

Clarendon College
Division of Arts and Sciences
Government 2306
(3 semester hours)
Wellington High School
Syllabus Spring 2026
(M-F 11:11-11:56)

Instructor: Mrs. Linda Comer
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Course Description: 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 policy, and the political culture of Texas.

Statement of Purpose: This course partially satisfies the Government/Political Science component of the core curriculum and is designed for transfer to a senior college or university.

Online Textbook: Norton, Brenda. *Texas Government*. Texas Higher Education Coordinating Board. 31 May 2021. <https://oertx.highered.texas.gov/courseware/lesson/871/student/>

Course Objectives:

Critical thinking skills (CT) – to include creative thinking, innovation, inquiry, and analysis, evaluation and synthesis of information

Communication skills (COM) – to include effective written, oral, and visual communication

Social responsibility (SR) –to include intercultural competency and the ability to engage effectively in regional, national, and global communities

Personal responsibility (PR) – to include the ability to connect choices, actions and consequences to ethical decision-making

Learning Outcomes: 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

Methods of Instructions: All of the following will be used in the course as a method of instruction:

- Lecture- discussion
- Assigned reading from texts
- Guided collaborative learning
- Media Assisted Instruction
- Research projects

Class Policies: All make-up work due to absences is the responsibility of the student. Incomplete or missing work will have a detrimental affect on a student's final grade.

College Policies

Academic Integrity Policy

STUDENT ACADEMIC INTEGRITY AND CLASSROOM ETHICS

Clarendon College is committed to a philosophy of honesty and academic integrity. It is the responsibility of all members of the Clarendon College community to maintain academic integrity at Clarendon College by refusing to participate in or tolerate academic dishonesty. Any act of academic dishonesty will be regarded by the faculty and administration as a serious offense. Academic dishonesty violations include, but are not limited to:

1. obtaining an examination, classroom activity, or laboratory exercise by stealing or collusion;
2. discovering the content of an examination, classroom activity, laboratory exercise, or homework assignment before it is given;
3. observing the work of another during an examination or providing answers to another during the course of an examination;
4. using an unauthorized source of information during an examination, classroom activity, laboratory exercise, or homework assignment;
5. entering an office, classroom, laboratory, or building to obtain an unfair advantage;
6. taking an examination for another person;
7. completing a classroom activity, laboratory exercise, homework assignment, or research paper for another person;
8. altering grade records;

9. using any unauthorized form of an electronic communication device during an examination, classroom activity, or laboratory activity; and/or,
10. plagiarism. (Plagiarism is defined as the using, stating, offering, or reporting as one's own an idea, expression, or production of another person's work without proper credit. This includes, but is not limited to, turning in a paper purchased or acquired from any source, written by someone other than the student claiming credit, or stolen from another student.)

Students are responsible for reporting known acts of academic dishonesty to a faculty member, the program coordinator, the vice president, and/or dean. Any student with knowledge of a violation who fails to report it shall him/herself be in violation and shall be considered to have committed an act of academic dishonesty.

While academic integrity and honesty are the responsibility of the individual student, each individual faculty member, teaching assistant, and/or laboratory instructor is responsible for classroom management and for maintaining ethical behavior within the classroom and/or

laboratory. Faculty who discover or suspect a violation should discuss the matter with the suspected violator(s) and attempt to resolve the case at that point. In cases of convincing evidence, the faculty member should take appropriate action. The faculty member and student should complete a Counseling Sheet regarding the violation. (The Counseling Sheet should contain at a minimum the date and time of the violation, the course, the instructor's name, the student's name, an explanation of the infraction or facts of the case, and the resolution to the incident.) This form should be signed by the student, faculty member, program coordinator, and the Vice President of Academic Affairs. The Vice President of Academic Affairs will maintain a file on all violations. If a faculty member prefers to report the case directly to Vice President of Academic Affairs, it remains his/her prerogative to do so. Additionally, if the faculty member and the accused student cannot reach a resolution or if the faculty member believes that suspension from school is the only fair sanction, the case should immediately be reported, by the faculty member, in writing, to the Vice President of Academic Affairs. If the Vice President of Academic Affairs observes any trends in student behavior which involve more than one violation or act of academic dishonesty, the Vice President of Academic Affairs is responsible for notifying all faculty members involved, for contacting the student(s) involved, and after consultation with the faculty member(s) involved for taking the appropriate action. The Vice President of Academic Affairs is responsible for the timely notification (normally within two weeks) to all parties of an action taken.

Students wishing to appeal a disciplinary decision involving academic integrity or acts of academic dishonesty may do so through the Student Appeals and Grievance Procedure.

Course Withdrawal

Students desiring to make schedule changes after their initial registration each semester must do so during the designated "Drop and Add" period as

scheduled in the College Catalog. Students will be required to pay tuition and fees applicable to any class(es) added to their schedule.

Official withdrawal from a course is initiated in the Office of the Registrar. However, each student should consult with his/her academic advisor or the Associate Dean of Enrollment before officially withdrawing from a course. A student who stops attending a class without officially dropping it may receive a grade of "F" for that class.

Final Exams

Final Exams: The schedule of final exams times is published at the beginning of the semester. You can find the schedule for final exams at: <https://www.clarendoncollege.edu/inside CC>. Do not make plans to leave school before your scheduled final exam. Faculty members cannot on their own authorize a student to take a final exam early. In exceptional circumstances if a student needs to take a final exam early, he/she may request early final exams by filling out the form at: <https://www.clarendoncollege.edu/Resources/Admin/Request%20for%20Early%20Final%20Exa>

Accommodations Statement

REQUIREMENTS OF THE AMERICANS WITH DISABILITIES ACT:

In accordance with the Americans with Disabilities Act and Section 504 of the Rehabilitation Act of 1973, any student who feels that he or she may need any special assistance or accommodation because of an impairment or disabling condition should contact the Associate Dean of Enrollment Services at 806-874-4837 / janean.reish@clarendoncollege.edu or visit the Clarendon campus at Clarendon College. It is the policy of Clarendon College to provide reasonable accommodation as required to afford equal educational opportunity. It is the student's responsibility to contact the Associate Dean of Enrollment Services.

Nondiscrimination Policy

Clarendon College, in accordance with applicable federal and state law, prohibits discrimination, including harassment, on the basis of race, color, national or ethnic origin, religion, sex, disability, age, sexual orientation, or veteran status.

It is the policy of Clarendon College not to discriminate based on gender, age, disability, race, color, religion, marital status, veteran's status, national or ethnic origin, or sexual orientation. Harassment of a student in class, i.e., a pattern of behavior directed against a particular student with the intent of humiliating or intimidating that student will not be tolerated. The mere expression of one's ideas is not harassment and is fully protected by academic freedom, but personal harassment of individual students is not permitted.

Student Rights and Responsibilities

The full details of Student Rights and Responsibilities policies can be viewed at
<https://www.clarendoncollege.edu/Sites/ClarendonCollegeNew/Resources/Legal/24-25/StudentRightsResponsibilities.pdf>

Grading Policies: Tests and Essays 50% of each 6-weeks grade

Daily work	30% of 6 weeks grade
Participation	20% of 6 weeks grade

The final semester grades will be figured as set in the current catalog:

90 to 100 = A 80 to 89 = B 70 to 79 = C 60 to 69 = D Below 59 = F

Your assignments grades and official final grade will be made available through your Student Portal at Clarendon College's website.

Clarendon College form to request early semester tests

<https://www.clarendoncollege.edu/studentservices/files/Request%20for%20Early%20Final%20Exams%20FV.pdf>

Tentative Course Outline:

Week 1: Introduction to Texas Government

Week 2 & 3: The State Constitution

Exam #1

Week 4: Participation in Texas Politics

Week 5: Interest Groups in Texas

Week 6 & 7: Political Parties in Texas

Week 8: Elections and Campaigns in Texas

Exam #2

Week 9-10: The Texas Legislature

Week 11-12: The Office of Governor and States Agencies

Week 13-14: The Texas Court System

Exam #3

Week 15-16: Financing State Government

Week 17-18: Local Governments in Texas

Final Exam

Note: This is a tentative outline planned for this course, and it may be changed at any time at my discretion.