



**Division of Social and Behavioral Sciences
Government Department**

<https://www.hccs.edu/programs/areas-of-study/social--behavioral-sciences/government/>

GOVT 2306: Texas Government | Lecture | #12140

Fall 2020 | 16 Weeks (1.21.2020-5.17.2020)

Monday, Wednesday 8:00 – 9:20 a.m.; Rm 211; Spring Branch Campus
3 Credit Hours | 48 hours per semester

Instructor Contact Information

Instructor: Andrew Teas	Office Phone: 713-718-5528
Office: Room 900B, Spring Branch	Office Hours: M-F 7 – 8 a.m.
HCC Email: andrew.teas@hccs.edu	Office Location: Room 900B, Spring Branch

Please feel free to contact me concerning any problems that you are experiencing in this course. Your performance in my class is very important to me. I am available to hear the concerns and just to discuss course topics.

Instructor's Preferred Method of Contact

My office is at the Spring Branch Campus (corner of the Katy Freeway and Beltway 8), Room 900B, across the parking lot from the main campus building by Murphy's Deli. I have official "office hours," but we can arrange to meet at your convenience – just email or give me a call. We'll arrange a time that's convenient for you.

I will respond to emails within 24 hours Monday through Friday (usually much more quickly); expect a reply to emails sent over the weekend by Monday morning.

What's Exciting About This Course

Students who finish GOVT 2306 will have completed one of the most important classes taken during their college career. In these classes, it should be made clear that government and politics are in everything that we, as citizens do and interact with, particularly when it comes to ensuring our liberty and our security. These roles, while equally important, also are in conflict with each other. Laws that promote liberty may compromise security and vice versa. Which state and/or local institutions come up with these practices and enforce them? How do they come up with these practices? What role do we, as Texas residents, play in promoting (or even inhibiting) liberty and/or security and, more generally, influence the actions of state/local governments? This will be a large theme in my course.

My Personal Welcome

On behalf of the Government Department faculty, I welcome you to the study of Federal On behalf of the Government Department, I welcome you to the study of Federal Government at Houston Community College. While this is a traditional, face-to-face course, there will be a web-enhanced component. Students will need to be proficient with computers and other necessary electronic devices to access instructional material and course assignments.

Prerequisites and/or Co-Requisites

GOVT 2306 requires college-level reading and writing skills. The minimum requirement for enrollment in GOVT 2306 includes concurrent enrollment in or successful completion of ENGL 1301. If you have enrolled in this course having satisfied this prerequisite, you have a higher chance of success than students who have not done so. Please carefully read and consider the repeater policy in the [HCCS Student Handbook](#).

Canvas Learning Management System

This section of GOVT 2305 will use Eagle Online [Canvas](https://eagleonline.hccs.edu) (<https://eagleonline.hccs.edu>) for everything. Our required text is either included or linked in each chapter module. All quizzes and assignments will be completed through Eagle Online Canvas.

HCCS Open Lab locations may be used to access the Internet and Canvas. **USE [FIREFOX](#) OR [CHROME](#) AS THE INTERNET BROWSER.**

HCC Online Information and Policies

Here is the link to information about HCC Online classes, including the required Online Orientation for all fully online classes: <http://www.hccs.edu/online/>

Scoring Rubrics, Sample Assignments, etc.

Look in Canvas for the scoring rubrics for assignments, samples of class assignments, and other information to assist you in the course. <https://eagleonline.hccs.edu/login/ldap>

Instructional Materials

Textbook Information

All the information you need for this Z-Degree course is included in Eagle Online Canvas, one module at a time. There is no book to buy! All the information you need is either included or linked within each module.

Tutoring

HCC provides free, confidential, and convenient academic support, including writing critiques, to HCC students in an online environment and on campus. Tutoring is provided by HCC personnel in order to ensure that it is contextual and appropriate. Visit the [HCC Tutoring Services](#) website for services provided.

Libraries

The HCC Library System consists of 9 libraries and 6 Electronic Resource Centers (ERCs) that are inviting places to study and collaborate on projects. Librarians are available both at the libraries and online to show you how to locate and use the resources you need. The libraries maintain a large selection of electronic resources as well as collections of books, magazines, newspapers, and audiovisual materials. The portal to all library resources and services is the HCCS library web page at <http://library.hccs.edu>.

Supplementary Instruction

Supplemental Instruction is an academic enrichment and support program that uses peer-assisted study sessions to improve student retention and success in historically difficult courses. Peer Support is provided by students who have already succeeded in completion of the specified course, and who earned a grade of A or B. Find details at <http://www.hccs.edu/resources-for/current-students/supplemental-instruction/>.

Course Overview

Government 2306 is one of two courses designed to introduce students to the study of the 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. This particular survey of the Texas state system of government includes the fundamental principles of political science, the study of the Texas state constitution, the state legislative, executive and judicial branches, local governments, methods of participation, and analysis of contemporary policies. This course is fully transferable to all Texas State colleges and universities.

Core Curriculum Objectives (CCOs)

This course satisfies the Government/Political Science requirement in the HCCS core curriculum. The HCCS Government Discipline Committee has specified that the course address 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
- **Empirical/Quantitative Skills**—to include manipulation and analysis of numerical data or observable facts resulting in informed conclusions
- **Teamwork**—to include ability to consider different points of view and to work effectively with others to support a shared purpose or goal
- **Personal Responsibility**—to include the ability to connect choices, actions and consequences to ethical decision-making
- **Social Responsibility**—to include intercultural competence, knowledge of civic responsibility, and the ability to engage effectively in regional, national, and global communities

Program Student Learning Outcomes (PSLOs)

Can be found at:

<https://www.hccs.edu/programs/areas-of-study/social--behavioral-sciences/government/>

Course Student Learning Outcomes (CSLOs)

Upon completion of this course, the student will be able to:

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.

Learning Objectives

Learning Objectives for each CSLO can be found at GOVT 2306 can be found [here](#).

Student Success

Expect to spend at least twice as many hours per week outside of class as you do in class studying the course content. Additional time will be required for written assignments. The assignments provided will help you use your study hours wisely. Successful completion of this course requires a combination of the following:

- Reading the textbook
- Attending class in person and/or online
- Completing assignments
- Participating in class activities

There is no short cut for success in this course; it requires reading (and probably re-reading) and studying the material using the course objectives as a guide.

Instructor and Student Responsibilities

As your Instructor, it is my responsibility to:

- Provide the grading scale and detailed grading formula explaining how student grades are to be derived
- Facilitate an effective learning environment through learner-centered instructional techniques
- Provide a description of any special projects or assignments
- Inform students of policies such as attendance, withdrawal, tardiness, and making up assignments
- Provide the course outline and class calendar that will include a description of any special projects or assignments
- Arrange to meet with individual students before and after class as required

As a student, it is your responsibility to:

- Attend class in person and/or online

- Participate actively by reviewing course material, interacting with classmates, and responding promptly in your communication with me
- Read and comprehend the textbook
- Complete the required assignments and exams
- Ask for help when there is a question or problem
- Keep copies of all paperwork, including this syllabus, handouts, and all assignments
- Be aware of and comply with academic honesty policies in the [HCCS Student Handbook](#)

Assignments, Exams, and Activities

This class consists entirely of online quizzes and assignments – generally one of each per week. Assignments count 60% of your semester grade. Quizzes count 40%. 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, with a normal font no bigger than 12 and normal margins) with sources cited. Submit in Microsoft Word before the deadline using the Eagle Online Canvas system.

The deadlines for most assignments are quizzes are at 11:30 p.m. I know it may say “11:59” in the settings, but the Canvas clock may not match yours, so use 11:30 as your personal deadline, just to be safe.

Grading Formula

This class consists entirely of online quizzes and assignments – generally one of each per week. Assignments count 60% of your semester grade. Quizzes count 40%.

Incomplete Policy:

It is safe to assume that incomplete (“I”) grades will not be granted to students. Exceptions may be made on a case-by-case basis should the student provide a legitimate non-academic reason backed with appropriate documentation. Further, at least 85% of the required work in the course should have already been completed.

Students granted an “I” will have until the end of the next long semester to finish the course. All “I’s will convert to “F’s” unless the student successfully complete all remaining work as determined by the instructor.

HCC Grading Scale can be found on this site under Academic Information:
<http://www.hccs.edu/resources-for/current-students/student-handbook/>

Course Calendar

All Due Dates This Semester

Saturday, Jan. 25 – Syllabus Quiz
 Saturday, Feb. 1 – Chapter 1 assignments and quizzes (Intro to Tx History & Politics)
 Saturday, Feb. 8 – Chapter 2 assignments and quizzes (Tx Constitution)
 Saturday, Feb. 15 – Chapter 9 assignments and quizzes (Political Parties)
 Saturday, Feb. 22 – Chapter 8 assignments and quizzes (Elections)
 Saturday, Feb. 29 – Chapter 3 assignments and quizzes (Tx Legislature)
 Saturday, March 7 – Chapter 4 assignments and quizzes (Tx Executive and Governor)
 Saturday, March 14– Chapter 5 assignments and quizzes (Tx Court System)
 March 16-22 – Spring Break
 Saturday, March 28 – Chapter 6 assignments and quizzes (Local Government - Cities)
 Saturday, April 4 – Chapter 6 assignments and quizzes (Local Government - Counties)
 Saturday, April 11 – Chapter 10 assignments and quizzes (Interest Groups)
 Saturday, April 18 – Chapter 7 assignments and quizzes (Voting and Participation)
 Saturday, April 25 – Chapter 12 assignments and quizzes (Criminal Justice)
 Saturday, May 2 – Chapter 13 assignments and quizzes (Financing State Government)
 Saturday, May 9 – Chapter 11 assignments and quizzes (Public Policy)*

*Remember: The final assignment must be submitted on time for you to receive any credit.

Other important dates:

The official “date of record” is **February 3, 2020**. If you have not attended by that day, you will be dropped from the course.

The last day to withdraw from this regular-semester course is **April 6, 2020**.

Syllabus Modifications

The instructor reserves the right to modify the syllabus at any time during the semester and will promptly notify students in writing, typically by e-mail, of any such changes.

Instructor’s Practices and Procedures

Missed Assignments

Quizzes must be submitted by the deadline for you to receive any credit. Assignments can be submitted up to a week late, but you lose 10 points for each day or part-of-day late, so try to get assignments in on time as well. Hint: Do the quiz first if you’re short on time. Stay a day or two ahead of the deadlines in case something goes wrong – power outages, internet outages, last-minute concert tickets... Exception: Anything due the final week of the course must be submitted on time for you to receive any credit. If you suffer a medical emergency or some other life catastrophe that prevents you from participating in the course, please contact me as soon as you can.

Academic Integrity

Houston Community College is committed to a high standard of academic integrity in the academic community. In becoming part of the academic community, students are responsible for honesty and independent effort. Examples of these violations include, but are not limited to, the following: Plagiarizing written work or projects, cheating on exams or assignments, collusion on an exam or project, and misrepresentation of credentials or prerequisites when registering for a course.

Simply put, violations of academic integrity will NOT be tolerated. At a minimum, a grade of "0" will be recorded on the assignment or exam in question. Additional sanctions may include but are not necessarily limited to the following: Being assigned an "F" for the course, being withdrawn from the course, or being expelled from the College.

All faculty at HCC are required to document these violations in Maxient, a system used to report any student behavior that constitutes a violation of academic integrity, triggering involvement from other appropriate departments.

Here's the link to the HCC information about academic integrity (Scholastic Dishonesty and Violation of Academic Scholastic Dishonesty and Grievance):
<http://www.hccs.edu/about-hcc/procedures/student-rights-policies--procedures/student-procedures/>

Attendance Procedures

Students are expected to attend all class meetings, know the rules and expectations of the course, keep up with announcements, and meet assignment deadlines. Your course grade will reflect your level of participation in the course.

Student Conduct

Students will be required to participate in discussion activities and interact with fellow classmates in class and/or in an online setting. Any and all communication among class participants must be civil and respectful. HCC Government Department faculty are required to document any violations of student conduct by completing a Maxient report. An HCC counselor will contact the student named in the Maxient report to discuss and resolve the issue it identifies.

Instructor's Course-Specific Information

I will make an effort to ensure that all grades will be returned to students in a timely manner.

While I will be happy to discuss any questions and concerns with students especially on graded written work, please allow for AT LEAST a 24 hour "cooling" period after receiving your grade. Communication opportunities are often lost without such a period. Patience is virtue.

Electronic Devices

Stay off your phone in all your classroom classes – your instructors will appreciate it and I promise you'll learn more.

Students with disabilities who need to use a recording device as a reasonable accommodation should contact the Office for Students with Disabilities for information regarding reasonable accommodations.

Government Department Information

The Houston Community College Government department supports students in a number of different ways. These include:

- GOVT Majors – Students can earn an Associate of Arts Degree in Government, which will prepare them for majoring in Political Science or Government when they transfer to a university. Majors and Minors—those students who are interested in Political Science or Government—are supported by a faculty committee who will connect them to events, news, and opportunities.
- Careers in GOVT – The study of government or political science prepares students for work in the public and private sectors by emphasizing critical thinking, analytical, and communication skills.
- GOVT Student Organizations – The HCC Political Science Club holds discussions and sponsors events to connect students to politics in the real world.
- GOVT Scholarships – The Government Department will work with students to locate scholarship support, when possible.

HCC Policies

Here's the link to the HCC Student Handbook <http://www.hccs.edu/resources-for/current-students/student-handbook/> In it you will find information about the following:

- Academic Information
- Academic Support
- Attendance, Repeating Courses, and Withdrawal
- Career Planning and Job Search
- Childcare
- disAbility Support Services
- Electronic Devices
- Equal Educational Opportunity
- Financial Aid TV (FATV)
- General Student Complaints
- Grade of FX
- Incomplete Grades
- International Student Services
- Health Awareness
- Libraries/Bookstore
- Police Services & Campus Safety
- Student Life at HCC
- Student Rights and Responsibilities
- Student Services
- Testing
- Transfer Planning
- Veteran Services

EGLS³

The EGLS³ ([Evaluation for Greater Learning Student Survey System](#)) will be available for most courses near the end of the term. This brief survey will give valuable information to your faculty about their teaching. Results are anonymous and will be available to faculty and division chairs after the end of the term.

<http://www.hccs.edu/resources-for/current-students/egls3-evaluate-your-professors/>

Campus Carry Link

Here's the link to the HCC information about Campus Carry:

<http://www.hccs.edu/departments/police/campus-carry/>

HCC Email Policy

When communicating via email, HCC requires students to communicate only through the HCC email system to protect your privacy. If you have not activated your HCC student email account, you can go [to HCC Eagle ID](#) and activate it now. You may also use Canvas Inbox to communicate.

Housing and Food Assistance for Students

Any student who faces challenges securing their food or housing and believes this may affect their performance in the course is urged to contact the Dean of Students at their college for support. Furthermore, please notify your professor if you are comfortable doing so.

This will enable HCC to provide resources that HCC may possess.

Office of Institutional Equity

Use the link below to access the HCC Office of Institutional Equity, Inclusion, and Engagement (<http://www.hccs.edu/departments/institutional-equity/>)

disAbility Services

HCC strives to make all learning experiences as accessible as possible. If you anticipate or experience academic barriers based on your disability (including long and short term conditions, mental health, chronic or temporary medical conditions), please meet with a campus Abilities Counselor as soon as possible in order to establish reasonable accommodations. Reasonable accommodations are established through an interactive process between you, your instructor(s) and Ability Services. It is the policy and practice of HCC to create inclusive and accessible learning environments consistent with federal and state law. For more information, please go to <http://www.hccs.edu/support-services/disability-services/>

Title IX

Houston Community College is committed to cultivating an environment free from inappropriate conduct of a sexual or gender-based nature including sex discrimination, sexual assault, sexual harassment, and sexual violence. Sex discrimination includes all forms of sexual and gender-based misconduct and violates an individual's fundamental rights and personal dignity. Title IX prohibits discrimination on the basis of sex-including pregnancy and parental status in educational programs and activities. If you require an accommodation due to pregnancy please contact an Abilities Services Counselor. The Director of EEO/Compliance is designated as the Title IX Coordinator and Section 504 Coordinator. All inquiries

concerning HCC policies, compliance with applicable laws, statutes, and regulations (such as Title VI, Title IX, and Section 504), and complaints may be directed to:

David Cross
Director EEO/Compliance
Office of Institutional Equity & Diversity
3100 Main
(713) 718-8271
Houston, TX 77266-7517 or Institutional.Equity@hccs.edu
<http://www.hccs.edu/departments/institutional-equity/title-ix-know-your-rights/>

Office of the Dean of Students

Contact the office of the Dean of Students to seek assistance in determining the correct complaint procedure to follow or to identify the appropriate academic dean or supervisor for informal resolution of complaints.

<https://www.hccs.edu/about-hcc/procedures/student-rights-policies--procedures/student-complaints/speak-with-the-dean-of-students/>

Department Chair Contact Information

Department Chair: Dr. Cammy Shay
Email Address: cammy.shay@hccs.edu
Office Number: 713-718-7141

Per the HCC Student Handbook, if you have a problem with your Government course, please contact your instructor before contacting the department chair.