Lone Star College-Montgomery

Government 2306

G. Brown

Paper (in lieu of Test Four)

**Select one of the two questions** that follow in essay fashion, but not both. I want a one-inch margin, double-space, and 12 font print. Use a cover sheet that has your name and class day/time, for example:

Gladys C. Hughes

Tuesday 8:30 am

The two Monday sections will turn in the paper at their class time on Monday, April 19th. The three Tuesday sections will turn in the paper at their class time on Tuesday, April 20th.

The absolute drop-dead deadline is Wednesday, April 21 at 10 am. I’ll be in the classroom from 8 am to 10 am on that day. After that, you will lose 50 pts off the grade.

**Use the first person (I, me, my). This is all your work and opinion, but my BS detection meter as well as my plagiarism decoder ring will be operating at full capacity.**

1. For part one, I am Gary Brown, a visitor to Texas from another country. You and I are meeting for lunch (I’m sticking with you with the tab). As though we were sitting down to have a conversation about politics, I want you to explain to me the process by which the United States elects its president. Use Texas as your focal point (this is a Texas government course, after all). In other words, tell me step by step how the electoral college works, and, if it doesn’t work, what is the backup mechanism in place to choose a president and vice-president?

For part two, tell me in your opinion if you think the electoral college should remain intact, or should the United States like other world democracies go to the direct popular vote in electing its president? Either way, give me your reasons. Or, as the saying goes, do you have another plan to build a better mousetrap? What is it?

1. **Blue versus Red**—that is the question! Refer to Table 3.2 on page 72 and Table 5.3 on page 150 in the Jillson textbook. I want you to put on your swami cap and get out your crystal ball. Fast forward to the upcoming 2024 presidential election.

Looking at the different variables, that is, party affiliation, gender, race/ethnicity, age, income (p. 72), and residence (urban-city, suburban, rural on p. 150), will Texas remain as Red Republican, will it do a complete flipflop and turn Blue Democrat, or will it turn into a shade of Purple, which is Red Republican mixed in with a growing portion of Blue Democrat? How so? Add to your analysis the seven geographic regions identified by Jillson in Chapter One. I want your educated prediction written in the first person.

Keep in mind that Donald Trump carried Texas in 2020, Senator John Cornyn was reelected, the Republicans kept their 23 U.S. House seats, and in the Legislature one Republican Senate seat was lost but no Texas House seats were lost.