

POLS 2306: State & Local Government

Fall 2021

Sections: 410-412, 430-434

Department of Social Sciences
Texas A&M University Corpus Christi

1 Instructor Information

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Office Hours: Mondays: 12:00pm-2:00pm

Tuesdays: 3:30pm-5:30pm

Wednesdays: 11:00am-1:00pm
and by appointment

Class Location: Center for Instruction 138

Course Time: 2:00 to 3:15 TR

2 Course Description and Purpose

When we think of politics, we often think of the national government in Washington, DC. While decisions made by the president, Congress, and the U.S. Supreme Court shape our lives in countless ways we are more often and more directly impacted by the decisions of state and local governments. Why is it, for instance, that the speed limit is 75 miles per hour in many parts of Texas, but 80 miles per hour in many parts of Utah? Why is it easier to vote absentee in Oregon than it is in Texas? Why is recreational marijuana legal in Colorado but not in Texas? Why does Texas lack an income tax? All of these questions are important to our daily lives; to answer *any* of these questions requires understanding of state & local government. This course serves as an introduction to how the state & local political systems work, and how people behave in those systems. We do so with an emphasis on Texas.

This course assumes little knowledge about government or politics, it is after all an introductory course. It functions almost like a buffet. We'll explore lots of topics, including the structure of Texas government (the rules of the game) and the way people and groups behave in that system (how the players play the game). If find you're interested in a topic we cover (and I hope you will!), we probably have other classes where you can learn more about it. Just talk to me and I'll let you know what that course is so you can register for it next semester.

in practice. In many cases, we will spend a whole day discussing concrete examples. The goal here is that you see the concepts in action and have a concrete example, which you have likely heard about and care about, to help you grasp the material. In order for this to work, you have the readings and participate in class- remember, I am interested in you participating in class; there is no penalty for answering incorrectly in classroom discussion.

Each day we'll cover a different aspect of state & local government in the abstract along with concrete examples throughout the lecture. So for instance, we might talk about executive power, along with Governor Abbott's response to covid-19. The goal here is that you see the concepts in action to help you grasp the abstract concepts via concrete examples from the world today. In order for

this to work, you have the readings and participate in the class discussion forums- remember, I am interested in you participating in class; there is no penalty for answering incorrectly or asking a clarifying question.

I realize many of you may not be political science majors. To that end, this course emphasizes writing. Writing is a critical skill that is important regardless of your major or eventual career. Accordingly, you will write a brief discussion paper and participate in discussion forums. More details are below and in the handouts posted on Blackboard.

Student Learning Outcomes

On completion of this course students will be able to:

1. Recall basic facts related to the foundations of Texas government
2. Describe key political concepts related to state institutions such as the legislature, the various executive actors, and the judiciary.
3. Demonstrate their understanding of key concepts relating to political behavior such as voting, elections, political parties, interest groups and the media.
4. Understanding of definitions, concepts, and theories of state government

Core Objectives

The Four Core Objectives related to this course are: Critical Thinking Skills, Communication Skills, Personal Responsibility, and Social Responsibility. By the end of the semester the course will have met these objectives:

1. By having the students engage in critical thinking activities related to the state constitution, the political and philosophical foundations of Texas, governmental institutions, and political behavior.
2. By having students engage in written, verbal, or visual activities related to the Constitution, the political and philosophical foundations of the state, governmental institutions, and political behavior.
3. By having students engage in course related activities that connect personal responsibility and political ideology to encourage ethical decision making.

3 Course Format

This course meets twice times a week. We will have a mix of traditional style lectures which covers the “nuts and bolts” of that week’s topic, along with periodic examples. In the readings, we very often have a contemporary news story that will help illustrate the topic in action. For example, we might talk about the powers of the governor in the abstract along with examples from Governor Abbot’s response to the covid pandemic. The purpose of this format is to give you *both* the “how” and a practical example that helps explain the “why do we care?” aspect of Texas politics.

4 Requirements

Text

There is one required book which the majority of our readings will come from. Other readings are posted on Blackboard and are noted on the course schedule. Be sure to read all readings for each listed day *before* the lecture.

The book is available at the campus bookstore, for both purchase and rental. However, you can purchase or rent the book for a substantially lower rate online. To this end, I provide the ISBN for the book in the syllabus and will place all of the first week's readings on Blackboard to allow for shipping time. After the first week I expect you to have the book and bring it with you to class.

1. Rottingaus, Brandon. 2021. *Inside Texas Politics: Power, Policy, and Personality in the Lone Star State*. 3rd Edition. Oxford University Press: New York.

ISBN: 978-0197546161

Assessment

This course is worth 100 points which are broken up over several different items. It is your responsibility to keep track of your grade over the course of the semester

- “The Game of Politics” Project: 15 points
 - Paper Project: 15 points
 - Quizzes: 20 points
 - Exams: 50 points
1. **The Game of Politics Project (15 points)**— Some of the best learning comes by doing. To this end, in seminar you will work collaboratively to design a game that covers a major theme from the course and contemporary American politics. While this project will primarily be completed in seminar, it will also count in POLS 2306 and we will talk about it frequently in large lecture. For more details, see the Game of Politics handout.
 2. **Paper Project (15 points)**— Over the course of the semester, you will write two brief papers which answers a short question relating the class material to the contemporary political world in 2021 via library research. Early in the semester, you will attend a library research tutorial during your seminar class. You will then have a choice of which topics you would like to write on. Please know there are a limited number of slots for each paper and they are “first come, first serve.” So, be sure to sign up early. Paper deadlines are always at 11:59pm on a Friday evening (although they can be turned in early). For more details, see the Discussion Paper handout.
 3. **Quizzes (20 points)**— Over the course of the semester there will be periodic quizzes. All quizzes are due at the start of class. They will open late Saturday night/early Sunday morning. All quizzes listed on the Quiz Schedule handout on Blackboard. Quizzes consist of a mix

of material from the previous week's lectures/readings and the current week's readings. The quizzes consist of five multiple choice questions. They are open note, but are timed at ten minutes with just one attempt, so I recommend taking the time to review your notes before taking the quiz. If you do the readings, you should have no problem with the quizzes. There will be a total of ten quizzes, each is ultimately worth 2 points toward your final grade.

4. **Exams (50 points)**—There are three exams. The first is worth 10 points, or one letter grade. The second and third exams are worth 20 points, or two letter grades. None of the exams are cumulative and consist of 50 multiple choice questions. Before each exam I will provide a study guide. Taking exams on the scheduled day is imperative, if you miss an exam and do not have a valid documented excuse on file with SEAS the make up exam will be a separate research paper. Should you miss the exam, the onus is on you to schedule a make-up with me. I will not seek you out to remind you that you missed the exam.

Assessment Scale

A: 90-100	B: 80-89.9	C: 70-79.9	D: 60-69.9	F: <59.9
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Sensitive Topics

Since politics is a reflection of the society in which we live, we will cover several topics which touch on topics which might be sensitive such as gay rights, protest movements, abortion policy, and sexual assault. These topics are included because we cannot adequately study Texas politics without covering them. My personal policy is to remain neutral (I'm a political scientist, emphasis on the second word). I encourage disagreement, but it must be done in a respectful way. You have my assurance that I will do everything reasonably related to keeping these discussions civil and academic. I know aspects of this course may be emotionally difficult. You may personally connect with or be affected by some of the material covered in this course, so I urge you to identify a support system outside of this class. I am happy to meet with you to discuss any concerns or accommodation needs, but I also encourage you to seek out confidential or other resources.

5 Course Policies

Contacting the Instructor

I am happy to help you either via e-mail, or during office hours. At request, we can meet virtually via Zoom. If my office hours do not fit your schedule let me know and we can schedule a meeting at a time that is more convenient. If you come to office hours you should come prepared; bring your book, notes, and read the material in advance. If you contact me via e-mail, I will respond within 48 hours, though in most cases it will be less than six hours. Should you not hear from me after 48 hours, feel free to send a follow-up. However, in any e-mail you must identify yourself and use proper format which consists of an opening (As simple as the recipient's name), a closing (as simple as your name), and a descriptive subject line. If you do not follow that convention or if you use Internet shorthand (ie: "u" instead of "you,") I will not reply to the message.

Make-up Exams and Assignments

To qualify for a make-up test a student must notify me of the absence in advance via e-mail and provide documentation. Make-up exams will be a written research paper. The onus is on the student for a make-up exam. I will not seek you out to let you know you missed an exam.

Extra Credit

The only extra credit I offer is a one point increase for the discussion paper (remember, the course is only worth 100 points) for consulting with the writing center for your paper. Appointments are usually necessary. Just screenshot your confirmation and place it at the end of your paper.

Academic Honor Code

Students are expected to uphold the Academic Honor Code published in the University Student Handbook. The Academic Honor Code is based on the premise that each student has the responsibility (1) to uphold the highest standards of academic integrity in the student's own work, (2) to refuse to tolerate violations of academic integrity in the university community, and (3) to foster a high sense of integrity and social responsibility on the part of the university community. Violations of the Academic Honor Code will not be tolerated.

Academic dishonesty, cheating, and plagiarism of any kind are unacceptable. There are no exceptions. Consequences for academic dishonesty, cheating, and plagiarism include, but are not limited to, a failing grade for an assignment or exam, a failing grade for the course, noncredit for an assignment or exam, additional work, and/or direct referral to university officials.

If academic dishonesty, cheating, or plagiarism is suspected on any assessment, the instructor reserves the right to impose restrictions and make changes on future assessments for an individual and/or the entire class as needed.

Please also note that the university requires that faculty members formally report all instances of academic misconduct. Here are the official procedures: http://judicialaffairs.tamucc.edu/assets/procedure_academicmisconductcases.pdf

Academic dishonesty includes, but is not limited to, the use of unauthorized information during a quiz or exam, plagiarism, submitting the same paper for multiple courses without permission, or depriving another student of the ability to perform his or her work. The term cheating includes, but is not limited to: (1) use of any unauthorized assistance in taking quizzes, tests, or examinations; (2) dependence upon the aid of sources beyond those authorized by the instructor in writing papers, preparing reports, solving problems, or carrying out other assignments, plagiarism; or (3) the acquisition, without permission, of tests or other academic material belonging to a member of the university faculty or staff. The term plagiarism includes, but is not limited to, the use by paraphrase or direct quotation, of the published or unpublished work of another person without full and clear acknowledgment. Plagiarism also includes the unacknowledged use of materials prepared by another person or agency engaged in the selling or distribution of term papers or other academic materials. If you have questions about the university's policy on academic dishonesty, please see

the Student Code of Conduct at <http://judicialaffairs.tamucc.edu/StudentCofC.html>.

Please note “plagiarism” includes intentionally, knowingly, or carelessly presenting the work of another as one’s own. Additionally, the procedure has been updated to reflect the Academic Integrity Committee as the body to consider grade appeals and academic misconduct cases, as well as identifies the selection process of committee members. Detailed information can be found on the University Handbook of Rules and Procedures website. Contact for interpretation or clarification is the Associate Vice President for Academic Affairs.

Disability Accommodations

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 call or visit Disability Services at (361) 825-5816 in Corpus Christi Hall 116. If you are a returning veteran and are experiencing cognitive and/or physical access issues in the classroom or on campus, please contact the Disability Services office for assistance at (361) 825-5816.

Student Caregivers: If you have caregiving responsibilities (e.g., parent of a child or care for elderly parents) and you anticipate scheduling difficulties, please discuss this with me the beginning of the semester to work out an appropriate strategy in advance.

Sexual Assault & Gender Based Discrimination

TAMUCC faculty is fully committed to supporting students and upholding an environment free of sexual violence and gender based discrimination. If a student chooses to confide in faculty (or other entities on campus) regarding an issues of sexual violence, dating violence, domestic violence and stalking it should be understood that faculty members are often obligated to report this information. Students can choose to disclose their experience confidentially to the following resources:

- University Counseling Center
- Student Health Center

Academic Advising (for students with a majors in the College of Liberal Arts)

The College of Liberal Arts requires that students meet with an Academic Advisor as soon as they are ready to declare a major. Degree plans are prepared in the CLA Academic Advising Center. The University uses an online Degree Audit system. Any amendment must be approved by the Department Chair and the Office of the Dean. All courses and requirements specified in the final degree plan audit must be completed before a degree will be granted. The CLA Academic Advising Office is located in Driftwood #203. For more information please call 361-825-3466.

Dropping a Class

I hope that you never find it necessary to drop this or any other class. However, events can sometimes occur that make dropping a course necessary or wise. Please consult with your academic advisor, the Financial Aid Office, and me, before you decide to drop this course. Should dropping the course be the best course of action, you must initiate the process to drop the course by going to the Student Services Center and filling out a course drop form. Just stopping attendance and participation **WILL NOT** automatically result in your being dropped from the class. **November 5, 2021** is the last day to drop a class with an automatic grade of “W” this term.

Student Grade Appeals

As stated in University Procedure 13.02.99.C0.03, Student Grade Appeal Procedures, a student who believes that he or she has not been held to appropriate academic standards as outlined in the class syllabus, equitable evaluation procedures, or appropriate grading, may appeal the final grade given in the course. The burden of proof is upon the student to demonstrate the appropriateness of the appeal. A student with a complaint about a grade is encouraged to first discuss the matter with the instructor. For complete details, including the responsibilities of the parties involved in the process and the number of days allowed for completing the steps in the process, see University Procedure 13.02.99.C0.03, Student Grade Appeal Procedures. These documents are accessible through the University Rules Web site at https://academicaffairs.tamucc.edu/rules_procedures/index.html. For assistance and/or guidance in the grade appeal process, students may contact the Deans office in the college in which the course is taught or the Office of the Provost.

Statement of Academic Continuity

In the event of an unforeseen adverse event, such as a major hurricane and classes could not be held on the campus of Texas A&M University Corpus Christi; this course would continue through the use of Blackboard and/or email. In addition, the syllabus and class activities may be modified to allow continuation of the course. Ideally, University facilities (i.e., emails, web sites, and Blackboard) will be operational within two days of the closing of the physical campus. However, students need to make certain that the course instructor has a primary and a secondary means of contacting each student.

Classroom Courtesy

Classroom courtesy is an essential component of creating an effective learning environment. All students have the right to learn without unnecessary distractions. These distractions include: cell phones, talking during lectures (unless recognized by the instructor), reading newspapers, falling asleep, etc. If you need a cell phone for emergency purposes, leave it on vibrate. Entering and leaving are also significant sources of distraction. It is your responsibility to be on time and to stay for the entire period. In circumstances where you need to leave early, tell the instructor beforehand. Repeated disruptions of class will lead to a reduction in your final grade.

Most importantly, the syllabus includes many sensitive topics which can lead to strong feelings and heated debate. Because this is a college classroom, all discussion must be respectful and scholarly. This is to say you must be respectful, in both content and tone, of diverse opinions and not make personal or partisan attacks.

Acceptable Comments

- are respectful of diverse opinions and open to follow up questions and/or disagreement
- are related to class and/or the course material
- focus on advancing the discussion about issues related to the course and/or course material rather than personal beliefs, and
- are delivered in normal tones and a non-aggressive manner.

Unacceptable Comments

- are personal in nature. This includes attacks on a person's appearance, demeanor, or political beliefs.
- include interrupting the instructor or other students. Raise your hand and wait to be recognized.
- often use the discussion to argue for political positions and/or beliefs. If political discussions arise, they must be discussed in a scholarly way (see above).
- may include using raised tones, yelling, engaging in arguments with other students and being threatening in any manner.
- include ignoring the instructor's authority to maintain the integrity of the classroom environment.

Civil Rights Reporting

Texas A&M University-Corpus Christi is committed to fostering a culture of caring and respect that is free from discrimination, relationship violence and sexual misconduct, and ensuring that all affected students have access to services. For information on reporting Civil Rights complaints, options and support resources (including pregnancy support accommodations) or university policies and procedures, please contact the University Title IX Coordinator, Sam Ramirez at Samuel.ramirez@tamucc.edu or Deputy Title IX Coordinator, Rosie Ruiz at Rosie.Ruiz@tamucc.edu ext. 5826, or visit website at Title IX/Sexual Assault/Pregnancy.

Limits to confidentiality. Essays, journals, and other materials submitted for this class are generally considered confidential pursuant to the University's student record policies. However, students should be aware that University employees, including instructors, are not able to maintain confidentiality when it conflicts with their responsibility to report alleged or suspected civil rights discrimination that is observed by or made known to an employee in the course and scope of their employment. As the instructor, I must report allegations of civil rights discrimination, including sexual assault, relationship violence, stalking, or sexual harassment to the Title IX Coordinator if you share it with me. These reports will trigger contact with you from the Civil Rights/Title IX Compliance office who will inform you of your options and resources regarding the incident that you have shared. If you would like to talk about these incidents in a confidential setting, you are encouraged to make an appointment with counselors in the University Counseling Center.

Campus Emergencies

At TAMU-CC, your safety is a top concern. We actively prepare for natural disasters or human-caused incidents with the ultimate goal of maintaining a safe and secure campus.

- For any emergency, dial the University Police Department (UPD) at 361-825-4444 or dial 911. It's a good idea to have the UPD emergency number (and non-emergency number 361-825-4242) saved in your cell phone.
- There are nearly 200 classroom telephones throughout campus. If you feel threatened or need help and don't have a cell phone, dial 4444 (emergency) or 4242 (non-emergency) to be connected to UPD.
- If we hear a fire alarm, we will immediately evacuate the building and proceed to (location).
 - Proceed to the nearest building exit or evacuation stairway. Do not use the elevator. Persons who need help navigating stairs should proceed to a marked Area of Rescue Assistance, if possible.
 - Persons with disabilities should speak with their faculty about how to best assist them in case of an emergency.
 - Review the evacuation route (see specific Building Emergency Plan).
- TAMU-CC employs the Code Blue Emergency Notification System, an alert system which connects the campus community during emergency situations.
 - The notifications include emails, text and pre-recorded messages, as appropriate.
 - Code Blue emergencies may include severe weather warnings, threats, school closures, delays, evacuations and other incidents which disrupt regular campus activities.
 - Students can update personal contact information anytime at <https://emergency.tamucc.edu/contactform/>
 - Shelter in Place via Code Blue.
 - “Shelter-in-place” means to take immediate shelter where you are and may be implemented for severe weather, hazardous material spills, active shooters or other dangerous situations.
 - If there is a shelter in place for a tornado warning, our preferred location is the bottom floor of this building, away from windows and doors.
 - Active Threat Protocol. There are three things you could do that make a difference if there is an active threat: Run, Hide, and/or Fight. For more information about the Run, Hide, Fight protocol, including what to do when law enforcement arrives, visit <http://safety.tamucc.edu/ems/activethreat.html>
 - For the Quick Campus Guide to Campus Emergencies (including a list of Areas of Rescue Assistance and additional protocols on assisting persons with physical disabilities, hurricanes, bomb threats, animal bites, crime reporting, elevator entrapment, etc.), visit <https://safety.tamucc.edu/uploads/Site/finalbooklet.pdf>

COVID-19 Campus Safety Measures

To promote public safety and protect students, faculty, and staff during the coronavirus pandemic, Texas A&M University has adopted policies and practices starting in the Fall 2020 academic term to limit virus transmission. Students must observe the following practices while participating in face-to-face courses and course-related activities (office hours, help sessions, transitioning to and between classes, study spaces, academic services, etc.):

- It is recommended to continue practicing healthy habits including practicing physical distancing where possible, wearing a face covering over your nose and mouth if you are not vaccinated, and staying home when sick.
- If you are exhibiting symptoms of COVID-19 you should **NOT** report to campus. If you have not been vaccinated and have come into close contact with someone who has COVID-19, you should **NOT** report to campus. COVID-19 testing remains available on campus. Contact tracing and quarantining protocols for those who have not received vaccinations remain in effect.

Syllabus Change Policy

This syllabus is a guide for the course and is subject to change with advanced notice. These changes may come via e-mail. Make sure to check your university supplied email regularly. You are accountable for all such communications.

6 *Tentative* Course Schedule

A few notes about reading the course schedule:

- “*Rottinghaus*” refers to the required Rottinghaus book
- “(B)” means that reading can be found on Blackboard.

Course & University Basics

Tuesday August 24– Introduction to the Course

- *No readings*

The Basic Structures of Government

Thursday August 26– Texas Political Culture

- Rottinghaus Chapter 1

-Ura, Alexa, Jason Kao, Carla Astudillo, and Chris Essig. 2021. “People of Color Make up 95% of Texas Population Growth, and Cities and Suburbs are Booming, 2020 Census Shows.” *Texas Tribune*. 12 August, 2021. (B)

Tuesday August 31– Texas Political Culture (cont.)

- Rottinghaus Chapter 1
- Ura, Alexa, Jason Kao, Carla Astudillo, and Chris Essig. 2021. “People of Color Make up 95% of Texas Population Growth, and Cities and Suburbs are Booming, 2020 Census Shows.” *Texas Tribune*. 12 August, 2021. (B)

Thursday September 2– The Constitution: The Rulebook

- Rottinghaus Chapter 2
- Lindell, Chuck. 2021. “What to Know About the Eight New Amendments Voters Could Add to the Texas Constitution.” *Austin American-Statesman*. 3 June 2021. (B)

Tuesday September 7– The Constitution: The Rulebook (cont.)

- Rottinghaus Chapter 2
- Lindell, Chuck. 2021. “What to Know About the Eight New Amendments Voters Could Add to the Texas Constitution.” *Austin American-Statesman*. 3 June 2021. (B)

Thursday September 9– Texas in Nation: Federalism

- Rottinghaus Chapter 3
- Barragán, James. 2021. “Joe Biden Takes Aim at States Blocking Mask Mandates, Setting Gov. Abbott Up for Showdown with Feds.” *New York Times*. 18 August 2021. (B)

Tuesday September 14– Texas in Nation: Federalism (cont.)

- Rottinghaus Chapter 3
- Barragán, James. 2021. “Joe Biden Takes Aim at States Blocking Mask Mandates, Setting Gov. Abbott Up for Showdown with Feds.” *New York Times*. 18 August 2021. (B)

Thursday September 16– **EXAM ONE**

- *No readings*
- *Class does not physically meet*

Political Institutions: The Rules of the Game

Tuesday September 21– The Legislature

- Rottinghaus Chapter 7
- Pérez-Moreno, Heidi. 2021. “New Texas Law Allowing People to Carry Handguns Without Permits Stirs Mix of Fear, Concern Among Law Enforcement.” *The Texas Tribune*. 16 August 2021. (B)

Thursday September 23– The Legislature (cont.)

- Rottinghaus Chapter 7
- Pérez-Moreno, Heidi. 2021. “New Texas Law Allowing People to Carry Handguns Without Permits Stirs Mix of Fear, Concern Among Law Enforcement.” *The Texas Tribune*. 16 August 2021. (B)

Tuesday September 28– The Governor

- Rottinghaus Chapter 8
- Cobler, Nicole and Maria Mendez. 2021. “Texas Gov. Greg Abbott Bans Public Schools, Local Officials From Requiring Masks.” *Austin American-Statesman*. 19 May 2021. (B)

Thursday September 30– The Governor (cont.)

- Rottinghaus Chapter 8
- Cobler, Nicole and Maria Mendez. 2021. “Texas Gov. Greg Abbott Bans Public Schools, Local Officials From Requiring Masks.” *Austin American-Statesman*. 19 May 2021. (B)

Tuesday October 5– Other Executives & the Bureaucracy

- Rottinghaus Chapter 9
- Hawkins, Lori, Matthew Odam, and Shonda Novak. 2021. “Requiring Vaccine Proof May Cost Liquor License.” *Austin American-Statesman*. 14 August 2021. (B)

Thursday October 7– Other Executives & the Bureaucracy (cont.)

- Rottinghaus Chapter 9
- Hawkins, Lori, Matthew Odam, and Shonda Novak. 2021. “Requiring Vaccine Proof May Cost Liquor License.” *Austin American-Statesman*. 14 August 2021. (B)

Tuesday October 12– The Judiciary

- Rottinghaus Chapter 10
- Hauser, Ethan. 2021. “The Texas State Supreme Court Upholds the Governor’s Mask-mandate Ban, for Now.” *New York Times*. 15 August 2021. (B)

Thursday October 14– The Judiciary (cont.)

- Rottinghaus Chapter 10
- Hauser, Ethan. 2021. “The Texas State Supreme Court Upholds the Governor’s Mask-mandate Ban, for Now.” *New York Times*. 15 August 2021. (B)

Tuesday October 19– Criminal Justice

- Rottinghaus Chapter 11
- Barned-Smith, John. 2021. “Harris County Will Send Mental Health Professionals to Some 911 Calls Under New Initiative to Reduce Violence.” *Houston Chronicle*. 9 August 2021. (B).

Thursday October 21– Criminal Justice (cont.)

- Rottinghaus Chapter 11
- Barned-Smith, John. 2021. “Harris County Will Send Mental Health Professionals to Some 911 Calls Under New Initiative to Reduce Violence.” *Houston Chronicle*. 9 August 2021. (B).

Tuesday October 26– Local Government

- Rottinghaus Chapter 12
- Stevenson, Stefan. 2021. “Texas School District Finds Unique Loophole in Gov. Abbott’s Ban on Mask Mandates.” *Fort Worth Star-Telegram*. 17 August 2021. (B)

Thursday October 28– Local Government (cont.)

- Rottinghaus Chapter 12
- Stevenson, Stefan. 2021. “Texas School District Finds Unique Loophole in Gov. Abbott’s Ban on Mask Mandates.” *Fort Worth Star-Telegram*. 17 August 2021. (B)

Tuesday November 2– Government in Action

- *Guest Speaker, Hon. Missy Medary, Judge 347th District Court*
- *No readings*

Thursday November 4– **EXAM TWO**

- *No readings*
- *Class does not physically meet*

Political Behavior: How the Actors Behave

Tuesday November 9– Voting & Elections

- Rottinghaus Chapter 4
- Svitek, Patrick. 2021. “Allen West Announces he is Running Against Gov. Greg Abbott in Republican Primary.” *Texas Tribune*. 4 July 2021. (B)

Thursday November 11– Voting & Elections (cont.)

- Rottinghaus Chapter 4
- Svitek, Patrick. 2021. “Allen West Announces he is Running Against Gov. Greg Abbott in Republican Primary.” *Texas Tribune*. 4 July 2021. (B)

Tuesday November 16– Political Parties

- Rottinghaus Chapter 5
- Medina, Jennifer. 2021. “In South Texas, Hispanic Republicans Try to Cement the Party’s Gains.” *New York Times*. (B)

Thursday November 18– **CLASS DOES NOT MEET**

- *First Year Symposium*

Tuesday November 23– Interest Groups

- Rottinghaus Chapter 6
- DiFurio, Dom and Todd J. Gillman. 2021. “Dozens of Texas Business Groups Urge Governor to End the Extra \$300 in Federal Unemployment Pay.” *Dallas Morning News*. 13 May 2021. (B)

Thursday November 25– **CLASS DOES NOT MEET**

- *Thanksgiving Day*

Tuesday November 30– Paying for it All: Budget & Finance

- Rottinghaus Chapter 13
- Garrett, Robert T. 2021. “Texas Lawmakers Finally Pass \$248.6B, Two-year State Budget, Send to Gov. Greg Abbott.” *Dallas Morning News*. 27 May 2021. (B)

Thursday December 2– **NO CLASS: READING DAY**

- *Good luck studying!*

FINAL EXAM: Tuesday December 7: 1:45pm to 4:15pm in our usual classroom

7 Due Dates & Assignments

- **Week One**

- *Nothing!*

- **Week Two**

- Tuesday August 31: *Quiz 1*

- Thursday September 2: *Writing Assignment Preferences*

- **Week Three**

- Tuesday September 7: *Quiz 2*

- **Week Four**

- Tuesday September 14: *Quiz 3*

- Thursday September 16: *Exam 1*

- **Week Five**

- Thursday September 23: *Quiz 4*

- **Week Six**

- Thursday September 30: *Quiz 5*

- Friday October 1: *Writing Assignment 1: Option A*

- **Week Six**

- Thursday October 7: *Quiz 9*

- Friday October 8: *Writing Assignment 1: Option B*

- **Week Seven**

- Thursday October 14: *Quiz 7*

- **Week Eight**

- Thursday October 21: *Quiz 8*

- Friday October 22: *Writing Assignment 2: Option A*

- **Week Nine**

- Thursday October 28 : *Quiz 9*

- Friday October 29: *Writing Assignment 2: Option B*

- **Week Ten**

- Thursday November 4: *Exam 2*

- **Week Eleven**
 - Thursday November 11: *Quiz 10*
- **Week Twelve**
 - Thursday November 18: *Quiz 11*
- **Week Thirteen**
 - *Nothing!*
- **Week Fourteen**
 - *Nothing!*
- **Final Exam Period**
 - Tuesday December 7: *Exam 3*