

## Course Syllabus

### Course Information

Course number: GOVT 2306  
Course name: State and Local Government  
Semester and year: Summer 2016

### Instructor Contact Information

Instructor name: Dr. Patricia Richey  
Phone number: 903.586.2518 ext. 7126  
Email: [prichey@jacksonville-college.edu](mailto:prichey@jacksonville-college.edu)  
Office location: 3rd door on left down faculty hallway in Meadows Building  
Office hours:

by email/phone

(Or as currently posted on office) or by appointment

### Course Pre-requisites, Co-requisites, and/or Other Restrictions

Students are expected to have basic knowledge and college readiness skills.

### Course Description

A survey of the nature, organization, and principles of state and local governments within the United States with particular attention to Texas government structure. Emphasis is on the powers of state government, regulatory policies and agencies, voting characteristics, elections, political parties and issues of state and local importance.

### Core Objectives

In accordance with recommendations from the Texas Higher Education Coordinating Board, this course will address the following core objectives:

- Critical Thinking – including creative thinking, innovation, inquiry, and analysis, evaluation and synthesis of information
- Communication Skills – including effective written, oral, and visual communication
- Social Responsibility(SR) - intercultural competence, knowledge of civic responsibility, and the ability to engage effectively in regional, national, and global communities

- Personal Responsibility (PR) - ability to connect choices, actions and consequences to ethical decision-making

## Learning Objectives

Upon successful completion of this course, students will:

1. Explain the origin and development of the Texas constitution.
2. Describe state and local political systems and their relationship with the federal government.
3. Describe separation of powers and checks and balances in both theory and practice in Texas.
4. Demonstrate knowledge of the legislative, executive, and judicial branches of Texas government.
5. Evaluate the role of public opinion, interest groups, and political parties in Texas.
6. Analyze the state and local election process.
7. Identify the rights and responsibilities of citizens.
8. Analyze issues, policies and political culture of Texas.

Course Philosophy: The instructor will make specific efforts toward integration of Christian faith within the teaching/learning process by presentation of historic material regarding the study of a variety of religious movements during our history and the place of religion in the development of our society.

## Required Textbooks and Materials

Documents must be submitted using MS Office applications; these programs are available in the library and/or computer labs on campus

Texas Politics Today 2015 - 2016 17th ed.

Jacksonville College Edition (custom loose leaf with on-line Mind Tap code.)

Maxwell/Crain /Jones/Davis

## Assignments & Course Calendar

Due dates of assignments and test dates will be announced at least one week prior to the event.

HONORS: This course is eligible for Honors credit. The first step is to review the criteria found in the bulletin. You may pick up an application in the Academic Dean's office. You must confer with the instructor during the first three weeks of the course.

## Grading Policy

## Grading Policy

Grades will be calculated in the following manner:

TEST 25%

MindTap assignments (chapter quizzes and practice sets) – 45%

PowerPoint 20%

Summary of videos 10%

Course & Instructor Policies

Read your text assignments.

Respect others.

Do not plagiarize. It is a misdemeanor (crime) in the state of Texas to purchase or copy material off of the Internet to use as research papers. It is against United States copy write laws (federal crime) to copy other people's material and claim it as your own. Plagiarism is not only illegal it is immoral. Plagiarizing can result in a grade of F on the assignment and ultimately an F in the class.

You are expected to do your own work. Cheating and plagiarism will not be tolerated. Severe infractions will normally result in failure of the course. Students who turn in copies of the same file will receive a zero for the assignment. Students are expected to adhere to the honor code.

Students must turn in files in a MS Office format.

Late work will only be accepted in extreme cases. Late penalties of 10% of the original score per day will be deducted.

Students are encouraged to attend classes. If it is necessary to miss a class period when a test is scheduled, it is up to the student to make arrangements to take the test early. Missed exams may only be made up in extreme conditions at the discretion of the instructor. Too many absences may result in the student being dropped by the instructor. If you are not in class for any reason you will be counted absent. Students in an on-line course will have attendance counted by being engaged in MindTap for weekly assignments and in occasional discussion board posts on MOODLE.

If a student has a disability that qualifies under the American with Disabilities Act (ADA) and requires accommodations, he/she should contact the Academic Dean for information on appropriate policies and procedures. Disabilities covered by ADA may include learning, psychiatric, physical disabilities, or chronic health disorders. Students can contact the Academic Dean if they are not certain whether a medical condition/disability qualifies. The Academic Dean's office is located in the northeast corner of the Meadows building. The phone number is 903.586.2518.

This syllabus is a general outline of the course. It is subject to change due to extenuating circumstances. Students must sign and date the syllabus acknowledgement.

Students are encouraged to participate in the Barnwell Anderson Chapter of the Webb Historical Society. Additionally, students who are interested in writing for the Caldwell Memorial Awards should contact the instructor on guidelines for submission, including substituting this report for other class projects.

To enroll in MindTap: There will be instructions in the MOODLE news forum

To enroll in Turnitin.com:

Follow the directions On MOODLE .