



**TRINITY VALLEY COMMUNITY COLLEGE
ADMINISTRATIVE-MASTER SYLLABUS**

The Administrative- Master Syllabus is an administrative tool; it is **not intended to be distributed to students**. It is the intention of this Administrative-Master Syllabus to provide a general description of the course, outline the required elements of the course and to lay the foundation for course assessment for the improvement of student learning, as specified by the faculty of TVCC, regardless of who teaches the course, the timeframe by which it is instructed, or the instructional method by which the course is delivered. It is not intended to restrict the manner by which an individual faculty member teaches the course but to be an administrative tool to aid in the improvement of instruction. The Administrative-Master Syllabus will demonstrate that there is consistency and comparability in course offerings.

Course Title

American and Texas Constitutions

Course Prefix and Number

Government 2301

Department – Division

Social Science Division

Course Type – select from one of the following categories.

- Academic General Education Course (from ACGM – but not in TVCC Core)
- Academic TVCC Core Course
- WECM Courses

Semester Credit Hours: Lecture Hours: Lab/other hours

Semester Credit Hours	Lecture Hours	Lab/Other* Hours
3		

Other hours include practicum, clinical or other types of non-lecture instruction. *If other, please specify: _____

Course Catalog Description

Study of the United States and Texas Constitutions, federalism, civil liberties and civil rights, public opinion, voting and elections and interest groups.

Prerequisites/co requisites

Sophomore standing is preferred.

Topical Outline

Unit One:

1. List and explain the three major purposes of government.
2. What are the five normative concepts emphasized by Janda?
3. Construct a two-dimensional fourfold typology of American political ideologies using the values of freedom, equality and order.
4. List and explain the principles of procedural and substantive democracy.
5. Provide a set of criteria for deciding whether nations are democratic or not.
6. Define political culture. Explain the three types of political cultures. Characterize Texas according to its political cultures.

Unit Two:

1. What are the weaknesses of the Articles of Confederation?
2. Identify the important issues debated at the Constitutional Convention and how the Framers resolved these issues.
3. Explain the conflict between the Federalist and Antifederalist factions over the ratification of the Constitution.
4. Describe the formal and informal processes of changing the U.S. Constitution in response to new issues.
5. Define implied powers. On what basis (and what case) were implied powers upheld as constitutional?
6. Define:
 - Federalism
 - Enumerated powers
 - Judicial review
7. What are the weaknesses of the present Texas Constitution? How can the Texas Constitution be amended?

Unit Three:

1. Define the following clauses and terms:
 - Civil liberties
 - Civil rights
 - Free exercise clause
 - Establishment clause
 - Due process clause
 - Exclusionary rule

Right to privacy

2. State the significance of the following cases:
 - Barron v. Baltimore (1833)
 - Gitlow v. New York (1925)
 - Engel v. Vitale (1962)
 - Lemon v. Kurtzman (1971)
 - Mapp v. Ohio (1961)
 - Miranda v. Arizona (1966)
 - Gregg v. Georgia (1976)
 - Roe v. Wade (1973)

Unit Four:

1. Explain or define the following terms and amendments:
 - Affirmative action
 - Protectionism
 - 13th Amendment
 - 14th Amendment
 - 15th Amendment
 - 19th Amendment
2. State the significance of the following cases:
 - Plessy v. Ferguson (1896)
 - Brown v. Board of Education (1954)
 - Regents of the University of California v. Bakke (1978)

Unit Five:

1. The statement that “public opinion can be analyzed by the shape and stability of its distribution means what”?
2. What is a political party? What are its primary functions?
3. List and explain the types of minor parties and the functions they perform for the political systems.

Unit Six:

1. Distinguish between conventional and unconventional participation. How effective is unconventional participation? How do Americans feel about unconventional participation?
2. What is political party? What are its primary functions?
3. List and explain the types of minor parties and the functions they perform for the political systems.

4. Why has America always been a two-party system?
5. Explain the functions performed by political parties' national, state and local organizations. List and explain the party organizations in Texas.
6. Explain how individual voting choices are the products of long and short-term forces.
7. Explain the election system used in Texas.

Unit Seven:

1. What is an interest group? What functions and roles do interest groups perform for the political system?
2. Explain the techniques used by interest groups to achieve their goals?

Course Learning Outcomes

1. To acquire and understanding of American government; its origins, development and current political practices.
2. To gain factual knowledge about American government. (terminology, classifications, methods, trends)
3. To learn to apply course materials to improve rational thinking, problem solving and decision-making.
4. To gain a broader understanding and appreciation of intellectual and cultural activity as they relate to, or impact American government.
5. To develop an appreciation of the contributions made to American government and society by racial, ethnic and religious minorities.
6. To develop a sense of personal responsibility (self-reliance, self-discipline).

<p>Relationship to General Education Outcomes – In addition to the core competencies, Trinity Valley Community College has established ten general education goals which specify knowledge and skills that students should gain from completing courses in the various component areas of the core curriculum. Information regarding curriculum and assessment as a means for the improvement of student learning through the general education component. (Select all that apply.)</p>
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Mark with an "X"	General Education Outcome
X	A. To communicate clearly and effectively in both oral and written English.

X	B. To improve reading skills focused on comprehending, analyzing, interpreting, and evaluating printed materials.
	C. To understand mathematical information and utilize mathematical skills.
	D. To demonstrate qualitative and quantitative critical thinking skills.
	E. To understand and appreciate cultural and ethnic diversity.
	F. To utilize computer based technology in accessing information, solving problems, and communicating.
	G. To recognize and evaluate artistic achievements in the visual and performing arts.
X	H. To improve basic understanding of political, economic, and social systems.
	I. To demonstrate knowledge of the physical universe and living systems.
	J. To develop skills and strategies to become an engaged learner.

Required Text(s)

The Challenge of Democracy, 7th ed., Janda, Berry, and Goldman. Houghton Mifflin, 2001. Texas Politics Today, 10th ed., Maxwell and Crain. West Publishing, 2001.

Optional Text(s)

Material/Technology to be supplied by the student.

Course Requirements/Grading System – describe any course specific requirements such as research papers or reading assignments and the generalized grading format for the course; not intended to restrict the individual nature by which each faculty member who teaches the course determines course requirements and final student performance, but should offer consistency within reason for all sections taught for those departments without a standardized format.

Upon completion of each study unit, there will be a multiple-choice quiz to test the mastery of the unit's material. Correctly answering 70 percent (70%) of the questions is considered passing. Sixty to 69 percent is borderline and suggests the necessity for additional study. At the end of the semester, a comprehensive final exam will be given. This exam will count a minimum of 25% of the total course grade. Upon individual approval, independent study projects will be allowed to supplement the student's grade.

Approvals – the contents of this document have been reviewed and are found to be accurate.

Prepared by	Signature	Date
Department Head	Signature	Date
Division Chair	Signature	Date
Vice President	Signature	Date