

SYLLABUS
GOVERNMENT 2306
Texas Government & Politics
CRN 76859 & 76860

FALL 2015
HCC Distance Education
via *EAGLE ONLINE 2.0*, INTERNET
Regular 16-Week Term
August 24, 2015 to December 13, 2015

Professor:

Jaye Ramsey Sutter, M.A., J.D.

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Jaye Ramsey Sutter, Government Professor
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Professor Sutter holds a Doctorate of Jurisprudence from South Texas College of Law and a Master's of Arts in Political Science from Baylor University. She has taught college political science classes for 23 years. She has worked in political campaigns, the Texas Attorney General's Office, the Texas Legislature, and the Texas Judicial System. She has taught at HCCS for 23 years and at the University of Houston for three years.

REQUIRED TEXTBOOK AND ANCILLARY TEXTBOOK WEBSITE ACCESS CODE:

Lyle C. Brown, Joyce A. Langenegger, Sonia R. Garcia, Ted A. Lewis, Robert E. Biles, Ryan Rynbrandt, Veronica Reyna, *Practicing Texas Politics, 16th Edition (2015-2016 Edition)*, Cengage Learning (publisher). Student is required to purchase package with textbook and computer access code to publisher's accompanying Web site for textbook ("MindTap"). Package (with special pricing) must be purchased from HCC Bookstore (online or on campus) or directly from publisher.

SEE ORIENTATION WELCOME STATEMENT FOR INFORMATION ON HOW TO ORDER TEXTBOOK.

Recommended Books:

*Adam Robinson, *What Smart Students Know: Maximum Grades, Optimum Learning, Minimum Time* (outstanding study tips; highly recommended for all students)

*Jeffrey Strausser, *Painless American Government* (excellent primer; highly recommended if you're new to American government and it is useful to know the basics of American government to understand Texas state government)

**American Heritage Collegiate Dictionary*, (you should *always* have a good dictionary at your side when reading; this is a good dictionary)

*You can order them at www.bn.com or www.amazon.com

GENERAL COURSE REQUIREMENTS:

Four (4) examinations and a writing assignment element resulting in five course grade. Professor drops the lowest of the five grades. The final course grade is the average of the four remaining grades. Students required to complete all exams and writing assignments within allotted time frames established.

READING AND TEST SCHEDULE:

Unit 1: Texas Politics, Federalism, Texas Constitutionalism, and Local Government

EXAM ONE, AVAILABLE DATES: September 21-25 (Monday-Friday)

Textbook Readings:

Chapter 1: The Environment of Texas Politics

Chapter 2: Federalism and the Texas Constitution

Chapter 3: Local Government

Unit 2: Political Parties, Campaigns, Elections, and Interest Groups

EXAM TWO, AVAILABLE DATES: October 19-23 (Monday-Friday)

Textbook Readings:

Chapter 4: Political Parties

Chapter 5: Campaigns and Elections

Chapter 6: The Media and Politics

Chapter 7: The Politics of Interest Groups

Unit 3: The Legislative and Executive Branches of Texas Government

EXAM THREE, AVAILABLE DATES: November 16-20 (Monday-Friday)

Textbook Readings:

Chapter 8: The Legislative Branch

Chapter 9: The Executive Branch

Chapter 10: Public Policy and Administration

Chapter 13: Finance and Fiscal Policy

Unit 4: The Texas Judicial System

EXAM FOUR, AVAILABLE DATES: December 7-11 (Monday-Friday)

Textbook Readings:

Chapter 11: The Judicial Branch

Chapter 12: The Criminal Justice System

Writing Assignment Component

Assignments to Be Announced During Course

OTHER IMPORTANT DATES:

August 24:	Classes Begin
September 7:	Labor Day Holiday (HCC closed)
September 9:	Official Day of Record (The college drops any student from the class for non-attendance who fails to log into this class-site on or before this date)
October 30:	Last Day for Student/Administrative Withdrawals
November 26-29	Thanksgiving Holiday
December 6:	Instruction Ends
December 13:	Sunday, Semester Ends (Student access to course site closed by Distance Education)

OFFICE HOURS:

I am available throughout the week for problems, questions, comments, and advice. You should email me from your HCC Student Mail account to my HCC Mail account I and I will attempt to answer your questions or concerns via email. If you wish to have a dialogue, we can meet in a chat room to discuss matters. If urgent I will arrange to meet with you at a mutually agreeable time on the Stafford campus before or after class. My HCCMail address at jaye.ramseysutter@hccs.edu and, in the subject line, write your course information (GOVT2306 and your CRN) and write "URGENT" if the concern needs immediate attention. I will respond ASAP.

COURSE DESCRIPTION:

PURPOSE OF THE COURSE:

Government 2306 is designed to introduce students to the study of the origin and development of the Texas constitution, the structure and powers of state and local government, federalism and inter-governmental relations, political participation, the election process, public policy, the Texas judicial system, 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.

COURSE POLICIES:

SYLLABUS:

It is your responsibility to (1) read the entire Syllabus (as well as the DE Handbook), (2) follow the instructions included in it, (3) meet all deadlines, and (4) ask your professor if you have questions—please ask *AFTER* you read the Syllabus and the DE Handbook. You are accountable for all the information in the Syllabus and DE Handbook.

GRADES:

Graded activities: Five grades: Four (4) unit examinations a writing component. I drop the lowest of the five grades. If you miss an exam, for example, the zero grade you receive would be the one I drop and the final grade would be the average of the four remaining test grades. You are REQUIRED to take the fifth and final exam.

Final Grade: Determined by an average of the remaining four of the five grades for the semester (with the lowest of the five grades dropped). The exams will be over the four study units noted in the schedule above. Writing assignments will be announced during the course. All exams will be given on-line and are timed with a strict time limit.

Your final grade is determined by average of four semester grades, each worth 25% of your final grade. You will have five grades at the end of the semester. I will drop the lowest of the five grades and average the remaining four grades. Your course grade is determined by averaging the four grades based on the following scale:

A=100-90 B=89-80 C=79-70 D=69-60 F=59 and below.

Rounding rules typically apply.

You will receive a grade of "FX" if you fail to attend class and take your exams. You will receive an "F" in this class if your final grade is less than 60. Receiving an "F" or "FX" (failure) may negatively impact your ability to receive financial aid. It is YOUR responsibility to submit college-level quality work in a timely fashion or to withdraw yourself from the course by the deadline if you cannot complete your work satisfactorily.

You will receive the grade you earn in this class. Please do not write or call me saying "I need [an A...a B...you to give me a better grade because I paid for this course...to pass] in order to [keep my scholarship...get into pharmacy school, nursing school, dental school, the University of Houston...to stay in this country...to keep my parents from disowning me] and I am [begging you...pleading with you...baking you a cake...following you...going to complain to your boss, the dean, the president, the police, the Supreme Court]. I don't "give" you a grade. You "earn" a grade, and then I record the grade you earn. I hope you get the grade you want in this class, but you will earn it. So, please don't plead or beg for a better grade...it demeans you and embarrasses me.

EXAMS:

You will take all exam online on your course site on Eagle Online. You will not take any exam on campus or a testing center. You never need to appear on campus for any assignment related to this course.

Examinations will be objective—multiple choice/true-false questions, usually 100 objective questions with a two-and-a-half hour (150 minute) time limit from start of exam (time limit *strictly enforced*). Content on the exam will come from your textbooks, my lecture notes that I post for you, additional reading assignments as required, material from MindTap, and from any postings which I make on Eagle Online as additional course content. You will have a five-day period of availability for each of the exams during which you may take the 150 minute exam.

Each of your exams will be available on-line for specific dates which are listed on your syllabus above. You must take each exam during the available time periods. The exams are 150 minute, strictly timed. If you run over the allotted time, Eagle Online will report your grade as a zero. Exams will be OPEN NOTES. You may use any handwritten or typed notes which you have prepared from the review materials I provide you. (See below.) Your notes, however, should be only a "safety net" in the sense that you will *not* have time during the exam to scour your notes for each and every question. You should study for the exam as you would a test where you have no open notes. You will have only time to refer to your notes when you are stumped or forget an occasional answer. For your own good you should NOT attempt

to use your textbook when taking the exam. During the 150 minute timed exam you do not have sufficient time to look up answers in the textbook. Using the textbook will delay you significantly and you might fail to complete all the questions, thus losing significant points on the examination.

The 150 minute time limit for each 100 question exam is strictly enforced.

PREPARE A REVIEW SHEET OF TERMS FOR EACH EXAM:

You can prepare your review for the exam using your textbook, MindTap material, and with materials I provide you on the course-site, providing definitions, explanations, analysis of and concepts from your readings and assignments. I will take your questions via email about the material up until the night before the exam period. Writing (typing) out the terms and studying your completed work sheet of terms is crucial to your success in the class. Read your assignments from the textbook carefully. Read and study any addition lecture notes or similar material that I post for you. You will be responsible for that posted material as well as the textbook material.

I recommend you preview the material (read through the material quickly, looking for headings and subheadings in the chapter, notes in the margins, etc.); then read the material again, slowly and closely, making notes, looking up material whenever needed (e.g., if do you know what a word means in a sentence, you MUST look it up in a dictionary or you may not understanding what your reading about in the entire paragraph), and filling out your work sheet of terms; then, finally, review the material in its entirety, reading through it quickly to see if you missed anything.

Carefully prepare a review document, study what is now your review sheet, and then use it sparingly when taking your test. Do all this and you'll do well in this class.

PARTICIPATION:

You should check your Eagle Online site at least every other day for postings and other new material.

You MAY be asked to participate in class discussions and dialogues in written form based on topics I assign related to the unit we are studying at the time, or related to a significant current event at the time. Participation in class discussion is an essential element of a college class. I will take note of any student's complete lack of involvement in class discussions throughout the semester. Consistent and obvious lack of preparation as evidenced by lack of or poor participation in class virtual discussion may lead to a penalty of up to 5 points on your final grade.

I will *not* penalize anyone for stating his or her opinions. If the professor states a political opinion in on-line discussion, it is only to spur discussion, not to proselytize or criticize. Your opinions are your own, are valuable and are not subject to grading by the professor. Your grasp and knowledge of the material presented, however, is graded (i.e., I don't care, particularly, what you think as long as you do think!). I do demand, however, proper decorum from my students. No "flaming," "name-calling" or other breaches of behavior. One can disagree, but do so agreeably. Respect one another and respect yourself by recognizing a need to behave in an adult, responsible fashion.

I will check email and general discussion postings daily and respond as soon as possible and not later than 48 hour. If I do not respond, either your email did not go through or I inadvertently deleted your email. Write me again. Feel free to ask questions about the material. I encourage you to post on the student discussion page topics and questions for fellow students and, if you wish, set up study chat rooms or meetings in person to review. You may write me (visible to all students) on the Advisory page at the top of your Eagle Online course site. It is your class and you may work together on your preparations. Study groups prove effective for many people. I leave it up to you to establish them if you wish.

PREPARATION:

This course is reading intensive and requires a great deal of self-discipline and pacing on the part of the student to succeed. I provide you with terms and review material to work with as you study and prepare for your examination. If you use that material and spend a significant amount of time with your textbooks in preparation, you should do well. *But it is up to you.*

This course is for college credit. It will be taught, tested and graded on a college level. A great deal of reading is required for this exam and self-discipline is a must. This web-based course will cover the same material as in the traditional on-site class. You will not be required to attend any onsite classes, exams, or lectures. Everything is on-line. You must be self-disciplined to take an Internet class since the external motivation and pacing that accompanies attending class in person regularly will not be available to you. It is incumbent upon you to wisely monitor your time and schedule.

Preparation is important. Read your assignments in a timely fashion. Follow the news each day. I recommend you check www.texastribune.com (The *Texas Tribune*) and www.chron.com (The *Houston Chronicle*) for issues of politics and government on a daily basis. We will on occasion examine current events in written discussions.

The grade you get is the grade you *earn* in this class. And I am more than willing to assist any student with his/her studies and preparations for class, exams and preparation so that he/she can earn the grade desired. But the essential burden rests with you.

EAGLE ONLINE INFORMATION AND TECHNICAL SUPPORT:

You will access your government course information and test using Eagle Online as the Internet program. You may access the course from your home computer, from HCCS Open Lab locations, or any reliable computer with a reliable Internet connection. To log on to Eagle Online 2.0, go to <https://eo2.hccs.edu/login/index.php>. Be sure to bookmark this URL on your browser for ease of access.

Help: If you need help learning how to use Eagle Online, Web based Eagle Online Help Desk site is available at <http://bbcrm.edusupportcenter.com/ics/support/default.asp?deptID=8513>. In the middle of the page you will find "Most Popular" topics with information on a number of issues of importance to you in using Eagle Online. If you are unfamiliar with Eagle Online you will definitely want to look at use site. If you have any technical difficulty, contact HCC technical support services. If you wish additional training on how to use Eagle Online 2.0 go to <http://de.hccs.edu/technical-support/> and click on "Eagle Online Student Help."

Report a Problem: If you need technical assistance on using Eagle Online or your computer in relation to this course, particularly if you have technical problems while taking an exam online, go to "Eagle Online Help Desk" at <http://bbcrm.edusupportcenter.com/ics/support/default.asp?deptID=8513>. You can phone for help, chat *live* with a tech person, or submit a help ticket under "Support Options" on the right hand side of the page.

Bookmark Direct Link to Get Help: The direct URL link to the EAGLE ONLINE HELP DESK is <http://bbcrm.edusupportcenter.com/ics/support/default.asp?deptID=8513>. Bookmark this URL on your browser as a "Favorite" for ease of access. If you have any technical difficulty, contact this site immediately. REMEMBER: I am your professor. I teach government. I am not a computer tech. If you're having a technical problem you need to contact HCC technical support, not me.

Be Sure You're Using a Reliable Computer and ISP: All exams are taken open note and wherever you have a solid Internet service provider connection. If you get "kicked off the Internet," I cannot and will not restart an exam for you due to test integrity and security. That will simply be the exam grade that will be dropped. If there is a problem with the HCCS system, we will discuss contingency plans but I get a notice from HCCS when they have an Internet outage and without that, I am not getting involved with a problem between you and your Internet Service Provider. I do not have the power to fight cable or ISPs.

Online Testing Problems: If you have any problems with getting on the Eagle Online to take an exam, you need to contact Distance Education tech support. 713-718-2000 (option 4, option 2, or option 3; student don't have to wait for the recorded message).

I am not technical support. If the software fails, your computer fails, your Internet Service provider fails, I am unable to help you.. I do not know why your computer will not allow you to take the exam because I have no vast reservoir of technical ability with regard to your computer or to Eagle Online. This is why you have access to tech people to help you, 24/7.

TECHNICAL COMPLIANCE:

Students are expected to maintain a state of technical compliance, including (but not limited to): up-to-date software as required by the instructor; a reliable computer (or access to one); a stable Internet connection; and use of the Firefox browser when using Eagle Online. The instructor is not required to give consideration for lost/missing/unacceptable work stemming from technical non-compliance and/or end-user technical issues. Failure to maintain Internet access shall not constitute a valid excuse for missed work. Any student who cannot keep up with the coursework owing to a lack of computer or Internet must drop the course. Any student found to have quit logging in and whom the Professor is unable to contact is subject to receiving an "FX" grade which is a flunking grade.

All student now MUST use HCC Student Mail for all class correspondence. HCC Student Mail takes the form of yourfirstname.yourlastname@student.hccs.edu (please click here, <http://webmail.hccs.edu>, to access the HCC Webmail system). The Professor is not responsible for communicating with students who fail to follow this instruction.

POLICIES AND STUDENT SERVICES:

The Distance Education Student Handbook (found in your DE Online Orientation and on the Distance Education pages on the HCC Website) contains policies and procedures which are the student's responsibility to be familiar with. The handbook contains valuable information, answers, and resources, such as 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

It is very important that you click on the Student Handbook link above and read the handbook completely and carefully. As an HCC student and a student in this class, you are held responsible to adhere to be aware of and adhere to all of the policies contain in the Student Handbook. Please be sure to go to this Web site and review these important policies. Pay close attention to registration issues, withdrawal, ADA issues, and other critical issues relating to your class.

Again, it is important that you are familiar with all the policies in the Student Handbook. As a distance education student you are held responsible for adhering to all these policies.

ATTENDANCE AND WITHDRAWAL POLICIES:

While I encourage you to log-on at least every other day for lecture, discussion, announcements, new assignments, and such, your online attendance is officially registered only for academically related activities which include testing; tutorials (which would include such things as email communication with me on Eagle Online and downloading material for exam review), academic conferences; computer-assisted instruction; completing an academic assignment; writing project; or participating in online discussions relative to academic matters relating in some way to the course). Given that you are the likely reason you would ever sign into the class would be related to your course work, your attendance is noted for virtually every instance you sign into the class online.

You will not be withdrawn ("dropped") by your professor for excessive absences. I do not automatically drop you from the course for attendance. (The college *will* drop you for non-attendance by the official date of record—see your academic calendar or "important dates" on this syllabus.) Hence, if you stop signing into the class and do not take your exams or other complete your other projects in the class, you will receive a failing grade in the course *unless* you have withdrawn from the class by the withdrawal deadline (which is posted under "Other Important Dates" toward the top of this syllabus and on the official academic calendar which you can find on the HCC main Web site [www.hccs.edu]).

If a student wishes to withdraw from a class, he or she is able to do so online without having to consult a faculty member. If you want to drop the class, you must withdraw yourself online by the withdrawal deadline. Faculty at HCC are no longer allowed to assist a student by withdrawing the student at the student's request for reasons other than excessive absences. It is my policy, however, not to drop a student from the class under any circumstance. It is solely the student's responsibility to drop the class if he or she wishes to withdraw from the class. When a student attempts an online withdrawal request, he/she is referred to information that informs him/her of possible consequences the student may encounter through his/her withdrawal request. If a student is unable to withdraw online (i.e. the online withdrawal transaction was not allowed), the reason may be due to the student exceeding the "6 Drop Rule," or some other reason.

In such a case, the student should contact a Distance Education counselor for advising. Read your Student Handbook for further information on how to withdraw from an online class.

Any student who has never attended by the "Official Date of Record" (again, see "Other Important Dates" on your syllabus or the HCC academic calendar on the HCCS Web site for the Official Day of Record for your class) will be reported in the attendance class attendance roll submitted to the college by the professor as showing all absences and will be dropped from the course by Registration staff. HCC is not allowed to disperse financial aid funding for students who have never attended class by the Official Date of Record.

MAKE-UP EXAMS:

- **No make-up exams** will be available for this course. You will have a three-day period during which to take your exam for each of the units. This provides you with sufficient time to attend to any personal emergencies or deal with any health problems during a testing period.
- There is only one attempt for each exam. You are NOT given the exam more than once.
- Once you open the exam you must finish it. If you open the exam and accidentally close the exam a few minutes later, that very low grade will be the grade for the test. The software does not allow me to reopen a test for you to finish. The only thing it allows me to do is to erase your attempt and let you start the test over again, and, as I have stated, there is only one attempt for each exam and you are NOT given the exam more than once.
- If you miss an exam *for whatever reason* you will receive a zero for that exam.
- I drop the lowest grade of the five course grades, so if you miss an exam that would be the grade I would drop. This policy will be strictly enforced.
- Any exception from this policy would require a written request submitted to me *and* explaining why you are requesting an exception to the policy. A make-up exam may be provided if failure to take an exam is due to a system failure of Eagle Online, but those are quite rare and proof must be provided. Other situations for make-up exams would only be due to the *most extreme* circumstance, such as death in the immediate family or illness...and WRITTEN verification MUST be provided by the student of such (a letter from the funeral home; a letter or memo from the hospital or doctor, etc.).
- My advice: *Don't miss an exam.*
- Write the dates for the exams in your personal calendar or planner when you get the reading and testing schedule so that you do not forget when your tests will be held.
- I do NOT give tests early. Tests are given on the scheduled dates. And rescheduled exam will apply to the entire class, not to one individual.
- If you don't have a planner or a calendar, you can buy one cheap at an office supply store or at the HCC College Bookstore. Or use Google Calendar or some other online calendar. Also, Eagle Online has a calendar which you can use online or print out to record your exam dates as well as exam and assignment dates from all your other classes!

EXTRA CREDIT:

There are **no** "extra credit" assignment or points in the course. Don't ask for any.

You get the grade you earn. I do not "give" grades. I record the grade you earn. Do not ask me to give you a couple of points to improve your grade. You didn't earn those points. You will not get them. Save your effort. Don't even ask me. (What you *may* ask me if for help with the material during the semester or to help you improve your study skills so you can *earn* a better grade. But it is too late to ask me that after the semester is complete.)

CHEATING:

Cheating on any examination not be tolerated. A failing grade will be entered for the exam and the incident will be reported to the Dean of Instruction for disciplinary action.

Exams:

- You must take your examinations alone. Do *not* take the test with anyone else.
- You must not share information you obtain from the exam with any other student.
- You may not copy or photograph any portion of the exam. Not only is this cheating, it is a violation of copyright law.
- You may not work with others during the taking of an exam.
- When you sign-on to take an exam you will have a time limit from sign-on to complete the exam. You are not allowed to go beyond the two-and-a-half hour time limit for the exam.
- Do *not* use other people's answers.
- If I suspect a student of cheating on the exam I will contact the student and ask for an explanation. I reserve the right to give a zero for the exam if I can substantiate cheating. If I suspect cheating I may require that the student take the test over on campus under proctored conditions. If cheating on a test can be proven you will receive a ZERO for the test and an F for the course!

Best policy—do not cheat. It is dishonest, it is wrong, it is unfair to your classmates who work hard and do not cheat and, most importantly, it is bad for you on so many levels.

PERSONAL PROBLEMS AND OTHER SUCH ISSUES:

I am concerned about you and about your success in this class, but your problems are *your* problems, not my problems. Please understand that your job, your family, your volunteer work, your other course reviews, your planned vacation with non-refundable airfare, your arrests, your court dates, your vacation planned in advance, etc., do not constitute valid excuses in a college class. Tests are given on the assigned dates. Not before. Not after. Do not ask me to find extra points for you. You get the grade you earned. I do not curve grades. I do not boost your grades to get you into the next college or university. There are no make-up exams in this class (except in the case of a medical or other emergency and then valid, verifiable documentation MUST be provided). Don't tell me you "need" a grade and expect me to control your destiny. Do not try to "negotiate" with me for a better grade. There's only one path to a better grade in my class—harder review and more study. You control your destiny. No one else. You want an "A" in this class? Then you are going to need to study, prepare, and earn it. You must take responsibility for yourself. You own your success, or your failure. You want to go to nursing (or pharmacy, or dental, or some other school or university) but you don't take yourself seriously enough to take an exam on time? Then, to paraphrase Cassius in Shakespeare's *Julius Caesar*, "The fault, dear student, is not in your stars, but in yourself." What if you can't give a patient medication on time? Professional, conscientious, responsible behavior begins here and now and I am not responsible for your dream of going to medical/law/nursing school. You are. I'm here to help you in this class and I will help you *earn* the grade you need, but the job of becoming a success in life is solely up to you. Remember, no one is going to "give" you a job. You must earn it. And to keep it you follow the rules at work or you will be looking for a new job.

Every day of your adult life you will be problem solving. As part of your present and future continuing education (both in school and in real life), you are responsible for your actions. You are an adult and you alone are responsible for yourself and how you manage your life for success.

CONTACTING YOUR PROFESSOR:

Email me FROM YOUR HCC STUDENT E-MAIL ACCOUNT to my HCCMail address (jaye.ramseysutter@hccs.edu) and be sure to put "Govt2305, CRN xxxx" in the subject line when writing me. I will respond, on the outside, within 48 hours. Do NOT, however, write me and always expect an immediate answer. I will try to get back to you as soon as possible. But the official policy I have is within 36 hours. Do NOT write with a request on deadline that cannot be responded to by me within that time frame. Again, I will work hard to get back to you quickly, probably well before the 36-hour time limit, but if you write and need something, know that you must provide me with a response time per this policy. Please: If I fail to respond, *write me again*. Sometimes, since I get so many email messages from students, I may inadvertently overlook an email or erase an email. On occasion, your email may not transmit properly. So, your perseverance in writing me again on the issue pays off.

You may also contact me by posting a note on the ADVISORY FORUM with you will find at the top of the main course site page. I will respond to you there in most instances. If the material is sensitive in any way, I will write to you directly via your HCC Student E-Mail account. CHECK YOUR HCC STUDENT EMAIL BOX EVERY DAY.

Do NOT write me on the internal Eagle Online "Message" system. I do not have it set up because I do not use it. I do not communicate with you via the "Message" system. I do not receive any such "Messages" and, therefore, do not respond to them

Write me if you have a question or problem. Write me also if you have a comment or concern. If you see an error in the syllabus or an assignment or a test, write me and let me know. I will make good any errors I make. And I greatly appreciate knowing from my students when I make a mistake because I don't want my errors to adversely affect you in any way.

CHECK YOUR REGISTRATION:

HCC may drop you from the course because of non-payment of your account or because you failed to log-in before the Official Date of Record. You might have trouble with your course registration but still have access to Eagle Online, be receiving normal communication from DE or the class. Verify your registration status with HCCS occasionally during the semester. You can do this online at your convenience. Details are in the Distance Education Handbook which is located online (and is required reading for any distance education student). The college WILL drop you from the class for financial aid or other registration problems and may erase all your grades and records from the course making it impossible to reenter the course, so stay on top of your registration issues!

GENERAL COURSE INFORMATION:

2306

COURSE 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.

Core Objectives (2305 and 2306)

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.

Government Program Student Learning Outcomes

1. Identify and describe the institutions of American national government. GOVT 2302/2305

2. Identify and describe the institutions of the State of Texas government. GOVT 2302/2306
3. Identify and evaluate information sources for political news, data, and opinion. GOVT 2306
4. Analyze the effects of the historical, social, political, economic, and cultural forces on politics and government. GOVT 2306
5. Recognize and assume the responsibilities of citizenship by developing one's critical thinking skills, engaging in public discourse, and by obtaining information through the news media. GOVT 2305

This course syllabus contains policies and procedures with which you must be familiar and comply, so be sure to read this syllabus carefully. Please report any errors, omissions, OR inconsistencies to the professor that you may find in this syllabus.

This syllabus is subject to change at the professor's discretion.