

The University of Texas at Austin
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T.A. Mr. Matt Buehler,

GOV 312L
Spring 2013
TTH 330-5PM
WEL 1.308
Unique 38725

ISSUES & POLICIES IN AMERICAN GOVT: TEXAS POLITICAL HISTORY

Required Reading

Randolph B. Campbell, **Gone to Texas: A History of the Lone Star State**, Oxford University Press, 2nd edition, 2012 (paperback)

Description

This course will examine the major events and personalities in Texas political history from 16th century Spanish Texas up to the present. We will adopt a narrative approach, stressing the issues and concerns that motivated the major actors who helped shape the history of this state and also seeing events in Texas in the larger context of European, Mexican, and American history.

Exams and Grades

There will be three in-class, multiple-choice exams on the dates noted below. There is no final exam. The first two exams have 35 questions and the last one has 30 questions for a total of 100 questions on all three exams. The raw scores on the three exams are added and the total raw scores are then used to determine your final grade. 100-87 = A, 86-85 = A-, 84-83 = B+, 82-77 = B, 76-75 = B-, 74-73 = C+, 72-67 = C, 66-65 = C-, 64-55 = D, 54-0 = F. There is no extra credit. A make-up exam (IDs and short answer questions) will be given only if an exam is missed for a valid reason. See Blackboard (under "Course Documents") for a lengthier description of the grading system. Each exam covers only material since the exam just before it.

Students with disabilities: Students with disabilities may request appropriate academic accommodations from the Division of Diversity and Community Engagement, Services for Students with Disabilities, 471-6259, www.utexas.edu/diversity/ddce/ssd/

Use of Blackboard

Blackboard will be used for announcements, the syllabus, PowerPoint slides, grades, main points of the lectures, organizing principles of the lectures, maps, sample questions, and study sheets for the exams. You will be notified during lecture or by e-mail if additional information is added as the semester progresses.

Lectures

The lectures are the major source of information for the course, so it is important to come to every class. It is a good idea to read the assigned material before coming to class, so you will better understand the lectures. In class take thorough notes during the lectures in addition to the points shown on the overhead screens. Everything covered in lecture and assigned from your book can be the subject of exam questions unless explicitly excluded by me. If you have difficulties with the material, you should see me as soon as possible. The longer you wait the harder it is to help you.

Advice from a previous "A" student on how to study for exams:

"...I retain a lot from lecture. But, I fill out the study sheet and put the main points together with their matching "organizing principle." I use the text if I have something missing from my notes or I need more information about something on the study sheet. Also reading the text helps me clarify events and keep things in chronological order."

Schedule and Assignments

JAN 15	Introduction
JAN 17,22,24	Spanish & Mexican Texas [C] Chs. 2-5
JAN 29,31	The Texas Revolution [C] Ch. 6
FEB 5,7	The Texas Republic [C] Ch. 7
FEB 12	REVIEW
FEB 14	FIRST EXAM
FEB 19,21	Early Statehood [C] Ch. 8, 205-212, 230-236
FEB 26,28	Civil War and Reconstruction [C] Chs. 10,11
MAR 5,7	The Constitution of '76 & the Origins of Populism [C] Ch. 13
MAR 19,21	Populism and the Age of Reform [C] 332-350
MAR 26	REVIEW
MAR 28	SECOND EXAM
APR 2,4	From WWI to the Great Depression [C] 350-394
APR 9,11	The 1940s and 1950s [C] 394-430
APR 16,18	The 1960s and 1970s [C] 430-451
APR 23,25	The 1980s and 1990s [C] 451-478

APR 30

REVIEW

MAY 2

THIRD EXAM