

The University of Texas at Austin
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GOV 312L
Summer 2013
M-F 1-230PM
WEL 3.502
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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

JUN 6	Introduction
JUN 7,10,11	Spanish & Mexican Texas [C] Chs. 2-5
JUN 12,13	The Texas Revolution [C] Ch. 6
JUN 14	The Texas Republic [C] Ch. 7
JUN 17	REVIEW
JUN 18	FIRST EXAM
JUN 19,20	Early Statehood [C] Ch. 8, 205-212, 230-236
JUN 21,24	Civil War and Reconstruction [C] Chs. 10,11
JUN 25	The Constitution of '76 & the Origins of Populism [C] Ch. 13
JUN 26	Populism and the Age of Reform [C] 332-350
JUN 27	REVIEW
JUN 28	SECOND EXAM
JUL 1,2	From WWI to the Great Depression [C] 350-394
JUL 3,5	The 1940s and 1950s [C] 394-430
JUL 8	The 1960s and 1970s [C] 430-451
JUL 9	The 1980s and 1990s [C] 451-478

JUL 10

REVIEW

JUL 11

THIRD EXAM