

Political Science 1
2026-2027

Mr. Jose H. Trevino

p: 361.584.2547

Room 512

Course Description

Political Science 1 introduces students to the study of government, political institutions, political behavior, public policy, and political theory. The course begins with the foundations of political thought, examining classical and modern political theorists and competing theories about government, authority, liberty, justice, and human behavior. Students then investigate different forms of government and political ideologies, including democracy, republics, monarchy, dictatorship, communism, socialism, capitalism, Marxism, and other contemporary ideologies. Major topics include political culture, public opinion, interest groups, political parties, elections, political campaigns, political participation, government and the economy, public policy, and the role of media and technology in politics. Students also learn introductory political science research methods, including hypotheses, variables, sampling, reliability, validity, surveys, polling, and statistical data. The course emphasizes critical thinking, evidence-based reasoning, research, communication, collaboration, civic participation, and civil discourse. Students are expected to examine competing political perspectives and use evidence to develop, defend, and evaluate political arguments.

Year at a Glance

<u>Unit</u>	<u>Major Topics</u>	<u>Related TEKS</u>
Unit 1: What Is Political Science?	Political science as a social science; politics; power; authority; legitimacy; government; state; nation; political systems	§127.640(1), (2A), (5A–B), (12A–B)
Unit 2: Foundations of Political Thought	Plato; Aristotle; Cicero; Machiavelli; Confucius; Hobbes; Locke; Hegel; Marx; classical vs. modern political thought	§127.640(2A–E)
Unit 3: Forms of Government	Democracy; republic; monarchy; theocracy; dictatorship; communism; socialism; authoritarianism; origins and evolution of government	§127.640(3A–E)
Unit 4: Political Ideologies	Liberalism; conservatism; socialism; capitalism; Marxism; nationalism; fascism/Nazism; feminism; ideological spectrum	§127.640(4A–C), (2C–D)
Unit 5: Comparative Political Systems	Political culture; democratic and authoritarian systems; developed and developing states; comparative government; case studies	§127.640(3B–E), (5A–B)
Unit 6: Government & the Economy	Free enterprise; government regulation; taxation; government spending; fiscal policy; economic systems; international trade	§127.640(6A–E)
Unit 7: Public Opinion & Political Culture	Public opinion; political socialization; polling; political culture; media; leadership; reliability of polls	§127.640(5A–B), (7A–D)
Unit 8: Interest Groups & Political Influence	Interest groups; lobbying; PACs; public-interest groups; collective action; influence on public policy	§127.640(8)
Unit 9: Political Parties	Two-party system; Democrats and Republicans; third parties; party platforms; party organization; political participation	§127.640(11A–D)
Unit 10: Elections & Campaigns	Voter behavior; campaigns; primaries; general elections; electoral systems; political image; campaign communication; political advertising	§127.640(9A–E), (10A–B)
Unit 11: The Presidency & Public Office	Presidential elections; Electoral College; elected vs. appointed officials; local, state, and national offices	§127.640(10A–B), (11C–D)
Unit 12: Political Participation & Citizenship	Voting; civic engagement; political activism; community participation; elections; citizen responsibilities; political efficacy	§127.640(1A–F), (9A), (11D)

Political Science 1 2026-2027

<u>Unit</u>	<u>Major Topics</u>	<u>Related TEKS</u>
Unit 13: Political Science Research Methods	Research questions; hypotheses; independent/dependent variables; sampling; surveys; polling; validity; reliability; generalizability	§127.640(12A–B)
Unit 14: Comparative Political Research	Country case study; political culture; institutions; ideology; government systems; comparative analysis	§127.640(2C–E), (3A–E), (5A–B)
Unit 15: Contemporary Political Issues	Current political developments; public policy; ideology; globalization; political institutions; emerging political movements	§127.640(2E), (4C), (5A–B), (6E), (7A–D)
Unit 16: Political Science Simulation	Model government; campaign simulation; political parties; elections; interest groups; public opinion; policymaking	§127.640(1A–F), (7–11)
Unit 17: Research Project	Student-selected country or political system; research; data analysis; presentation; political culture	§127.640(5B), (12A–B), (1A–F)
Unit 18: Political Theory & the Future	Competing political theories; future of democracy; technology; changing political institutions; emerging ideologies	§127.640(2C–E), (4C), (5A)

Materials

Pencils and Pens / 2 Composition books / 3 Color set of highlighters

Grading

All assignments will contribute to your overall grade. Other factors that will impact your grade are handwriting and answering in well balanced complete responses.

Exams - 40%

Daily Work - 40%

Quizzes/Projects - 20%

Missed Work Due to Absence

Make up work due to an absence is your responsibility. Please come to me to collect missed work, they may be completed during activity period or after school the same day. Extra time may be granted on a case by case basis. All projects must be turned in by the due date or early if there is an expected absence. In the case of an unexpected absence occurring on a project due date or test date it is due the first day you return.

Expectations

- Follow all school-wide rules, including no cell phones.
- Academic honesty will be enforced.
- Late students must have a pass.
- Bring all necessary materials.
- Work that is sloppy, does not have a name, or plagiarized will not be accepted.
- Be respectful of others and mind your manners.
- Clean up after yourself and push in your chair when work is done.

Assessments

Tests will be announced. Quizzes may be announced or unannounced. Projects may be individual or group. Journals will be graded weekly or biweekly and must be kept organized.

Daily Assignments will consist of taking notes, completing handouts, discussions, group work, reading out loud. Participation in class discussion and conversation is required.

Homework may be required if you do not work efficiently in class. Your journal or worksheet must be accounted for the next day. This will be case by case and documented. In class work that goes beyond a single day will not be accepted. Manage your time well.

Political Science 1
2026-2027

Student Name: _____

Period: _____

We have read and do acknowledge Mr. Trevino's Syllabus for the 26-27 school year. I agree to abide by the Classroom Expectations as well as all school and class rules.

Student Signature: _____

Date: _____

Parent/Guardian Signature: _____

Date: _____

Parent/Guardian Contact Information:

Phone: _____

E-mail: _____

Comments:
