Political Science 5327A. Texas Politics. Semester II 2013-14

Undergraduate Academic Center room 305

Dr. William DeSoto

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Class Meets Thursday at 6:30 in UAC 310

Office Hours: UAC at 10:00-11:15 on Tuesday through Thursday

This course has three principal goals. First, this course examines some of the traditional debate over federalism, intergovernmental relations, and different ways people compare the states. Second, this course provides an introduction to the state of Texas, its political institutions, and its political history. Third, the course looks at some of the current public policy questions currently debated in Texas such as education, criminal justice, and economic development.

**Students With Disabilities:**

Any student in this course who has a disability that may affect his/her ability to complete course assignments should contact me as soon as possible. Texas State University at San Marcos is committed to ensuring opportunities for full participation and will provide students with special needs any adjustments necessary to enhance performance in the classroom.

**Academic Dishonesty:**

As a student, you are a member of an academic community and are expected to uphold principles of academic honesty. The Texas State Handbook contains an Academic Honesty Statement. It prohibits cheating on an examination or other academic work that you will submit. It forbids plagiarism, collusion, and/or abuse of resource materials.

**Classroom Behavior:**

You are expected to do your best to be on time, especially on days when there will be a quiz. Please respect your colleagues by listening to their comments and also to your instructor during lectures. Please do not respond to calls on your cell phone unless you are expecting an urgent call and do not read or send text messages. While you may use your laptops and the internet during class, please do not surf the web during class.

**Grading:**

Your grade will be based equally on three things: a final take-home exam, a research paper, and your participation in class discussion. You will write about one of the three main topics we will discuss in class: theories of federalism, Texas and its institutions, and public policy issues. Alternatively, you may write about a topic of your choice that you find especially interesting. Papers should be about 10 pages and will be due by April 24.

Schedule:

**Part One: General Themes**

January 16: Introduction

January 23: Comparing and Ranking States

Read Lax, Jeffrey R., and Phillips, Justin H. 2012. “The Democratic

Deficit in the States.” *American Journal of Political Science*. 56 (1):

148-166. **(JSTOR)**

Hedge, David M. et al. 2009-10. “Trust, Race, and Welfare

Reform in the American States.” *American Review of Politics.*

30: 311-332. **(JSTOR)**

Read Balz, Dan. “Red, blue states move in opposite directions in a

new era of single-party control.” *Washington Post,* December 28,

2013.

Balz, Dan. “Texas, California embody red-blue divide.”  *Washington*

*Post*. December 29, 2013.

Ruger, William, and Jason Sorrens. 2013. Freedom In the 50 States.

George Mason University: Mercatus Institute

Publius (James Madison). Federalist Papers 17, 45, and 46.

Hamilton, Alexander. “Opinion as the Constitutionality of the Bank

Of the United States.” 1791.

Klein, Ezra. “Rick Perry’s book is good. Really.” *Washington Post.*

August 15, 2011.

NPR. November 5, 2010. Texas Governor Rick Perry is Fed Up.

Please read excerpts that are provided.

January 30: Theories of Federalism

Paul Peterson, 1995. *The Price of Federalism.* Washington:

Brookings Institution. Purchase and read the entire book.

**Part Two: Texas Institutions**

February 6: Texas History, Its Constitutions, and Unique Characteristics

Grieder, Erica. 2013. *Big, Hot, Cheap, and Right: What America*

*can learn from the Strange Genius of Texas.* New York: Public

Affairs. Purchase or Read Online. Two-users (at-a-time) access.

Lack, Paul D. 1985. “Slavery and the Texas Revolution.” *The*

*Southwestern Historical Quarterly.* 89 (2): 181-202.

February 13: Texas Governors

McCall, Brian. 2009. *The Power of the Texas Governor: Connally to*

*Bush.* Austin: University of Texas Press. Online. Read

Chapters 1, 5, 9, and 10.

Unlimited simultaneous access (During our latest visit with the vendor

they assured us this would work even for large classes, but bandwidth

may be limited during peak periods).

Reid, Jan. 2012. *Let the People In: The Life and Times of Ann*

*Richards.* Austin: University of Texas Press. Pp. 265-361. Online.

Lee, Wilbert. 2004. “Please Pass the Biscuits, Pappy O’Daniel: An

Appreciation. In *Please Pass the Biscuits, Pappy*, Bill Crawford.

Austin: University of Texas Press. Online.

Unlimited simultaneous access.

February 20: Texas Legislature

Cox, Patrick, and Phillips, Michael. 2010. *House Will Come to*

*Order: How the Texas Speaker Became a Power in State and*

*National Politics.* Austin: University of Texas Press. Chapters

Introduction and chapters 1 and 10

Hamm, Keith E., and Robert Harmel. 1993. “Legislative Party

Development And the Speaker System: The Case of the Texas

House.” *Journal of Politics*. 55 (4): 1140-1151.

February 27: Texas Judiciary

Keith, Gary A. 2013. *Rotten Boroughs, Political Thickets, and*

*Legislative Donnybrooks.* Austin: University of Texas Press.

Read Introduction and Chapter one online.

Single-user (at-a-time) access. (If more than one tries at the same

time, we have automatic turnaway prevention up to 1 additional user).

March 6: Texas Bureaucracy

March 20: Political Parties and Interest Groups in Texas

Dobbs, Ricky F. 2005. *Yellow Dogs and Republicans: Allan Shivers*

*and Texas Two Party Politics*. College Station: Texas A & M

University Press. pp. 1-6; 19-35; 82-97; 147-150

David Cullen et al. *Texas Left: The Radical Roots of Lone Star Liberalism.* College Station: Texas A & M University Press. Online.

Read chapters written by McArthur and Smith; Glasrud and Andrews; and De Leon. Unlimited simultaneous access

Wooster, Ralph A. 1972. “Early Texas Statehood: A Survey of Historical Writings.” *Southwestern Historical Quarterly*. 76 (2): 121-141.

Baggett, James A. 1974. “Birth of the Texas Republican Party.”

*Southwestern Historical Quarterly*.” 78 (1): 1-20.

March 27: Local Governments

Connor, Seymour V. 1951. “Evolution of County Government in the

Republic of Texas.” *Southwestern Historical Quarterly*.” 55 (2): 163-

200

Guitierrez, Jose Angel. 1999. “Experiences of Chicana County

Judges in Texas: In Their Own Words.” F*rontiers: A Journal of*

*Women Studies.* 20 (1): 181-191

**Part Three: Public Policy Questions in Texas**

April 3: Economic Development

Jillson, Calvin. 2012. *Lone Star Tarnished: A Critical Look at Texas*

*Politics and Public Policy.* New York: Routledge. Online.

Three-users (at-a-time) access.

Barkdull, John, and John P. Tuman. “Texas and the International

Economy.” *State and Local Government Review.* 31 (2): 106-122.

April 10: Criminal Justice

Collins, Gail. 2013. *As Texas Goes: How the Lone Star State*

*Hijacked the American Agenda.* New York: Norton. (Purchase).

Campbell, Michael C. “Politics, Prisons, and Law Enforcement: An

Examination of the Emergence of ‘Law and Order’ Politics in Texas.”

*Law and Society Review*. 45 (3): 2011.

Buenger, Walter L. 2000. “Texas and the South.” *The Southwestern*

*Historical Quarterly.* 103 (3): 308-324.

April 17: Education

Read Paul Manna. 2006. *School’s In: Federalism and the National*

*Education Agenda.* Washington, D.C.: Georgetown University Press.

Unlimited simultaneous access.

Drennon, Christine M. 2006. “Social Relations Spatially Fixed:

Construction and Maintenance of School Districts in San Antonio,

Texas.” *Geographical Review*. 96 (4): 567-593.

Tomlinson, Chris. 2014. “Texas public education tops debate in

campaigns.” AP. Appeared in Houston Chronicle, January 12.

April 24: Summary and Last Class Day

Take Home Final is Due on Tuesday, May 6.

There are some restrictions on some of the electronic books I will be asking you to read this semester. Please notice that some have unlimited simultaneous use while others are restricted to one user at a time.

“Learning Outcomes: The Department of Political Science has adopted student learning outcomes for general education courses (POSI 2310 and POSI 2320) and for all undergraduate and graduate degree programs offered in the Department of Political Science. These outcomes are available for your review at <http://www.polisci.txstate.edu> Pull down the Student Resources menu and go to “Learning Outcomes.”

Department of Political Science Information: Undergraduate Academic Center (UAC) Rm. 355; Telephone number: (512) 245-2143; Fax number: (512) 245-7815; Website: <http://www.polisi.txstate.edu> Classroom Computer Lab: Undergraduate Academic Center (UAC) 342

Liberal Arts Computer Lab: Undergraduate Academic Center (UAC) 440; Website: <http://www.polisci.txstate.edu/resources/computer-lab.html>