

## Summer 2008

**POLS 207**  
**State and Local Government**  
**Section 100: MWRF; BLOC 102**  
**12:00 – 1:35 p.m.**

**Instructor:** P. See Lim  
**Office:** Allen Building, Room 2053  
Phone: (979) 845-3083  
**Office hours:** TW 10:45– 11:45 a.m.  
After class and by appointment.  
**Email:** [pseelim@polisci.tamu.edu](mailto:pseelim@polisci.tamu.edu)

**Email Protocol:** Please state your *name and section number* when you email me.

I will not respond if you email me without your profile.

Do not email me about information available in the syllabus. Read the syllabus first before emailing me.

**Web Page:** <http://www-polisci.tamu.edu/faculty/byname/?id=81>

### I. Course Description

This course gives a brief historical overview of Texas and the current political system in Texas. It examines the three branches of government at the state level and the role of political parties, interest groups, public opinion and voters in the state.

### II. Required Textbook

*Texas Politics 10<sup>th</sup> Edition.* Richard H. Kraemer, Charles Newell, and David F. Prindle. Thomson Wadsworth publishing.

### III. Exams and Grades

There will be four (4) exams in the course. All exams are multiple-choice, each worth 25% of the final grade. Each exam will cover all assigned chapters and lectures to that date. The exams are **non-cumulative**. No one will be allowed to take an exam if the **first** person who has completed the exam has left. All exams are held in the same classroom. There is no final exam.

Please bring a clean, crisp, **grey** scantron. You will not have a grade if the grading machine rejects your scantron.

Fill in your information accurately before coming to the exam hall. A penalty of 4 points will be deducted from your score if an error(s) is made.

**Note:** Fill in your **UIN** and not SSN.

You can check your grades and announcements from webct vista ([elearning.tamu.edu](http://elearning.tamu.edu)).

**I will not change grades** unless I made an error in computation.

Please come and look at your exams after **EACH** exam. Do not come after the fourth exam to look at four exams.

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

### IV. Make-up Exams

Only students with **documented University excuse(s)** for missing a regularly scheduled exam will be allowed to take the make-up. Students who cannot take an exam **must** notify the instructor at least 24 hours before the scheduled examination. You must provide your **official** document if you want to schedule your makeup at an earlier date. Make-up exam date is **the final exam day (June 30<sup>th</sup>)**. **Make-up exams will not have bonus questions and could be essay exams.** Students with University excuses can take a maximum of 2 make-ups only. Please drop the course if you have to miss 3 exams.

### V. Withdrawal Policy

Should you decide to drop this course at any time, you must do so by yourself. Failure to drop a course because of not passing or excessive absences will result in an "F" grade at the end of the semester. The Q-drop date is Monday, **June 16<sup>th</sup>**.

### VI. Academic Dishonesty

Students must obey the University policy on academic dishonesty. The penalty for any type of plagiarism or cheating will be an "F" on the exam. As commonly defined, plagiarism consists of passing off as one's own the ideas, words, writings, etc., which belong to another. In accordance with the definition, you are committing plagiarism if you copy the work of another person and turn it in as your own, even if you should have the permission of the person. Plagiarism is one of the worst academic sins, for the plagiarist destroys the trust among colleagues without which research cannot be safely communicated. If you have any questions regarding plagiarism, please consult the Aggie Honor System Office website (<http://www.tamu.edu/aggiehonor>) or the latest version of the Texas A&M University Student Rules, under the section "Scholastic Dishonesty." (<http://rules.tamu.edu/urules/100/159903ml.htm>)

The handouts used in this course are copyrighted. By "handouts," I mean all materials generated for this class, which include but are not limited to syllabi, quizzes, exams, lab problems, in-class materials review sheets, and additional problem sets. Because these are copyrighted, you do not have the right to copy the handouts, unless I expressly grant permission.

### VII. Class Attendance and Conduct

Students are expected to be punctual and to attend all lectures. It is assumed that you have read the assigned materials before coming to class. Participation and questions relevant to the lectures are welcome. If you should miss a class, it is your responsibility to obtain lecture notes from your classmate. Students should avoid any form of class disturbance. You will be asked to leave the class if you disrupt class proceedings. All cell phones or pagers must be on the off mode during class meetings and failure to comply will result in a five-point penalty. Please take a seat near the door if you intend to leave the class early.



### VIII. ADA Statement

The Americans with Disabilities Act (ADA) is a federal anti-discrimination statute that provides comprehensive civil rights protection for persons with disabilities. Among other things, this legislation requires that all students with disabilities be guaranteed a learning environment that provides for reasonable accommodation of their disabilities. If you believe you have a disability requiring an accommodation, please contact the Department of Student Life, Services for Students with Disabilities in [B118 of Cain Hall](#), or call 979 845-1637. Please call the counseling center at 979 845-4427 if you are experiencing coping difficulties or anxieties.

## Course Schedule

**Week of**  
**May 27<sup>th</sup>**

### *Week 1*

*First day of class*; Introduction to Texas State Government  
Chapter 1: The context of Texas Politics

June 2<sup>nd</sup>

### *Week 2*

Chapter 11: The Substance of Justice  
Chapter 2: The Constitutional Setting  
**Exam 1 (bring grey scantron, pencil and eraser)**  
Chapter 3: Interest Groups  
Chapter 4: Political Parties

**June 4<sup>th</sup>**

### *Week 3*

June 9<sup>th</sup>

Chapter 4: Political Parties  
Chapter 5: Voting, Campaigns, and Elections  
**Exam 2 (bring grey scantron, pencil and eraser)**  
Chapter 6: Organization of the Texas Legislature  
Chapter 7: The Legislative Process

**June 12<sup>th</sup>**

### *Week 4*

June 16<sup>th</sup> (**Q-drop**)

Chapter 8: The Governor  
Chapter 9: The Administrative Staff  
Chapter 10: The Judiciary

### *Week 5*

**June 23<sup>rd</sup>**

**Exam 3 (bring grey scantron, pencil and eraser)**  
Chapter 12: Local Government  
Chapter 13: The State Economy and the Financing of State Govt.  
Chapter 14: Issues in Public Policy

**June 27<sup>th</sup>**

**Exam 4 (bring grey scantron, pencil and eraser)**

### *Week 6*

**June 30<sup>th</sup>**

**Makeup Exam in BLOC 102**  
**(for students who missed an exam and NOT for students who want to retake an exam)**