

Clarendon College  
Liberal Arts Division/Government  
**Texas Government 2306.101** Course Syllabus  
**Spring 2026 MWF 9:00- To 9:55 A.M.**  
3 credit hours      Classroom Admin 103

**Spring 2026**



Your instructor: Kim Jeffrey    Ph. 806-874-4812    E-mail    Kim.Jeffrey@clarendoncollege.edu

**Office hours:** Room 110

**Monday**                    **10:00 – 11:00 & 1:00 - 2:30**

**Tuesday**                **9:00 - 11:00 & 1:00 - 2:30**

**Wednesday**            **10:00 – 11:00 & 1:00 - 2:00**

**Thursday**                **9:00 - 11:00 & 1:00 - 2:00** or anytime by appointment or zoom

**The textbook** for this course is contained in your Open LMS course. Author: [Brenda Norton](#) License: [Creative Commons Attribution](#)  and Austin Community College License: [Creative Commons Attribution](#) 

**Course Description:** Texas Government 2306 is the theory and practice of politics and government in America at the state and local levels with special attention to Texas. Topics include political theory, the Texas Constitution, states' rights, political participation, and elections.

**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.

**Method of Instruction:** This is a hybrid class with an online component. Face-to-face classes will consist of in-class lectures and/or power point presentations by the instructor on relevant material from the textbook and classroom discussions on topics relating to current political events and issues. Materials and assignments are in Open LMS.

Core Objectives for Social & Behavioral Sciences Includes:

- Critical thinking skills, creative thinking, innovation, inquiry, and analysis, evaluation and synthesis of information.
- Effective written, oral, and visual communication skills.
- Social responsibility, intercultural competency, civic knowledge, and the ability to engage effectively in regional, national and global communities.
- Personal responsibility, the ability to connect choices, actions and consequences to ethical decision-making.

**Student Learning Outcomes:** Upon successful completion of this course the learner shall be able to:

1. Explain the origin and development of the Texas Constitution – Assesses CT and COM with Chapter assignments.
2. Describe state and local political systems and their relationship with the federal government - Assesses CT and COM with Chapter Assignments.
3. Describe separation of powers and checks and balances in both theory and practice in Texas - Assesses CT and COM with Chapter Assignments.
4. Demonstrate knowledge of the legislative, executive, and judicial branches of Texas government - Assesses CT and COM with Chapter Assignments and PR, SR and COM with Opinion Paper (Judicial).
5. Evaluate the role of public opinion, interest groups, and political parties in Texas - Assesses SR Opinion Paper - Rights and Responsibilities Analyze the state and local election process - Assesses SR and PR with Opinion Paper (Elections).
6. Identify the rights and responsibilities of citizens - Assesses SR and PR with Opinion Paper II (Elections).
7. Analyze issues, policies and political culture of Texas - Assesses CT, COM and PR with Opinion Paper –(Political Culture).

**Class Attendance Policy:** For this course, I will submit an attendance report for each class time. Students who are in class will be marked "present." Students can be placed on academic probation or lose financial aid for non-attendance. If you are late, it is your responsibility to make sure the instructor counts you as present. You cannot participate in class discussion unless you are in class.

**For Monday/Wednesday/Friday class:**

- **4 unexcused absences = 50 on Class Participation score**
- **5 unexcused absences = 0 on Class Participation score.**
- Three tardies will be counted as one absence
- **More than 8 unexcused absences may result in a grade of 'F' for this course.**
- Three tardies will be counted as one absence.



**Excused Absences:** Approved participation in school-sponsored activities is considered an excused absence. It is your responsibility to inform the instructor **prior to the school-sponsored activity**. It is also your responsibility to make **arrangements for making up any exams** missed to do the excused absence. An absence MAY also be excused based on the following:

- Illness on the part of the student. If you believe you have the COVID virus, you will be excused from class only if you have followed the College protocol, and I am notified by administration.
- Severe illness or death in your immediate (not extended) family
- **You must provide documented proof of the reason for your absence or it will not be excused.**

**Class Policies:** Students are responsible for all college regulations as stated in the Clarendon College Catalog available in the administration office.

- **No cell phone use during class-time. Abuse of this policy can result in an absence and can be reflected in your class participation score.** 
- **Do not leave the classroom during class-time unless it is an emergency. If you abuse this policy you will be counted absent and this absence can be reflected in your class participation score.**
- Do not leave the classroom during an exam.
- Disruptive conduct is considered a serious offense. Faculty members reserve the right to remove a student from a class for just cause. Students removed will be referred to the Vice-president of Academics and Student Affairs for disciplinary action, up to and including disciplinary suspension.
- Students are expected to conduct themselves in the classroom in a manner conducive to academic progress.

## Academic Integrity Policy

## School Policies

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 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 exercise; 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.)** **(Clarendon College Student Handbook 2021-2022-- homepage. Click on "Inside CC" – under "Students" – click on "Forms and Resources" – then click on "2021-2022 Student Handbook" – Fund the "Student Code of Conduct" section and then the "Student Academic Integrity" section – P. 43.**

Students are responsible for reporting known acts of academic dishonesty to a faculty member, the program coordinator, or the Vice-president of Students. 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. Additionally, any student who reports him/herself in violation of this code before it is likely that another might consider this possibility will be understood as repentant and acting in good faith. Though the confession will not excuse the student for the violation, the confession will be considered and the violation should not result in suspension from school except in the most extreme cases.

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 Students. The Vice-president of Students will maintain a file on all violations. If a faculty member prefers to report the case directly to the Vice-president of Students, 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 Students. If the Vice-president of Students observes any trends in student behavior which involve more than one violation or act of academic dishonesty, the Vice-president 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 Students 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. For Grievance/Appeals: If you have a dispute concerning your grade or policies in this class, it is the student's responsibility to contact the instructor to discuss the matter. Should things remain unresolved, please follow the procedures described in the Clarendon College Student Handbook or College Policy Manual.

**PLAGIARISM:** Read the following explanations carefully and be sure that you understand them.

1. **AI and Internet use:** Copying and pasting from the Internet and/or ChatGPT or any other AI program is plagiarism. All work must have an appropriate and accurate citation, this includes the use of any form of AI.

2. **Purchasing papers:** The purchase of a paper or any form of assignment from a paper mill is plagiarism.

3. **Word-for-word plagiarism:** The student quotes his or her source without using quotation marks. Even if the student cites the source, he or she is still plagiarizing because proper quotation procedures were not used.

4. **Paraphrased plagiarism:** The student uses a source and with the exception of changing a few words or phrases essentially quotes the original. Even if the source is properly cited, the writing is still plagiarized because the student has used the author's style, vocabulary, and content and claimed it as his or her own.

5. **Improper citations:** If a student uses someone's information other than his or her own, the source of the material must be properly cited. Failure to do so is plagiarism.

6. **Improper use of ideas:** Ideas are as equally protected as words. If the student uses someone's ideas, but expresses them in his or her words, the student plagiarizes if he or she does not cite the source of the idea.

7. **Student sharing:** While students are certainly free to work together and study together, an assignment that calls for individual work must reflect the student's personal effort. If a student borrows or copies another student's work, that is plagiarism. If a student has another student write a paper, that is plagiarism. If two students collaborate on an individual assignment and turn in the same work, that is plagiarism.

Plagiarism is a serious academic offense. It involves legal issues about improper use of materials that do not belong to the student. Plagiarism is unethical. A student must do his or her own work; otherwise, the learning process is compromised. Plagiarism is unfair to fellow students who take the time and make the effort to do their own work. **Essentially, plagiarism is cheating and will not be tolerated. You will receive a zero for any assignment that is plagiarized.**

Academic dishonesty violations include, but are not limited to:

- The use of AI, or obtaining an examination, classroom activity, or laboratory exercise by stealing or collusion
- discovering the content of an examination, classroom activity, laboratory exercise, or homework assignment before it is given
- observing the work of another during an examination or providing answers to another during the course of an examination
- using an unauthorized source of information during an examination, classroom activity, laboratory exercise, or homework assignment
- entering an office, classroom, laboratory, or building to obtain unfair advantage
- taking an examination for another person
- completing a classroom activity, laboratory exercise, homework assignment, or research paper for another person
- altering grade records

plagiarism

- using any unauthorized form of an electronic communication device during an examination, classroom activity, or laboratory exercise
- 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, material written with **Artificial Intelligence (ChaptGPT, etc.)** or stolen from another student.)

**Withdrawing from (Dropping) the Course: A student may drop a class with a "W."** This must be done on or before the last day to drop a class as designated by the college calendar. This request for permission to drop a course is initiated by the student by **obtaining a drop form from the registrar's office**. The student should sign the form, have the instructor sign the form and return it to the office. For online students, this can be done by calling the Registrar's Office. Please remember that failure to officially drop a course will result in a final grade of "F" for the class. Any student who is considering dropping this course is encouraged to contact me before initiating the drop. Remember, according to Texas state law a student is only allowed to drop the same class twice before he/she will be charged triple the tuition amount for taking the class a third time or more. Furthermore, beginning with the Fall 2007 semester, students in Texas may only drop a total of 6 courses throughout their entire undergraduate career. After the 6<sup>th</sup> dropped class, he/she will no longer be able to withdraw from any classes.

**Accommodation 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](mailto: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:** Student Rights and Responsibilities are listed on the College website at: <http://www.clarendoncollege.edu/Resources/Student%20Services/StudentRightsResponsibilities.pdf>.

It is the policy of the Liberal Arts Division at Clarendon College that any student enrolled in a face-to-face Liberal Arts course must remain in the scheduled face-to-face course through the end of the semester unless the student chooses to drop the course. No student may choose to transition from face-to-face to remote or online. Extenuating circumstances that warrant a transition to online learning can override this policy if determined by the Vice President of Academic Affairs in consultation with the Division Chair and the course instructor. This transition will be communicated in writing to all parties: student, instructor, Division Chair, and Vice President of Academic Affairs.

Students are responsible for ensuring that their work is consistent with Clarendon College's expectations about academic integrity. This course uses TURN-IT-In to ensure academic integrity. Turnitin will give you a reading of percentages of work that is used in another text, whether that be an online text, a source (such as your textbook), a paper that was submitted to another college, or any string of words that have been used in another context. You will have the opportunity to revise your essay if the percentage of material taken from any source other than yourself is above 15%.



Turnitin uses an AI detection program and will show the percentage of possible AI-generated text. This report is seen only by the instructor. Any amount of AI generated text can be considered plagiarism and will receive a zero.

**Do Not use Grammarly** for assignments in this course as Turnitin will flag as AI generated test. Students are not allowed to use advanced automated tools (artificial intelligence tools such as ChatGPT, Google Gemini, Microsoft CoPilot, Paraphraser) for assignments in this course. Each student is expected to complete each assignment without substantive assistance from others, including automated tools.

### Grades

All assignments are in Open LMS. Save your assignment to your computer or flash drive as either an .rtf file or doc.x, and then upload it into Open LMS. Exams will be given during class time and based on the textbook reading assignments and in-class lectures.

**Exams will be given during class time** and based on the textbook reading assignments and in-class lectures.

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

Assignments: Grades, syllabus and assignments are accessed through LMS on the College website. Assignments are to be turned in electronically through your Open LMS. You will need your user ID and assigned password.

**Cheating will result in a zero on that assignment or test.** This includes copying from the internet or AI, and copying the work of another student. Any subsequent cheating will result in an "F" for this course, and the matter will be referred to the Vice-president. **If you leave class during a test you cannot come back in to finish the test.**

**Your official final grade** will be available through your Student Portal at Clarendon College's website. Your course average in Open LMS will not be accurate until all assignments, exams and class participation score are entered.

- |       |  |
|-------|--|
| ○ 32% | Exams (4 multiple choice exams)                                    |
| ○ 40% | Opinion Papers (4 assignments)                                     |
| ○ 8%  | Texas Politics Assignments, 4 assignments)                         |
| ○ 10% | Discussion/Class Participation score (assessed at end of semester) |
| ○ 10% | In-class writing assignments and/or notes                          |
| Total | 100%   |

## Tentative Course Schedule

### Texas Government 2306.101 MWF @ 9:00 to 10:55 A.M.

#### Class Orientation:

1. Sign the Enrollment Verification Agreement (EVA).
2. Send me a message using the LMS message system.

#### Unit I

Wed Jan 21 -23	Introduction and Syllabus
Jan 26 – 30	Chapter 1: Introduction to Texas Politics
Feb 2 - 4	Chapter 2: The American Federal System
Feb 6 – 11	Chapter 3: Texas State Constitutions
Feb 13 - 20	Chapter 4: The Executive Branch

- **Chapter 1 and 2: Opinion Paper** (Political Culture, Issues, Policies) due Friday, Feb 6
- Chapter 4: Texas Politics due Friday, Feb 20

**Monday, Feb 23**                      **Exam I: Chapters 1, 2, 3, 4.**

#### Unit II

Feb 25 – 27	Chapter 5: The Texas Legislature
Mar 2 - 6	Chapter 6: Interest Groups and Lobbying in Texas
Mar 9- 23	Chapter 7: Political Parties in Texas

- Chapter 5 Texas Politics: due Friday March 6
- Chapter 6 Opinion Paper – Interest Groups (Rights and Responsibilities) is due by Friday, March 13

**Mar 25**                      **Exam II: Covers Chapters 5, 6, 7.**  
**March 16 - 20**                      **Spring Break**

#### Unit III

March 27 -	Chapter 8: Political Participation, Voting, Elections, and Campaigns
Wednesday, April 1	Clarendon College Community Service Day
Friday, April 3	No classes – Good Friday
<b>March 6 – 10</b>	Chapter 8: Political Participation, Voting, Elections, and Campaigns
<b>Thursday, April 9</b>	<b>Last Day to drop with a ‘W’</b>
Apr 3 – 17	Chapter 9: Local Governments in Texas

- Chapter 8: Opinion Paper (Political Participation) due by Friday, Apr 10
- Chapter 9: Texas Politics is due Friday, Apr 24

**April 20**                      **Exam III: Covers Chapter 8 and 9**

#### Unit IV

Apr 22 - 29	Chapter 11: The Court System in Texas
May 1 - 6	Chapter 12: The Criminal Justice System in Texas
Friday, May 8	Commencement – no class

- Chapter 11 Texas Politics: Friday, May 1
- Chapter 11 & 12 Opinion Paper (Judicial Elections & CJ System) due Friday, May 8

**Monday, May 11**                      **Wednesday @ 8:30 - Final Exam Covers Chapters 11 and 12**

## CLASS CONTRACT

I have received and read the syllabus for **Texas Government 2306** taught during Spring **2026** semester by Mrs. Jeffrey. Ms. Jeffrey has explained the syllabus to me and I agree to abide by the policies written in it. I understand the policies of **class attendance, dropping the course, academic honesty and general class behavior**, and I understand the consequences of failing to comply with the policies.

\_\_\_\_\_  
Student Name

\_\_\_\_\_  
Date

\_\_\_\_\_  
Printed Name

Your Major \_\_\_\_\_

Future Career \_\_\_\_\_

Sports \_\_\_\_\_

Coach \_\_\_\_\_

Contact Information

\_\_\_\_\_ phone

\_\_\_\_\_ e-mail