



# Texas Government-14917

## GOVT-2306

SS 2021 Section 691 3 Credits 09/20/2021 to 12/12/2021 Modified 09/19/2021

### Course Meetings

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#### Course Modality

Online on a Schedule

#### Meeting Days

Monday and Wednesday

#### Meeting Times

6:00-7:50pm

#### Meeting Location

TEAMS

[https://teams.microsoft.com/l/meetup-join/19%3ameeting\\_YTgyZGI0OWUtMzhlni00NTQzLWJiNTQ0tNjEzNGRiNjMzZDlj%40thread.v2/0?context=%7b%22Tid%22%3a%22bedc536d-9380-4d10-9954-ddfc8f5b5bdd%22%2c%22Oid%22%3a%22b8e069f9-2773-44da-b062-7545b573d0f0%22%7d](https://teams.microsoft.com/l/meetup-join/19%3ameeting_YTgyZGI0OWUtMzhlni00NTQzLWJiNTQ0tNjEzNGRiNjMzZDlj%40thread.v2/0?context=%7b%22Tid%22%3a%22bedc536d-9380-4d10-9954-ddfc8f5b5bdd%22%2c%22Oid%22%3a%22b8e069f9-2773-44da-b062-7545b573d0f0%22%7d) ([https://teams.microsoft.com/l/meetup-join/19%3Ameeting\\_YTgyZGI0OWUtMzhlni00NTQzLWJiNTQ0tNjEzNGRiNjMzZDlj%40thread.v2/0?context=%7B%22Tid%22%3A%22bedc536d-9380-4d10-9954-ddfc8f5b5bdd%22%2C%22Oid%22%3A%22b8e069f9-2773-44da-b062-7545b573d0f0%22%7D](https://teams.microsoft.com/l/meetup-join/19%3Ameeting_YTgyZGI0OWUtMzhlni00NTQzLWJiNTQ0tNjEzNGRiNjMzZDlj%40thread.v2/0?context=%7B%22Tid%22%3A%22bedc536d-9380-4d10-9954-ddfc8f5b5bdd%22%2C%22Oid%22%3A%22b8e069f9-2773-44da-b062-7545b573d0f0%22%7D))

#### Lecture

Monday

Monday, 6:05 PM to 7:50 PM, TEAMS

#### Readings, Class Assignments

Wednesday

Wednesday, 6:00 PM to 7:50 PM, Canvas

### Welcome and Instructor Information

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#### Instructor: Erika O'Neal

Email: [erika.oneal@hccs.edu](mailto:erika.oneal@hccs.edu)

Website: <https://learning.hccs.edu/faculty/erika.oneal> (<https://learning.hccs.edu/faculty/erika.oneal>)

#### What's Exciting About This Course..

Most of the public policy that impacts our lives happen at the state and local level. This may surprise many considering most of

all the national media tends to focus on federal and not state government. But, many of the new policies regarding mask wearing, business regulations, restaurant capacity actually come from the state and local level and not the federal. In addition, we live in one of the more unique states in the union. In this class we will discuss what is unique about Texas and her government. What if I were to tell you Texas has one of the largest economies in the world, yet has some of the more limiting institutions in the United States. What if I also told you, despite all of Texas's resources, a sizeable portion of her citizenry live in the worst possible circumstances. How is this possible? In this class we will discuss topics such as these, and many others challenges Texans face in the 21<sup>st</sup> century.

## My Personal Welcome

I would like to personally welcome every student taking my class. No matter what your background in government may be, I try to challenge every student where they are in their education, and not where I think they should be. We all come from different backgrounds and have different experiences. I sincerely hope that all my students succeed. But, grades in my class are not given, they are earned. My pledge to you is that I will always bring my best to every lecture, tutoring session, or whatever I do, and I genuinely hope you make the same commitment in return.

## Preferred Method of Contact

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 your concerns and to discuss course topics. You can contact me through either Canvas or my HCC email. I will respond to emails within 24 hours, Monday through Friday.

\*\*\* Please not if you contact me during non-business hours (after 9am-5pm) I will respond the next day. In addition, if you contact me on the weekend, I may not respond until Monday.

If would like to schedule a meeting with me before or after class, feel welcome to email me your request.

## Office Hours

Hour before class

Monday, 5:00 PM to 6:00 PM, Cisco Web Ex

Meetings are by appointment only, requests can be made via email.

## Course Overview

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### Course Description

Origin and development of the Texas constitution, structure and powers of state and local government, federalism and intergovernmental relations, political participation, the election process, public policy, and the political culture of Texas. Core Curriculum Course.

### Requisites

Students must have passed ENGL 1301 (Composition I) or be co-enrolled in ENGL 1301 as a corequisite.

### Government Department Website

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

## Core Curriculum Objectives (CCOs)

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This course satisfies part of the Government/Political Science requirement in the HCCS core curriculum. The HCCS Government Discipline Committee has specified that the course addresses 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 the 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

## Student Learning Outcomes and Objectives

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### Program Student Learning Outcomes (PSLOs)

- Define and relate critical course concepts to contemporary issues in government and politics.
- Describe and assess the importance of civic engagement in the representative democratic structures of national, state, or local governments.
- Evaluate different kinds of data used in the study of government and politics.
- Articulate their own positions on contemporary issues in government and politics.

### Course Student Learning Outcomes (CSLOs)

Upon completion of GOVT 2306, students will be able to:

- Explain the origin and development of the Texas constitution.
- Describe state and local political systems and their relationship with the federal government.
- Describe separation of powers and checks and balances in both theory and practice in Texas.
- Demonstrate knowledge of the legislative, executive, and judicial branches of Texas government.
- Evaluate the role of public opinion, interest groups, and political parties in Texas.
- Analyze the state and local election process.
- Identify the rights and responsibilities of citizens.
- Analyze issues, policies, and political culture of Texas.

## Departmental Practices and Procedures

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The study of government and politics engages students with practices and issues that generate conflict. In light of the nature of the class you are enrolled in, it is important to understand that what you learn may challenge some of your beliefs. This kind of intellectual stretch is at the heart of higher education. Though some of your beliefs may be challenged, only you can decide to retain or change them. Consider the following quote from Rogers Smith, past president of the American Political Science Association :

*"[A]ny political science teaching worthy of the name must examine controversial political matters and must present unpopular views concerning those subjects. The more teaching about politics is done by teachers who feel themselves to be in highly vulnerable positions, wary of offending taxpayers, governmental officials, or corporate donors, the more likely it is that political science teaching will be done in ways that simply canvass conventional perspectives, rather than promoting wide-ranging critical reflection and deeper public understanding of important political concerns."*

Social Science Research Council, *Transformations of the Public Sphere*, 8.

## Instructional Materials and Resources

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### Instructional Materials

The [HCC Online Bookstore \(https://hccs.bnccollege.com/shop/hccs-central/page/find-textbooks\)](https://hccs.bnccollege.com/shop/hccs-central/page/find-textbooks) provides searchable information on textbooks for all courses. Check with your instructor before purchasing textbooks because the book might be included in your course fees.

Add Instructional Materials Here

## ✓ Course Requirements

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### Assignments, Exams, and Activities

Type	Weight	Topic	Notes
Written Assignments	20	Discussion Boards	Students will also have to engage in four different discussion board topics (five if you include the introductory discussion board, but that's meant to be fun and it is 20 points). Each discussion board will require you reading outside materials (which I have linked on the board) and writing a point of view response. You will also be required to respond to at least two classmate's post as well. PLEASE be respectful when responding! Each discussion board is worth 20 total points.
Exams	25	Exams	We will have four 50-point multiple-choice exams covering the assigned chapters of the textbook. Because all testing will be done online, you will not be required to come to campus. You may take each test once and I will not allow re-takes. Because the computer randomly selects questions from a large database, no two tests are identical. Students should prepare for exams before they take a test.
In-Class Activities	40	In Class Assignments	Class assignments will be given on Wednesdays and must be completed by the end of class. We will discuss the topic and assignments on the following Monday.
Research Paper	15	Criminal Justice Reform	This assignment is worth up to 100 points (25 points per section). The minimum word count is 550 (that's two pages, double-spaced, and 12-point font). Your response must be written in academic English. You will use your voice and write in your own words, but if you do quote or paraphrase from any of your sources, provide a citation.  More information can be found under the assignments tab.

### Grading Formula

#### Grading

The total number of points for the semester is 700. Your grade will be based on the standard grading scale as follows:

- 630-700 points = A
- 560-629 points = B
- 490-559 points = C
- 420-489 points = D
- Less than 419 points = F

## \* Instructor's Practices and Procedures

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### 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.

### Missed Assignments/Make-Up Policy

The make-up exam period is December 6-10, 2021. This is only for students who miss the exam and have a legitimate excuse and is not a "re-take". Students who miss an exam due to a legitimate excuse can take advantage of the make-up exam by submitting proper documentation by email 1-3 days after a missed exam. I will reopen each exam and allow students to take their exam makeup exam. Doing poorly on an exam is not sufficient reason to take a make-up. Only one make-up per student!

Make-Up assignments will be granted on a case by case basis, points will be deducted.

## Academic Integrity

Here's the link to the HCC information about academic integrity (Scholastic Dishonesty and Violation of Academic Scholastic Dishonesty and Grievance):

<https://www.hccs.edu/about-hcc/procedures/student-rights-policies--procedures/student-procedures/>  
(<https://www.hccs.edu/about-hcc/procedures/student-rights-policies--procedures/student-procedures/>)

## Attendance Procedures

Attendance will be completed on Monday's at 7:05 pm and Wednesdays by the use of your submitted in Class Assignment, due at the end of class at 7:50 pm.

## Student Conduct

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](#)
- Be considerate, courteous and respectful with your peers and me as your instructor.
- Foul language and/or disrespectful behavior will not be tolerated and you will be removed from the course. Please refer to the HCCS student handbook on student conduct and policies.

## Instructor's Course-Specific Information

We will be utilizing the Flipgrid Classroom this semester. The goal is to have you think deeper and be engaged with the course material and participate in class discussions.

Online classes are more convenient than traditional classes, but they are not less work. You should expect to spend more time on this class than you would spend on a comparable on-campus class. Students who have been successful in my online course tell me that they devote around 10 hours a week on the class. If you do not have sufficient time to spend on the course, you will not be successful.

You should plan to work regularly on the course. This is not a self-paced class. You cannot succeed in this class by working very hard for a few days and doing little or nothing for the rest of the term. The most successful students are those who sign into the website almost every day and complete their coursework on a regular basis. It is very important that you do not fall behind.

## Devices

You will need access to a computer and/or laptop to complete some written assignments. The use of a cell phone for participation in class lectures is acceptable but please keep in mind that a computer, laptop and/or iPad will be needed to complete class assignments, which make up a large percentage of your overall course grade.

## Faculty Statement about Student Success

Expect to spend at least twice as many hours per week on your own in addition to the time you would normally spend during instruction. 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 your guide.

## Faculty-Specific Information Regarding Canvas

This course section will use Canvas (<https://eagleonline.hccs.edu>) to supplement in-class assignments, exams, and activities.

HCCS Open Lab locations may be used to access the Internet and Canvas. For best performance, Canvas should be used on the current or first previous major release of Chrome, Firefox, Edge, or Safari. Because it's built using web standards, Canvas runs on Windows, Mac, Linux, iOS, Android, or any other device with a modern web browser.

Canvas only requires an operating system that can run the latest compatible web browsers. Your computer operating system should be kept up to date with the latest recommended security updates and upgrades.

## Social Justice Statement

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## HCC Policies and Information

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### HCC Grading System

HCC uses the following standard grading system:

Grade	Grade Interpretation	Grade Points
A	Excellent (90-100)	4
B	Good (80-89)	3
C	Fair (70-79)	2
D	Passing (60-69), except in developmental courses.	1
F	Failing (59 and below)	0
FX	Failing due to non-attendance	0
W	Withdrawn	0
I	Incomplete	0
AUD	Audit	0
IP	In Progress. Given only in certain developmental courses. A student must re-enroll to receive credit.	0

Grade	Grade Interpretation	Grade Points
COM	Completed. Given in non-credit and continuing education courses.	0

## Link to Policies in Student Handbook

Here's the link to the HCC Student Handbook <https://www.hccs.edu/resources-for/current-students/student-handbook/> (<https://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

## Link to HCC Academic Integrity Statement

<https://www.hccs.edu/resources-for/faculty/student-conduct-resources-for-faculty/> (<https://www.hccs.edu/resources-for/faculty/student-conduct-resources-for-faculty/>)

## Campus Carry Link

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

<https://www.hccs.edu/departments/police/campus-carry/> (<https://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 \(https://www.hccs.edu/resources-for/current-students/student-e-maileagle-id/\)](https://www.hccs.edu/resources-for/current-students/student-e-maileagle-id/) and activate it now. You may also use Canvas Inbox to communicate.

## Office of Institutional Equity

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

## Ability 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 <https://www.hccs.edu/support-services/ability-services/> (<https://www.hccs.edu/support-services/ability-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](mailto:Institutional.Equity@hccs.edu) (<mailto:Institutional.Equity@hccs.edu>)

<http://www.hccs.edu/departments/institutional-equity/title-ix-know-your-rights/> (<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/> (<https://www.hccs.edu/about-hcc/procedures/student-rights-policies--procedures/student-complaints/speak-with-the-dean-of-students/>)

## 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.

## Canvas Learning Management System

Canvas is HCC's Learning Management System (LMS), and can be accessed at the following URL:

<https://eagleonline.hccs.edu> (<https://eagleonline.hccs.edu>)

HCCS Open Lab locations may be used to access the Internet and Canvas. For best performance, Canvas should be used on the current or first previous major release of Chrome, Firefox, Edge, or Safari. Because it's built using web standards, Canvas runs on Windows, Mac, Linux, iOS, Android, or any other device with a modern web browser.



Canvas only requires an operating system that can run the latest compatible web browsers. Your computer operating system should be kept up to date with the latest recommended security updates and upgrades.

## HCC Online Information and Policies

Here is the link to information about HCC Online classes, which includes access to the required Online Information Class Preview for all fully online classes: <https://www.hccs.edu/online/> (<https://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> (<https://eagleonline.hccs.edu/login/ldap>)

## 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 during office hours, and 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](https://www.hccs.edu/resources-for/current-students/student-handbook/) (<https://www.hccs.edu/resources-for/current-students/student-handbook/>)

## EGLS3

The EGLS<sup>3</sup> ([Evaluation for Greater Learning Student Survey System](https://www.hccs.edu/resources-for/current-students/egls3-evaluate-your-professors/) (<https://www.hccs.edu/resources-for/current-students/egls3-evaluate-your-professors/>)) will be available for most courses near the end of the term until finals start. This brief survey will give invaluable 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. EGLS<sup>3</sup> surveys are only available for the Fall and Spring semesters. -EGLS3 surveys are not offered during the Summer semester due to logistical constraints.

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

## Housing and Food Assistance for Students

Any student who faces challenges securing their foods 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 the professor if you are comfortable in doing so.

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

## Student Resources

### 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 \(https://www.hccs.edu/resources-for/current-students/tutoring/\)](https://www.hccs.edu/resources-for/current-students/tutoring/) 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 libraries' resources and services is the HCCS library web page at <https://library.hccs.edu> (<https://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 <https://www.hccs.edu/resources-for/current-students/supplemental-instruction/> (<https://www.hccs.edu/resources-for/current-students/supplemental-instruction/>).

## Resources for Students:

<https://www.hccs.edu/resources-for/current-students/communicable-diseases/resources-for-students/>  
(<https://www.hccs.edu/resources-for/current-students/communicable-diseases/resources-for-students/>)

## Basic Needs Resources:

<https://www.hccs.edu/support-services/counseling/hcc-cares/basic-needs-resources/> (<https://www.hccs.edu/support-services/counseling/hcc-cares/basic-needs-resources/>)

## Student Basic Needs Application:

[https://hccs.co1.qualtrics.com/jfe/form/SV\\_25WyNx7NwMRz1FH](https://hccs.co1.qualtrics.com/jfe/form/SV_25WyNx7NwMRz1FH)  
([https://hccs.co1.qualtrics.com/jfe/form/SV\\_25WyNx7NwMRz1FH](https://hccs.co1.qualtrics.com/jfe/form/SV_25WyNx7NwMRz1FH))

## COVID-19

Here's the link to the HCC information about COVID-19:

<https://www.hccs.edu/resources-for/current-students/communicable-diseases/> (<https://www.hccs.edu/resources-for/current-students/communicable-diseases/>)

## Sensitive or Mature Course Content

In this college-level course, we may occasionally discuss sensitive or mature content. All members of the classroom environment, from your instructor to your fellow students, are expected to handle potentially controversial subjects with respect and consideration for one another's varied experiences and values.

## Instructional Modalities

### In-Person (P)

Safe, face-to-face course with scheduled dates and times

### Online on a Schedule (WS)

Fully online course with virtual meetings at scheduled dates and times

### Online Anytime (WW)

Traditional online course without scheduled meetings

### Hybrid (H)

Course that meets safely 50% face-to-face and 50% virtually

# Hybrid Lab (HL)

Lab class that meets safely 50% face-to-face and 50% virtually

## Course Calendar

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### 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.

The course is organized into 4 modules matching the 14 chapters of the textbook. The modules, assigned readings, and test coverage are as follows:

#### Module 1: September 20- October 8, 2021

- Chapter 1: Introduction to Texas History and Politics
- Chapter 2: The Texas State Constitution and the American Federal System
- Chapter 14: Public Opinion and the Media in Texas
- Test 1 Covers Module 1 Test October 8-10, 2021

#### Module 2: October 11- October 29, 2021

- Chapter 7: Voting and Political Participation in Texas
- Chapter 8: Campaign and Elections in Texas
- Chapter 9: Political Parties in Texas
- Chapter 10: Interest Groups and Lobbying in Texas
- Test 2 Covers Module 2 Test October 29-31, 2021

#### Module 3: November 1- November 19, 2021

- Chapter 3: The Texas Legislature
- Chapter 4: The Executive Department and the Office of the Governor
- Chapter 5: The Court System in Texas
- Chapter 12: The Criminal Justice System in Texas
- Test 3 covers Module 3 November 19-21, 2021

#### Module 4: November 29- December 10, 2021

- Chapter 6: Local Government in Texas
- Chapter 11: Public Policy in Texas
- Chapter 13: Financing State Government
- Test 4 covers Module 4 Final Exam

Final Exam will be taken Wednesday December 8, 2021 at 6:00 pm (No exceptions)

Student grades will be based on four tests, class discussions, class assignments and a term project, each of which will be worth 100 points as follows:

Student grades will be based on four tests, class discussions, class assignments and a term project, each of which will be worth 100 points as follows:

- Test 1            100 pts.
- Test 2            100 pts.
- Test 3            100 pts.

- Test 4 100 pts.
- Discussions 100 pts
- Class Assignments 100 pts
- Term paper 100 pts.
- Total 700 pts.

### Important Dates

- The course begins on **September 20, 2021**
- The official day of record is **September 29, 2021**
- The last day to withdraw is **November 8, 2021**
- **Thanksgiving Holiday November 25-28, 2021**
- Make-up exams are **December 6-10, 2021**
- The course ends on **December 12, 2021**

## Additional Information

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### Departmental/Program Information

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

- **Government Majors & Minors:** 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 that will connect them to events, news, and opportunities.
- **Careers in Government:** 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.
- **Government Student Organizations:** The Government Department supports the activities of the *Center for Civic Engagement* and the *HCC Political Science Club*, both of which hold discussions and sponsor events to connect students to politics in the real world.
- **GOVT Scholarship:** The Government Department will work with students to locate scholarship support, when possible.

### Process for Expressing Concerns about the Course

If you have concerns about any aspect of this course, please reach out to your instructor for assistance first. If your instructor is not able to assist you, then you may wish to contact the Department Chair.

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