

**POLI 3303-115, CRN 60235, State and Local Government**  
Summer 2021  
Texas A&M University-Central Texas  
**Online**

**INSTRUCTOR AND CONTACT INFORMATION**

**Instructor:** Dr. John Koehler  
**Office:** Heritage Hall 204Q  
**Phone:** 254-501-5845  
**Email:** j.koehler@tamuct.edu

**Office Hours:**  
Online by appointment

**Mode of instruction and course access:**  
This course is online and uses the A&M-Central Texas Canvas Learning Management System [<https://tamuct.instructure.com>].

**Student-instructor interaction:**  
University email is the preferred method of communication. Every attempt will be made to respond to emails within 24 hours, however longer response times may take place over weekends and holidays.

**WARRIOR SHIELD**

**Emergency Warning System for Texas A&M University-Central Texas**  
Warrior Shield is an emergency notification service that gives Texas A&M University-Central Texas the ability to communicate health and safety emergency information quickly via email, text message, and social media. All students are automatically enrolled in Warrior Shield through their myCT email account.

Connect to Warrior Shield by [911Cellular](https://www.tamuct.edu/police/911cellular.html) [<https://www.tamuct.edu/police/911cellular.html>] to change where you receive your alerts or to opt out. By staying enrolled in Warrior Shield, university officials can quickly pass on safety-related information, regardless of your location.

**Course Overview and description:**  
A study of state and local politics exploring differences in the branches of government and in direct democracy. The course provides an overview of the issues of federalism particularly in regards to issues of devolution and privatization.

- Student Learning Outcomes:**
- By the end of the course, students should be able to:
  - 1. Examine the current literature on state and local governance
  - 2. Differentiate structural differences between states

3. Identify opportunities for civic participation in state and local government
4. Analyze the challenges facing states and local governments
5. Assess the success of state and local governments and critique alternative approaches to governance

### Required Readings

Readings such as journal articles can be found through the libraries database or be provided by the instructor on Canvas.

### COURSE REQUIREMENTS

Assignment	Points	Percentage
Discussion Boards	100	10
Article Reviews (4)	400	40
Take home Midterm	250	25
Final Exam	250	25
<b>Total Possible</b>	<b>1000</b>	<b>100</b>
895+ = A    795-894=B    695-794=C    595-694=D    594 or lower = F		

### Grading Criteria Rubric and Conversion

Discussion boards will open once a week on Canvas. They will require responses to particular questions related to readings or current events. Comments must be meaningful, useful, and most importantly, respectful. Expectations for the paper are provided below. The attendance score will be reduced by 1 percentage point for each unexcused absence. Exams will contain a mixture of question types such as short answer and multiple-choice questions, the final exam is cumulative.

Each student will be responsible for completing four journal article reviews **1.5 pages**. **Canvas will be where you find articles to review and where you turn in reviews.** To be included in each review are: identify the thesis; outline **and critique** the argument; connect the article to the broader literature (this can be done by contrasting it to preconceived notions, connect it to other ideas/ literature, suggest how it can lead to future questions). Formatting guidelines are as follows: double-spaced lines, one-inch margins (i.e., top, bottom, left, and right), and 12pt Times New Roman font.

**Review 1:** Schaffner, Streb, and Wright

**Review 2:** Lewis, Schneider, and Jacoby

**Review 3:** Dometrius and Wright

**Review 4:** Mayer and Malin

### Posting of Grades

Grades will be posted on Canvas within 7 days of each assignment.

### COURSE OUTLINE AND CALENDAR

	Title	Readings	Assignments
<b>Week 1</b> <b>June 7</b>	Intro Federalism	Einstein and Glick	
<b>Week 2</b> <b>June 14</b>	Constitutions Elections	Baxter  Schaffner, Streb, and Wright	
<b>Week 3</b> <b>June 21</b>	Parties and IGs Legislatures Governors	Lewis, Schneider, and Jacoby	<b>Review 1 due</b>
<b>Week 4</b> <b>June 28</b>	Public administration Judiciary	Petersen, Houlberg, and Christensen	<b>Review 2 due</b>
<b>Week 5</b> <b>July 5</b>	Local Government Leadership State relations	Dometrius and Wright	<b>Midterm due</b>
<b>Week 6</b> <b>July 12</b>	Taxation and Development	Dickerson and Ondercin	<b>Review 3 due</b>
<b>Week 7</b> <b>July 19</b>	Policy	Mayer and Malin	
<b>Week 8</b> <b>July 26</b>	Policy  <b>Final Exam</b>		<b>Review 4 due</b>  <i>Final Exam</i>

### Excused Absences, Make-Up Work, and Late Work

Late work will reduced one letter grade for each day late. No exam will be made up without an excused absence. Make up exams are scheduled at the instructor's convenience.

### Important University Dates:

<https://www.tamuct.edu/registrar/academic-calendar.html>

## Technology Requirements

This course will use the A&M-Central Texas Instructure Canvas learning management system. **We strongly recommend the latest versions of Chrome or Firefox browsers. Canvas no longer supports any version of Internet Explorer.**

Logon to A&M-Central Texas Canvas [<https://tamuct.instructure.com/>] or access Canvas through the TAMUCT Online link in myCT [<https://tamuct.onecampus.com/>]. You will log in through our Microsoft portal.

Username: Your MyCT email address. Password: Your MyCT password

## Canvas Support

Use the Canvas Help link, located at the bottom of the left-hand menu, for issues with Canvas. You can select “Chat with Canvas Support,” submit a support request through “Report a Problem,” or call the Canvas support line: 1-844-757-0953.

For issues related to course content and requirements, contact your instructor.

## Online Proctored Testing

A&M-Central Texas uses Proctorio for online identity verification and proctored testing. This service is provided at no direct cost to students. If the course requires identity verification or proctored testing, the technology requirements are: Any computer meeting the minimum computing requirements, plus web camera, speaker, and microphone (or headset). Proctorio also requires the Chrome web browser with their custom plug in.

## Other Technology Support

For log-in problems, students should contact Help Desk Central

24 hours a day, 7 days a week

Email: [helpdesk@tamu.edu](mailto:helpdesk@tamu.edu)

Phone: (254) 519-5466

[Web Chat](http://hdc.tamu.edu): [<http://hdc.tamu.edu>]

*Please let the support technician know you are an A&M-Central Texas student.*

---

## UNIVERSITY RESOURCES, PROCEDURES, AND GUIDELINES

### Drop Policy

If you discover that you need to drop this class, you must complete the [Drop Request](#) Dynamic Form through Warrior Web.

[<https://dynamicforms.ngwebsolutions.com/casAuthentication.aspx?InstID=eaed95b9-f2be-45f3-a37d->

46928168bc10&targetUrl=https%3A%2F%2Fdynamicforms.ngwebsolutions.com%2FSubmit%2FForm%2FStart%2F53b8369e-0502-4f36-be43-f02a4202f612].

Faculty cannot drop students; this is always the responsibility of the student. The Registrar's Office will provide a deadline on the Academic Calendar for which the form must be completed. Once you submit the completed form to the Registrar's Office, you must go into Warrior Web and confirm that you are no longer enrolled. If you still show as enrolled, FOLLOW-UP with the Registrar's Office immediately. You are to attend class until the procedure is complete to avoid penalty for absence. Should you miss the drop deadline or fail to follow the procedure, you will receive an F in the course, which may affect your financial aid and/or VA educational benefits.

### **Academic Integrity**

Texas A&M University-Central Texas values the integrity of the academic enterprise and strives for the highest standards of academic conduct. A&M-Central Texas expects its students, faculty, and staff to support the adherence to high standards of personal and scholarly conduct to preserve the honor and integrity of the creative community. Any deviation by students from this expectation may result in a failing grade for the assignment and potentially a failing grade for the course. All academic misconduct concerns will be referred to the Office of Student Conduct. When in doubt on collaboration, citation, or any issue, please contact your instructor before taking a course of action.

For more [information regarding the Student Conduct process](https://www.tamuct.edu/student-affairs/student-conduct.html),  
[https://www.tamuct.edu/student-affairs/student-conduct.html].

If you know of potential honor violations by other students, you may [submit a report](https://cm.maxient.com/reportingform.php?TAMUCentralTexas&layout_id=0),  
[https://cm.maxient.com/reportingform.php?TAMUCentralTexas&layout\_id=0].

### **Academic Accommodations**

At Texas A&M University-Central Texas, we value an inclusive learning environment where every student has an equal chance to succeed and has the right to a barrier-free education. The Office of Access and Inclusion is responsible for ensuring that students with a disability receive equal access to the university's programs, services and activities. If you believe you have a disability requiring reasonable accommodations, please contact the Office of Access and Inclusion, WH-212; or call (254) 501-5836. Any information you provide is private and confidential and will be treated as such.

For more information, please visit our [Access & Inclusion](https://tamuct.instructure.com/courses/717) Canvas page (log-in required)  
[https://tamuct.instructure.com/courses/717]

### **Important information for Pregnant and/or Parenting Students**

Texas A&M University-Central Texas supports students who are pregnant and/or parenting. In accordance with requirements of Title IX and related guidance from US Department of Education's Office of Civil Rights, the Dean of Student Affairs' Office can assist students who are pregnant and/or parenting in seeking accommodations related to pregnancy and/or parenting. Students should seek out assistance as early in the pregnancy as possible. For more information, please visit [Student Affairs](https://www.tamuct.edu/student-affairs/pregnant-) [https://www.tamuct.edu/student-affairs/pregnant-

and-parenting-students.html]. Students may also contact the institution's Title IX Coordinator. If you would like to read more about these [requirements and guidelines](#) online, please visit the website [<http://www2.ed.gov/about/offices/list/ocr/docs/pregnancy.pdf>].

Title IX of the Education Amendments Act of 1972 prohibits discrimination on the basis of sex and gender—including pregnancy, parenting, and all related conditions. A&M-Central Texas is able to provide flexible and individualized reasonable accommodation to pregnant and parenting students. All pregnant and parenting students should contact the Associate Dean in the Division of Student Affairs at (254) 501-5909 to seek out assistance. Students may also contact the University's Title IX Coordinator.

### **Tutoring**

Tutoring is available to all A&M-Central Texas students, on a remote online basis. Visit the Academic Support Community in Canvas to view schedules and contact information. Subjects tutored on campus include Accounting, Advanced Math, Biology, Finance, Statistics, Mathematics, and Study Skills. Student success coaching is available online upon request.

If you have a question regarding tutor schedules, need to schedule a tutoring session, are interested in becoming a tutor, success coaching, or have any other question, contact Academic Support Programs at (254) 501-5836, visit the Office of Student Success at 212F Warrior Hall, or by emailing [studentsuccess@tamuct.edu](mailto:studentsuccess@tamuct.edu).

Chat live with a tutor 24/7 for almost any subject from on your computer! Tutor.com is an online tutoring platform that enables A&M-Central Texas students to log in and receive online tutoring support at no additional cost. This tool provides tutoring in over 40 subject areas except writing support. Access Tutor.com through Canvas.

### **University Writing Center**

University Writing Center: The University Writing Center (UWC) at Texas A&M University—Central Texas (TAMUCT) is a free service open to all TAMUCT students. For the Spring 2021 semester, all services will be online as a result of the COVID-19 pandemic. The hours of operation are from 10:00 a.m.-4:00 p.m. Monday thru Thursday with satellite hours Monday thru Thursday from 6:00-9:00 p.m. The UWC is also offering hours from 12:00-3:00 p.m. on Saturdays.

Tutors are prepared to help writers of all levels and abilities at any stage of the writing process. By providing a practice audience for students' ideas and writing, our tutors highlight the ways in which they read and interpret students' texts, offering guidance and support throughout the various stages of the writing process. While tutors will not write, edit, or grade papers, they will assist students in developing more effective composing practices. Whether you need help brainstorming ideas, organizing an essay, proofreading, understanding proper citation practices, or just want a quiet place to work, the UWC is here to help!

Students may arrange a one-to-one session with a trained and experienced writing tutor by making an appointment via [WOnline](https://tamuct.mywconline.com/) [<https://tamuct.mywconline.com/>]. In addition, you can email Dr. Bruce Bowles Jr. at [bruce.bowles@tamuct.edu](mailto:bruce.bowles@tamuct.edu) if you have any questions about the UWC and/or need any assistance with scheduling.

## **University Library**

The University Library provides many services in support of research across campus and at a distance. We offer over 200 electronic databases containing approximately 400,000 eBooks and 82,000 journals, in addition to the 96,000 items in our print collection, which can be mailed to students who live more than 50 miles from campus. Research guides for each subject taught at A&M-Central Texas are available through our website to help students navigate these resources. On campus, the library offers technology including cameras, laptops, microphones, webcams, and digital sound recorders.

Research assistance from a librarian is also available 24 hours a day through our online chat service, and at the reference desk when the library is open. Research sessions can be scheduled for more comprehensive assistance, and may take place virtually through WebEx, Microsoft Teams or in-person at the library. Assistance may cover many topics, including how to find articles in peer-reviewed journals, how to cite resources, and how to piece together research for written assignments.

Our 27,000-square-foot facility on the A&M-Central Texas main campus includes student lounges, private study rooms, group work spaces, computer labs, family areas suitable for all ages, and many other features. Services such as interlibrary loan, TexShare, binding, and laminating are available. The library frequently offers workshops, tours, readings, and other events. For more information, please visit our [Library website](http://tamuct.libguides.com/index) [http://tamuct.libguides.com/index].

## **A Note about Sexual Violence at A&M-Central Texas**

Sexual violence is a serious safety, social justice, and public health issue. The university offers support for anyone struggling with these issues. University faculty are mandated reporters, so if someone discloses that they were sexually assaulted (or a victim of Domestic/Dating Violence or Stalking) while a student at TAMUCT, faculty members are required to inform the Title IX Office. If you want to discuss any of these issues confidentially, you can do so through Student Wellness and Counseling (254-501-5955) located on the second floor of Warrior Hall (207L).

Sexual violence can occur on our campus because predators often feel emboldened, and victims often feel silenced or shamed. It is incumbent on ALL of us to find ways to actively create environments that tell predators we don't agree with their behaviors and tell survivors we will support them. Your actions matter. Don't be a bystander; be an agent of change. For additional information on campus policy and resources visit the [Title IX webpage](https://www.tamuct.edu/compliance/titleix.html) [https://www.tamuct.edu/compliance/titleix.html].

