
Government 2306-Online

Blinn College – Bryan Campus
Course Information Sheet
Section(s): N6
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Office Hours: Internet chats can be arranged by request

COURSE DESCRIPTION:

Government 2306 consists of a study of the organization, functions, and administration of state and local government including a study of the state constitution. The primary factors considered relate to the three branches of government (Judicial, Executive, Legislative), historical documents (Constitution), events that shaped our state and current events. Three credit hours.

CORE CURRICULUM COURSE:

This is a Core Course in the 42-Hour Core of Blinn College. As such, students will develop proficiency in the appropriate Intellectual Competencies, Exemplary Educational Objectives, and Perspectives. The URL for the Blinn College Core Curriculum web site is: <http://www.blinn.edu/corecurriculum.htm>

COURSE OBJECTIVES AND STUDENT LEARNING OUTCOMES:

After successfully completing Government 2306, students should have a working knowledge of the organization, functions and administrations of the several branches and agencies of state government, plus an understanding of the state constitution.

Discuss the political culture and the economic, social, ethnic, and geographic diversity of the state
Trace the development of the current Texas Constitution
Examine local government, federalism, and intergovernmental relationships
Determine the role of ideology and political parties in Texas
Determine the role of interest groups and individual political participation in Texas
Explain the structure, roles and functions of the Texas executive branch, including state agencies
Identify the primary components of the Texas legislature, its major functions and its effectiveness
Analyze the structure, functions and effectiveness of the Texas court system
Evaluate policy formulation and implementation
Evaluate fiscal policy matters such as taxing, spending, and budgeting

TEXTBOOKS, SUPPLIES, MATERIALS:

Textbook: Brown et al. Practicing Texas Politics, 13th edition (2008)

ADA STATEMENT:

Information regarding procedures for documenting disabilities can be obtained from the Counseling Office. Reasonable accommodations will be made for documented disabilities. Students must present documentation as soon as possible for the instructor to arrange accommodation.

CIVILITY STATEMENT:

Members of the Blinn College community, which includes faculty, staff and students, are expected to act honestly and responsibly in all aspects of campus life. Blinn College holds all members accountable for their actions and words. Therefore, all members should commit themselves to behave in a manner that recognizes personal respect, and demonstrates concern for the personal dignity, rights, and freedoms of every member of the College community, including respect for College property and the physical and intellectual property of others. If a student is asked to leave the classroom because of uncivil behavior, the student **may not** return to that class until he or she arranges a conference with the instructor: it is the student's responsibility to arrange for this conference.

GRADE ASSESSMENT:

Grades will be assessed on the basis of three (3) examinations, twelve (12) reading quizzes, three (3) article reviews and a final. The examinations, including the final, will be multiple choice and matching.

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OTHER POLICIES:

Blinn College does not tolerate cheating or plagiarism. Procedures for dealing with these acts are outlined in the Scholastic Dishonesty Policy. Since this is an Internet based course, the student will of course, not meet in a regular session.. If for any reason, your computer breaks in any form or fashion, and you are no longer able to participate in class, you are STILL held responsible for your work. There are computers in the Learning Center on both campuses as well as in the library. ***The instructor is not able to provide computer support to students. All computer/internet problems should be addressed to support@blinn.edu.***

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ASSIGNMENTS: Please note that all of these assignments are time sensitive and availability ends at 11 p.m. of the date indicated on the calendar.

Tests-Throughout the course of the semester there will be a total of five major examinations. Four of these tests will be over material covered in the textbook, and the fifth will be a comprehensive final examination. Make-up exams are given only to students who are unable to take the test due to a Blinn College sponsored activity. Tests will only be taken during the scheduled times in which they are available. Each test consists of 100 questions over the assigned material; the student will have 2 hours to finish the test. Once the time has expired, no more answers will be accepted or allowed to be changed. Therefore, if a student begins the test one hour before the end of the testing period, they will not have the full 2 hours to take the test. It is highly recommended that you take the tests at a computer lab on the Blinn campus to avoid dial-up connection problems. Students who use traditional dial-up accounts are strongly urged to follow this advice.

Chapter Quizzes-The quizzes are available throughout the semester. Students will have a total of 10 minutes to answer 10 questions for each quiz. After the time expires, students will lose access to the quiz. You must have completed the quizzes by the last day of the online semester at 11 p.m. Please note the corresponding date on the class calendar.

Grade Enhancement Modules-More information about this option is found in ecampus.

Article Reviews-Throughout the course of the semester the student will be assigned articles to read and then craft a review. Due dates are given on the calendar.

GRADING SCALE:

The lowest of the first three exams and the lowest of the quizzes will be dropped. The Article Reviews will be averaged together. Final grades will be awarded according to the following point scale:

A=500-450

B=449-400

C=399-350

D=349-300

F=299-000
