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**Classroom Course Syllabus – CRN 13728**

**Govt 2306 - Texas Government: Texas Constitution and Topics**

**Spring 2017, Regular Term**

**Monday, Wednesday 8:00 - 9:30 a.m.**

**Spring Branch Campus, Room 606**

3 Semester Credit Hours

48 Contact Hours

*14 Weeks*

*Classroom*

**Instructor Name**

Instructor: Andrew Teas

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**Government Department Chair**

Evelyn Ballard

[evelyn.ballard@hccs.edu](mailto:Evelyn.ballard@hccs.edu)

713-718-2490

Note: if you have a problem with your Government course, please contact your instructor before contacting Professor Ballard.

**Office Hours**

**Official Office Hours: *Monday - Thursday 7 - 8 a.m., Friday 12 - 1 p.m.***

Office: My office is at the Spring Branch Campus, Room 900B - over by Murphy's Deli. If you would like to meet, we can meet at your convenience. Just email me or give me a call. We'll arrange a time that's convenient for you.

**Course Description**

Origin and development of the Texas constitution, structure and powers of state and local government, federalism and inter-governmental relations, political participation, the election process, public policy, and the political culture of Texas.

**Prerequisite, Co-requisite**

Must have passed or co-enrolled in English 1301 (Composition I) as a co-requisite.

**Academic Program Learning Outcomes:**

2017-2020 HCC Government Program Student Learning Outcomes

\* Identify the structure, functions and nature of the institutions of government in Texas.

\* Understand and describe the development, purpose and attributes of the Texas Constitution

\* Identify the policy making process and comprehend the outcomes of state and local policy in Texas.

\* Understand how political values and ideas are developed and expressed and the means through which one may engage in the political system.

\* Comprehend how interest groups, parties and the structure of the political system influence political participation.

**Course Student Learning Outcomes (SLO)**

1. Identify and describe the institutions of the State of Texas government. GOVT 2306

2. Identify and evaluate information sources for political news, data, and opinion. GOVT 2306

3. Analyze the effects of the historical, social, political, economic, and cultural forces on politics and government. GOVT 2306

**Core Objectives**

The Higher Education Coordinating Board (THECB) mandates that the core curriculum must ensure that students will develop the essential knowledge and skills they need to be successful in college, in a career, in their communities, and in life. Through the Texas Core Curriculum, students will gain a foundation of knowledge of human cultures and the physical and natural world, develop principles of personal and social responsibility for living in a diverse world, and advance intellectual and practical skills that are essential for all learning. Students enrolled in GOVT 2305/2306 core curriculum courses will complete assessments designed to measure the following core objectives:

Critical Thinking Skills—to include creative thinking, innovation, inquiry, and analysis, evaluation and synthesis of information

Communication Skills—to include effective development, interpretation and expression of ideas through written, oral and visual communication

Personal Responsibility—to include the ability to connect choices, actions and consequences to ethical decision-making

Social Responsibility—to include the ability to connect choices, actions, and consequences to ethical decision-making

Student assessment of proficiencies mandated by THECB may include testing, projects, or assignments.

**Course Calendar**

A detailed calendar for this course is available in Canvas. The easiest way is to click on "Modules" on the left side of this page to see everything we'll do in chronological order. You can also click "Calendar" to see everything in Calendar form. This is a deadline-driven course. I highly recommend taking the time to put all the due dates into whatever system you use to organize your life (I keep everything in my phone, which lets me program reminder messages).

**Active Participation**

The official day of record for this course is February 1, 2017. Students who have not submitted at least one quiz or assignment by that date will be dropped.

**Instructional Methods**

*This online class consists entirely of online quizzes and assignments - approximately one of each per week.*

**Student Assignments**

Each written assignment is explained in its file under "Modules." Unless the directions say otherwise, they are 2 - 5 page college-level essays, (double-spaced, normal font and margins), with sources cited. Submit in **Microsoft Word** before the deadline using the Eagle Online system.

**Make-up Policy**

The deadlines for most assignments and quizzes are Saturday nights at 11:30 p.m. I know it says "11:55 p.m.," but the Canvas clock always runs ahead of real time for some reason. My recommendation: Stay a day or two ahead of the deadlines in case something goes wrong. You can submit assignments up to one week after the deadline (only assignments, not quizzes) and receive a grade with 10 points per day or part-of-day late deducted. Quizzes must be submitted before the deadline to receive credit. (Hint: Do the quiz first if you're short on time).

**Grading Scale**

90-100%= A

80-89% = B

70-79% = C

60-69% = D

less than 60% = F

**Instructor Grading Criteria**

*Your semester grade is a simple average of all assignment and quiz grades.*

**Instructional Materials**

Texas Politics Today, 2015-2016 Edition, 17th Edition, by Maxwell, et. al., © 2016

**ISBN-10:** 128585313X  |  **ISBN-13:** 9781285853130

Find information about the book  [HERE](http://www.cengage.com/search/productOverview.do?N=16&Ntk=P_EPI&Ntt=1563607362144376124547851689865610757&Ntx=mode%2Bmatchallpartial).

Buy online access for the semester [HERE](http://www.cengagebrain.com/shop/en/US/storefront/US;CMGTJSESSIONID=djpLVG2h4D5J49Ft4ByQlJMypLMsD1TtyYNHpcqXwzWKhwdfKsg1%21-351536382?cmd=catProductDetail&entryPoint=storefront&cid=APL1&productID=1563607362144376124547851689865610757&messageType=catProductDe).

A printed copy of the book should be available for purchase at the HCC bookstores at the Spring Branch, Katy and Alief campuses. If you're short on cash and don't mind working in the library, I'll have a copy on hold at those campuses as well. Also, a lot of online sources for a printed version of this textbook are compiled here: <http://www.directtextbook.com/isbn/9781285861913>.

**HCC Policies**

**ADA Policy:** If you have any special needs which affect your ability to learn in this class, please inform me. Appropriate steps will be taken to assist you with your needs. Any student with a documental disability (physical, learning, psychiatric, vision, hearing, etc.) who needs to arrange reasonable accommodations must contact the ADA counselor at the beginning of each semester. There is a Disability Support Services Office at each campus. To find the name of the ADA counselor at your campus, visit [www.hccs.edu](http://www.hccs.edu), then click future students, scroll down the page and click on the words Disability Information. Faculty members are authorized to provide only the accommodations requested by the Disability Support Services Office.

Title IX of the Education Amendments of 1972 requires that institutions have policies that protect students’ rights with regard to sex/gender discrimination. Information regarding these rights are in the HCC website under Students-Anti-discrimination. Students who are pregnant and require accommodations should contact any of the ADA Counselors for assistance.

**Student Rights and Responsibilities:** It is important that every student understands and conforms to respectful behavior while at HCC. Sexual misconduct is not condoned and will be addressed promptly. Know your rights and how to avoid these difficult situations.

Log in to [www.edurisksolutions.org](http://www.edurisksolutions.org) Sign in using your HCC student e-mail account, then go to the button at the top right that says **Login** and enter your student number.

**Scholastic Dishonesty:**

HCCS students are responsible for conducting themselves with honor and integrity in fulfilling course requirements. Penalties and/or disciplinary proceedings may be initiated by HCC System officials against a student accused of scholastic dishonesty.

"Scholastic dishonesty" includes, but is not limited to, cheating on a test, plagiarism, and collusion. Cheating on a test includes but is not limited to: Copying from another student's test paper; using unauthorized materials during a test, unauthorized collaboration with another student during a test; knowingly using, buying, selling, stealing, transporting, or soliciting in whole or part the contents of a test; and bribing another person to obtain a copy of a test. Plagiarism includes the appropriation of another's work and the unacknowledged incorporation of that work in one's own written work. Collusion includes the unauthorized collaboration with another person in preparing written work.

Plagiarism, cheating, and other forms of academic dishonesty are prohibited. Plagiarism involves using the ideas or words of another person (either in whole or in part) without crediting the source (for example, pasting text directly out of one of the websites we use without showing it as a quote and citing the source!!). Cheating involves fraud and deception for the purpose of violating testing rules. Students who improperly assist other students are just as guilty as students who receive the assistance. If two or more students submit work that is identical or nearly identical, in whole or in part, they are equally guilty of violating the academic dishonesty policy. A student guilty of a first offense will receive a grade of **F** on the assignment involved. For a second offense, the student will receive a grade of **F** for the course.

**Withdrawals:**

Students who take a course for the third time or more must now pay significant tuition/fee increases at HCC and other Texas public colleges and universities. At HCC, it is an additional $50 per credit hour. If you are considering course withdrawal because you are not earning passing grades, confer with your instructor/ counselor as early as possible about your study habits, reading and writing homework, test-taking skills, attendance, course participation, and opportunities for tutoring or other assistance that might be available. Also, the state of Texas has passed a new law limiting new students (as of Fall 2007) to no more than six withdrawals throughout their academic career in obtaining a baccalaureate degree.

*The drop/withdrawal date this semester is April 3, 2017.*

**Repeating Courses:**

As a result of recent Texas legislative changes, please be advised that HCC is charging additional tuition for students who enroll in the same class three or more times at HCC. While it is the hope of HCC that students will be successful in their first attempt at classes, we realize that life demands, academic struggles, and other issues may

result in students needing to take the same class more than once. Speaking with an advisor will help you develop student success skills, improving your overall academic performance. If a student

repeats a course in which a grade (A-F) has been received, the highest grade received at HCC is the permanent grade for the course and will be used in computing the GPA. All grades earned in a given course will be reflected on the transcript. Other colleges may compute the GPA differently than HCC.

**HCC Student Handbook:**

Please note that it is each student’s responsibility to read and be familiar with the HCC Student Handbook. Please see:

<http://central.hccs.edu/students/student-handbook/>

**Distance Education**

The Distance Education Student Handbook contains policies and procedures unique to the DE student. Students should have reviewed the handbook as part of the mandatory orientation. It is the student's responsibility to be familiar with the handbook's contents. The handbook contains valuable information, answers, and resources, such as DE contacts, policies and procedures (how to drop, attendance requirements, etc.), student services (ADA, financial aid, degree planning, etc.), course information, testing procedures, technical support, and academic calendars. Refer to the DE Student Handbook by visiting this link:

<http://de.hccs.edu/media/houston-community-college/distance-education/student-services/pdf/2015-HCC-DE-Student-Handbook-%28Revised-5_28_15%29_will.pdf>

## Eagle Online Help Center

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| [HCC Online and Eagle Online FAQ's](http://ctle3.hccs.edu/defaq/index.php?-link=PublicFind) |  |  |
| Eagle Online | Technical Support | 713-718-5275, option 3 |
| [Student Help Form](http://de2.hccs.edu/eo2help/) | (Recommended) |  |
| IT (Password reset) | Customer Support | 713-718-8800, option 1 |