



# On-Campus Course Syllabus

## POL 301

### State and Local Government

#### Fall 2019

### Class Information

**Day and Time:** Mondays 10:45am – 1:15pm

**Room Number:** E.211

### Contact Information

**Instructor Name:** Dr. Brandon Seitzler

**Instructor Email:** bseitzler@criswell.edu

**Instructor Phone:** 214-818-1309

**Instructor Office Hours:** Mondays 9:45-10:45am; Mondays 1:15-3:15pm; Tuesdays 10-11am

### Course Description and Prerequisites

An examination of state and local government more generally and Texas state politics in particular.

### Course Objectives

When we think about government and politics our minds most often reference the national level. However, our day-to-day lives are frequently impacted by the decisions that state and local governments make. In this course students will explore Texas and Dallas politics. This course encourages students to ask questions about the good life and how state and local governments contribute to and facilitate that good life. In other words, how do the government entities closest to us contribute to, facilitate, encourage or impede human flourishing?

At the end of this course, the student should be able to:

1. Explain what public policies city, county or state rather than federal government should make and why.
2. Justify what public services and amenities local governments provide.
3. Describe how the Texas government functions alongside local governments and the federal government.

### Required Textbooks

- Champagne et. al. Governing Texas. Fourth Edition. W.W. Norton. 2019. ISBN: 978-0-393-68011-9.
- Judd and Hinze. City Politics: The Political Economy of Urban America. Tenth Edition. Routledge. 2018. ISBN: 978-1-138-05523-0

### Recommended Reading

- Shively. The Craft of Political Research. Tenth Edition. Routledge/Longman-Pearson. 2017. ISBN: 978-1138284371.

- [www.economist.com](http://www.economist.com) - Stop reading whatever click-bait, infotainment news sources your friends and family link to on Facebook. The Economist goes to press once per week. This means that you are able to stay current on what is going on in the world but without the daily (or hourly) urgency created by daily newspapers and the 24-hour news cycle. By reading a weekly newspaper that is global in perspective you are able to step back and see what is going on in the world with a more complete and reasonable perspective. You can get a discounted student subscription to The Economist magazine. The digital subscription includes an audio version of each week's edition.
- <https://www.strongtowns.org>

## Course Requirements and Assignments

- Weekly Canvas reading quizzes (20%) – Due each week on Monday at 10:45am.
- Dallas Public Policy Introduction (10%)
- Dallas Public Policy Literature Review (10%)
- Dallas Public Policy Analysis (10%)
- Dallas Public Policy Recommendation (10%)
- Exams – Two non-cumulative, take home, open book/open note exams, worth 20% each.

## Course/Classroom Policies and Information

- You may not have a cellphone anywhere in sight during class. In other words, your cellphone must reside inside your bag during class.
- You may not use your laptop during class for anything other than class-related activities that the entire class is engaged with in any particular moment.
- If you need to contact me regarding official, class-related matters you must do so via email.

## Class Attendance

Students are responsible for enrolling in courses for which they anticipate being able to attend every class session on the day and time appearing on course schedules, and then making every effort to do so. When unavoidable situations result in absence or tardiness, students are responsible for acquiring any information missed. Professors are not obliged to allow students to make up missed work. Per their independent discretion, individual professors may determine how attendance affects students' ability to meet course learning objectives and whether attendance affects course grades.

## Grading Scale

			Grade Definitions (optional)
A	93-100	4.0 grade points per semester hour	Exceptional
A-	90-92	3.7 grade points per semester hour	
B+	87-89	3.3 grade points per semester hour	
B	83-86	3.0 grade points per semester hour	Above Average
B-	80-82	2.7 grade points per semester hour	
C+	77-79	2.3 grade points per semester hour	
C	73-76	2.0 grade points per semester hour	Average

C-	70-72	1.7 grade points per semester hour	
D+	67-69	1.3 grade points per semester hour	
D	63-66	1.0 grade point per semester hour	Below Average
D-	60-62	0.7 grade points per semester hour	
F	0-59	0.0 grade points per semester hour	Unacceptable

### **Incomplete Grades**

Students requesting a grade of Incomplete (I) must understand that incomplete grades may be given only upon approval of the faculty member involved. An “I” may be assigned only when a student is currently passing a course and in situations involving extended illness, serious injury, death in the family, or employment or government reassignment, not student neglect.

Students are responsible for contacting their professors prior to the end of the semester, plus filing the appropriate completed and approved academic request form with the Registrar’s Office. The “I” must be removed (by completing the remaining course requirements) no later than 60 calendar days after the grade was assigned, or the “I” will become an “F.”

### **Academic Honesty**

Absolute truth is an essential belief and basis of behavior for those who believe in a God who cannot lie and forbids falsehood. Academic honesty is the application of the principle of truth in the classroom setting. Academic honesty includes the basic premise that all work submitted by students must be their own and any ideas derived or copied from elsewhere must be carefully documented.

Academic dishonesty includes, but is not limited to:

- cheating of any kind,
- submitting, without proper approval, work originally prepared by the student for another course,
- plagiarism, which is the submitting of work prepared by someone else as if it were his own, and
- failing to credit sources properly in written work.

### **Institutional Email Policy**

All official college email communications to students enrolled in this course will be sent exclusively to students’ institutional email accounts. Students are expected to check their student email accounts regularly and to respond in an appropriate and timely manner to all communications from faculty and administrative departments.

Students are permitted to setup automatic forwarding of emails from their student email accounts to one or more personal email accounts. The student is responsible to setup and maintain email forwarding without assistance from college staff. If a student chooses to use this forwarding option, he/she will continue to be responsible for responding appropriately to all communications from faculty and administrative departments of the college. Criswell College bears no responsibility for the use of emails that have been forwarded from student email accounts to other email accounts.

## **Disabilities**

Criswell College recognizes and supports the standards set forth in Section 504 of the Rehabilitation Act of 1973, the Americans with Disabilities Act (ADA) of 1990, and similar state laws, which are designed to eliminate discrimination against qualified individuals with disabilities. Criswell College is committed to making reasonable accommodations for qualifying students, faculty, and employees with disabilities as required by applicable laws. For more information, please contact the Student Services Office.

## **Intellectual Property Rights**

Unless otherwise specifically instructed in writing by the professor, students must neither materially nor digitally reproduce materials from any course offered by Criswell College for or with the significant possibility of distribution.

## **Resources and Support**

Canvas and SONIS: Criswell College uses Canvas as its web-based learning tool and SONIS for student data. Students needing assistance with Canvas should contact the Canvas Help Support line at (844) 358-6140. Tech support is available at this number, twenty-four hours a day. Students needing help with SONIS should contact the Campus Software Manager at [studenttechsupport@criswell.edu](mailto:studenttechsupport@criswell.edu).

Student Services: The Student Services Office exists to foster and encourage success in all areas of life—physical, intellectual, spiritual, social, and emotional. Students are encouraged to reach out for assistance by contacting the office at 214.818.1332 or [studentservices@criswell.edu](mailto:studentservices@criswell.edu). Pastoral and certified counseling services are also available to Criswell students. Appointments are scheduled through the Dean of Students, at [deanofstudents@criswell.edu](mailto:deanofstudents@criswell.edu).

Wallace Library: Students can access academic resources and obtain research assistance by visiting the Wallace Library, which is located on campus. For more information, go to the library website, or email the Wallace Library at [library@criswell.edu](mailto:library@criswell.edu).

Writing Center: Students are encouraged to consult with writing tutors to improve and enhance their skills and confidence by practicing techniques of clear and effective writing. To consult with a tutor, students can visit the Writing Center located on the first floor near the Computer Lab, or they can schedule an appointment by emailing [writingcenter@criswell.edu](mailto:writingcenter@criswell.edu) or calling 214.818.1373.

## Course Outline/Calendar

Date	Reading Due	Assignment Due (Canvas reading quizzes are due every week)
<b>Week 1</b> August 19	No readings due	
<b>Week 2</b> August 26	GT Ch. 10 Local Government CP Ch. 1 City Politics in America: An Introduction	Dallas Policy topics due
<b>Week 3</b> September 2	GT Ch. 12 Public Policy CP Ch. 2 The Enduring Legacy	
<b>Week 4</b> September 9	GT Ch. 1 The Political Culture, People, and Economy of Texas CP Ch. 3 Party Machines and the Immigrants	Dallas Policy Introduction draft due
<b>Week 5</b> September 16	GT Ch. 2 The Texas Constitution CP Ch. 4 The Reform Crusades	
<b>Week 6</b> September 23	GT Ch. 5 Campaigns and Elections CP Ch. 5 Urban Voters and the Rise of a National democratic Majority	Dallas Policy Introduction due
<b>Week 7</b> September 30	GT Ch. 6 Interest Groups and Lobbying CP Ch. 6 The City/Suburban Divide	
<b>Week 8</b> October 7	GT Ch. 3 Texas in the Federal System CP Ch. 7 National Policy and the City/Suburban Divide CP Ch. 8 Federal Programs and the Divisive Politics of Race	Dallas Policy Literature Review draft due
<b>Week 9</b> October 14	GT Ch. 4 Political Parties CP Ch. 9 The Rise of the Sunbelt	Dallas Policy Literature Review due
<b>Week 10</b> October 21	GT Ch. 7 The Legislature CP Ch. 10 The Rise of the Fragmented Metropolis	Midterm Exam due

<b>Week 11</b> October 28	GT Ch. 8 The Executive Branch CP Ch. 11 Governing the Fragmented Metropolis	Dallas Policy Analysis draft due
<b>Week 12</b> November 4	GT Ch. 9 The Judiciary CP Ch. 12 The Metropolitan Battleground	Dallas Policy Analysis due
<b>Week 13</b> November 11	GT Ch. 11 Public Finance CP Ch. 13 The Renaissance of the Metropolitan Center	
<b>Week 14</b> November 18	GT Ch. 13 Crime, Corrections, and Public Safety CP Ch. 14 Governing the Divided City	Dallas Policy Recommendation draft due
<b>Week 15</b> November 25	Thanksgiving – No Class – No Reading	
<b>Week 16</b> December 2	GT Ch. 14 Building the Future: Public Policies for a Changing Texas CP Ch. 15. City and Metropolis in the Global Era	Dallas Policy Recommendation due
<b>Week 17</b> December 9	Final Exam – No Class – No Reading	Final Exam due

***The descriptions and timelines contained in this syllabus are subject to change at the discretion of the Professor.***