



**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 | #13543

Spring 2020 | 16 Weeks (01/21/2020-05/17/2020)

SE Campus A Morales Rm. 306 | 7:00pm-8:20pm

3 Credit Hours | 48 hours per semester

Instructor Contact Information

Instructor: Jared Manuel

Office: Bellaire High School

HCC Email: jared.manuel@hccs.edu

Office Phone:

Office Hours:

Office Location:

Before class or by Appt

A. Morales, Rm 306

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

You can contact me through either my HCC email (preferred method of contact) or Canvas. Emails sent from non-HCC accounts (i.e. gmail, yahoo, etc) will not receive a response.

I will respond to emails within 24 hours Monday through Friday; 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 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, I welcome you to the study of Texas Government at Houston Community College. While this is a traditional, face-to-face course, there will be a web-enhanced component. As we will be using Canvas and a whole host of online technology, students will need to be proficient with computers and other necessary electronic devices to access instructional material and course assignments. More information to follow below.

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 2306 will use [Canvas \(https://eagleonline.hccs.edu\)](https://eagleonline.hccs.edu) extensively for making instructional material available and for communication with students. Files for our class including readings will be posted and graded using Canvas. You will be able to see up-to-date grades as well using the platform.

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

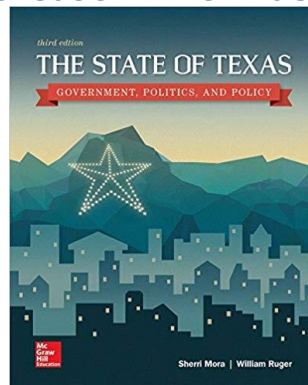
Here is the link to information about HCC Online classes, including the required Online Orientation for all fully online classes: <http://www.hccs.edu/online/>

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



The required textbook (e-textbook) is *State of Texas*, 3rd edition by Mora & Ruger. You may purchase a loose-leaf copy of the textbook from McGraw-Hill if you would like to have a physical copy of the text.

Sherri Mora & William Ruger, *The State of Texas*, 3rd Edition. (ISBN: 9781260664188.)

This ISBN is for a package that includes the loose-leaf version of the text with the Connect access card. The Connect access contains a SmartBook/eBook.

It is included in a package that contains the text as well as an access code and are found at the [HCC Bookstore](#). You may either use a hard copy of the book, or rent the e-book from McGraw-Hill. Order your book here: [HCC Bookstore](#)

Readings and information outside the textbook will be provided throughout the semester through the on-line portions of the course (Learning Web and Canvas).

Other Instructional 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](#) 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

Written Assignment

Paper Assignments: One written paper based on the concepts discussed from the course in conjunction with current events will be due. The topic and paper requirements will be posted on my learning web according to the dates listed under “calendar”, and the paper must be **submitted to turnitin.com** before or on the due date. Failure to turn in the paper on time (April 6) will result in 10 points off each day late and will NOT be accepted after April 13. The essay test question will be given with the case study on February 24 (if not before). The rubric for this paper is as follows:

Rubric:

_____ 20 pts. Answered the question fully and completely on the failures identified in the case (-1-5 for minor issues, -6-10 for missing major issue, -11-15 for missing several items, -16-20 for missing)

_____ 20 pts. Answered the question fully and completely on the remedies to the problems (-1-5 for minor issues, -6-10 for missing major issue, -11-15 for missing several items, -16-20 for missing)

_____ 20 pts. Answered the question fully and completely on the issues of due process, bureaucracy and/or public policy from the textbook; must clearly state these ideas from the course work using Ch. 13 (-1-5 for minor issues, -6-10 for missing major issue, -11-15 for missing several items, -16-20 for missing)

_____ 20 pts. Writing in a formal and college level essay (-1-5 for minor mistakes, -6-10 for missing major mistakes along with less than 1000 words but more than 2 pages, -11-15 for missing formal writing all together and less than 2 pages, -16-20 for missing formal writing and less than a page)

_____ 20 pts. Overall essay quality (-10 points for each day late; similarity report from Turnitin.com will be used and if shown to be above 25% will not be graded and will incur lost points)

_____ Total out of 100

Exams

Exam 1: Will cover Chapters 1,2,8,9 of the required text. This exam will be made up of 50 multiple choice questions.

Exam 2: Will cover Chapters 3,4,5,12 of the required text. This exam will be made up of 50 multiple choice questions.

Exam 3 (Final): Will cover Chapters 6,7,11,13,14. This exam will also be made up of 50 multiple choice questions and will not be comprehensive.

There will be THREE non-comprehensive exams scheduled this term. Each exam will comprise of 50 multiple choice questions (two points per question). Each exam will cover a combination of material from assigned chapter readings and lecture notes.

Additional guidelines pertaining to the exam are as follows:

- 1) Students are expected to arrive on time at the beginning of class on the day of the exam with their own no. 2 pencil and Scantron Form 882.*
- 2) Students will have the entire allotted time (1 hour, 20 minutes) to complete each exam. To take full advantage of the time allotted, be sure to arrive about 5 minutes*

Students should not expect to know their grade on any exam until sometime AFTER the exam period closes. No exam will EVER be available for public viewing to preserve the exam's integrity. Students who wish to review the exam questions may only do so through two ways:

- 1) By setting up an appointment to meet with me in person on-site at an HCC Campus during a mutually convenient time.
- 2) By setting up a phone appointment through the office number I have provided above (Leave a message).

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

Course Calendar

CLASS DATE	READING ASSIGNMENT	Reference Chapter
1/22	Syllabus and Course Expectations	
1/27-29	Ch. 1 Introduction to TX History and Politics	1
2/3-5	Ch. 2 TX State Constitution and the American Federal System	2
2/10-12	Ch. 8 Campaigns and Elections in TX; Ch. 9 Political Parties in TX	8;9
2/17-19	Test 1: Ch. 1,2,8,9 on Feb. 17: Multiple choice 50 questions; Ch. 3 TX Legislature	1,2,8,9; 3
2/26	NO CLASS Monday 2/24; Complete Ch. 3 TX Legislature	3
3/2-4	Ch. 4 Executive Department and Office of Governor of TX	4
3/9-11	Ch. 5 The Court System in TX	5
3/16-20	NO CLASS Spring Break	No class
3/23-25	Complete Ch.5 and Ch. 12 The Criminal Justice System in TX	5,12
4/1	Test 2: Ch. 3,4,5,12 April 1: Multiple choice 50 questions	3,4,5,12
4/6-8	Ch. 6 Local Government in TX; Ch. 7 Voting and Political Participation in TX	6,7
4/13-15	Ch. 6 Local Government in TX; Ch. 7 Voting and Political Participation in TX; Ch. 10 and 11 used for Essay; Essay Paper from Case Study Due April 15 (this is an on-line submission so not in class)	6,7,10,11
4/20-22	Ch. 11 Public Policy in TX	11

4/27-29	Ch. 13 Financing State Government	13
5/4-6	Ch. 14 Public Opinion and the Media in TX	14
MAY 11	Monday Final at 7:30 pm: Test 3: Multiple choice 50 questions Ch. 6,7,11,12,14	6,7,11,12,14

Other important dates:

Last day to withdraw with a "W" 4/6/2019

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**

Concerning tests, I STRONGLY recommend that you make yourself available for the exam date. Make-up exam permission is only given under certain conditions with noted documentation and email request (you need to contact me via email to create a paper trail and time stamp well before the exam). Legitimate excuses are only military orders, illness, and jury summons. If the student comes to me with ample notice before-hand, I may make accommodations if I deem the reason acceptable. If due to illness and found to be legitimate, then a make-up exam will be given upon a scheduled time to be determined by me. There are no re-takes for this course.

Exam 3 is also scheduled during the last week of this term and is the Final for this course. Students who miss the third exam will have VERY limited, if any opportunities to makeup Exam 3 given the test's proximity towards the end of the semester. Simply put, making up Exam 3 will be VERY inconveniencing administratively for the student.

There will be 10 full points taken off of the essay for each day the essay is late (after April 10) and WILL NOT BE ACCEPTED AFTER APRIL 15. NO EXCEPTIONS!!

Academic Integrity

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/>

Houston Community College is committed to a high standard of academic integrity in the academic community. In becoming a 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 a grade of "F" for the course, being withdrawn from the course, or being expelled from the College.

Attendance Procedures

I take attendance promptly at the beginning of every class. No portion of your grade will be based on attendance, but I expect students to come to class. It is important that you COME TO CLASS ON TIME. It is very distracting for students to wonder late into class. Please come to class on time. 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. Any and all communication among class participants must remain civil and respectful. Any instances of these disruptions may result in an administrative withdrawal without refund.

Instructor's Course-Specific Information (As Needed)

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 essay, 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.

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.