Course Description (3-0)
Origin and development of the Texas constitution, structure and powers of state and local government, federalism and inter-governmental relations, political participation, the election process, public policy, and the political culture of Texas. (Approval Number 45.1002.51.25)

Participation Statement
For Online courses, students MUST actively participate by completing an academic assignment by the official date. Students who do not do so, will be dropped from the course.

Core Objectives
This is a Core Course in the 42-Hour Core of Midland College. As such, students will develop proficiency in the appropriate Intellectual Competencies, Exemplary Educational Objectives, and Perspectives. The URL for the Midland College Core Curriculum web site is http://www.midland.edu/docs/Academic_Programs/courses/courses_corecurriculum.pdf

1. Critical Thinking Skills: To include creative thinking, innovation, inquiry, and analysis, evaluation and synthesis of information.
2. Communication Skills: To include effective development, interpretation and expression of ideas through written, oral and visual communication.
3. Personal Responsibility: To include the ability to connect choices, actions and consequences to ethical decision-making.
4. Social Responsibility: To include intercultural competence, knowledge of civic responsibility, and the ability to engage effectively in regional, national, and global communities

Assessment
Exam, essays, quizzes, written and/or oral projects/presentations (research, debates, informative overviews, persuasive monologues and/or civic participation) will be used to meet core objectives in the course.

Text, References, and Supplies

Instructor may also require electronic resources (MindTap) that accompany the book

Course Goals/Objectives
At the end of the semester, students will be able to:

- Explain the origin and development of the Texas constitution.
Describe state and local political systems and their relationship with the federal government.
Describe separation of powers and checks and balances in both theory and practice in Texas.
Demonstrate knowledge of the legislative, executive, and judicial branches of Texas government.
Evaluate the role of public opinion, interest groups, and political parties in Texas.
Analyze the state and local election process.
Identify the rights and responsibilities of citizens.
Analyze issues, policies and political culture of Texas.

Core Objectives
This is a Core Course in the 42-Hour Core of Midland College. As such, students will develop proficiency in the appropriate Intellectual Competencies, Exemplary Educational Objectives, and Perspectives.

The core curriculum objectives are identified by the Texas Higher Education Coordinating Board. http://www.thecb.state.tx.us/index.cfm?objectid=427FDE26-AF5D-F1A1-E6FDB62091E2A507

For this course, we will be focused on the following four objectives.

1. Critical Thinking Skills: To include creative thinking, innovation, inquiry, and analysis, evaluation and synthesis of information.
2. Communication Skills: To include effective development, interpretation and expression of ideas through written, oral and visual communication.
3. Personal Responsibility: To include the ability to connect choices, actions and consequences to ethical decision-making.
4. Social Responsibility To include intercultural competence, knowledge of civic responsibility, and the ability to engage effectively in regional, national, and global communities.

Student Responsibilities and Class Procedures
- Involvement with the material is essential – students must read, take notes and ask questions.
- Students must attend class regularly and/or check Canvas regularly.
- Students must come to class prepared and be on time and/or prepare for on-line assignments in a timely manner.
- Students are expected to be able to read, write and understand standard English: the course is based on extensive amounts of material given in lecture and/or notes, audio visual aids, and assigned readings.
- A schedule of class events will be given to each student at the beginning of the semester. Additionally, information will be posted on Canvas. It is the student’s responsibility to know exam dates and when assignments are due.
- It is also the responsibility of the student to know their progress in the course.
- If a student is absent when exams are given or assignments are given or due, the student is still responsible for having the work done on time or making up the exam, at the discretion of the instructor.
- If the student takes the initiative the instructor will advise them on their progress in the course.
• Instructors cannot drop students with a “W”, this must be accomplished officially by the student.
• Students with a disability are encouraged to contact the Office of Student Services. It is the student’s responsibility to register with the Office of Student Services when requesting accommodation.
• Students are expected to conduct themselves professionally and courteously in the classroom and/or the on-line environment.
• Students are expected to have academic integrity and to adhere to the guidelines in the Midland College Student Handbook.

**Class Schedule**
Each instructor completes a class schedule, which appears on the syllabus.
Topics covered (in varying order) include:
• Texas Political Culture
• Texas Constitution
• Federalism and Texas
• Local Government in Texas
• Political Parties and Interest Groups in Texas
• Campaign and Elections in Texas
• The Media in Texas
• The Legislative Branch in Texas
• The Executive Branch in Texas
• The Judicial Branch and Criminal Justice in Texas
• Public Policy and Administration in Texas
• Finance and Fiscal Policy in Texas

**ADA Statement**
Any student who because of disabling condition may require some special arrangements in order to meet course requirements should contact the Counselor/Disability Specialist at 432-685-5598 as soon as possible. The Counselor/Disability Specialist is located in the Scharbauer Student Center Building. These conditions may include documented physical or educational disabilities. Please be aware that services or accommodations are not automatic. Each student must request them and secure the proper authorizations/documentation.