

**Syllabus**  
**Government 2306/ASU**  
**Spring 2022**  
**January 18-May 13**

**Instructor:** Rex Ewert

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**Class Meeting:** 8:50-9:41 Infonet room.

**Office Hours:** By appointment.

**Nature of Course:** Government 2306 is designed to introduce the student to the Texas state governmental system and its relationship to the U.S. federal government. The course will focus on inputs into the political system with topics including but not limited to: State Constitution, interest groups, political parties and judiciary, local government, voting, and the three branches of government.

**Course materials:** Course content will be delivered via two primary methods:

**Reading materials:**  
*The State of Texas: Government, Politics, and Policy* by Sherri Mora.  
*Mississippi Trial* by Chris Crowe.

**Lecture series:** Lectures will be delivered during the daily Zoom sessions. Students will be required to take notes from these sessions. For students unable to attend these daily meetings, recordings of the session will be posted to Blackboard in the “Content” section. Here is a link to the Zoom session:  
Zoom log-in info:  
\*Go to: [www.zoom.us](http://www.zoom.us)  
\*At the top in blue click on “Join A Meeting”  
\*In the meeting ID or personal link name bar, type in the following code: 686 263 3225  
\*Password 1302  
\*That should take you to the meeting waiting room.  
\*I’ll then admit you to the session.  
\*You should be able to access the meeting with your computer or phone.  
\*If you have any trouble, you can text me at (325) 456-6020.  
\*I’m going to post to Blackboard on a daily basis in the content section the recording of each day’s class. So, if you miss the live

broadcast, you can watch the recordings.

**\*\*Students need to be sure they can access the course in Blackboard.**

**Grades in course:** Including the final, four examinations (based on class lectures and assigned readings) will be administered during the course of the semester. The final exam will not be comprehensive. Exams will count 75% of the grade for the course. The exam schedule is as follows:

Exam I	February 14-15 (M-TU)
Exam II	March 7-8 (M-TU)
Exam III	April 11-12 (M-TU)
Final	May 12 (TH)

Any variations to this schedule will be announced well in advance. A study guide will be provided prior to the exam, and time permitting, will be reviewed in class. All four exams must be completed in order to receive a grade for the course.

In addition to the aforementioned grades there will be periodic writing assignments (writing prompts) over the assigned class readings and lecture notes. These writing prompts will be announced at least a week in advance and constitute 25% of the final grade.

75% Exams (4 exams)

25% Writing prompts

### **Grading Scale for Government 2306**

A	90+
B	80-89
C	70-79
D	60-69
F	Below 60

**Makeup work:** Make-up exams will not be permitted unless specifically authorized prior to the date (at least 24 hours in advance) of the scheduled exam or in the case of a dire emergency. Make-up exams will be all essay. It is the student's responsibility to schedule the make-up exam at the convenience of the instructor. In similar fashion, students must notify the instructor 24 hours in advance, if they are going to miss a quiz/writing assignment. Failure to do so will result in the student receiving a zero for that grade.

- Modifications:** Any student that needs extended time completing exams/assignments needs to contact ASU's dual credit office and they will instruct the student on how to apply for these modifications and if approved, notify the instructor.
- Economics:** Students who are taking this course and will be receiving a high school economics credit will also be required to exhibit a basic understanding of the economy and economic policies in America today. A portion of the lecture series will incorporate instruction in economics as will each of the four tests with the questions based on the lectures.
- Attendance:** Exams are based primarily on lectures so attendance is required. Roll will be taken at the beginning of each class. More than twelve absences (no excused absences) will result in the deduction of one letter grade. You are expected to be in class on time. If you enter after roll has been taken, you will be counted absent.
- Discipline:** This is a dual-credit course meaning the student will receive both high school and college credit for passing. Because it is a college credit course students are expected to conduct themselves accordingly. Primarily that means no talking while the instructor is talking. Students unable to properly conduct themselves will be removed from class. Because students are also receiving high school credit for the course, they will be expected to follow the rules as outlined in their student handbook. Any violations will subject the student to being referred to their administrative personnel.  
No cell phones once class has started. Any student seen using a cell phone during class will be asked to leave.
- Scholastic Honesty:** The following scholastic honesty policy will be enforced:  
All students are required and expected to maintain the highest standards of scholastic honesty in the preparation of all coursework and during examinations. The following are considered examples of scholastic dishonesty:
- Plagiarism** From the ASU honor code: Plagiarism  
Plagiarism means the appropriation and the unacknowledged incorporation of another's work or idea into one's own work offered for credit" (Regents' Rules and Regulations, Chapter VI, Section 5.32). Plagiarism includes, but is not limited to,  
A. Failing to properly acknowledge a statement, idea, or statistic made by another individual in the body of a work;  
B. Taking a whole section of somebody else's literary work and placing it in the body of your own work without properly

	acknowledging the contributor;
	C. Representing somebody else's entire work as that of your own.
<b>Collusion</b>	Using another's work as one's own, or working together with another person in the preparation of work, unless such joint preparation is specifically approved in advance by the instructor.
<b>Cheating</b>	Giving or receiving information on examinations.

Students guilty of scholastic dishonesty will be administratively dropped from the course with a grade of "F" and subject to disciplinary action, which may include suspension and expulsion.

In addition to these standards, any student caught cheating will be turned over to their respective high school administrator for disciplinary action.

**Spring break:** March 14-18.

**Withdrawal date:** April 28.

**Course outline:**

- I. The Context of Texas Politics.  
Required reading: Textbook chapter 1.
- II. The Constitutional setting.  
Required reading: Textbook chapter 2.
- III. Local government. Economics.  
Required reading: Textbook chapter 7.

#### **Exam #1**

- IV. The Texas Legislature.  
Required reading: Textbook chapter 3.
- V. The Governor.  
Required reading: Textbook chapter 4.
- VI. The Judiciary. Economics.  
Required reading: Textbook chapter 5.

#### **Exam #2**

- VII. The Substance of Justice.  
Required reading: Textbook chapter 6.
- VIII. Interest groups.  
Required reading: Textbook chapter 12.
- IX. Political parties.

Required reading: Textbook chapter 11.

X. Voting, Campaigns, and Elections. Economics.

Required reading: Textbook chapters 9-10.

*Mississippi Trial* chapters 1-8

**Exam #3**

XI. The State economy and the financing of state government.

Required reading: Textbook chapter 14.

XII. Public policy---people.

Required reading: Textbook chapter 13.

X111. Public policy---Resources. Economics.

Required reading: Textbook chapter 8.

*Mississippi Trial* chapters 9-17

**Final Exam**