

State & Local Government
PS 2302

Arlington Baptist College
Spring 2009
Block D
Mar 16 – May 10 2009

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1. College Mission Statement: Arlington Baptist College endeavors to prepare men and women for Christian life and ministries, both lay and professional, through studies in Bible, general education, church vocations, and practical service; integrating faith and learning in the context of a Christian worldview.

2. Course Description: A study of the Constitution of the State of Texas is made as an example of state government. The political involvement and problems of local government will be examined along with the forms, functions and services it provides.

3. Textbooks:

3.1 William Earl Maxwell and Ernest Crain, *Texas Politics Today*, Thirteenth Edition, Wadsworth/Thompson Learning, 2006.

4. Course Goals:

- 4.1 Encourage the student to involve themselves in a practical way in the local political process, thereby bringing a Christian influence into local, state and national politics.
- 4.2 Provide an orientation to Texas culture, people and history.
- 4.3 Deliver an overview of the Texas Constitution.
- 4.4 Describe the voting and election process in Texas.
- 4.5 Discuss the functions, characteristics and development of political parties in Texas.
- 4.6 Elaborate on the formation, purpose and influence of Interest Groups.
- 4.7 Illustrate the organization, structure and process of the three branches of Texas Government: Legislative, Executive and Judiciary.
- 4.8 Provide an overview of the taxing and budgeting process and how spending and services are accomplished in Texas.
- 4.9 Focus on the political apparatus in the local government.

5. Learning Goals:

- 5.1 Trace the changing political partisan face of Texas from a one party Democratic state to a two party state with a strong Republican party.
- 5.2 Know the reasons behind the 1836, 1845, 1861 and 1876 Constitutions.
- 5.3 Understand and be able to participate in the local election process.
- 5.4 Critically examine the distinct characteristics of American political parties.
- 5.5 Know how to become a part of a local political party.
- 5.6 Describe what an interest group is and what it does.
- 5.7 Understand the various components of the Legislative, Executive and Judicial Branches of the Texas Government.
- 5.8 Differentiate between civil and criminal law.
- 5.9 Understand the different levels and types of crimes and who commits them.
- 5.10 Comprehend the types of taxes that are used at the national, state and local levels.
- 5.11 Identify the relationships in the services the state provides and who receives them.
- 5.12 Describe the elements of their local municipal government.

6. Methods of Evaluation:

- 6.1 Participation – 25%
- 6.2 Assignments – 25%
- 6.3 Quizzes – 25%
- 6.4 Mid-Term and Final – 25%

7. Schedule

Week	Date	Content	Assignment Complete for Both Lessons	Quiz Exam
1	3/16 – 3/22	Lessons 1 & 2	Yes	Yes
2	3/23 – 3/29	Lessons 3 & 4	Yes	Yes
3	3/30 – 4/5	Lessons 5 & 6	Yes	Yes
4	4/6 – 4/12	Lessons 7 & 8	Yes	Yes
5	4/13 – 4/19	Lessons 9 & 10	Yes	Yes
6	4/20 – 4/26	Lessons 11 & 12	Yes	Yes
7	4/27 – 5/3	Lessons 13 & 14	Yes	Yes
8	5/4 – 5/10	Final Exam	No	Yes

Note: Assignments, Quizzes, Discussion and Exams are due by midnight Sunday in order to receive credit. No late work is accepted unless prior approval is given due to family emergencies or ministry related activities.