**HOUSTON COMMUNITY COLLEGE SYSTEM**

SYLLABUS: GOVT 2306 Texas and Local Government.

Tue&Thur 11:00-12:30 am. Spring 2017. CRN: 16074.

Westloop – Campus 5601West loop S, Houston, TX 77081.

TEL: (713) 718-7930

Office hours: Thur: 12:30-1:30

Instructor: Dr. Amir Ilkhan. JD.

 e-mail:amir.ilkhan@hccs.edu,

Total course is 96 hours. The course length is 16 weeks.

Classes are in-person.

Students can contact me via e-mail 24/7 or call me from 12:00 am – 10:00 pm.

Students can find the Course Description at HCC Catalog at www.hcc.edu/district/above-us/catalog/course-description

**Course Prerequisite**: Students must have passed ENGL 1301 or co-enrolled in ENGL 1301 as a co-requisite.

Student may contact the Department Chair Evelyn Ballard for additional information or concerns.

**COURSE DESCRIPTION**: Government 2306 is a course designed to

introduce students to the politics of the State of Texas.

GOVT 2306 is fully transferable to other colleges and universities,

and meet the legislative requirement for government.

**COURSE LEARNING OUTCOMES**

Upon successful completion of this course, students will:

1. Explain the origin and development of the Texas constitution.

2. Describe state and local political systems and their relationship with the federal government.

3. Describe separation of powers and checks and balances in both theory and practice in Texas.

4. Demonstrate knowledge of the legislative, executive, and judicial branches of Texas government.

5. Evaluate the role of public opinion, interest groups, and political parties in Texas.

6. Analyze the state and local election process.

7. Identify the rights and responsibilities of citizens.

8. Analyze issues, policies and political culture of Texas.

**REQUIRED TEXTBOOK:**

Lyle C. Brown Joyce A. Langenegger, Practicing Texas Politics

 This book can be purchased from local college bookstores.

GRADING:

90 -100 = A

80 – 89 = B

70 - 79 = C

60 - 69 = D

0 0 - 68 = F

4 Tests (20% each) = 80%

Total other Assignments and Quizzes = 10 %

Class attendance = 5%

Class participation = 5%

Total Score = 100%

There will be four tests each covering both the reading material and material discussed:

In-class. Each will include multiple choice, short answer, and/or essay questions. If you miss a test, contact me immediately to arrange for a make-up test. There will be other assignments throughout the session to help improve your grade, including periodic quizzes to cover the previous lectures and/or discussions. The chosen method of instruction will vary throughout the semester to include mostly lecturing and classroom discussions. Lecturing will be used to emphasize or reiterate

important points covered during class. Classroom discussions will be used in such a way to promote class participation and to discuss thought-provoking topics related to the course. Special research assignments will be given to amplify many of the topics discussed in the textbook.

Students are expected to attend all class sessions. The instructor has the authority to drop

a student for excessive absences. A student may be dropped from a course for absenteeism after the student has accumulated absences in excess of 12.5 percent of the hours of instruction .For a three credit-hour lecture class meeting three hours per week

a student may be dropped after six hours of instruction.

It is important that all electronic devices (cell phones, pagers, etc.) be turned off, or put

in the „ silent „ or „vibrate‟ mode prior to entering class to avoid disrupting class dis-

cussions, etc. Electronic Devices: Disturbances and distractions caused by electronic

devices will result in a grade penalty. Three points will be deducted for each incident.

Make-ups: There will be no make-ups for missed assignments. There will be adequate

time given for students to complete each assignment.

All assignments should be typed or written legibly.

Late assignments: If late assignments are accepted, points will be deducted.

Scholastic Dishonesty: “This includes, but is not limited to cheating, plagiarism, and collusion. Possible punishment for academic dishonesty may include a grade of 0 or F

On the particular assignment, failure in the course, and/or recommendation for probation

or dismissal from the College System.” (For details, see your Student Handbook.)

ADA Statement: Any student with a documented disability (e.g. physical, psychiatric, vision, hearing, etc, who needs to arrange reasonable accommodations must contact the

Appropriate Disability Support Counselor (DSSC) at the beginning of the semester. The

Faculty is advised to provide only the accommodation requested by the DSSC. Kim Ingram is the Northeast College’s DSS Counselor. Her telephone number is

713.718.8420.

**Changes:** The instructor reserves the right to change the syllabus as needed as needed during the term. Students will be notified in writing of such changes in advance.

Withdrawals: If a student wants to withdraw from any class, he or she must do so by

………………….The instructor can withdraw a student for non-performance or excessive absences (or any other reason)by the same date…………...

Research Paper: The paper should be 4-5 pages in length, typed and double-spaced.

You may choose your topic from the list provided to you. There should be a minimum

Of three sources and the reference should be listed on a citation page, Make sure to

Include parenthetical references in the text of the paper and follow MLA format in composing this assignment. Government 2306 Reading Assignments

Reading assignments are to be completed before class and lecture.

**Introductory Lecture**

Chapter 2- Federalism and TX Constitution

Chapter 3- Local Government

Chapter 4- Political Parties

Chapter 5- Campaigns and Elections

Chapter 6- The Politics of Interest groups

Chapter 7- The Legislatures

Chapter 8- The Executive

Chapter 9- Public Policy and Administration

Chapter 10- Laws, Courts, and Justice

Chapter 11 Finance and Fiscal Policy

Assignments for Government 2306

1) Know Your Elected Officials.

2) Identify the leadership of the Texas Senate and House of Representatives.((handout)

3) Identify the Governor’s Cabinet.

4) Identify & describe 5 Governmental Agencies.