

Department of Political Science
Texas State University

Political Science 2310 Credit by Examination

Nature of the Examination

Candidates for credit for POSI 2310 will first take a multiple choice exam (CLEP) covering American Government.

If the candidate passes this exam, he/she will take an essay exam that consists of two questions covering Texas Government. Each response must be a minimum of 250 words to be considered complete and the entire essay exam must be completed in one hour. Because a full semester of course credit for POSI 2310 rests on these brief essays, those taking the test must demonstrate quickly and conclusively their superior knowledge of Texas politics, as well as their writing ability. Those who pass the essay exam receive credit (CR) for POSI 2310 – no letter grade is recorded.

Evaluation of Standards for the Examinations

A faculty member with 2310 teaching experience will evaluate the essay using the following grading rubric. Essays earn credit only if they clearly meet or exceed the standards in demonstrating 1) knowledge of Texas Government; 2) ability to use supporting facts; and 3) writing ability.

Objective	Meets Standard	Exceeds Standard	Not Demonstrated
Knowledge of Texas Government	Develops 3 or 4 significant and relevant main ideas	Develops 5 or more significant and relevant main ideas	Fails to develop a minimum of 3 significant and relevant main ideas
Use of Supporting Facts	Uses 3 or 4 effective supporting facts for each main idea	Uses 5 or more effective supporting facts for each main idea	Fails to develop a minimum of 3 effective supporting facts for each main idea
Writing Ability	Contains less than 5 common errors in the use of conventional written English	Contains less than 3 common errors in the use of conventional written English and shows a complexity of thought and development, while sustaining clarity in expression	Contains in excess of 5 common errors in the use of conventional written English and fails to express ideas clearly

The evaluation of an essay is final and cannot be discussed or appealed.

I understand that the evaluation of my essay for credit-by-examination in Political Science 2310 is final and that I have no option to appeal the evaluation or to discuss the results with any member of the Department of Political Science.

Name (print): _____

Signature: _____

Date: _____

ADDITIONAL REQUIREMENT FOR CREDIT BY EXAM
IN AMERICAN GOVERNMENT FOR CREDIT IN POLITICAL SCIENCE 2310

In addition to passing the CLEP Subject Exam in American Government, you will be required to take an essay exam in Texas Government that consists of two questions composed by Texas State Political Science faculty with 2310 teaching responsibilities. Each response must be a minimum of 250 words to be considered complete and the entire essay exam must be completed in one hour. Some of the topics covered on the Texas Government exam are as follows:

- The 1876 Texas Constitution (Example: Why was it written, what are its major provisions, what are its limitations, and how might it be improved?)
- Major non-governmental entities operating in Texas such as interest groups, political parties, etc. (Example: What are their roles, how do they engage in the political process, how do they engage the citizens, and are they effective?)
- Major institutions of government (Example: What are the branches of government in the state, how are they structured, what function does each perform, and how might they be improved?)
- Strengths and weaknesses of the government in Texas (Example: Identify strengths and weaknesses of the Texas government and suggest ways they might be reformed.)

Helpful Hint: Visit <http://texaspolitics.laits.utexas.edu/>, a multimedia textbook available online at no cost. It is a comprehensive resource covering all topics related to Texas Politics.