Instructor’s Contact Information:
Professor: Cooper
Campus: Codwell
Room: 214
Phone: 713-598-7396
Email: donnell.cooper@hccs.edu
Office Hours: Available

Purpose of the Course:
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.

Required Texts:

Recommended:
Study Guides are available on-line to accompany the required texts. Students are also encouraged to follow current political events by reading newspapers and following media news reports.

Course Student 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.

ADA Statement: Any student with a documented disability (e.g. physical, learning, psychiatric, vision, hearing, etc.) who needs to arrange reasonable accommodations must contact the Ability Services Office at the respective college at the beginning of each semester. Faculty is authorized to provide only the accommodations requested by the Ability Services Office. At Southwest College, students should contact Dr. Becky Hauri at 713-718-7909. Students who are requesting special testing accommodations must first contact the appropriate (most convenient) DSS office.
Disability Support Services Offices:
System: 713.718.5165
Central: 713.718.6164 – also for Deaf and Hard of Hearing Services and Students Outside of the HCC District service areas.
Northwest: 713.718.5422
Northeast: 713.718.8420
Southeast: 713.718.7218
Southwest: 713.718.7909

EGLS3: At Houston Community College, professors believe that thoughtful student feedback is necessary to improve teaching and learning. During a designated time near the end of the term, you will be asked to answer a short online survey of research-based questions related to instruction. The anonymous results of the survey will be made available to your professors and department chairs for continual improvement of instruction. Look for the survey as part of the Houston Community College Student System online near the end of the term.

HCC Course Withdrawal Policy: The State of Texas imposes penalties on students who drop courses excessively. Students are limited to no more than SIX total course withdrawals throughout their educational career at a Texas public college or university.

Student Services: DISTANCE EDUCATION ADVISING AND COUNSELING SERVICES:
Much DE student information can be found on the DE Student Services website: de.hccs.edu. Advising or counseling can be accomplished through our online request form AskDECounseling. Counselors and Student Services Associates (SSA) can assist students with admissions, registration, entrance testing requirements, degree planning, transfer issues, and career counseling. In-person, confidential sessions, can also be scheduled to provide brief counseling and community referrals to address personal concerns impacting academic success.

International Students: International Students are restricted to ONLY ONE online/distance education class per semester. Please contact the International Student Office at 713-718-8520 if you have additional questions about your visa status.

Core Objectives (Currently Under System Revision):
Students in a Core Curriculum course are assessed on their ability to demonstrate all or most of the following core objective proficiencies as mandated by the Higher Education Coordinating Board, which are as follows:

- Critical thinking skills – to include creative thinking, innovation, inquiry, and analysis, evaluation and synthesis of information
- Communication skills – to include effective written, oral, and visual communication
- Empirical and Quantitative skills – to include the manipulation and analysis of numerical data or observable facts resulting in informed conclusions
- Teamwork – to include the ability to consider different points of view and to work effectively with others to support a shared purpose or goal
Social Responsibility – to include intercultural competency, knowledge of civic responsibility, and the ability to engage effectively in regional, national, and global communities

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

**BONUS CREDITS:** The Instructor is authorized to offer bonus points, up to twelve (12), to add to each major examination. Students are encouraged to take advantage of these opportunities since no other extra credit work will be offered. Bonus credits may be earned by performing community service during the course of the current semester. In addition to the active learning experience, students earn extra-credit points towards their exam grade point average (GPA). There are many government-related activities to choose from. They include, but are not limited to:

**POLITICAL PARTICIPATION AND LEADERSHIP**
- Voting (with approved form) = 6 points
- Attending Political Party Conventions = 6 points
- Volunteering With A Campaign = 6 points
- Writing to an Elected or Appointed Official And Receiving a Response (no E-mail) = 6 points

**TRADITIONAL COMMUNITY SERVICE**
May be either Career- or Community-Based. For each hour of volunteer service at any of the sites listed on the Approved List students will receive 1½ Bonus Points towards their Exam Average.

**ATTENDANCE POLICY:** To successfully complete the course requirements, students should expect to attend class regularly. Students are responsible for all materials covered during their absences, and it is the student’s responsibility to consult with the instructor for make-up assignments. Although it is the responsibility of the student to drop a course for any reason, the instructor has the full authority to drop a student for excessive absences.

**Class Schedule**

**MODULE ONE**
Introduction to Course, Requirements, Syllabus, etc.

**Context of Texas Civics**
Chapter 20 (pages 640-658)

**Context of Texas Civics (continued)**
Chapter 20 (pages 658-671)

**Constitutionalism in Texas**

**First Presentation: 1-29-14**
Chapter 21 (pages 672-685)

**Constitutionalism in Texas (continued)**
Chapter 21 (pages 686-699)
Local Governments-County
   Chapter 22 (pages 700-710)

Local Governments-Municipal
   Chapter 22 (pages 710-727)

Second Presentation: 2-12-14

The Texas Legislature
   Chapter 23 (730-747)

Legislative Processes
   Chapter 23 (747-767)

Office of the Texas Governor
   Chapter 24 (768-788)

State Bureaucracy
   Chapter 24 (788-807)

The Texas Court System
   Chapter 25 (808-818)

Judicial Selection in Texas
   Chapter 25 (818-835)

Third Presentation: 2-26-14

Policy Analysis-State Revenues
   Chapter 27 (872-888)

Policy Analysis-State Expenditures
   Chapter 27 (888-905)

Fourth Presentation: 3-12-14

Political Socialization and Public Opinion
   Chapter 11 (pages 362-375)

Political Knowledge
   Chapter 11 (pages 375-385)

Political Parties in Texas
   Chapter 26 (pages 836-851)

Fifth Presentation: 3-26-14

Political Parties
   Chapter 12 (pages 400-417)
Interest Group Types
Chapter 16 (pages 508-520)

Interest Group Politics
Chapter 16 (pages 520-533)

Six Presentation: 4-9-14

Texas Interest Group Politics
Chapter 26 (pages 851-856)

Elections in America
Chapter 13 (pages 418-429)

Presidential Elections
Chapter 14 (pages 450-477)

Seventh Presentation: 4-23-14

Last Presentation: 5-7-14