

GOVT 2306: Texas Government

Spring 2026

Section: 2306.04

Texas A&M University-San Antonio

Instructor Information

Name: Roman Delagarza, M.A.

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The **best way to get in contact with me** is through **email**. I aim to respond to emails within two days, excluding weekends. If I do not answer your email within two days, feel free to follow up with a reminder email. When writing, please include your section number (I teach several courses and that will allow me to help you more quickly).

Office number: N/A

Office Hours: Fridays, 9 am to 5 pm. (I will be available for Zoom meetings during these times – please email in advance to set up a time). Other times are also possible if the above times conflict with your schedule.

Zoom ID: 516 508 1676

Meeting Times

This course will meet Monday and Wednesdays

12:30 to 1:45

Classroom: Frank L. Madla 210

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.

Course Learning Objectives

- Course Learning Objective 1: Students will analyze the origins of the U.S. Constitution and understand how foundational principles such as separation of powers, checks and balances, and sovereignty shape our federal government.
- Course Learning Objective 2: Students will be able to describe the organization, roles, and powers of the legislative, executive, and judicial branches, and evaluate how these institutions interact within each other.
- Course Learning Objective 3: Students will comprehend how individuals and groups engage with politics through voting, political parties, interest groups, and civic action.
- Course Learning Objective 4: Student will gain a deeper understanding of their civic rights and duties within our society, and the importance of participation in the political process.

Grading Policy

This class will use the standard TAMU-SA grading scheme, summarized in the table below:

Grade	From	To
A	100%	90%
B	<90%	80%
C	<80%	70%
D	<70%	60%
F	<60%	0%

- Attendance – 5%
- Chapter Assignments – 40%
- Discussion (Writing Prompts) – 10%
- Connect Smartbook Assignments – 10%
- Exams - Exam 1 (10%, Exam 2 (10%) Exam 3 (15%)

Note: All exams will be conducted on Blackboard (online)
All exams will utilize a Lockdown Browser

Course Textbook

The State of Texas: Government, Politics, and Policy
Sherri Mora and William Ruger
McGraw Hill 6th edition

Student Expectations

Students are expected to assist in maintaining an environment that is conducive to learning. Inappropriate or disruptive behavior is prohibited in order to ensure that everyone has an opportunity to gain from time spent on the course. Should a disruptive incident occur, in-class or online, the faculty member may remove the student or ask the student to leave the classroom.

Also, students are expected to submit all assignments on time when scheduled. Therefore, any student who fails to submit 3 major assignments will be required to meet with the instructor to determine an appropriate course of action.

This policy will satisfy the Marketable skill, personal responsibility.

Attendance Policy

Regular attendance is required for the course.

Students are expected to attend all scheduled class meetings, arrive on time, and actively participate in class activities and discussions. Students are also responsible for keeping up with all course materials, assignments, announcements, and deadlines throughout the semester.

If you are absent, you are responsible for reviewing the material covered in class, obtaining notes from a classmate, and completing any assigned readings or assignments.

Late Assignments

The instructor does not allow late work or submissions.

If you miss an exam, or an assignment, you will not be able to take them and will be given a grade of zero. Make-up exams and late assignments will only be permitted with a valid, documented excuse.

Course Assignments

Exams

Students will be required to take 3 section tests covering all material presented in the course. Each exam will consist of 50 multiple choice questions, based on class lectures and questions from the chapter assignments. Students will be required to take the exam on Blackboard, using LockDown Browser...

If you miss an exam, you will not be permitted to take the exam unless you have a documented excuse.

Writing Prompts

Students will be required to write 6-8 short writing prompts during the semester. The purposes of a writing prompt are to encourage the student's interest in a topic being covered in class and encourage them to write about it in a thoughtful and creative way.

These writing prompts can provide students an opportunity to elaborate and expand on an issue that is being covered in class.

Chapter Assignments

Students will be required to complete 6-chapter assignments for the semester, based on the chapters in the textbook. This assignment will be available at the beginning of the week on the date scheduled, and will be due before 11:59pm, Sunday. Each assignment will consist of 10 questions from the textbook.

Students who miss a chapter assignment will have the opportunity to make up one chapter assignment at the end of the semester, to replace the 0 you received.

McGraw Hill Connect

Beginning Oct 1, Students will be required to complete 6 SmartBook assignments through Connect by the designated deadline.

These activities are designed to improve student comprehension and overall performance. There is no time limit on these assignments, and each student gets unlimited attempts on these assignments.

Technology Issues

Students are responsible for ensuring that assignments are successfully submitted by the designated deadline. If you encounter a tech issue when submitting an assignment, please notify the instructor, along with a screenshot of the error or issue you are experiencing.

Tech issues can include internet connectivity problems, computer malfunctions, system timeout, or course website (Canvas) errors.

Use of AI

Students will not be allowed to use AI software for their writing assignments. Which means students are required to submit their own original work on assignments. Anyone caught using AI (20% or more) for their assignments will be given a grade of (0).

This course assumes that all work submitted by students will be generated by the students themselves, working individually. Students should not have another person/entity do the writing of any portion of an assignment for them, which includes hiring a person or a company to write assignments and/or using artificial intelligence (AI) tools like ChatGPT. Use of any AI-generated content in this course qualifies as academic dishonesty and violates Texas A&M-San Antonio's standards of academic integrity.

Important Policies and Resources

University Email Policy

All correspondence between professors and students must occur via university email accounts. You must have your Jaguar email account ready and working. If it is not working, contact the help desk at helpdesk@tamusa.edu or at 210-784-HELP (4357). If you don't hear back within 48 hours, contact them again. They have many requests during the first part of the semester, so you may need to follow up with them.

Disability Services

Texas A&M University-San Antonio is committed to providing all students with reasonable access to learning opportunities and accommodations in accordance with The Americans with Disabilities Act, as amended, and Section 504 of the Rehabilitation Act. If you experience barriers to your education due to a disability or think you may have a disability, please contact Disability Support Services in the Central Academic Building, Suite 210, or at (210) 784-1335 or visit disability.services@tamusa.edu

Disabilities may include, but are not limited to, attentional, learning, mental health, sensory, physical, or chronic health conditions. All students are encouraged to discuss their disability-related needs with Disability Support Services and their instructors as soon as possible.

Academic Learning Center

All currently enrolled students at Texas A&M University-San Antonio can utilize the Academic Learning Center for subject-area tutoring. The Academic Learning Center provides free course-based tutoring to all currently enrolled students at Texas A&M University-San Antonio. Students wishing to work with a tutor can make appointments through the Brainfuse online tutoring platform. Brainfuse can be accessed in the Tools section of Blackboard. You can contact the Academic Learning Center by emailing tutoring@tamusa.edu, calling (210) 784-1307, or visiting the Central Academic Building, room 202. Online tutoring is also available for after hours and weekend assistance.

Mental Health Resources

As a college student, there may be times when personal stressors interfere with your academic performance and negatively impact your daily functioning. If you are experiencing emotional difficulties or mental health concerns, support is available to you through the Student Counseling Center (SCC). To

schedule an appointment, visit our website, call 210-784-1331 or visit Madla 120 between the hours of 8:00 AM and 5:00 PM.

All mental health services provided by the SCC are free and confidential (as the law allows). The Student Counseling Center provides brief individual and group therapy, crisis intervention, consultation, case management, and prevention services. Crisis support is available 24/7/365 by calling the SCC at 210-784-1331 or through the TELUS student support App.

The TELUS Student Support App provides a variety of mental health resources to include 24/7/365 support for in the moment distress, crisis support, an anonymous peer-to-peer support network, mental health screenings, podcasts, and articles to improve your mental wellbeing.

Emergency Preparedness

JagE Alert is Texas A&M University-San Antonio's mass notification system. In the event of an emergency, such as inclement weather, students, staff and faculty, who are registered, will have the option to receive a text message, email with instructions and updates. To register or update your information visit: <https://tamusa.bbcportal.com/>.

More information about Emergency Operations Plan and the Emergency Action Plan can be found here. Download the SafeZone App (<https://safezoneapp.com/>) for emergencies or call (210) 784-1911. Non-Emergency (210) 784-1900