reading Note for all assignments: Required Reading is found in *Inside Texas Politics* by Brandon Rottinghaus (Oxford University Press, 2018) ISBN9780190299514.

(hereafter textbook) You will also be required to read the web news site Texas Tribune <https://www.texastribune.org/> . There may be other required readings noted in the course schedule. These will be available via the web or class BlackBoard page.

August 27: Introduction; Practice for Respondus and TurnItIn are open. All parts of the Semester Project are open

August 29: Textbook: Chapter 1

September 3: Textbook: Chapter 2; Texas Constitution; Junnell's proposed Texas Constitution;

September 5: Textbook: Chapter 3; US Constitution; **Quizzes for chapters 1, 2, and 3 close at 11:59 p.m.**

September 10: **In-class Exam # 1** (chapters 1, 2, and 3)

September 12: Textbook: Chapter 4

September 17: Textbook: Chapter 5

September 19: Textbook: Chapter 6

September 24: **Group Discussion # 1; Quizzes for chapters 4, 5, and 6 close at 11:59 p.m.**

September 26: **In-class Exam # 2** (chapters 4, 5, and 6)

October 1: **LIBRARY RESEARCH TUTORIAL. BRING YOUR LAPTOP**

October 3: Textbook: Chapter 7

October 8: Textbook: Chapter 8; **Semester Project Proposal due through Blackboard by 11:59 p.m.**

October 10: Textbook chapter 9

October 15: **Group Discussion # 2; Quizzes for chapters 7, 8, and 9 close at 11:59 p.m.**

October 17: **In-class Exam # 3** (chapters 7, 8, and 9)

October 22: Textbook: Chapter 10

October 24: Textbook: Chapter 10-11

October 29: Textbook: Chapter 11

October 31: **Group Discussion #3; Quizzes for chapters 10 and 11 close at 11:59 p.m.**

November 5: **In-class Exam # 4** (chapters 10 and 11)

November 7: Textbook: Chapter 12

November 12: Textbook: Chapter 12

November 14: Textbook: Chapter 13/14

November 19: Group Discussion # 4; **Quizzes for chapters 12, 13/14 close at 11:59 p.m**

November 21: **In-class Exam # 5** (chapter 12, 13/14)

November 26 and 28: No class

December 3: No class

December 5: No class; **Semester Project due through Blackboard by 11:59 p.m.**

There is no final exam for this class. Your semester project serves as the culmination of this class.

PART 3: ASU POLICIES AND ASSISTANCE

Accommodations for Disability: ASU is committed to the principle that no qualified individual with a disability shall, on the basis of disability, be excluded from participation in or be denied the benefits of the services, programs or activities of the university, or be subjected to discrimination by the university, as provided by the Americans with Disabilities Act of 1990 (ADA), the Americans with Disabilities Act Amendments of 2008 (ADAAA), and subsequent legislation. The Student Affairs Office is the designated campus department charged with the responsibility of reviewing and authorizing requests for reasonable accommodations based on a disability. It is the student's responsibility to initiate such a request by contacting the Student Affairs Office, Suite 112 of the Houston Harte University Center, at 325-942-2047 (phone) or 325-942-2211 (fax) or by e-mail at studentservices@angelo.edu to begin the process. The Student Affairs Office will establish the particular documentation requirements necessary for the various types of disabilities.

Academic Honesty: Angelo State University expects its students to maintain complete honesty and integrity in their academic pursuits. Students are responsible for understanding and complying with the University Academic Honor Code, which contained in both print and web versions of the ASU Student Handbook. See the Current Student page on the ASU homepage (URL address <http://www.angelo.edu/currentstudent/>) and click on the Academic Honor Code. Acts of academic dishonesty and misconduct as referenced in Angelo State University's Student Handbook will be referred to the Dean of Students.

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 so that arrangements can be made.

Assistance at ASU

If you need immediate help: Contact the University Police Department at 325-942-2047.

Title IX Office – If you or someone you know would like help related to an experience of sexual violence including sexual assault, harassment, domestic violence, dating violence, stalking or another type of non-consensual sexual conduct, please contact Michelle Boone at 325-486-6357 or michelle.boone@angelo.edu. The Title IX office understands the sensitive nature of these situations and can provide information about available on- and off-campus resources, such as counseling and psychological services, medical treatment, academic support, university housing and other forms of assistance. Staff members at the office will also explain your rights and the judicial process options if you choose to file a complaint with the University. You will not be required to share your experience, and the Title IX Office will keep any information private. The Title IX Office exists to support and empower students while allowing them to remain in control. For further information, see, <http://www.angelo.edu/services/title-ix/>.

Stress Issues: If you are feeling overwhelmed by something, ASU has a Counseling Center: https://www.angelo.edu/services/health_clinic_counseling/counseling_services.php

Academic assistance: ASU Tutoring Center information is available at <https://www.angelo.edu/dept/freshman-college/academic-tutoring.php>.

Writing Center: ASU has a Writing Center to assist students in completing writing assignments. See http://www.angelo.edu/dept/writing_center/.

LockDown Browser

LockDown Browser (LDB) is used for secure online testing and can be found on every lab computer on the ASU campus. In addition, it is available for download so students can use it on their personal computers as well.

Downloading LDB

1. Begin by logging into **Blackboard**.
2. Select the **Technology Support** tab.
3. Locate the Lockdown Browser Module (See Figure 1).
4. Select the **Download LockDown Browser** hyperlink.
5. Follow the instructions on the screen.

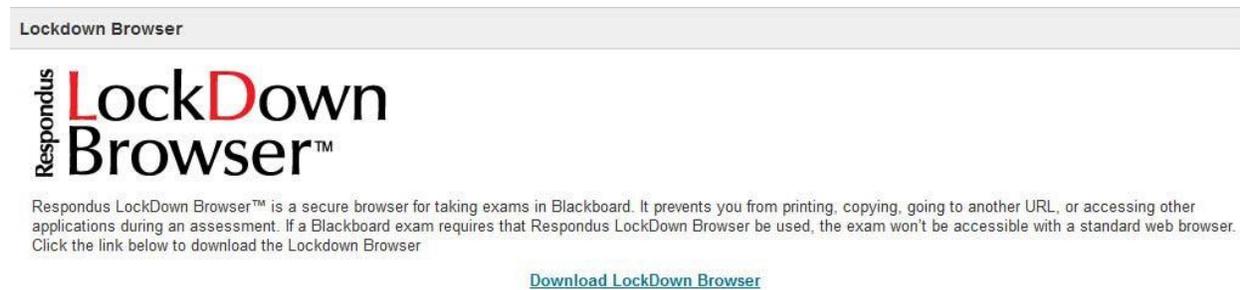


Figure 1: Downloading LockDown Browser

Using LDB

Once you have downloaded LDB, an icon in the shape of a padlock will appear on your desktop. If you are using a Mac, look under your applications.

1. Begin using LDB by double-clicking the **LockDown Browser** icon on your desktop to launch this application.
2. Login to **Blackboard** using your RamPort username and password.
3. Select the desired course from the **My Courses** list.
4. Select the test you wish to take from the desired course.
5. When you begin the assessment, **LockDown Browser** will display instructions.
6. Select **Begin** to start the assessment.
7. Your test will launch and you may select an answer for each question.
8. Make sure to save each answer as you go.
9. **Save and Submit** all of your answers once you are done.

***Note: If the instructor provided a password to access the exam, a dialog box will appear. Enter the password and select Submit.**

Help Center

The **Help Center** provides students with information regarding **Pre-Exam Webcam Check**, **System Network Check**, and **Knowledge Base**. When Lockdown Browser is accessed you are able to access the Help Center. To access the **Help Center**, select the **Help Center Icon** at the top of the page. Upon starting the exam, this will not be available.

- **Pre-exam Webcam Check** confirms that your webcam and microphone work properly. (NOT APPLICABLE TO POLS 2306.D20, NORTON SUMMER II 2018)
- **System Network Check** runs a diagnostic of your computer system and network.
- **Knowledge Base** answers questions to common problems.

Exiting LDB

1. Logout of Blackboard.
2. Exit out of LockDown Browser by selecting the **Red X** in the top right hand corner of your screen.
3. When prompted, select **Yes** to exit.

NO PASSWORD IS REQUIRED TO TAKE BB TESTS IN THIS CLASS. If you get a password prompt when trying to take an exam.

Please make sure you are following these steps to access your test:

1. Close out of ALL applications on your computer
2. Launch the LockDown Browser
 - a. If you do not have the browser installed, login to Blackboard, then navigate to the Technology Support Tab
 - b. Scroll to the bottom and click on Install LockDown Browser
 - c. Follow the steps to accept terms and conditions, and finish installing
3. Once you have the LockDown browser open, navigate to <https://blackboard.angelo.edu>.
4. Login using your credentials, and navigate to the course to begin your exam.

You should not see a password requirement. If you would like further clarification, please contact eLearning at 325-486-6263 or ellearning@angelo.edu.