GOV 310L: American Government

Texas Common Number: GOVT 2301

A basic survey of American government, including fundamental political institutions, federal, state, and local; special attention to the United States and Texas Constitutions. Part of a six-semester-hour integrated sequence, the second half of which is Government 312L.

**Required Materials**


As a lower-cost alternative to purchasing a hard copy of the *American Political System* textbook, there are two options for purchasing access to electronic copies of the textbook. Both electronic versions can be purchased on the Norton website:

1. Downloadable electronic copy of the textbook, readable with Free Adobe Digital Editions Software. Students have unlimited access to the text.

2. E-book format of the textbook, readable on the Norton website. Access can be purchased for either 180 days or 360 days.

Students must have an internet-connected computer with a reasonably current operating system in order to view course videos and complete interactive modules. Tablets and smartphones are not supported.

**Course Organization**

This course is organized into fifteen lessons that incorporate recorded lectures delivered by University of Texas professors Eric McDaniel and Daron Shaw. Each lesson contains an overview, reading assignments, lecture videos and slides, a study guide, lecture and book quizzes, and a short-answer exercise. An instructor is available via the course message center to provide feedback on certain assessments and answer any content questions.

Course topics include:

- Defining Government and Pre-Constitutional America
- Articles of Confederation and U.S. Constitution
- Federalism and Building a National Identity
- Civil Liberties and Civil Rights
- Interest Groups and Social Movements
This course is independent study and is self-paced. The structure is designed to provide students wide discretion in terms of completing the required work. Each lesson, however, must be viewed in the prescribed order and students will not be able to move forward until assignments in the preceding lesson have been graded. This allows for receipt of feedback on submitted work that may be used in preparing for future assignments and the exams. Students have five months upon registration in which to complete all coursework.

The course includes a midterm exam and a comprehensive final exam, both of which must be taken in a proctored location. Arrangements for exam proctoring are to be made by the student; proctoring fees vary by site and are not included in the course fee.

**Grading**

Lecture and Book Quizzes 64%
Short-Answer Exercises 9%
Exams 26%

Students must complete all assignments and earn score of at least 60% on the final exam in order to receive a passing grade in the course.

**University Extension**

For more information about University Extension courses and policies, please visit [http://extendedcampus.utexas.edu/uex](http://extendedcampus.utexas.edu/uex). Questions may be directed to our office at (512) 471-2900 or uex@austin.utexas.edu. Office hours are M – F, 8 a.m. – 5 p.m. CST.