UNIVERSITY OF
ST. THOMAS

DEPARTMENT OF POLITICAL SCIENCE

POSC 2332

CATALOG DESCRIPTION:
An examination of the institutional elements of the American and Texas political systems: legislative, executive, and judicial. These elements are examined at the national, state and local levels with a special emphasis on their roles in the development of public policy.

Course Title: American and Texas Government II
Course Number: POSC 2332 – A(1280)
Credit Hours: Three
Prerequisites: None
Semester and Year: Spring, 2017

Class Days and Times
MWF 10:10am-11:00am
Room- Strake 201

Instructor: Michael J. Upchurch
Office Location: Adjunct Faculty Room at the Poly Sci House
Office Hours: Before and after class and by appointment

E-MAIL: uptex@aol.com
IMPORTANT NOTE: USE AS SUBJECT POSC 2332!!!

Office or alternate phone: 713.899-7426
Course Learning Outcomes:  

- Explore the institutional role of the legislative branch at both state and federal levels.
- Explain the instrumental role of the executive branch, including the bureaucracy, at both state and federal levels.
- Discuss the institutional role of the judicial branch at both the state and federal levels.
- Acquire a basic understanding of economic, domestic and foreign policy (including military policy).
- Discuss local government and Texas politics

Required Textbooks and/or Materials:

Evaluation:
Three exams will be administered during the spring session and a final exam component. In addition, class participation and attendance will factor into the final grade.

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<thead>
<tr>
<th>Requirement</th>
<th>Tentative Date</th>
<th>Percent of Final Average</th>
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<tbody>
<tr>
<td>Exam 1</td>
<td>All exam dates will</td>
<td>20%</td>
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<tr>
<td></td>
<td>be provided separately</td>
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<tr>
<td>Exam 2</td>
<td>Ditto</td>
<td>20%</td>
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<tr>
<td>Exam 3</td>
<td>Ditto</td>
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<tr>
<td>Final Exam</td>
<td>Ditto</td>
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<tr>
<td>Political Writing Assignment</td>
<td>The end of the semester</td>
<td>20%</td>
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<tr>
<td>Total</td>
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<td>100%</td>
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Letter Grade Assignment:
Letter grade assignment is per course catalog and according to university policy.

Attendance Policy:
Attendance to all classes is expected. Should you anticipate an absence, please notify the instructor in advance. An excessive number of absences will prohibit the successful completion of this course. If you should miss a class, it is the student’s responsibility to obtain lecture notes and assignments from a classmate. **Current political events will often be discussed in class. Class participation and attendance are factors in calculating the final grade.**
ASSIGNMENTS:

All assignments and exams are to be completed and submitted to the instructor on the scheduled due date. No late assignments will be accepted.

MAKE-UP EXAMS:

Students should contact the instructor prior to missing a scheduled examination by phone, in-person, by e-mail, or by voice mail. An opportunity to take an alternative examination will be offered to those who make prior contact with the instructor. All make-up exams will be administered outside of regular class hours. Make-up exams may be all essay!

WITHDRAWAL POLICY:

Withdrawal from the course on or after the official day of record will result in a final grade of “W” on the student transcript and no credit will be awarded. Prior to the official day of record, it is the student’s responsibility to initiate and complete a request for withdrawal from any course. Last day to drop and receive “W” is March 31, 2017.

ACADEMIC INTEGRITY:

The University of St. Thomas is committed to a high standard of academic integrity in the academic community. In becoming a part of the academic community, students are responsible for honesty and independent effort. Failure to uphold these standards includes, but is not limited to, the following: plagiarizing written work or projects, cheating on exams or assignments, collusion on an exam or project, and misrepresentation of credentials or prerequisites when registering for a course. Cheating includes looking at or copying from another student's exam, orally communicating or receiving answers during an exam, having another person take an exam or complete a project or assignment, using unauthorized notes, texts, or other materials for an exam, and obtaining or distributing an unauthorized copy of an exam or any part of an exam. Plagiarism means passing off as his/her own the ideas or writings of another (that is, without giving proper credit by documenting sources). Plagiarism includes submitting a paper, report or project that someone else has prepared, in whole or in part. Collusion is inappropriately collaborating on assignments designed to be completed independently. These definitions are not exhaustive. When there is clear evidence of cheating, plagiarism, collusion or misrepresentation, a faculty member will take disciplinary action including but not limited to: requiring the student to retake or resubmit an exam or assignment, assigning a grade of zero or "F" for an exam or assignment; or assigning a grade of "F" for the course. Additional sanctions including being withdrawn from the course, program or expelled from school may be imposed on a student who violates the standards of academic integrity.
**CELL PHONES:** Mute all cell phones and electronic devices. In an emergency please leave the classroom before responding.

**HOLIDAYS:**
As officially set by UST.

**HAVE FUN & GOOD LUCK!**

**NOTE:** The reading and testing schedule is attached.

The Professor reserves the right to make any necessary changes to this syllabus, as well as any changes to the reading and testing schedule. However, no material changes are expected to be made at this time.
READING, TESTING AND LECTURE SCHEDULE

INSTITUTIONS OF GOVERNMENT (FEDERAL)

Chapter 10  Congress: Politics on Capitol Hill
Chapter 11  The President: White House Politics
Chapter 12  The Bureaucracy: Bureaucratic Politics
Chapter 13  Courts: Judicial Politics

EXAM I ON INSTITUTIONS

OUTCOMES - PUBLIC POLICY

Chapter 14  Politics and Personal Liberty
Chapter 15  Politics and Civil Rights
Chapter 16  Politics and the Economy
Chapter 17  Politics and Social Welfare
Chapter 18  Politics and National Security

EXAM II ON POLICY (OUTCOMES)

INSTITUTIONS AND POLITICS IN TEXAS GOVERNMENT

The Texas chapters will come from a free online text from the University of Texas at Austin. The link and chapter information will be given out on a separate handout. Exam III will be over the Texas chapters.

Note: The last regular day of class is Friday, May 5, 2017. The final exam will be as scheduled by UST during the final exam testing period. (Monday, May 15, 2017, 8:30am-11:00am)