



## **POLS 2301 (46F) - Introduction to American Government I (Section 11874) Fall 2017**

**Professor:** Dr. Bianca Easterly      Department: Political Science

**Office:** SBS 201M      Office Phone: (409) 880-7801

**Virtual Office Hours:** I'm available for real-time chat via Blackboard (LU) Learn by appointment.

**LU Learn Technical Support**      <http://luonline.lamar.edu/blackboard-support/index.html>  
**Technical Support:**

**Pearson REVEL Technical Support:**      <http://www.pearsonhighered.com/revel/educators/support/technical-support/index.html>

### **Teaching Philosophy Statement**

Given the complexities in understanding American government processes and politics, it is imperative that students take an active role in learning. To aid in this process, I embrace the following philosophy regarding teaching:

1. I believe students learn best when they are given opportunities to apply their knowledge. As an Active and Collaborative Engagement for Students (ACES) Fellow, I encourage regular discussions and student interaction.
2. I believe students will get what they put in this course. Simply put, each student must decide how much time he/she is willing to commit to the course to earn the grade he/she desires.
3. It is my goal to ignite students' interest in learning about the political world around them, challenge them to think proactively about their education, and finally, to create a learning environment that will allow students to develop critical thinking skills that will be an asset throughout their academic and professional lives.

### **Virtual Office Hours and Email Policy**

I check Blackboard (LU) Learn and Lamar email accounts throughout the day during business hours and weekends. Feel free to contact me at any time and I will return correspondence within 24 hours on weekdays and 48 hours on weekends. When you receive a communication from me, you should attempt to reply within 48 hours. **Feel free to ask me any questions about the course, but out of courtesy, please check the syllabus and the course website to see if the answer is already available.**

### **Course Description**

Never in our nation's history has politics been more politically divided. While conservatives question whether government is too powerful and unwieldy to serve the interests of most Americans, liberals seek to preserve the social and economic gains made since the New Deal. With such diverging agendas, politicians have few options to achieve their policy goals – they must either compromise with the other party or secure the position of majority party. The power game of politics involves an intricate network of participants, institutions, policies, and struggles that ultimately determine who gets what in American politics.

This course is the first half of a two-part core requirement for Texas state colleges and universities that introduces students to American political behavior by examining the systems that comprise our government and how citizens, elected officials, political parties, and interest groups continue to influence our answers to these questions. The design of the U.S. and Texas Constitutions provide a framework to explore a number of concepts including federalism, public opinion, the media, political parties, elections, and interest groups, and their

relevance to shaping national and Texas politics. Students are encouraged to use information acquired in this course to become more informed and active participants in the American democratic experience.

### **Course Objectives**

After the course, you should:

1. Continue to develop critical-thinking, reading, written and oral communication through formal and informal assignments.
2. Develop the ability to connect governmental processes, policies, and institutions to your day-to-day lives.

### **Student Learning Outcomes**

1. The Constitution – Identify the powers assigned to Congress, the Presidency, and the Courts based on the separation of powers specified in the U.S. Constitution.
2. Comparing Federal and State Constitutions – Differentiate between the powers and functions of the U.S. Constitution and the Texas State Constitution.
3. Public opinion – Identify the key factors that shape individual opinions and describe the methods researchers employ to measure them.
4. Campaigns and Elections – Demonstrate knowledge of the basic elements of the U.S. system of campaigns and elections.
5. Political Parties and Interest Groups– Explain how organized interests and parties influence policy.

### **General Education/Core Curriculum Student Learning Outcomes (THECB)**

The following learning outcomes of core curriculum courses are required by the State of Texas Higher Education Coordinating Board:

- Critical Thinking
- Communication Skills
- Personal Responsibility
- Social Responsibility

The THECB learning outcomes for POLS 2301 will be assessed by the following criteria:

Critical Thinking and Communication Skills: Effective critical thinking and written and verbal communication skills are essential to successful completion of the course. In addition to participation in classroom discussions and presentations, critical thinking and communication will be assessed based on one writing assignment per semester that will be evaluated and graded by your instructor based on the approved THECB assessment rubric. Critical Thinking: Students will be able to analyze a political problem and synthesize a solution to the problem. The outcome will be assessed on the writing assignment. Communication Skills: Students will be able to effectively develop and express an argument supported by fact regarding a political problem or question. The outcome will be assessed on the writing assignment.

Personal Responsibility and Social Responsibility: The classroom is a learning environment, and all students are expected to observe basic rules of courtesy, personal discipline, and responsibility. Personal responsibility and social responsibility will be *informally* assessed by class attendance; timely arrival to class; non-use of cell phones, i-pods, ear buds, etc.; not using computers inappropriately in class (engaging in facebook, surfing the net, etc.); not eating, sleeping, texting, listening to music, carry on private conversations with others or otherwise disrupt the learning environment of the classroom; reading all assigned materials *prior* to class; and completing the Course Evaluation at the conclusion of the semester. Personal responsibility and social responsibility will be *formally* assessed based on multiple choice questions embedded in your examinations. Personal Responsibility: Students will be able to demonstrate knowledge of how to register to vote and the

expectations of citizenship in the United States. This outcome will be assessed on the exams throughout the semester. **Social Responsibility:** Students will be able to demonstrate knowledge of political parties and interest group role in the political process and how an individual can effectively engage in these groups to achieve political outcomes. This outcome will be assessed on the exams throughout the semester.

## Prerequisites

### *Academic*

Sophomore standing and basic skills competency in reading and writing.

### *Technology*

Students should feel confident about their ability to navigate through typical online websites and their ability to use common word processing software in order to submit written assignments. Students should also be able to access and navigate digital textbooks and websites.

The minimum technical skills and the system requirements for this course include:

- **BLACKBOARD (LU Learn)**

Students will utilize the Lamar University's Learning Management System (LMS), Blackboard, for online courses. For LU Learn support go to (<https://blackboardsupport.lamar.edu>) for more information.

- **SYSTEM REQUIREMENTS**

#### ***Computer/Technology Requirements:***

1. Students will need regular access to Windows, MAC with a broadband Internet connection. Note: mobile devices (if you have mobile devices there are limitations)

The minimum computer requirements are:

- Most current version of Firefox is recommended
    - *Please note that LU Learn may not support Internet Explorer, Safari, or Chrome.*
  - 8 GB or more preferred
  - Broadband connection (cable modem, DSL, or other high speed) required – some courses are video intensive
  - 1024 x 768 or higher resolution
  - Strongly recommended that you have a headset with microphone. You may also use webcam, and speakers
    - Example: Plantronics Audio 628 USB headset
  - Current anti-virus software must be installed and kept up to date.
  - Students will need some additional free software for enhanced web browsing. Be certain to download the free versions of the software.
    - Firefox (<http://www.mozilla.org>)
    - Adobe Reader (<https://get.adobe.com/reader/>)
    - Adobe Flash Player (<http://get.adobe.com/flashplayer>)
    - Java (<http://www.java.com>)
    - QuickTime (<https://www.apple.com/quicktime/download/>)
    - Silverlight (<https://www.microsoft.com/silverlight/>)
  - Most home computers purchased within the last 3-4 years meet or surpass these requirements.
2. At a minimum, students must have Microsoft Office 365 (<https://my.wip.lamar.edu>) click on MS Office 365). Microsoft Office 365 is available for all students.

#### ***Required Skills:***

3. Navigate websites, including downloading and reading files from them.
4. Use e-mail, including attaching and downloading documents/files.
5. Save files in commonly used word processing formats (.doc, .docx).
6. Copy and paste text and other items in computer documents.

7. Save and retrieve documents and files on your computer.
8. Locate information on the Internet using search engines.
9. Locate information in the library using the online catalog.

To log into the myLamar website and LU Learn, you also will need a Lamar Electronic Account username and password. You can access LU Learn from the University's homepage (<http://www.lamar.edu>) and then clicking the myLamar link on the left top corner of the screen. For assistance with issues concerning your username and/or password you are required to contact the university help desk at (409) 880-2222 or Toll Free at 1-866-585-1738. The LU Learn Students FAQ's page can assist you with changing your profile, submitting assignments and other related questions. You can visit this page at <http://luonline.lamar.edu/blackboard-support/students.html>.

**Required Course Materials (You will need to have access to both to successfully complete the course)**

Gibson, Jr. L. Tucker, Clay Robison, and Joanne Connor Green. 2018. *Government and Politics in the Lone Star State*, 10<sup>th</sup> edition. Boston, MA: Pearson.

	Bookstore ISBN	Instant Access
REVEL	9780134628073	\$79.25

Dye, Thomas R. and Ronald Keith Gaddie. 2017. *Politics in America*, 11<sup>th</sup> edition. Boston, MA: Pearson.

	Bookstore ISBN(s)	Instant Access
REVEL	9780134624365	\$79.25

The reading materials chosen for this course is a product offered by Pearson that's designed to keep you engaged in the study materials and, in turn, help you get the most out of the course. REVEL is an immersive digital learning tool that interweaves text-based reading material, interactive exercises, infographics, social features and video segments to provide an engaging experience that helps students take an active role in their learning. REVEL also provides a fully mobile experience, which enables students to read and interact with course material on their devices at anytime and anywhere.

You will be able to access *Politics in America* directly through LU Learn (the link is in the toolbar to the right ('REVEL Content')). To set up your initial access to *Government and Politics in the Lone Star State*, click on this link: <https://console.pearson.com/enrollment/e7lr9i>. Sign in with your Pearson Account. You can either sign in with an existing Pearson username and password OR create a new Pearson account if this is your first Pearson digital product. Choose your course under 'My Courses' and choose an access option: redeem an access code that you got from your school's bookstore or purchase access online. **There is a free trial if you are waiting for financial aid.**

What you should know:

- Once you're set up, you can access your materials either by clicking on <https://console.pearson.com> or clicking on the link in LU Learn (click on your profile (the box located in the upper-right corner of the screen) and then click on 'My Courses')
- Pearson recommends using the latest version of Chrome, Firefox, or Safari with this digital product.

**Course Structure**

This course will be delivered through REVEL and LU Learn. Textbook and learning tools will be accessed in REVEL while all other activities including exams, discussion boards, essay assignment submissions, and grades will occur in LU Learn. Since this course is taught entirely online, you need to be disciplined to keep up with the reading and lecture materials. May I suggest that you set a schedule for working on this course and be prepared to

devote at least as much time to it as you would a class that physically meets a few times a week. Assignments are based on a weekly schedule that begins on Monday (based on the first day of class) and ends on Sunday

**PLEASE NOTE:** Be sure to pay close attention to deadlines—there will be no make-up assignments, exams, or late work accepted without a serious and compelling reason and instructor approval. **Assignments and exams posted in LU Learn and REVEL will disappear after the deadline so please plan according.**

To log into the myLamar website and LU Learn, you also will need a Lamar Electronic Account username and password. You can access LU Learn from the University's homepage (<http://www.lamar.edu>) and then clicking the myLamar link on the left top corner of the screen. For assistance with issues concerning your username and/or password you are required to contact the university help desk at (409) 880-2222 or Toll Free at 1-866-585-1738. The Blackboard Students FAQ's page can assist you with changing your profile, submitting assignments and other related questions. You can visit this page at <http://luonline.lamar.edu/blackboard-support/students.html>.

## Accessibility Policies

Lamar University

<http://www.lamar.edu/about-lu/accessibility.html>

Blackboard (LU Learn)

<http://www.blackboard.com/accessibility.aspx>

Firefox

<https://support.mozilla.org/en-US/kb/accessibility-features-firefox-make-firefox-and-we>

Microsoft

<https://www.microsoft.com/enable/microsoft/mission.aspx>

Adobe Flash

<http://www.adobe.com/accessibility/products/flash.html>

Adobe Connect

<http://www.adobe.com/accessibility/products/adobeconnect.html>

Adobe Reader

<http://www.adobe.com/accessibility/products/reader.html>

Java

<http://www.oracle.com/us/corporate/accessibility/policies/index.html>

ProctorU

<http://blog.proctoru.com/?p=345>

## Course Policy

To ensure that everyone can learn without undue distraction, the following are guidelines for appropriate behavior:

- Adhere to the same standards of behavior online that you follow in real life when writing emails or posting on the discussion board which means the following:
  - Respecting the opinions and thoughts of others
  - Refraining from making any race, gender, or sex-based discriminatory or harassing comments

- I will ensure we maintain this online culture by addressing any disruptive behavior immediately. I will address disruptions as follows:
  - A first instance of disruptive behavior will be addressed via email and expectations for appropriation behavior will be clarified.
  - A student who continues to be disruptive will be reported to the department chair and/or the Dean of Students.
  - Any student who exhibits extreme behavior or makes threats against members of the online classroom community will immediately be reported to LUPD.
- Students are expected to have the assigned readings completed each week, to regularly (i.e.: multiple times per week) participate in online class discussions, activities, and simulations, to complete and hand in assignments on time, and to ask questions.
- *Humor Note:* Despite the best of intentions, jokes and--especially--satire can easily get lost or taken seriously. If you feel the need for humor, you may wish to add “emoticons” to help alert your reader 😊.

### Sexual Harassment

In accordance with administrative policy, sexual harassment is reprehensible and will not be tolerated by the university. Behavior in the course must conform to the university policy.

### Course Evaluation

Instruction as well as student performance is subject to evaluation. Procedures may be instituted for this purpose near the end of this course.

#### *Participation and Attendance*

I want to make sure everyone is clear about the difference between logging on, attendance, and participation. Don't worry, I know week one has a steep learning curve – I take this into account for week one participation.

#### *Logging On*

In this course, “logging on” is not part of your grade. Please realize that the system can track when and how long you log in the course. To that end, you are expected to log into LU Learn and REVEL at least three times a week.

#### *Attendance*

To keep this course both informative and useful, you should read required material *before* completing quizzes and exams. Quizzes provide regular opportunities to assess your understanding of the main concepts well before exams and are embedded in your online digital textbook. After reading a section, you may be taken to a quiz for that particular section. Each module quiz will consist of 5-15 questions and you will receive one (1) point for completing four (4) for each chapter (60 points total). You are also required to complete chapter quizzes each week which are worth up to 10 points each (150 points total). If you prefer to read the hard copy version of the textbook, you must still go online and scroll through the material to find the quizzes. You can take module and chapter quizzes more than once to receive the maximum number of points; however, except for the first week, they are only available until **11:00 p.m. central standard time** the night before the start of the next week. Attendance is worth a total of 210 points. By completing quizzes on time, you will automatically meet the attendance requirement.

#### *Participation*

Starting Week 4, you will be asked to reflect on and respond to a Discussion Board question and post your contribution to the topic on the Discussion Board. Your contribution to the topic should be clear, complete, and accurate. This assignment also requires that you read the answers posted by your classmates and respond

substantively to at least two (2) of those postings each week. There is NO MAKE-UP option for participation and students cannot be given "other assignments" or extra credit to "make-up" for not being able to participate. Your post and responses to the answers of other students are due no later than 7 p.m. (CST) on Sunday. **Late and incomplete discussion responses and assignments will receive NO credit.** Do not wait to the last minute to post your answers! Posting early allows you to write thoughtful answers and to be the first one to make important points. Posting early also ensures that you will not miss the deadline. You will find additional instructions in LU Learn by clicking on 'Discussion Forum.' Your contributions to Discussion Forums are worth 10 points for each week for a total 40 points (I will only grade four).

### *Exams*

There will be four (4) exams, but only the three (3) highest grades will count. Exams are available immediately following the completion of each section in the syllabus (Parts I-VI) and will remain open for three days (midnight on Friday – 11 p.m. on Sunday (CST)). **Make-up exams will only be given to students who have a medical excuse or University-excused absence.** To qualify for a make-up examination, students must provide supporting documentation for missing the scheduled exam and must contact me (by phone or e-mail) *prior* to the scheduled exam. If a student cannot contact me prior to the exam due to extenuating circumstances, the student is required to contact me within 24 hours after the missed exam. Students who miss more than one exam will receive a 0 for each exam missed.

LU Learn exams are closed book, closed note and timed (50 minutes total). Each exam includes approximately 50 multiple choice questions (each question worth 2 points each) that come from discussion board topics and course materials. Questions will be presented one at a time and you will not be able to revisit past questions. Please note, once you start an exam, you must complete it so please plan accordingly. Exams are worth 100 points each (300 points total).

### *Civic Engagement Essay Assignment*

You are required to participate in one act of civic engagement **this semester**, and write about the experience. Examples of civic engagement are:

- Write a letter to the editor of a major newspaper
- Write a letter to a representative (local, state, or national)
- Attend an interest group meeting(s)
- Attend a meeting of local government
- Volunteer for a political party or candidate
- Attend a political protest
- Register to vote for the first time
- Participate in a voter registration drive

An outline of your paper is due via **SafeAssign** in LU Learn by **11:00 p.m., Sunday, November 12, 2017** (worth 10 points). Your final essay will be a 4-5 page essay paper (excluding a Works Cited page and evidence of civic engagement (letter(s), pictures, agenda to meeting(s), proof of registration, etc.)(double spaced, 12-point Times New Roman font, one-inch margins, and consistent citation style) about your participation. It must follow the 5-paragraph essay structure (introduction with an argumentative thesis statement, supporting paragraphs, and conclusion) and include a brief description of the event, your participation in the event, and any background information on the policy issues, political institutions, and actors that were involved in the group/event/letter. I strongly encourage you to avoid quoting and instead, summarize or paraphrase the author's ideas from which you are adopting. Essays are worth 50 points are due via **SafeAssign** in LU Learn by **5:00 p.m., Friday, November 24, 2017.**

**PLEASE NOTE:** SafeAssign restricts submissions to specific file formats such as PDF, DOC, DOCX, ODT,

and RTF. You will need to confirm that your document is one of the acceptable file formats listed on the file upload screen. Note: If using the Apple software Pages, the document will need to be exported as a .doc file before uploading to SafeAssign.

### Grading and Evaluation\*

Grades will be posted on LU Learn and will be based on the following:

Participation and Attendance	210 points
Discussion Board Participation	40 points
Civic Engagement Writing Assignment <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• Outline</li> <li>• Essay</li> </ul>	60 points
Three (3) exams	300 points
<b>Total</b>	<b>610 points</b>

\*I do not offer extra credit on an individual basis.

### Grading Scale

- A= 610 – 549 points
- B= 548 – 488 points
- C= 487– 427 points
- D= 426 – 366 points
- F= <365 points

### Assignment Feedback

Discussion posts will be graded beginning on Mondays following a Sunday night due date and will be completed in approximately three days. **If a grade does not appear at that time but instead says “In Progress,” the assignment was incomplete when the forum closed which will change to zeros at the end of the semester.** Post-chapter quizzes and exam grades will be calculated as soon as you hit "submit" on your exam. You can take quizzes more than one to receive the maximum number of points until they close. Exam questions answered incorrectly can be seen *after* exams close by clicking on your score in the Grade Center. Civic engagement essays will be graded by the beginning of Week 15 of the course. Both the written assignment and the discussion forums will be graded using a rubric provided to you through the course LU Learn (Blackboard) system. All grades will be posted on LU Learn in the Grade Center. For more detailed assessment of discussion forums and the written assignment, please click on your score and the associated rubric. There may be additional written comments provided to you beyond the rubric.

### Understand When You May Drop This Course

It is the student’s responsibility to understand when they need to consider dropping or withdrawing from the course. For more details, refer to the [Lamar Academic Calendar](#).

### Privacy Policies

Consistent with the federal Family Educational Rights and Privacy Act (FERPA), Lamar University will not release personally identifiable student information to third parties (including parents, legal guardians and other family members) without written authorization from the student.

Although anyone using [www.lamar.edu](http://www.lamar.edu) should not have a legal expectation of privacy, Lamar University will not share information with other parties or gather information from other private data providers. Unless specifically required, pursuant to a written request filed under the Texas Public Information Act, Government Code, Chapter 552, Lamar University generally will not release information gathered through its web site. Information and comments collected from web forms are subject to public disclosure under the Texas Public

Information Act, Government Code, Chapter 552. Non-governmental email addresses are not subject to disclosure unless the affected member of the public affirmatively consents to the disclosure of his or her email address.

## Help & Resources

### *Academic Support*

Academic Support can be located at <http://students.lamar.edu/academic-support/index.html>.

There are many areas (i. e. Advising, Writing Center, etc.) of academic support. Each area provides their own specific contact information and days and hours of operation.

### *Student Services*

Information on Student services can be located at <http://students.lamar.edu/student-services/index.html>. There are many resources (i. e. Course schedules, important phone numbers, etc.) available. Each area provides their own specific contact information and days and hours of operation.

### *On-Campus Tutoring Services*

Lamar University's Student Advising and Retention Services (STARS) offers tutoring in many courses, including American government, and can also help you with general study, note-taking, or textbook reading strategies. The STARS Tutoring Center is located on the first floor of the Mary and John Gray Library. If you have any questions, you can reach STARS at (409) 880-PLAN.

### *Library Assistance*

Distance education students and faculty have access to a dedicated distance education librarian. Contact information and a full account of services can be found at <http://vmlibweb.lamar.edu/distanceed/distedservice.htm>

### *The Writing Center*

Lamar University's Writing Center is centrally located on the first floor of the Mary and John Gray Library. The Center's individualized tutoring sessions aspire to more than just the short-term goal of improving a particular essay or paper. Writing Center tutors seek to improve the student writer's composing skills so that he or she can approach any writing assignment in a progressively more skilled and thus more confident manner. **Overall, their goal is to provide authentic learning of the writing process, not quick-fixes for papers.** Walk-ins are welcome, but students are strongly encouraged to make appointments by calling 880-8571, emailing [UWC@lamar.edu](mailto:UWC@lamar.edu), or dropping by the center.

## Academic Honesty

Students are specifically warned against all forms of cheating and plagiarism. The *Lamar University Student Handbook* clearly reads: **“Any student found guilty of academic dishonesty in any phase of academic work will be subjected to disciplinary action. Punishable offenses include, but are not limited to, cheating on an examination or academic work which is to be submitted, plagiarism, collusion, and the abuse of source materials.”** One aspect of the *Handbook*'s definition of cheating includes “purchasing or otherwise acquiring and submitting as one's own work any research paper or other writing assignment prepared by an individual or firm.” Plagiarism is defined as “the appropriation and the unacknowledged incorporation of another's work or ideas into one's own and submitted for credit.”

Faculty members in the College of arts and Sciences investigate all cases of suspected plagiarism. Any student who is found guilty of academic dishonesty in this course will fail the exercise in question and perhaps the course itself.

## Disability Accommodation

Lamar University is committed to providing equitable access to learning opportunities for all students. The Disability Resource Center (DRC) is located in the Communications building room 105. Office staff

collaborates with students who have disabilities to provide and/or arrange reasonable accommodations.

For students:

- If you have, or think you may have, a disability (e.g., mental health, attentional, learning, chronic health, sensory, or physical), please contact the DRC at [409-880-8347](tel:409-880-8347) or [drc@lamar.edu](mailto:drc@lamar.edu) to arrange a confidential appointment with the Director of the DRC to explore possible options regarding equitable access and reasonable accommodations.
- If you are registered with DRC and have a current letter requesting reasonable accommodations, we encourage you to contact your instructor early in the semester to review how the accommodations will be applied in the course.

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The information contained in this class syllabus is subject to change with advanced notice.  
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Week/ Dates	Dates to Remember	Readings	Deadlines
<b>Part I: Introduction - Political Culture</b>			
<b>1</b> <b>8/28-9/3</b>	Wed, 8/30: Last to register for Fall 2017 with late fee.	Ch. 1: Politics: Who Gets What, When, and How (pp. 2-27) (DG) <sup>1</sup>	MQ, CQ
<b>2</b> <b>9/4-9/10</b>		Ch. 2: Political Culture: Ideas in Conflict (pp. 28-61) (DG)	MQ, CQ
<b>3</b> <b>9/11-9/17</b>	Wed, 9/13: Last day for full refund on dropped (not withdrawn courses)	Ch. 1: The Social and Economic Environment of Texas Politics (pp. 1-30) (GRG) <sup>2</sup>	MQ, CQ; <b>Exam I (Weeks 1-3)</b>
<b>Part II: Foundations</b>			
<b>4</b> <b>9/18-9/24</b>		Ch. 3: The Constitution: Limiting Governmental Power (DG) (pp. 62-95)	MQ, CQ
<b>5</b> <b>9/25-10/1</b>	Fri, 9/29: Last day to drop or withdraw without academic penalty	Ch. 2: The Texas Constitution (GRG) (pp.31-54)	MQ, CQ
<b>6</b> <b>10/2-10/8</b>		Ch. 4: Federalism: Dividing Governmental Power (DG) (pp.96-133)	MQ, CQ
<b>7</b> <b>10/9-10/15</b>		Ch. 4: Local Government in Texas (GRG) (pp. 88-125)	MQ, CQ; <b>Exam II (Weeks 4-7)</b>
<b>Part III: Political Opinion, the Media, and Political Participation</b>			
<b>8</b> <b>10/16-10/22</b>		Ch. 5: Opinion and Participation: Thinking and Acting in Politics (DG) (pp. 134- 173)	MQ, CQ
<b>9</b> <b>10/23-10/29</b>		Ch. 6: Mass Media: Setting the Political Agenda? (DG) (pp. 174-211)	MQ, CQ
<b>Part IV: Political Parties</b>			
<b>10</b> <b>10/30-11/5</b>	Fri, 11/3: Last day to drop or withdraw with academic penalty	Ch. 7: Political Parties: Organizing Politics (DG) (pp. 212-257)	MQ, CQ
<b>11</b> <b>11/6-11/12</b>		Ch. 10: The Party System in Texas (GRG) (pp. 289-318)	MQ, CQ; <b>Exam III (Weeks 8-11)</b> <b>Civic Engagement Essay Outline Due</b> (Sun, 11/12 by 11:00 p.m. (central standard time))
<b>Part V: Elections</b>			
<b>12</b> <b>11/13-11/19</b>		Ch. 8: Campaign and Elections; Deciding Who Governs (DG) (pp.258-305)	MQ, CQ
<b>13</b> <b>11/20-11/26</b>		Ch. 11: Elections, Campaigns, and Voting in Texas (GRG) (pp.319 – 352)	MQ, CQ; <b>Civic Engagement Essay Assignment</b> (Fri, 11/24 by 5:00 p.m. (central standard time))
<b>Part VI: Interest Groups</b>			

<b>14</b> <b>11/27-12/3</b>		Ch. 9: Interest Groups: Getting Their Share and More (DG) (pp. 306-343)	MQ, CQ
<b>15</b> <b>12/4-12/10</b>		Ch. 13: Interest Groups and Political Power in Texas (GRG) (pp.382-408)	MQ, CQ; <b>Exam IV (Weeks 12- 15)</b>

**MQ**=Module quizzes (pick four (4))    **CQ**=Chapter quizzes

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<sup>1</sup> DG: Dye and Gaddie, *Politics in America*

<sup>2</sup> GRG: Gibson, Robison, and Green, *Government and Politics in the Lone Star State*