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# Tex Govt (Tex const & topics)

## GOVT-2306

Fall 2020 Section 004 (CRN: 12382) 3 Credits 08/24/2020 to 12/13/2020 Modified 08/19/2020

### Meeting Times

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Dates:08/24/2020-12/13/2020 Day(s):MON,WED,FRI Time:10:00AM-10:50AM Location:SC-L202

### Course Description

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Origin and development of the Texas Constitution, structure and powers of the state and local government, federalism and inter-governmental relations, political participation, the election process, public policy and the political culture of Texas. Prerequisite: Meet TSI college-readiness standard for Reading and Writing; or equivalent. 3 credit hours. (A)

This course will be delivered in a Blended (or hybrid) format that will include instruction partially online and partially on campus. Additional testing requirements including proctoring with student authentication, a desktop or laptop computer (not a mobile device), webcam, and microphone may be required. Please copy the following URL into your browser: <http://www.collin.edu/coursedelivery/> for additional information on blended courses.

### Contact Information

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#### Instructor: Les Stanaland

Email: [lstanaland@collin.edu](mailto:lstanaland@collin.edu)

#### Office Hours

by appointment only  
online

Given the hybrid nature of the course and best practices regarding the transmission of covid-19, I ask that any discussions with students take place online either through email or through Teams.

### Course Resources

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#### Textbook: found through Canvas

We will be using a textbook that is available through Canvas. I will show you how to access it. The cost is approximately \$45 plus tax.

#### Technology: online access

Since this is a hybrid course, with one hour per week in classroom and two hours per week online, you will need a reliable device with a reliable internet connection. The upload speed of your internet access doesn't have to be blazing fast since we won't be using any data-heavy applications. Phones can be used, but they are not ideal. Tablets, laptops, and desktops make for a better user experience. However, a phone can suffice.

### Supplies

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# Governing Texas, 4th Edition

Author: Champagne, Harpham, and Casillas

Price: approx 45

This is the e-book you will purchase online

## \* Course Policies

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### Attendance

In a hybrid environment, attendance is critical because information and assignments are being given in two different ways. Therefore, attendance will be 10% of your grade; I will take roll every week at our in-person session and assignment completion will constitute attendance for the online portion. It is also imperative that a student does not "fall behind", and enforcing an attendance policy helps in that endeavor. You are allowed two in-person absences for any reason, which do have to be disclosed to me. Further absences will be penalized 10 points and will be reflected in the attendance grade. For example, one extra absence will cause the attendance grade to drop from 100 to 90.

If you have a documented medical emergency, then those absences will be excused, even if the illness lasts more than two class days. Lastly, recall that we only meet in-person one day a week.

### Late Work

Only in cases of documented medical emergency will late work be accepted. The expectation is that material will be turned in by the deadline. For online assignments, 11:59pm will be the traditional cutoff; however, computers understand time differently than humans. 11:59pm to a computer means the *beginning* of the minute, whereas we think of it as the end. Therefore, if you attempt to turn in an assignment *at* 11:59pm, the system will not allow you since the deadline will have passed. Please keep that in mind.

### Extra Credit

No extra credit will be offered in the course. You will have ample opportunity to demonstrate your mastery of the course content.

### Withdrawal date

Please let me know if you are thinking about dropping this course; the tuition you're paying is the lowest in Texas. Since you're already here, let's figure out a way to get through instead of dropping and having to start all over again. However, if you must, the withdrawal date is October 16, 2020.

### Incompletes

A grade of incomplete means that a student is unable, for reasons outside their control, to effectively complete a semester with a grade that accurately reflects their work in any course. To qualify for an incomplete in this course, all of the following criteria must be met:

1. At least 70% of coursework is complete.
2. There is a documented medical or life-changing emergency that precludes completing coursework.
3. Agreement that the coursework will be completed on or before January 1, 2021.

If all three conditions are not met, no incomplete will be granted.

## ✓ Method of Evaluation

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### Grading System

Type	Weight	Topic	Notes
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Type	Weight	Topic	Notes
Online coursework	50	online coursework	The online component of our class is where the bulk of content learning and assessment will occur. Assignments usually include simulations, games, activities, and quizzes. Finally, discussion boards will comprise 20% of this component.
Attendance	10	attendance	Attendance for our hybrid course will include a roll check at the beginning of each in person session (1 per week). See attendance policy for acceptable absences, etc.
Texas Music Project	15	Texas Music	Since this area called Texas has been such a smorgasbord of different cultures over time, there are a lot of music forms here. Country, jazz, hip hop, R&B, blues, rockabilly, rock & roll, ragtime, and more are all represented by artists who hail (hailed) from Texas. For this assignment, you will pick one artist (or band), then choose five of their songs. Then you will write per the assigned rubric various facts about each song. The purpose of the assignment is to give a broader and better understanding of Texas culture, specifically its music.
Passion Project	15	passion project	What are you passionate about? This assignment will have you meld your passion with a particular aspect of Texas that I will give you that is related to your passion. The final deliverable can take whatever form you like. I have had cakes, YouTube videos, Python computer programs, paintings, and concert performances as examples. This is a chance to be creative!
What Did You Learn Paper	10	WDYL paper	Reflection is a critical component of education, yet we often overlook that part and instead spend as much time filling the course time in with as much material as possible. This assignment will allow you to reflect on what you have learned during the semester. Previous students have also shown particular appreciation for this assignment.

## Breakdown

We will use the hybrid modality to emphasize certain parts of each chapter that are most worthy of discussion. The grade breakdown will be the standard:

A = 90 - 100

B = 80 - 89

C = 70 - 79

D = 60 - 69

F = 59 or below

You will receive immediate feedback for all online components; outside projects will be graded within one week of the due date.

## Course Calendar

When	Topic	Notes
Lecture Week 1, 8/24-26	Syllabus & Canvas Orientation	
Lecture Week 2, 8/31 - 9/2	People, Culture, and Economy	Chapter 1 online work.
Lecture Week 3, 9/7-9	People, Culture, and Economy	Monday 9/7 is Labor Day.
Lecture Week 4, 9/14-16	Constitution	Chapter 2 online work.

When	Topic	Notes
Lecture Week 5, 9/21-23	Legislative Branch	Chapter 7 online work.
Lecture Week 6, 9/28-30	Executive Branch	Chapter 8 online work.
Lecture Week 7, 10/5-7	Judicial Branch	Chapter 9 online work.
Lecture Week 8, 10/12-14	Crime & Corrections Policy	Texas Music project is due by Sunday 10/18 by 11:59pm. Chapter 13 online work.
Lecture Week 9, 10/19-21	Death By Fire	We will watch a documentary titled Death By Fire about a Texas death penalty case. <b>NOTE: Since this documentary is 55 minutes long, we will need to stay late this class period.</b>
Lecture Week 10, 10/26-28	Campaigns & Elections	Chapter 5 online work.
Lecture Week 11, 11/2-4	Election Special!	We will take a break from Texas and look at the state of the national Presidential race, but will also emphasize various state races as well as the US Senate race between John Cornyn and MJ Hegar.
Lecture Week 12, 11/9-11	How Texas Makes Money	Chapter 11 online work.
Lecture Week 13, 11/16-18	How Texas Spends Money	Chapter 12 online work.
Lecture Week 14, 11/23-25	Interest Groups & Lobbying	Chapter 6 online work.
Lecture Week 15, 11/30 - 12/2	Local Government	Chapter 10 online work.
Lecture Week 16, 12/7-9	What Did You Learn Papers due	due by Friday 12/11 at 11:59pm.

## Student Learning Outcomes

Upon successful completion of this course, students will: 1. Explain the origin and development of the Texas constitution. (Critical Thinking) 2. Describe state and local political systems and their relationship with the federal government. (Social Responsibility) 3. Describe separation of powers and checks and balances in both theory and practice in Texas. (Communication Skills) 4. Demonstrate knowledge of the legislative, executive, and judicial branches of Texas government. (Communication Skills) 5. Evaluate the role of public opinion, interest groups, and political parties in Texas. (Critical Thinking; Social Responsibility) 6. Analyze the state and local election process. (Personal Responsibility) 7. Identify the rights and responsibilities of citizens. (Personal Responsibility; Social Responsibility) 8. Analyze issues, policies and political culture of Texas. (Critical Thinking)

# Institutional Policies

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Collin College has a passion for Learning, Service and Involvement, Creativity and Innovation, Academic Excellence, Dignity and Respect, and Integrity. For more information about Collin College's mission, vision, and core values, please go to <https://www.collin.edu/aboutus/missioncorevalues.html> (<https://www.collin.edu/aboutus/missioncorevalues.html>).

All policies, guidelines, and procedures in the [Collin College Catalog](http://www.collin.edu/academics/catalog.html) (<http://www.collin.edu/academics/catalog.html>), [Collin College Board Policies](https://pol.tasb.org/Home/Index/304) (<https://pol.tasb.org/Home/Index/304>), and the [Collin College Student Handbook](http://www.collin.edu/studentresources/deanofstudents/pdf_documents/2018-2019%20Student%20Handbook.pdf) ([http://www.collin.edu/studentresources/deanofstudents/pdf\\_documents/2018-2019%20Student%20Handbook.pdf](http://www.collin.edu/studentresources/deanofstudents/pdf_documents/2018-2019%20Student%20Handbook.pdf)) are applicable to this course.

## Americans with Disabilities Act

Collin College provides reasonable accommodations, in accordance with the Americans with Disabilities Act of 1990 and Section 504 of the Vocational Rehabilitation Act of 1973, to afford equal educational opportunities to all people. Students requesting accommodations under this provision should contact Collin College's Accommodations at Collin College for Equal Support Services (ACCESS) Office. For more information, go to <https://www.collin.edu/studentresources/disabilityservices/index.html> (<https://www.collin.edu/studentresources/disabilityservices/index.html>).

## Scholastic Dishonesty

Every member of the Collin College community is expected to maintain the highest standards of academic integrity. All work submitted for credit is expected to be the student's own work. Collin College may initiate disciplinary proceedings against a student accused of scholastic dishonesty. While specific examples are listed below, this is not an exhaustive list and scholastic dishonesty may encompass other conduct, including any misconduct through electronic or computerized means. Scholastic dishonesty shall include, but is not limited to, one or more of the following acts.

**General Scholastic Dishonesty** includes, but is not limited to, statements, acts, or omissions related to applications for enrollment, credit or class work, research, or the award of a degree; falsifying academic records; using annotated texts or teachers' editions; using information about exams posted on the Internet or in any electronic medium; leaving a test site without authority; failing to secure test materials; and/or submitting work that is not one's own. Students are expected to record honestly and accurately the results of all their research. Falsification of research results shall include misrepresentations, distortions, or omissions in data or reports on research.

**Plagiarism** is the use of an author's words or ideas as if they were one's own without giving credit to the source, including, but not limited to, failure to acknowledge a direct quotation or patchwriting. In the preparation of all papers and other written work, students must distinguish their own ideas and knowledge from information derived from other sources. The term "sources" includes not only published primary and secondary materials, but also information and opinions gained directly from other people. Whenever ideas or facts are derived from a source, the source must be indicated by the student.

**Cheating** is the giving or receiving of information in an unauthorized manner during an examination or to complete an assignment; collaborating with another student during an examination without authority; using, buying, selling, soliciting, stealing, or otherwise obtaining course assignments and/or examination questions in advance; unauthorized copying of computer or Internet files; using someone else's work for an assignment as if it were one's own; submitting or resubmitting an assignment in whole or in part (i.e., recycling an assignment) for more than one (1) class or institution without permission from each of the professors; or any other dishonest means of attempting to fulfill the requirements of a course.

**Collusion** is intentionally or unintentionally aiding or attempting to aid another in an act of scholastic dishonesty, including, but not limited to, failing to secure academic work; providing a paper or project to another student; providing an inappropriate level of assistance or unauthorized collaboration; communicating answers to a classmate about an examination or any other course assignment; removing tests or answer sheets from a test site; and allowing a classmate to copy answers.

In cases where an incident report has been filed for an alleged violation of scholastic dishonesty, the faculty member is requested to delay posting a grade for the academic work in question until the case is final. A student found responsible for a scholastic dishonesty offense(s) will receive an appropriate disciplinary penalty or penalties from the Dean of Students Office. The student may also receive an academic penalty in the course where the scholastic dishonesty took place. The faculty member will determine the appropriate academic penalty, which may range from a grade of zero (0) on the assignment to failing the course.

To view the Board policies associated with this section, go to [http://pol.tasb.org/Policy/Download/304?filename=FLB\(LOCAL\).pdf](http://pol.tasb.org/Policy/Download/304?filename=FLB(LOCAL).pdf) ([http://pol.tasb.org/Policy/Download/304?filename=FLB\(LOCAL\).pdf](http://pol.tasb.org/Policy/Download/304?filename=FLB(LOCAL).pdf))

## Academic Etiquette and the College Experience

Students and professors at Collin College share a responsibility to promote, develop, and maintain a positive learning environment. Students are expected to show respect to other students and professors at all times. For more information regarding academic etiquette and the college experience, specifically student academic success and seeking out resources, disruptive use of electronic devices, and tardiness and absences, please refer to the [Student Handbook](https://www.collin.edu/studentresources/deanofstudents/pdf_documents/2019-2020%20Student%20Handbook.pdf) ([https://www.collin.edu/studentresources/deanofstudents/pdf\\_documents/2019-2020%20Student%20Handbook.pdf](https://www.collin.edu/studentresources/deanofstudents/pdf_documents/2019-2020%20Student%20Handbook.pdf)).

## Institutional Deadlines

The Census Date is the 12th class day in a regular 16-week semester, or the fourth (4th) class day in a short summer semester. The census date varies for mini-semester and express classes. Students are required to attend class prior to the census date. For more information, go to <https://www.collin.edu/gettingstarted/register/census%20dates.html> (<https://www.collin.edu/gettingstarted/register/census%20dates.html>).

Students may withdraw from a course(s) with a grade of “W” through the end of the eighth (8th) class week during a regular 16-week semester, through Tuesday of the third (3rd) week of classes in a short 5-week summer term, and through Thursday of the fifth (5th) week of classes in a long 10-week summer term. Withdrawals will appear on the student’s official transcript, but have no effect on his or her grade point average (GPA). Contact the admissions area in the Student and Enrollment Services Office for withdrawal deadlines for other terms.

Prior to initiating a withdrawal, students should contact their professor(s) and/or an academic advisor. Withdrawal from Collin College must be initiated by the student. Students who discontinue class attendance and do not officially withdraw will receive a performance grade for the course(s). Students who need to withdraw from a class(es) may do so online or in person in the Student and Enrollment Services Office at any campus. For more information and withdrawal dates, please go to <https://www.collin.edu/gettingstarted/register/withdrawal.html> (<https://www.collin.edu/gettingstarted/register/withdrawal.html>).

## Additional Support

Collin College is dedicated to providing information and support to students. Please click on the following links for more information and to learn about support the College offers: [Mental Health Resources \(Counseling\)](https://www.collin.edu/studentresources/counseling/index.html) (<https://www.collin.edu/studentresources/counseling/index.html>), [Strategies of Behavioral Intervention \(SOBI\)](https://www.collin.edu/studentresources/SOBI/) (<https://www.collin.edu/studentresources/SOBI/>), [Financial Aid and Veteran Benefits](https://www.collin.edu/gettingstarted/financialaid/) (<https://www.collin.edu/gettingstarted/financialaid/>), Anthony Peterson Center for Academic Assistance ([Writing Centers](http://www.collin.edu/studentresources/writingcenter/index.html) (<http://www.collin.edu/studentresources/writingcenter/index.html>) and [Math Labs](http://www.collin.edu/studentresources/mathlab/index.html) (<http://www.collin.edu/studentresources/mathlab/index.html>)) and [Family Educational Rights and Privacy Act \(FERPA\)](https://www.collin.edu/gettingstarted/register/ferpa.html) (<https://www.collin.edu/gettingstarted/register/ferpa.html>).

For any other College Academic Policies, please also refer to the [Student Handbook](http://www.collin.edu/studentresources/deanofstudents/pdf_documents/2018-2019%20Student%20Handbook.pdf) ([http://www.collin.edu/studentresources/deanofstudents/pdf\\_documents/2018-2019%20Student%20Handbook.pdf](http://www.collin.edu/studentresources/deanofstudents/pdf_documents/2018-2019%20Student%20Handbook.pdf)).

## Additional Items

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### Criminal Background Notice

If your program requires a criminal background check, your placement in a required clinical site, cooperative, practicum, internship, and/or licensure/certification opportunity may be impacted. If you have any questions or concerns, please contact your program director and check with your licensing/certifying entity, if any, to determine your status.

### Hybrid Class Information

Since a substantial portion of this course will be done online, you must have access to a reliable internet-connected device as well as reliable internet access. Any modern (last 6-7 years) computer should do the trick; embedded videos from various websites are the most data-heavy components for the course, and those aren't data-heavy at all.

Online assignments will be graded automatically, I will have the lit review assignments graded within one week. I will reply to weekday emails within 24 hours; I do my best not to check emails on the weekend, so please do not expect a reply until Monday.

## Covid-19 Special Policies

It goes without saying at this point, but the covid-19 pandemic and various government responses have created a situation in which a "regular" class experience isn't possible. Trust me, no one is more upset about that than I. It is nonetheless here, and that creates a litany of possibilities previously undiscussed or even imagined. Therefore, this section of the syllabus attempts to account and adequately deal with any potential situations that may arise. This list is likely not exhaustive.

First, if you ever feel unwell, do not come to class. Coughing, sneezing, and the like will only put everyone on edge. It may not be fair, but it is what it is. You are allowed two excused absences without penalty, so if you need them, take them.

Second, masks/face coverings are mandatory. This is a state and college level policy over which I have no control. Summer students seemed to have little difficulty in adhering to the mandate; I don't envision any problems for the fall either.

Next, if you are unfortunate enough to catch the virus, first off the data suggests you at your young age will recover nicely. However, you can't come to class (obviously) and there are guidelines as to when you can return. If you test positive, please contact the Dean of Students at [dos@collin.edu](mailto:dos@collin.edu) and inform them. Also, inform me and I will also contact the Dean. Please note your privacy will ALWAYS be protected.

Ancillary to that unfortunate event, and while this never crossed my mind, it is apparently a thing: Do not "fake" covid to get out of coming to class. If you use the magic word "covid", the school will want to see a positive result (and a subsequent negative result to get back into class), as will I. Nobody is playing around with this virus, and that's a good thing.

For any other questions, I suggest reading <http://www.collin.edu/covid19/> to get more info. We're all doing the best we can under difficult circumstances.

Finally, if you simply do not feel you want to be in an in-person class, I understand. Collin is offering numerous online-only options for you. However, this class will meet in person for one hour a week under all CDC guidelines regarding coverings, social distancing, and cleanliness.