

POLS 2306 (online) – Introductory Texas Politics
The University of Texas at Tyler
Spring 2023



Professor Eric A. Lopez

Office: CAS 115

Office Phone #: (903) 566-7371

Office Hours: MWF, 12:15pm–2:15pm & by Appointment

Email: elopez@uttyler.edu

- In your email, please note which class you are enrolled
- I will only reply to email from an official UT-Tyler email account
- Expect a response within 12 hours (except on weekends)

Course Description and Objectives

The genius of the Constitution often gets overlooked due to a political system that is characterized by its constant gridlock and partisan fighting. Through constitutional design, America's governing document defines (limits) the powers and responsibilities of government, while simultaneously enshrining the rights and liberties of the American people. Consequently, this distribution of power is not only the foundation of American politics, but also the source of our political differences. To better understand these concepts, this course is designed to provide an introductory analysis and evaluation of the political system established by the U.S. Constitution. Throughout the course students will:

- Critically examine the philosophical foundations of the American political system by exploring the historical debates and writings that shaped the formation of the Constitution.

- Distinguish and identify the key differences and similarities between the three branches of government in the United States.
- Appraise current events to highlight the applicability and importance of the Constitution in today's society.
- Consider the formation of partisan preferences and how partisanship shapes American politics.

Credit Hours: 3

Prerequisites: None

Required Texts

- 1) Lopez, Eric, Marcus Stadelmann, and Robert Sterken. 2019. *iTejas!: Uncovering Politics in the 21st Century*. UT-Tyler OER Textbook. Available on Canvas.
- 2) The Professor, through Canvas, will post additional readings.

In addition, students are required to read the Political News in a newspaper. You should regularly read the articles in the sections labeled Politics.

- *New York Times*: <https://www.nytimes.com/>
- *Washington Post*: <https://www.washingtonpost.com/>
- *The Texas Tribune*: <https://www.texastribune.org/>

Requirements, Grades, and Dates

Success in the class is dependent on your ability to login to Canvas regularly (i.e., daily), because Canvas is the medium used to deliver the class content (lectures, readings, exams/quizzes, etc.). The required content and coursework are scheduled with specific deadlines that allow you to work at your own pace. This schedule provides flexibility in completing the coursework that is convenient for you, while allowing us to progress through the course material together. In both Canvas and the syllabus, the due dates and times for every assignment is listed; please pay attention to all due dates and times for these assignments.

To ease completion and distribution of course material, the course is organized into 13 content modules. Beginning with Module 1, students will need to complete the assigned readings, view all posted content (e.g., lectures, short videos), and complete various assignments within a given module in order to proceed to the next module. Canvas allows you to save your progress, so that you do not have to complete a given module in one sitting.

Each module is structured as follows:

Module Content

Learning Objectives

- Brief overview of the learning objectives of the module.

Readings and Content

- All readings that do not come from the Required Textbook can be found in their respective modules. All readings can be found on Canvas.
- Readings, and the Reading Schedule, can also be found in the Course Outline and Readings section of the syllabus (Pages 9-14).

Video Lecture(s)

- Each module contains a video lecture(s) concerning the readings and related content.

Review Questions

- Students will be provided review questions about the respective module content. Answering these questions will not count towards your final grade; however, they will serve as the basis for your review for Exam 1, Exam 2, and the Final Exam. And, they will help you prepare for the Module Quizzes. If you should have any questions on these questions, please do not hesitate to email me for help or clarification.

Module Quizzes

- At the end of each module, a quiz will be distributed. These quizzes will cover all information that should have been read/viewed for the module.
- You only have one shot at them (you will be unable to stop, restart, etc.). Open and take a Module Quiz when you have finished reading and viewed all the content of each module. Please, carefully follow the directions provided.
- These quizzes **WILL COUNT** towards your final grade. A total of 14 quizzes (there is a Syllabus Quiz, explained in the Course Outline and Readings section) will compose your Module Quiz grade. Therefore, only begin once you have completed the module content.

Exams

Exam 1, Exam 2, and the Final Exam will be delivered, online, on the dates specified below and each exam will consist of a combination of True/False and multiple-choice questions. Please carefully read the instructions provided for each exam, paying close attention to when the exam will be open and when it is due (no late exams will be accepted).

Importantly, you will only have one chance to complete each exam (i.e., you are not allowed to stop, save, and finish later). These exams will only cover readings and course materials prior to the date of the exam. Thus, no exam in this course is cumulative.

Grade Distribution

The following are the weights given to the quizzes and the exams and the date each will be held:

Assignment	Date (Subject to Change)	Grade Percentage
Exam 1	January 30 – January 31, 2023	25%
Exam 2	March 6 – March 7, 2023	25%
Final Exam	April 19 – April 21, 2023	30%
Quizzes	Assigned Throughout	20%

Final grades will be granted on the following scale: A=100%-90%, B=89%-80%, C=79%-70%, D=69%-60%, and F=59%-50%.

Optional Cumulative Exam

If necessary, beginning Monday, April 24, 2023, students will have the opportunity to take an optional, cumulative exam. This exam will be available to students that want the opportunity to replace their lowest, non-0 exam grade with the grade they receive on this optional, cumulative exam. I cannot stress

enough, this is an optional exam and it will not affect a student's final grade if they do not take it, or score lower on the cumulative exam than their exam grades. More information on this exam will be provided as the semester progresses.

Class and University Policies

Policy Concerning Canvas and Submitting Papers

The Professor is conscious to the fact that Canvas can be unreliable. If you are having trouble posting in the discussion forums, accessing posted readings, or submitting an assignment, please inform me about the issue and attach the relevant assignment. All times listed in this syllabus correspond to the Central Time Zone, as this corresponds with UT-Tyler's time zone. Remember, no late exams will be accepted.

If any conflict (others tests, travel plans, etc.) with an assignment's due date exists that you feel will not allow you to complete the assignments on time, notify me of your situation by Wednesday, January 18, 2023. Be advised that allowances (e.g., extensions) will only be given in extreme cases with my discretion as to what I define as extreme.

Technical Information

If you experience technical problems or have a technical question about this course, you can obtain assistance by emailing itsupport@patriots.utttyler.edu or call 903.565.5555. When you email IT Support, be sure to include a complete description of your question or problem including:

- The title and number of the course
- The page in question
- If you get an error message, a description and message number
- What you were doing at the time you got the error message

Plug-ins and Helper Applications

UT-Tyler online courses use Java, JavaScript, browser plug-ins, helper application and cookies. It is essential that you have these elements installed and enabled in your web browser for optimal viewing of the content and functions of your online course. Always ensure that you are using the most update version for the browser you choose to access the online learning content.

NOTE: Google Chrome and Mozilla Firefox are the recommended browsers for Canvas.

- Adobe Reader allows you to view, save, and print Portable Document Format (PDF) files. <http://get.adobe.com/reader/>
- Java Runtime Environment (JRE) allows you to use interactive tools on the web. <http://www.java.com/en/download/>
- Adobe Flash Player allows you to view content created with Flash such as interactive web applications and animations. <http://get.adobe.com/flashplayer/>
- QuickTime allows users to play back audio and video files. <http://www.apple.com/quicktime/download/>

Netiquette Guide

"Netiquette" is network etiquette, the "do's and don'ts" of online communication. Netiquette covers both common courtesy online and informal "rules of the road" of cyberspace. Review and familiarize yourself with the guidelines provided.

<http://www.learnthenet.com/learn-about/netiquette/index.php>

"Make-Up" Policy

Make-up exams and re-takes of Module Quizzes will only be offered to those students that have a University approved absence, a doctor's note detailing your inability to take an exam, or quiz, on the date provided on this syllabus, or a sudden emergency (e.g. death in your family, illness, technical issues) that prohibits your participation for the exam/quiz on the date provided on this syllabus. Anyone who has not satisfied any of these requirements and does not take the exam/quiz will be given a grade of "0."

Recall, if any conflict (others tests, travel plans, etc.) with the exams/quizzes exist, notify me by Wednesday, January 18, 2023. Be advised that allowances will only be given in extreme cases with my discretion as to what I define as extreme (see also: Student Absence for University-Sponsored Events and Activities and Student Absence Due to Religious Observance sections of the syllabus).

Class Discussion and Threatening Behavior

Given the nature of political discourse, some of the topics discussed and debated in class may be sensitive to some students. It is expected that students, regardless of the subject matter, maintain civility in their class comments and online interactions. The University and the Professor seek to promote a safe environment where students may participate in debates, discussion, and other objectives concurrent with the educational process without compromising their health, safety, and welfare. Concurrent with this ideal, mutual courtesy and respect should govern all classroom conduct (both in-class and online). Therefore, threats of physical harm or verbal abuse will not be tolerated in this class.

UT-Tyler Honor Code

Every member of the UT-Tyler community joins together to embrace: Honor and integrity that will not allow me to lie, cheat, or steal, nor to accept the actions of those who do.

Students Rights and Responsibilities

To know and understand the policies that affects your rights and responsibilities as a student at UT-Tyler, please follow this link: <http://www.uttyler.edu/wellness/rightsresponsibilities.php>

Student Absence for University-Sponsored Events and Activities

If you intend to be absent for a university-sponsored event or activity, you (or the event sponsor) must notify the Professor at least two weeks prior to the date of the planned absence. At that time the Professor will set a date and time when make-up assignments will be completed.

Student Absence Due to Religious Observance

Students who anticipate being absent from class due to a religious observance are requested to inform the Professor of such absences by the second class meeting of the semester.

Student Standards of Academic Conduct

Disciplinary proceedings may be initiated against any student who engages in scholastic dishonesty, including, but not limited to, cheating, plagiarism, collusion, the submission for credit of any work or materials that are attributable in whole or in part to another person, taking an examination for another person, any act designed to give unfair advantage to a student or the attempt to commit such acts.

i. "Cheating" includes, but is not limited to:

- copying from another student's test paper;
- using, during a test, materials not authorized by the person giving the test;
- failure to comply with instructions given by the person administering the test;
- possession during a test of materials which are not authorized by the person giving the test, such as class notes or specifically designed "crib notes". The presence of textbooks constitutes a violation if they have been specifically prohibited by the person administering the test;
- using, buying, stealing, transporting, or soliciting in whole or part the contents of an un-administered test, test key, homework solution, or computer program;
- collaborating with or seeking aid from another student during a test or other assignment without authority;
- discussing the contents of an examination with another student who will take the examination;
- divulging the contents of an examination, for the purpose of preserving questions for use by another, when the instructor has designated that the examination is not to be removed from the examination room or not to be returned or to be kept by the student;
- substituting for another person, or permitting another person to substitute for oneself to take a course, a test, or any course-related assignment;
- paying or offering money or other valuable thing to, or coercing another person to obtain an un-administered test, test key, homework solution, or computer program or information about an un-administered test, test key, home solution or computer program;
- falsifying research data, laboratory reports, and/or other academic work offered for credit;
- taking, keeping, misplacing, or damaging the property of The University of Texas at Tyler, or of another, if the student knows or reasonably should know that an unfair academic advantage would be gained by such conduct; and
- misrepresenting facts, including providing false grades or resumes, for the purpose of obtaining an academic or financial benefit or injuring another student academically or financially.

ii. "Plagiarism" includes, but is not limited to, the appropriation, buying, receiving as a gift, or obtaining by any means another's work and the submission of it as one's own academic work offered for credit.

iii. "Collusion" includes, but is not limited to, the unauthorized collaboration with another person in preparing academic assignments offered for credit or collaboration with another person to commit a violation of any section of the rules on scholastic dishonesty.

iv. All written work that is submitted will be subject to review by plagiarism software.

If a student is suspected of academic dishonesty, the classroom instructor may ask the student to meet with him or her to discuss the incident. A student may admit to allegations of academic dishonesty, waive the right to a hearing and accept penalties imposed by the instructor. The student may also deny all allegations and ask to see the Dean of Student Affairs. An accused student may accept the decision of the Dean of Student Affairs or ask for a hearing before an impartial hearing officer appointed by the university. Witnesses may be called and evidence presented. The hearing officer will consider all

evidence and make a decision. The decision of the hearing officer may be appealed to the President by either the student or the Dean of Student Affairs. For further discussion of academic dishonesty and possible penalties, please see: <http://www.uttyler.edu/judicialaffairs/scholasticdishonesty.php>

Campus Carry

We respect the right and privacy of students 21 and over who are duly licensed to carry concealed weapons in this class. License holders are expected to behave responsibly and keep a handgun secure and concealed. More information is available at:

<http://www.uttyler.edu/about/campus-carry/index.php>

UT-Tyler a Tobacco-Free University

All forms of tobacco will not be permitted on the UT-Tyler main campus, branch campuses, and any property owned by UT-Tyler. This applies to all members of the University community, including students, faculty, staff, University affiliates, contractors, and visitors. Forms of tobacco not permitted include cigarettes, cigars, pipes, water pipes (hookah), bidis, kreteks, electronic cigarettes, smokeless tobacco, snuff, chewing tobacco, and all other tobacco products. There are several cessation programs available to students looking to quit smoking, including counseling, quitlines, and group support. For more information on cessation programs please visit: www.uttyler.edu/tobacco-free

Disability/Accessibility Services

In accordance with Section 504 of the Rehabilitation Act, Americans with Disabilities Act (ADA) and the ADA Amendments Act (ADAAA) the University of Texas at Tyler offers accommodations to students with learning, physical and/or psychological disabilities. If you have a disability, including a non-visible diagnosis such as a learning disorder, chronic illness, TBI, PTSD, ADHD, or you have a history of modifications or accommodations in a previous educational environment, you are encouraged to visit <https://hood.accessiblelearning.com/UTTyler> and fill out the New Student application.

The Student Accessibility and Resources (SAR) office will contact you when your application has been submitted and an appointment with Cynthia Lowery, Assistant Director of Student Services/ADA Coordinator. For more information, including filling out an application for services, please visit the SAR webpage at <http://www.uttyler.edu/disabilityservices>. Also, the SAR office is located in the University Center, #3150 or call 903.566.7079.

If you are registered with the SAR office, please set up a meeting with the Professor to discuss what specific accommodations should be made to ensure your success in the class.

Grade Replacement/Forgiveness and Census Date Policies

Students repeating a course for grade forgiveness (grade replacement) must file a Grade Replacement Contract with the Enrollment Services Center (ADM 230) on or before the Census Date of the semester in which the course will be repeated. Grade Replacement Contracts are available in the Enrollment Services Center or at: <http://www.uttyler.edu/registrar>. Each semester's Census Date can be found on this syllabus, the Contract itself, on the Academic Calendar, or in the information pamphlets published each semester by the Office of the Registrar.

Failure to file a Grade Replacement Contract will result in both the original and repeated grade

being used to calculate your overall grade point average. Undergraduates are eligible to exercise grade replacement for only three course repeats during their career at UT Tyler; graduates are eligible for two grade replacements. Full policy details are printed on each Grade Replacement Contract.

The Census Date is the deadline for many forms and enrollment actions of which students need to be aware. These include:

- Submitting Grade Replacement Contracts, Transient Forms, requests to withhold directory information, approvals for taking courses as Audit, Pass/Fail or Credit/No Credit.
- Receiving 100% refunds for partial withdrawals. (There is no refund for these after the Census Date)
- Schedule adjustments (section changes, adding a new class, dropping without a “W” grade)
- Being reinstated or re-enrolled in classes after being dropped for non-payment
- Completing the process for tuition exemptions or waivers through Financial Aid

The Census Date for this semester is Monday, January 23, 2023.

State-Mandated Course Drop Policy

Texas law prohibits a student who began college for the first time in Fall 2007 or thereafter from dropping more than six courses during their entire undergraduate career. This includes courses dropped at another 2-year or 4-year Texas public college or university. For purposes of this rule, a dropped course is any course that is dropped after the census date (See Academic Calendar for the specific date).

Exceptions to the 6-drop rule may be found in the catalog. Petitions for exemptions must be submitted to the Enrollment Services Center and must be accompanied by documentation of the extenuating circumstance. Please contact the Enrollment Services Center if you have any questions.

Social Security and FERPA Statement

It is the policy of The University of Texas at Tyler to protect the confidential nature of social security numbers. The University has changed its computer programming so that all students have an identification number. The electronic transmission of grades (e.g., via e-mail) risks violation of the Family Educational Rights and Privacy Act; grades will not be transmitted electronically.

Emergency Exits and Evacuation

Everyone is required to exit the building when a fire alarm goes off. Follow your instructor’s directions regarding the appropriate exit. If you require assistance during an evacuation, inform your instructor in the first week of class. Do not re-enter the building unless given permission by University Police, Fire department, or Fire Prevention Services.

UT-Tyler Resources for Students

- UT-Tyler Writing Center (903.565.5995), writingcenter@uttyler.edu
- UT-Tyler Tutoring Center (903.565.5964), tutoring@uttyler.edu
- The Mathematics Learning Center, RBN 4021, this is the open access computer lab for math students, with tutors on duty to assist students who are enrolled in early-career courses.
- UT-Tyler Counseling Center (903.566.7254)

Important Covid-19 Information for Classrooms and Laboratories

It is important to take the necessary precautions to ensure a healthy and successful year. UT Tyler continues to urge you to protect yourselves against the flu, COVID and any new threats that may be developing. Be diligent about preventive measures such as washing hands, covering sneezes/coughs, social distancing and vaccinations, which have proven to be successful in slowing the spread of viruses. Encourage those who don't feel well to stay home, and if they show symptoms, ask them to get tested for the flu or COVID. Self-isolation is important to reduce exposure ([CDC quarantine/isolation guidelines](#)). Please work with your faculty members to maintain coursework and please consult [existing campus resources](#) for support.

Recording of Class Sessions

Class sessions may be recorded by the instructor for use by students enrolled in this course. Recordings that contain personally identifiable information or other information subject to FERPA shall not be shared with individuals not enrolled in this course unless appropriate consent is obtained from all relevant students. Class recordings are reserved only for the use of students enrolled in the course and only for educational purposes. Course recordings should not be shared outside of the course in any form without express permission.

Changes to the Syllabus

The information contained in the course syllabus, with the exception of the grading criteria, attendance policy, and the make-up policy, may be subject to change with reasonable advance notice as long as the change is without prejudice to the students.

Course Outline and Readings (subject to change)

Each subsequent module on Canvas will be available in accordance with the dates on the reading list. While you are free to work on these modules on your own time, you should be completing and beginning new modules within the schedule provided below.

January 9, 2023

Introduction to the Course

1/9 – Course opens at 12:00pm

- Review the syllabus and familiarize yourself with Canvas. From the home screen, you can find a link to the course syllabus and a link to the course modules.
- To access module content, click on the **Modules** link on the left-side menu. From there, please read and view all content in the **Introduction to the Course Module**. You will be unable to proceed to Module 1 (Revolutionary Thought) until you have done so.
- Your first non-graded assignment is to complete the POLS 2306 Pre-Test, located in the **Getting Started Module**. This is purely for assessment purposes and *WILL NOT* count towards your grade for the class. **This non-graded assignment must be complete and submitted on Friday, January 13, 2023 by 11:59pm.**
- Your first graded assignment is to complete the Syllabus Quiz, located in the **Getting Started Module**. This quiz *WILL* count towards your Module Quiz Grade; however, there is no time limit and you can use the syllabus to answer the questions. **The Syllabus Quiz must be complete and submitted on Friday, January 13, 2023 by 11:59pm.**

Unit 1: Foundations of the Texas Constitution

Week 1 (January 9 – January 15)

Module 1: Revolutionary Thought

1/10: Module 1 opens at 12:00pm

Read:

- Virginia Declaration of Rights (Canvas)
- The Declaration of Independence (Canvas)
- Barnett, Randy. "What the Declaration of Independence Really Claimed." The Volohk Conspiracy (Canvas)
- *Federalist* #10 (Canvas)

View Lecture(s):

- Revolutionary Thought (Canvas)
- Federalist 10 (Canvas)

1/15: Module Quiz 1 Due

- **Quiz must be complete and submitted by 11:59pm on Sunday, January 15, 2023.**

Week 2 (January 16 – January 22)

1/16: Martin Luther King, Jr. Holiday

Module 2: The United States Constitution

1/16: Module 2 opens at 12:00pm

Read:

- Constitution of the United States (Canvas)
- *Game of Politics*, Chapter 1 (Canvas)
- *Federalist* #'s 10, 39, & 51 (Canvas)
- Distinctive Features and Outline of the U.S. Constitution (Canvas)

View Lecture(s):

- The Articles vs. The Constitution (Canvas)
- Article 1 (Canvas)
- Article 2 (Canvas)
- Article 3 (Canvas)

1/22: Module Quiz 2 Due

- **Quiz must be complete and submitted by 11:59pm on Sunday, January 22, 2023.**

Week 3 (January 23 – January 29)

1/23: Census Date

Module 3: The Texas Constitution

1/23: Module 3 opens at 12:00pm

Read:

- The Texas Declaration of Independence (Canvas)
- *iTejas!*, Chapter 2 (Canvas)

View Lecture(s):

- The Texas Constitution (Canvas)

1/29: Module Quiz 3 Due

- **Quiz must be complete and submitted by 11:59pm on Sunday, January 29, 2023.**

Week 4, Part I (January 30 & January 31)

Exam 1

- Exam 1 will be distributed at 12:00pm on Monday, January 30, 2023.
- **Exam 1 must be complete and submitted by 11:59pm on Tuesday, January 31, 2023.**
- Please carefully read the directions provided by Canvas (e.g. pay attention to the time limit) and only begin Exam 1 once you have completed the Module Review Questions from Modules 1-3. Remember, you only have one shot at Exam 1 (you will be unable to stop, restart, etc.). Open and take Exam 1 when you have finished reading and viewed all the content of each module.

Unit 2 – Analyzing and Understanding Texas Politics

Week 4, Part II (February 1 – February 5)

Module 4: Partisanship and its Development

2/1: Module 4 opens at 12:00pm

Read:

- Green et al. Chapter 1 (Canvas)
- Campbell et al. Chapter 7 (Canvas)

View Lecture(s):

- Partisanship (Canvas)

2/5: Module Quiz 4 Due

- **Quiz must be complete and submitted by 11:59pm on Sunday, February 5, 2023.**

Week 5 (February 6 – February 12)

Module 5: Voting and Elections in Texas

2/6: Module 5 opens at 12:00pm

Read:

- *iTejas!*, Chapter 3 (Canvas)

View Lecture(s):

- Voting and Elections in Texas, Parts 1, 2, and 3 (Canvas)

2/12: Module Quiz 5 Due

- **Quiz must be complete and submitted by 11:59pm on Sunday, February 12, 2023.**

Week 6 (February 13 – February 19)

Module 6: Political Parties

2/13: Module 6 opens at 12:00pm

Read:

- *iTejas!*, Chapter 4 (Canvas)

View Lecture(s):

- Political Parties in Texas, Parts 1 and 2 (Canvas)

2/19: Module Quiz 6 Due

- **Quiz must be complete and submitted by 11:59pm on Sunday, February 19, 2023.**

Week 7 (February 20 – February 26)

Module 7: Interest Groups in Texas

2/20: Module 7 opens at 12:00pm

Read:

- *iTejas!*, Chapter 5 (Canvas)

View Lecture(s):

- Interest Groups in Texas (Canvas)

2/26: Module Quiz 7 Due

- **Quiz must be complete and submitted by 11:59pm on Sunday, February 26, 2023.**

Week 8 (February 27 – March 5)

Module 8: Public Policy in Texas

2/27: Module 8 opens at 12:00pm

Read:

- Public Policy in Texas in Jones et al. Chapter 12 (Canvas)

View Lecture(s):

- Public Policy in Texas, Parts 1 and 2 (Canvas)

3/5: Module Quiz 8 Due

- **Quiz must be complete and submitted by 11:59pm on Sunday, March 5, 2023.**

Week 9, Part 1 (March 6 & March 7)

Exam 2

- Exam 2 will be distributed at 12:00pm on Monday, March 6, 2023.
- **Exam 2 must be complete and submitted by 11:59pm on Tuesday, March 7, 2023.**
- Please carefully read the directions provided by Canvas (e.g. pay attention to the time limit) and only begin Exam 2 once you have completed the Module Review Questions from Modules 4-8. Remember, you only have one shot at Exam 2 (you will be unable to stop, restart, etc.). Open and take Exam 2 when you have finished reading and viewed all the content of each module.

Unit 3 – The Institutions of Texas Government

Week 9, Part II (March 8 – March 12)

Module 9: The Legislative Branch

3/8: Module 9 opens at 12:00pm

Read:

- Article 1 of the Constitution of the United States (Canvas)
- 17th and 20th Amendments of the Constitution of the United States (Canvas)
- *iTejas!*, Chapters 1 & 6 (Canvas)

View Lecture(s):

- The Texas Legislature, Parts 1 and 2 (Canvas)

3/26: Module Quiz 9 Due

- **Quiz must be complete and submitted by 11:59pm on Sunday, March 26, 2023.**

Week 10 (March 13 – March 19)

NO CLASS – SPRING BREAK 😊

Week 11 (March 20 – March 26)

3/23: Last Day to Withdraw from one or more classes

Module 10: The Legislative Process

3/20: Module 10 opens at 12:00pm

Read:

- *iTejas!*, Chapter 6 (Canvas)
- The Legislative Process in Jones et al. Chapter 7 (Canvas)

View Lecture(s):

- The Legislative Process, Part 1 and 2 (Canvas)

3/26: Module Quiz 10 Due

- **Quiz must be complete and submitted by 11:59pm on Sunday, March 26, 2023.**

Week 12 (March 27 – April 2)

Module 11 – The Plural Executive

3/27: Module 11 opens at 12:00pm

Read:

- Article 2 of the Constitution of the United States (Canvas)
- *iTejas!*, Chapter 7 (Canvas)

View Lecture(s):

- The Governor (Canvas)
- The Elected Executives (Canvas)

4/2: Module Quiz 11 Due

- **Quiz must be complete and submitted by 11:59pm on Sunday, April 2, 2023.**

Week 13 (April 3 – April 9)

Module 12: The Electoral College

4/3: Module 12 opens at 12:00pm

Read:

- *Federalist* #68 (Canvas)
- Wendland, Jay, Eric Lopez, and Nikkita Edmond. "Moving Beyond Debate and Speculation: The Role of Federalism in Electoral College Reform." (Canvas)

View Lecture(s):

- The Electoral College (Canvas)

4/9: Module Quiz 12 Due

- **Quiz must be complete and submitted by 11:59pm on Sunday, April 9, 2023.**

Week 14 (April 10 – April 16)

Module 13: The Judicial Branch

4/10: Module 13 opens at 12:00pm

Read:

- Article 3 of the Constitution of the United States (Canvas)
- *Federalist* #78 (Canvas)
- *iTejas!*, Chapter 8 (Canvas)

View Lecture(s):

- The Texas Judiciary: An Intro (Canvas)
- Trial Courts in Texas (Canvas)
- Appellate Courts in Texas (Canvas)

4/16: Module Quiz 13 Due

- **Quiz must be complete and submitted by 11:59pm on Sunday, April 16, 2023.**

Week 15 (April 17 – April 23)

Final Exam

- The Final Exam will be distributed at 12:00pm on Wednesday, April 19, 2023.
- **The Final Exam must be complete and submitted by 11:59pm on Friday, April 21, 2023.**
- Please carefully read the directions provided by Canvas (e.g., pay attention to the time limit) and only begin the Final Exam once you have completed the Module Review Questions from Modules 9-13. Remember, you only have one shot at the Final Exam (you will be unable to stop, restart, etc.). Open and take the Final Exam when you have finished reading and viewed all the content of each module.

Final Exams (April 24 – April 29)

Optional Cumulative Exam

If necessary, beginning on Monday, April 24, 2023, students will have the opportunity to take an optional, cumulative exam. This exam will be available to students that want the opportunity to replace their lowest, non-0 exam grade with the grade they receive on this optional, cumulative exam. This is an optional exam and it will not affect a student's final grade if they do not take it, or score lower on the cumulative exam than their exam grades.

- The Cumulative Exam will be distributed at 12:00pm on Monday, April 24, 2023.
- **The Cumulative Exam must be complete and submitted by 11:59pm on Wednesday, April 26, 2023.**
- Please carefully read the directions provided by Canvas (e.g., pay attention to the time limit) and only begin the Cumulative Exam once you have completed all the Module Review Questions from the session (Modules 1-13). Remember, you only have one shot at the Cumulative Exam (you will be unable to stop, restart, etc.).