

**POLS 207**  
**State and Local Government**  
**Spring 2008**  
**Texas A&M University**

**Section:** 502; MWF 11:30-12:20 HECC 207  
**Instructor:** Jesse Chupp  
**Office Number:** Allen 2111  
**Office Hours:** TR 10-NOON (by appointment)  
**Email address:** [jchupp@tamu.edu](mailto:jchupp@tamu.edu)

**COURSE DESCRIPTION:**

Survey of state and local government and politics with special reference to the constitution and politics of Texas.

**COURSE OBJECTIVES and STUDENT LEARNING OUTCOMES:**

Students will gain an understanding of the political institutions and behaviors characteristic of state and local government.

**TEXTBOOKS, SUPPLIES, MATERIALS:**

Halter, Gary. *Government and Politics of Texas, 6<sup>th</sup> Edition*. McGraw-Hill.

Harrigan, John J. and David C. Nice. *Politics and Policy in States and Community, 10<sup>th</sup> Edition*. Allyn & Bacon/Longman Publishers.

**EXAMS, ASSIGNMENTS AND GRADES:**

Four fifty-question true/false exams covering each section of the course material.

Final grades will be calculated and assigned based upon the standard scale:

90-100 A  
80-89 B  
70-79 C  
60-69 D  
below 60 F

\* Rounding to the nearest number will be used.

**ADA STATEMENT:**

Information regarding procedures for documenting disabilities can be obtained from the Counseling Office. Reasonable accommodations will be made for documented disabilities. Students must present documentation as soon as possible for the instructor to arrange accommodation.

## **Part I – The Components of State Government**

### **WEEK 1**

*Monday, January 14:* Course Introduction

*Wednesday, January 16:* Lecture “The Origin and Nature of Government”

*Friday, January 18:* Lecture “The Origin and Nature of Government (continued)”

### **WEEK 2**

*Monday, January 21:* **NO CLASS MEETING, MLK HOLIDAY**

*Wednesday, January 23:* Lecture “American Federalism and Texas”

*Friday, January 25:* Lecture “American Federalism and Texas (continued)”

Reading: Halter Chapter 2; Harrigan and Nice Chapters 1-3

### **WEEK 3**

*Monday, January 28:* Lecture “American Federalism and Texas (continued)”

*Wednesday, January 30:* Lecture “State Constitutions”

*Friday, February 1:* “The Texas Constitution”

Reading: Halter Chapter 2; Harrigan and Nice Chapters 6, 7, 12

### **WEEK 4**

*Monday, February 4:* “The Texas Constitution (continued)”

*Wednesday, February 6:* Lecture “American Local Government”

*Friday, February 8:* Lecture “Texas Local Government”

Reading: Halter Chapter 11

### **WEEK 5**

*Monday, February 11:* Review

*Wednesday, February 13:* **Exam I**

## **Part II – Understanding Political Behavior**

*Friday, February 15:* Lecture “The Origin and Methods of Political Science”

### **WEEK 6**

*Monday, February 18:* Lecture “The Origin and Methods of Political Science (continued)”

*Wednesday, February 20:* Lecture “Political Socialization and Public Opinion”

*Friday, February 22:* Lecture “Voting as Caused Political Behavior”

Reading: Harrigan and Nice Chapters 4, 5

### **WEEK 7**

*Monday, February 25:* Lecture “American Political Parties”

*Wednesday, February 27:* Lecture “Texas Political Parties”

*Friday, February 29:* Lecture “American Elections and Strategic Voting”

Reading: Halter Chapters 3, 5, 6; Harrigan and Nice Chapter 5

### **WEEK 8**

*Monday, March 3:* Lecture “American Elections and Strategic Voting (continued)”

*Wednesday, March 5:* Review

*Friday, March 7:* **Exam II**

Reading: Halter Chapters 3, 5, 6; Harrigan and Nice Chapters 4, 5

### **WEEK 9**

*Monday, March 10:* **SPRING BREAK**

*Wednesday, March 12:* **SPRING BREAK**

*Friday, March 14:* **SPRING BREAK**

## **Part III – The Institutions of State Government**

### **WEEK 10**

*Monday, March 17:* Lecture “American Legislative Theory”

*Wednesday, March 19:* Lecture “American Legislative Theory (continued)”

*Friday, March 21:* **NO CLASS MEETING, UNIVERSITY HOLIDAY**

Reading: Halter Chapters 7, 8; Harrigan and Nice Chapters 8, 9, 10

### **WEEK 11**

*Monday, March 24:* Lecture “The Texas Legislature”

*Wednesday, March 26:* Lecture “The Rise of the American Executive”

*Friday, March 28:* Lecture “The Rise of the American Executive (continued)”

Reading: Halter Chapters 7, 8; Harrigan and Nice Chapters 8, 9, 10

### **WEEK 12**

*Monday, March 31:* Lecture “The Texas Governor and Executive Branch”

*Wednesday, April 2:* Lecture “American Judicial Theory”

*Friday, April 4:* Lecture “The Texas Judiciary”

Reading: Halter Chapters 8, 9; Harrigan and Nice Chapters 9, 10, 11

### **WEEK 13**

*Monday, April 7:* Lecture “The Texas Judiciary (continued)”

*Wednesday, April 9:* Review

*Friday, April 11:* **Exam III**

## **Part IV – State Public Policy**

### **WEEK 14**

*Monday, April 14:* Lecture “Theories of Public Policy”

*Wednesday, April 16:* Lecture “Theories of Public Policy (continued)”

*Friday, April 18:* Lecture “Education Policy”

Reading: Halter Chapter 9, 10; Harrigan and Nice Chapters 12-14

### **WEEK 15**

*Monday, April 21:* Lecture “Education Policy (continued)”

*Wednesday, April 23:* Review

*Friday, April 25:* **Exam IV**

Reading: Halter Chapter 9, 10; Harrigan and Nice Chapters 12-14

### **WEEK 16**

*Monday, April 28:* **MAKEUP EXAM SESSION (TIME AND PLACE: TBA)**

*Wednesday, April 30:* **NO CLASS MEETING UNIVERSITY READING DAY**