Catalog Description:
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

Lecture hours = 3, Lab hours = 0
Prerequisites: None
Semester Credit Hours: 3
Contact Hours per Semester: 48
State Approval Code: 45.1002.51 25

Core Components and Related College Student Learning Outcomes
This course counts as part of the academic requirements of the Panola College Core Curriculum and an Associate of Arts or Associate of Science degree. ☑ Yes ☐ No: If no, skip to Instructional Goals.

The items below marked with an X reflect the state-mandated outcomes for this course IF this is a CORE course:

☑ Critical Thinking Skills – to include creative thinking, innovation, inquiry and analysis, evaluation and syntheses of information
   ☑ CT1: Generate and communicate ideas by combining, changing, or reapplying existing information
   ☐ CT2: Gather and assess information relevant to a question
   ☐ CT3: Analyze, evaluate, and synthesize information

☑ Communication Skills – to include effective development, interpretation, and expression of ideas through written, oral, and visual communication
   ☑ CS1: Develop, interpret, and express ideas through written communication
   ☐ CS2: Develop, interpret, and express ideas through oral communication
   ☐ CS3: Develop, interpret, and express ideas through visual communication

☐ Empirical and Quantitative Skills – to include the manipulation and analysis of numerical data or observable facts resulting in informed conclusions
   ☐ EQS1: Manipulate and analyze numerical data and arrive at an informed conclusion
   ☐ EQS2: Manipulate and analyze observable facts and arrive at an informed conclusion

☐ Teamwork – to include the ability to consider different points of view and to work effectively with
others to support a shared purpose or goal
☐ TW1: Integrate different viewpoints as a member of a team
☐ TW2: Work with others to support and accomplish a shared goal
☒ Personal Responsibility – to include the ability to connect choices, actions, and consequences to ethical decision-making
☒ PR1: Evaluate choices and actions and relate consequences to decision-making
☒ Social Responsibility – to include intercultural competence, knowledge of civic responsibility, and the ability to engage effectively in regional, national, and global communities
☐ SR1: Demonstrate intercultural competence
☒ SR2: Identify civic responsibility
☐ SR3: Engage in regional, national, and global communities

Instructional Goals and Purposes:
The purpose of this course is to serve as an introduction to Texas Government.

Learning Outcomes: [from the ACGM catalog]
After studying all materials and resources presented in the course, the student will be able to:
1. Explain the origin and development of the Texas constitution.
2. Describe state and local political systems and their relationship with the federal government.
3. Describe separation of powers and checks and balances in both theory and practice in Texas.
4. Demonstrate knowledge of the legislative, executive, and judicial branches of Texas government.
5. Evaluate the role of public opinion, interest groups, and political parties in Texas.
6. Analyze the state and local election process.
7. Identify the rights and responsibilities of citizens.
8. Analyze issues, policies and political culture of Texas

Course Content:
Students in all sections of this course will learn the following content:
1. Geography and characteristics of Texas land regions.
2. Demographic and cultural, economic trends
3. Previous constitutions and development of the current Texas constitution.
4. Problems of the current constitution and efforts made to change it.
5. Structure and responsibilities of local government, including municipal, county, regional, and special district governments.
6. History and development of political parties.
7. History and the changing nature of interest groups, political action committees, and lobbyists.
8. Problems such as drunk driving, traffic congestion, teen pregnancy and policy responses to deal with these issues.
9. Education in Texas ranging from K-12 education to vocational schools, community colleges, and universities.
10. The legislative process and structure, function, and responsibility of the legislative body.
11. State and local elections and key actors serving in offices.
12. The process from arrest to punishment.

Methods of Instruction/Course Format/Delivery:
Lectures / In class and online discussions / Web based research / Note taking and proactive listening / Guest speakers / Examination of relevant current events / Inspection of primary and secondary documents / Instructional videos / PowerPoint presentations / Textbook reading assignments

Assessment and Grade Distribution:
A student’s performance in this course will be assessed according to the following: (Note: the individual instructors may weigh the grades within the percentages provided here)
1. Exams: Exams will make up the majority of the course grade.
2. Service Learning: Service learning may be extended to the students as a major part of the course grade.
3. Assignments: Assignments will consist of quizzes, online discussions, class presentations, and other forms of at-home assignments deemed appropriate by the instructor.

4. Attendance: Attendance will be taken regardless of the weight on the final grade. A lack of attendance may result in the dismissal of the student from the class in accord with college policy. Extra credit may be offered (on an equal basis to all class participants) by the instructor at his/her discretion. Student participation in extra credit activities must be properly documented. Extra credit is not a part of the regular class grade and may not be relied upon or demanded by the student to pass the class. It is offered solely at the discretion and good-will of the instructor.

Grade Distribution
- A = 90-100
- B = 80-89
- C = 70-79
- D = 60-69
- F = 59 or below

Class Policies
Each department instructor shall define all class policies, assignment/assessment details, and class procedures not defined herein. All class policies shall be in accord with the college handbook, state, and federal law.

Texts, Materials, and Supplies:
2. Other Reading Articles may be distributed at the instructor’s discretion

Other:
- For current texts and materials, use the following link to access bookstore listings: http://www.panolacollegestore.com
- For testing services, use the following link: http://www.panola.edu/elearning/testing.html
- If any student in this class has special classroom or testing needs because of a physical learning or emotional condition, please contact the ADA Student Coordinator in Support Services located in the Administration Building or go to http://www.panola.edu/student-success/disability-support-services/ for more information.
- Withdrawing from a course is the student’s responsibility. Students who do not attend class and who do not withdraw will receive the grade earned for the course.
Appendix

Cheating

"Cheating" is defined as unauthorized help on an examination or assigned course material. A student must not receive from any other student or give to any other student any information, answers, or help during an exam. A student must not "steal" the answers from an unsuspecting student during an exam. A student must not use any sources for answers during an exam (including, but not limited to: notes, books, or electronic devices) without prior authorization from the professor. A student must not obtain exam questions illegally, tamper with the exam questions, nor change the results of an exam after it has been graded. All cheating infractions will result in a grade of "0" for the assignment. A student will fail the class upon their second cheating offense. This policy shall be adhered to unless mitigating circumstances should prove a lesser penalty should apply. Students shall have the right to contest a cheating claim. The appeals process is specifically defined in the student handbook.

Plagiarism

"Plagiarism" is defined as the taking of a person's ideas, words, or information and claiming those properties as one's own. The use of all ideas, words, or information from any source must be properly referenced and due credit must be given to its author. All class assignments must be submitted through Canvas. Canvas will run the submitted assignments through turnitin.com. Any assignment which scores higher than 40% on copied material will automatically receive a grade of "0". Properly quoting and citing borrowed information is NOT plagiarism. However, since the integrity of the assignment is based upon the originality of the student's work, no student may turn in a paper which exceeds a 30% score in properly quoted and cited material. The instructor reserves the right to employ other means outside of turnitin.com to check the "originality" of a students work. All plagiarizing infractions will result in a grade of "0" for the assignment. A student will fail the class upon their second plagiarizing offense. This policy shall be adhered to unless mitigating circumstances should prove a lesser penalty should apply. Students shall have the right to contest a plagiarism or cheating claim. The appeals process is specifically defined in the student handbook. Click here to review the appeals process.

Privacy

The instructor will uphold the privacy of a student’s grades, disability, and all other personal information in accord with school policy, state and federal law. A student perpetually maintains the right to review their course grades. A student’s right to review their grades shall not be interpreted as the right for the release of an instructor’s grading keys. The instructor and the college do not assume responsibility for the disbursement of any grade information a student freely gives of himself in private correspondence or in a public forum. The instructor reserves the right to remove grade information which a student freely reveals of him or herself in an online public forum hosted or regulated by the college to preserve the integrity of the course. The instructor reserves the right to pursue disciplinary and legal action against any student who illicitly obtains and reveals private instructional information, including, but not limited to answer keys or class grades.

Disability

Students with a learning disability must verify their disability with the Career/Technical Advisor in the Student Success Office. The student is responsible for presenting proper verification to the instructor at the beginning of the course. Upon verification, the instructor shall make the appropriate accommodations for the student. The instructor is not obligated to accommodate students whose disability has not been verified by the college nor responsible for a student’s class performance before verification is presented. Students with a condition that may require emergency assistance (i.e. seizures, pacemaker malfunctions, hyperventilation, etc.) should meet with the instructor in private to discuss emergency procedures. A disability does not exempt a student from proper classroom etiquette or the student code of conduct. This class will fully comply with the college handbook, state, and federal laws.