

Instructor Information				
Instructor	Shannon Tanner			
Email	tannerst@lamarpa.edu			
Phone	(409) 984-6331			
Office	Educational I - Room: 113			
Office Hours	Instructor is available to meet with students any time online. Simply request a time to meet and the instructor will send you an online meeting request for the appointed time. All Office Hours by request			
Additional Contact Information				
Course Information				
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.			
Required Textbooks	<i>Textbook Purchasing Statement: A student attending Lamar State College Port Arthur is not under any obligation to purchase a textbook from the college-affiliated bookstore. The same textbook may also be available from an independent retailer, including an online retailer.</i> Texas Government 2.0 OER Commons https://oercommons.org/courseware/8453 Free, online textbook			
Additional Materials/Resources	None.			
Corequisites/Prerequisites	None			
Learning Outcomes	Upon completion of this course, the student will be able to 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.			
Program Student Learning Outcomes				
Lecture Topics Outline	<table><tr><td>Introduction-Course Syllabus The Social and Economic Environment of Texas Politics; The United States Constitution</td></tr><tr><td>Texas Government and Politics in the Federalist System; The Texas Constitution; Local Government in Texas; The Texas Legislature; The Texas Executive; The Texas Judiciary</td></tr><tr><td>Political Socialization and Public Opinion; The Party System in Texas; Elections, Campaigns and Voting in Texas; Mass</td></tr></table>	Introduction-Course Syllabus The Social and Economic Environment of Texas Politics; The United States Constitution	Texas Government and Politics in the Federalist System; The Texas Constitution; Local Government in Texas; The Texas Legislature; The Texas Executive; The Texas Judiciary	Political Socialization and Public Opinion; The Party System in Texas; Elections, Campaigns and Voting in Texas; Mass
Introduction-Course Syllabus The Social and Economic Environment of Texas Politics; The United States Constitution				
Texas Government and Politics in the Federalist System; The Texas Constitution; Local Government in Texas; The Texas Legislature; The Texas Executive; The Texas Judiciary				
Political Socialization and Public Opinion; The Party System in Texas; Elections, Campaigns and Voting in Texas; Mass				

Media in Texas Politics
Interest Groups and Political Power in Texas; Financing State Government; The Criminal Justice System in Texas; Contemporary Policy Issues in Texas

Major Assignments Schedule

DATE	TOPIC	READINGS (Due on this Date)	ASSIGNMENTS (Due on this Date)
May 14-17	Introduction-Course Syllabus The Social and Economic Environment of Texas Politics; The United States Constitution	Unit # 1-2 in textbook	Syllabus Quiz Discussion Post
May 18-24	Texas Government and Politics in the Federalist System; The Texas Constitution; Local Government in Texas; The Texas Legislature; The Texas Executive; The Texas Judiciary	Unit # 2-6 in textbook	Discussion Post Assignment # 1 and Exam #1
May 25-31	Political Socialization and Public Opinion; The Party System in Texas; Elections, Campaigns and Voting in Texas; Mass Media in Texas Politics	Units #7-9 and #14 in textbook	Discussion Post Assignment #2 and Semester Paper
June 1-4	Interest Groups and Political Power in Texas; Financing State Government, Criminal Justice in Texas Contemporary Policy Issues in Texas	Units # 10-13 in textbook	Discussion Post Assignment #3 Exam #2

Final Exam Date

June 3, 2026 - 8:00 AM Through June 3, 2026 - 11:59 PM

Grading Scale

Determination of Final Grade

Exams.....40%
Unit Assignments.....20%
Semester Project/Paper.....20%
Discussions.....20%

Course Policies

Instructor Policies

This is a work at your own pace course, therefore, coursework is not due until the end of the semester. As such, late work is not accepted in this course.

Students must download and use Respondus Lockdown Browser to take all exams.

AI use is not allowed in this class. This includes the use of Grammarly and other grammar websites that use AI to reformat papers. Any assignment found to be partially or fully completed by AI will receive an automatic zero. Any student who submits more than one assignment that is found to be partially or fully completed by AI will receive a zero in the course.

In this course we will frequently discuss current events, and at times, some students may find these topics controversial. It is important to keep in mind that different students may come from a different background and therefore may have different experiences and points of view. Students may disagree on these points of view. Disagreements lead to critical thinking, scholarly debates and learning but only when students disagree respectfully. Disrespect towards any person or group of people, whether inside this classroom or out, will not

be tolerated. Students may not denigrate or attack any person or single out any person based on race, gender, religion, age, ethnicity, nationality, abilities, appearance, or sexual orientation. Any student turning in any assignments or posting any discussion posts that fail to meet the above standards will not receive credit for that work.

The instructor will grade and return all submitted work ASAP, but never longer than 7 days after the assignment is submitted, without notice.

Attendance Policy

As this is an online course, there is no attendance policy, but discussion posts will be counted as class participation. Each student must create their own post for the grade and then answer two of their classmates' questions each week to receive attendance and participation points.

Additional Information

Institutional Policies

MyLSCPA

Be sure to check your campus email and Course Homepage using MyLSCPA campus web portal. You can also access your grades, transcripts, academic advisors, degree progress, and other services through [MyLSCPA](#).

Academic Honesty

Academic honesty is expected from all students, and dishonesty in any form will not be tolerated. Please consult the LSCPA policies (Academic Dishonesty section in the Student Handbook) for consequences of academic dishonesty.

ADA Considerations

The Americans with Disabilities Act (ADA) is a federal anti-discrimination statute that provides comprehensive civil rights 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 [Disability Services Coordinator](#), Room 117, in the Student Success Center. The phone number is (409) 984-6241.

COVID 19 Information

The Lamar State College Port Arthur (LSCPA) Student Code of Conduct COVID 19 Policy requires students who have been diagnosed with COVID 19 to report their condition directly to their local health department. Students should also contact their course faculty to report their quarantine status. In addition, this policy requires all students to wear face coverings when directly exposed to COVID 19 in compliance with the criteria included in the policy. For more information please refer to the COVID 19 link on the LSCPA website.

Facility Policies

No food or tobacco products are allowed in the classroom. Only students enrolled in the course are allowed in the classroom, except by special instructor permission. Use of electronic devices is prohibited.

HB 2504

This syllabus is part of LSCPA's efforts to comply with Texas House Bill 2504.

Mandatory Reporting of Child Abuse and Neglect

As per Texas law and LSCPA policy, all LSCPA employees, including faculty, are required to report allegations or disclosures of child abuse or neglect to the designated authorities, which may include a local or state law enforcement agency or the Texas Department of Family Protective Services. For more information about mandatory reporting requirements, see [LSCPA's Policy and Procedure Manual](#).

Title IX and Sexual Misconduct

LSCPA is committed to establishing and maintaining an environment that is free from all forms of sex discrimination, including sexual harassment, sexual violence, and other forms of sexual misconduct. All LSCPA employees, including faculty, have the responsibility to report disclosures of sexual misconduct, including sexual harassment, sexual assault (including rape and acquaintance rape), domestic violence, dating violence, relationship violence, or stalking, to LSCPA's Title IX Coordinator, whose role is to coordinate the college's response to sexual misconduct. For more information about Title IX protections, faculty reporting responsibilities, options for confidential reporting, and the resources available for support visit [LSCPA's Title IX website](#).

Clery Act Crime Reporting

For more information about the Clery Act and crime reporting, see the [Annual Security & Fire Safety Report](#) and the [Campus Security website](#).

Grievance / Complaint / Concern

If you have a grievance, complaint, or concern about this course that has not been resolved through discussion with the Instructor, please consult the Department Chair.

Department Information

General Education and Developmental Studies

Chair: [Dr. Steven Zani](#)
Email: zanisj@lamarpa.edu
Phone: (409) 984-6431