

**GOVT 2306 — Texas Government
Frank Phillips College**

General Course Information

Credit Hours: 3

General Education Core Curriculum Course

Prerequisite

Passage of or exemption from the Reading Section of a TSI approved test or completion of INRW 0322 with a grade of C or better.

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.

THECB Approval Number45.1002.51.25

Statement of Purpose

Through the Texas Core Curriculum, students will gain a foundation of knowledge of human cultures and the physical and natural world, develop principles of personal and social responsibility for living in a diverse world, and advance intellectual and practical skills that are essential for all learning.

Core Objectives Required for Government/Political Science Courses

Courses in this category focus on consideration of the Constitution of the United States and the constitutions of the states, with special emphasis on that of Texas.

Courses involve the analysis of governmental institutions, political behavior, civic engagement, and their political and philosophical foundations.

- **Critical Thinking Skills** – to include creative thinking, innovation, inquiry, and analysis, evaluation and synthesis of information
- **Communication Skills** – to include effective development, interpretation and expression of ideas through written, oral and visual communication
- **Personal Responsibility** – to include the ability to connect choices, actions and consequences to ethical decision-making
- **Social Responsibility** – to include intercultural competence, knowledge of civic responsibility, and the ability to engage effectively in regional, national, and global communities

Required Core Objective	Activity Related to Core Objective
Communication – to include effective development, interpretation, and expression of ideas through written, oral, and visual communication	Students will complete a one page writing assignment answering a question relating to oral and visual communication between citizens and their government. The written artifact will demonstrate effective development, interpretation, and expression of ideas.
Communication – to include effective development, interpretation, and expression of ideas through written, oral, and visual communication	Students will complete a quiz/assignment that examines written and oral communication and government demonstrating an understanding of communication strategies.
Communication – to include effective development, interpretation, and expression of ideas through written, oral, and visual communication	Students will experience visual and oral communication through various media in the classroom and will demonstrate mastery of various media.
Critical Thinking Skills – to include creative thinking, innovation, inquiry, and analysis, evaluation and synthesis of information	Students will complete a one page writing utilizing creative thinking, inquiry, analysis, and evaluation skills.
Critical Thinking Skills – to include creative thinking, innovation, inquiry, and analysis, evaluation and synthesis of information	Students will utilize creative thinking, innovation, inquiry, analysis, and evaluation on an original research assignment of the student’s choice.
Critical Thinking Skills – to include creative thinking, innovation, inquiry, and analysis, evaluation and synthesis of information	Students will analyze, evaluate and synthesize a legislative, executive, or judicial actions
Personal Responsibility – to include the ability to connect choices, actions, and consequences to ethical decision-making	Students will complete a one page writing assignment answering a question relating to choice, actions, and ethical decision making.
Personal Responsibility – to include the ability to connect choices, actions, and consequences to ethical decision-making	Students will complete an assignment/quiz relating to choice, decision making, and consequences.
Personal Responsibility – to include the ability to connect choices, actions, and consequences to ethical decision-making	Students will be evaluated using various data on attendance, tardiness, and or completed assignments to evaluate choices, actions, and consequences to the decisions made in the classroom
Social Responsibility – to include intercultural competence, knowledge of civic responsibility, and the ability to engage effectively in regional, national, and global communities	Students will complete a one page writing assignment answering a question that relates to civic responsibility and engagement within social communities
Social Responsibility – to include intercultural competence, knowledge of civic responsibility, and the ability to engage effectively in regional, national, and global communities	Students will complete an assignment/quiz that examines social policy in America
Social Responsibility – to include intercultural competence, knowledge of civic responsibility, and the ability to engage effectively in regional, national, and global communities	Students will complete an assignment/quiz that examines foundational principles and civic responsibility

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 Evaluation

Exams: **30%**

Major Exams will be given at the time and date assigned by the college. These exams are not comprehensive tests, but your attendance is required. A proctor may be used if online and not in commuting distance of the Borger campus for the final. You may take them at Allen Campus or Dalhart Campus. Borger students must take it in my class.

The final exam must be proctored. It is your responsibility to find someone and notify me ASAP. You have 24 hours from the date given to turn it in. You must notify me no later than 48 hours in advance of the first day of finals to tell me where and who will proctor your exam.

You must have a green scantron for all quizzes and exams unless you are in regular online classes. Dual credit online will use scantrons to take it in their regular classes. Online class WILL need green scantrons for finals.

Weekly Reading Quizzes and Informal short essays: **30%**

- A. Each quiz will be given at a designated time of the week to be determined each week.
- B. You must also answer all forums given for online classes or participate in class.
- C. Write various one page informal essays over videos we watch.

Writing Assignments: **40%**

- A. Lobbyist Research Project/ Primary source analysis
- B. 4 SLOs- Please see below for all information. These are 4 separate assignments.

100-90)	A
(89-80)	B
(79-70)	C
(69-60)	D
(59-Below)	F

In spite of the grading scale, the student's grade is subjective, meaning that the instructor can influence the student's final grade based on the student's performance, attendance, actions and preparation in class.

Please do not ask the instructor to give you extra points/makeup work/etc. You need to have good time management, and turn in your assignments appropriately.

SLO (Student Learning Objectives) Writing Assignments:

- The students will be required to write 4 separate at least one page essays using the prompt questions, due on the date posted on the schedule.
- The essay questions will be posted in the portal under course documents and due by assigned due dates in the assignments folder. I will not take them late, so post them early and check that it uploaded.
- Students will upload them in their Cams Student Portal. No hardcopies or emails are accepted.
- Each question is to be written in each student's own opinion about the question.
- Please following the APA writing style guidelines:
 - At least one double-spaced page of writing,
 - Quotes may be one line only. If longer, paraphrase and cite instead.
 - 1 inch margins
 - A cover page
 - In-text citations
 - A reference page
 - 12 pt Times New Roman
 - Complete sentences with proper grammar
 - NO .COMs or blogs
 - Use SLO Requirements Document at a resource
 - Do not use first person (I, me, myself) or contractions
 - Pick a definite side, then support your opinion with scholarly evidence
 - This is a research paper; therefore, you must research.
 - Direct quotes do not count toward the amount you've written. Try to paraphrase and cite instead.
- I have added SLO Requirements, Paper Formula, and other resources in the documents section on CAMS. Use them.

- Please **DO NOT** commit plagiarism on these essays! The professor will run them through a plagiarism program.

Academic Honesty and Integrity

Students attending Frank Phillips College are expected to maintain high standards of personal and scholarly conduct. Academic dishonesty including, but not limited to, cheating, collusion (working with anyone else to produce work for which you take credit without the professor's permission), utilizing resources such as books and notes for a test without the professor's permission, and plagiarism is considered a serious offense and may result in disciplinary actions including:

- A grade of 0 for the test or assignment
- A semester grade of F for the course
- Administrative withdrawal from the course
- Academic suspension
- Notation of the student's transcript of "Academic Dishonesty."
- ***Faculty members have the right to assign a failing grade to a student who is guilty of academic dishonesty at any point during a semester. Faculty members may prohibit a student from dropping a course when academic dishonesty is discovered. However, if a student has dropped the course in accordance with the rules and dates applied to dropping a course and prior to the discovery of academic dishonesty, the grade of W will stand. Students currently enrolled in a course and students who have completed a course (A, B, C, D, CT, and I) may have a grade changed to an F if academic dishonesty is discovered. The faculty member must notify the student of the change to the final grade within one week of facilitating the change. The student will have the opportunity to appeal the final grade change according to the college policy stated in the catalog.

Class Attendance

Regular attendance is necessary for satisfactory achievement. Therefore, it is the responsibility of the student to attend class in accordance with requirements of the course as established by the instructor.

Students will be excused from class without penalty when either representing the college in an approved activity or having an approved reason for not attending. Reasons for absences must be approved by the instructor of the course. These exceptions do not relieve the student of the responsibility of making up the missed work as designated by the instructor concerned.

Students who enroll in one or more college-preparatory course(s) because of TSI deficiency will be administratively withdrawn from all classes if the course in which they are excessively absent is their only preparatory course. For a student enrolled in more than one preparatory course, the student may be dropped from only the course affected by absences.

Any student who is absent from classes for the observance of a religious holy day shall be allowed to take an examination or complete an assignment scheduled for that day, provided that proper notification of the absence is given to the instructor of the course missed. The student should notify the instructor within the first fifteen (15) days of the semester that he or she intends to be absent on the specified holy day.

Cell Phones and Other Electronic Devices Procedure:

Cell phones and electronic devices in the classroom create a distraction for both students and faculty. Cell phones are also considered suspicious during test taking. Therefore, Frank Phillips College outlines the procedure for handling cell phone usage in a classroom as follows:

1. First Offense: the student will be warned verbally by the instructor to turn off the cell phone or electronic device or by appropriate administrative personnel at distance sites. The instructor will make a notation of the infraction.
2. Second Offense: the student will be asked to leave the class period for the day and will receive zeroes for any work done in class on that day; a student receiving instruction through remote connection at an off-campus site will be required to attend the class face to face in Borger from this class date forward.
3. Third Offense: the student will be administratively withdrawn from the class in which the infraction occurred and will receive no refund for the class.

Students should leave the college's main number with an appropriate contact in case of an emergency.

Borger: (806) 457-4200, ext. 0 or 886-5047 after hours

Dalhart: (806) 244-7669

Perryton: (806) 648-1450

Grievance Policy

If you have a dispute concerning your grade or policies in this class, it is your responsibility to FIRST contact the instructor, either by e-mail or in person, to discuss the matter. Should things remain unresolved after this initial contact, please follow the procedures described in the Academic Policies section of the Frank Phillips College Catalog. In the vast majority of cases, the matter can be resolved at the instructor/student level, and learning to communicate your concerns in a civilized manner is part of the college experience.

Important Information

Frank Phillips College is a Microsoft Office Campus. You must submit your electronic assignments in Microsoft Office programs only. If you do not have Microsoft Office, you may use one of the computer lab sites on campus for your class work.

Scans/Or Core Competencies That Will Be Addressed in the Class

Resources:

Allocates Time

Allocates Money

Allocates Material & Facility Resources

Information:

Acquires & Evaluates Information

Organizes & Maintains Information

Uses Computers to Process Information

Interpersonal:

Participates as a Member of a Team
Teaches Others
Serves Clients/Customers
Exercises Leadership
Negotiates to Arrive at a Decision
Works with Cultural Diversity

Technology:

Selects Technology
Applies Technology
Maintains & Troubleshoots Technology

Basic Skills:

Reading
Writing
Arithmetic
Mathematics
Listening & Speaking

Thinking Skills:

Creative Thinking
Decision Making
Problem Solving
Seeing Things in the Mind's Eye
Knowing How to Learn
Reasoning

Systems:

Understands Systems
Monitors & Corrects Performance
Improves & Designs Systems

Personal Qualities:

Responsibility
Self-Esteem
Sociability
Self-Management
Integrity/Honesty