

Political Science 2
2026-2027

Mr. Jose H. Trevino

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Room 512

Course Description

Political Science II is an advanced course designed to apply the concepts, theories, and analytical skills developed in Political Science I to contemporary political systems, institutions, policies, and international issues. Students investigate how political theories operate in real-world situations and examine the relationships among governments, citizens, political organizations, economies, and international institutions. A major emphasis is placed on application of knowledge through simulations, case studies, research projects, debates, data analysis, and problem-solving activities. Students evaluate primary and secondary sources, analyze political data and polling, formulate research questions and hypotheses, and develop evidence-based arguments. Students will also investigate contemporary public-policy issues and evaluate how governments respond to challenges at the local, state, national, and international levels. Activities will include Model United Nations, campaign and election simulations, legislative simulations, policy debates, comparative country studies, and political research projects. The course culminates in a substantial political science research or policy project in which students apply political science concepts and evidence to analyze a real-world political problem and propose or evaluate potential solutions.

<u>Unit</u>	<u>Major Topics / Applications</u>	<u>Related TEKS</u>
Unit 1: Applying Political Science	Review of political theory; political systems; political analysis; case studies; political science as a social science	§127.641(1A–F), (2A–E), (12A–B)
Unit 2: Comparative Political Systems	Democracy; authoritarianism; hybrid regimes; parliamentary vs. presidential systems; federal vs. unitary systems; political institutions	§127.641(2A–E), (3A–E), (5A–B)
Unit 3: Political Culture & Political Behavior	Political socialization; civic culture; political participation; voting behavior; political identity; political efficacy	§127.641(5A–B), (7A–D), (11A–D)
Unit 4: Elections & Political Campaigns	Electoral systems; voting behavior; campaign strategy; political communication; media; polling; Electoral College; proportional representation	§127.641(7A–D), (9A–E), (10A–B), (11A–D)
Unit 5: Political Parties & Interest Groups	Party systems; third parties; lobbying; PACs; advocacy; collective action; political influence; campaign finance	§127.641(8), (9A–E), (11A–D)
Unit 6: Public Policy & Government Decision-Making	Policy formation; agenda setting; policy actors; implementation; evaluation; cost-benefit analysis; competing interests	§127.641(6A–E), (8), (11A–D), (12A–B)
Unit 7: Government & the Economy	Capitalism; socialism; mixed economies; taxation; fiscal policy; monetary policy; regulation; trade; inequality	§127.641(6A–E), (12A–B)
Unit 8: International Relations	Realism; liberalism; constructivism; national interest; power; sovereignty; diplomacy; alliances; conflict and cooperation	§127.641(2A–E), (3A–E), (4A–C), (5A–B)
Unit 9: International Organizations & Global Governance	United Nations; international organizations; NGOs; international law; treaties; collective security; global governance	§127.641(2E), (3A–E), (5A–B), (12A–B)

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<u>Unit</u>	<u>Major Topics / Applications</u>	<u>Related TEKS</u>
Unit 10: Conflict, War & Peace	Causes of war; security dilemmas; terrorism; civil conflict; peacekeeping; diplomacy; deterrence; conflict resolution	§127.641(2A-E), (3A-E), (4A-C), (12A-B)
Unit 11: Human Rights & International Law	Universal human rights; sovereignty; humanitarian intervention; war crimes; genocide; refugees; international courts	§127.641(2E), (3A-E), (4A-C), (12A-B)
Unit 12: Globalization & International Political Economy	Global trade; comparative advantage; multinational corporations; development; globalization; economic interdependence	§127.641(6A-E), (12A-B)
Unit 13: Regional & Global Case Studies	European Union; China; Russia; Middle East; Africa; Latin America; South Asia; comparative political development	§127.641(2C-E), (3A-E), (5A-B), (6A-E)
Unit 14: Political Research Methods	Research questions; hypotheses; variables; sampling; surveys; polling; statistics; correlation vs. causation; source evaluation	§127.641(12A-B), (1A-F)
Unit 15: Data & Political Analysis	Election data; polling data; demographic data; graphs; charts; voting patterns; interpreting statistical evidence	§127.641(7A-D), (9A-E), (12A-B)
Unit 16: Model United Nations / Global Simulation	Country research; diplomacy; negotiation; international organizations; resolutions; coalition building; public speaking	§127.641(1A-F), (2E), (3A-E), (5A-B), (12A-B)
Unit 17: Public Policy Simulation	Policy problem; stakeholders; legislation; interest groups; public opinion; negotiation; policy implementation	§127.641(6A-E), (8), (11A-D), (12A-B)
Unit 18: Contemporary Political Issues	Global challenges; migration; climate policy; terrorism; economic inequality; technology; political polarization; emerging issues	§127.641(2E), (4A-C), (5A-B), (6A-E), (7A-D), (12A-B)
Unit 19: Political Science Research Project	Independent research; political problem; data collection; source evaluation; analysis; policy recommendations; presentation	§127.641(1A-F), (5B), (6A-E), (12A-B)
Unit 20: Synthesis & Final Presentations	Research presentations; comparative analysis; political theory application; reflection; final examination	All major §127.641 standards

Required Projects

Comparative Country Study	Government, political culture, institutions
Election Campaign Simulation	Parties, polling, media, strategy
Public Policy Debate	Policy analysis, evidence, argumentation
Model United Nations	Research, diplomacy, international law
Public Policy Simulation	Legislation, interest groups, compromise
Political Data Project	Polling, statistics, data interpretation
Final Research Project	Independent research, analysis, presentation

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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.

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:

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