



# Texas Government-14425 GOVT-2306

RT 2022 Section 636 3 Credits 08/23/2021 to 12/12/2021 Modified 08/22/2021

## Course Meetings

Meeting Days: Tuesday & Thursday

Meeting Times: 12:30-2pm

Meeting Location: online in WebEx

Online on a schedule

Tues/Thurs

12:30 PM to 2:00 PM

This course do NOT meet in person on campus!

## Welcome and Instructor Information

Professor : Jennifer Bachan, MPA MPPA

Email: [Jennifer.bachan@hccs.edu](mailto:Jennifer.bachan@hccs.edu)

### What's Exciting About This Course

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

### My Personal Welcome

On behalf of the Government Department faculty, I welcome you to the study of Texas Government at Houston Community College. This is a FULLY online course. You will not need to report to a campus to satisfy any of the course requirements. This course is designed for students who find it difficult to complete the required work in a traditional in-person format.

While the amount of material covered in online courses should not be significantly different (let alone more difficult) than material covered in traditional in-class courses, online courses require a certain level of self-motivation not typically called upon in traditional courses. As such, online students will need to be much more disciplined in dedicated in their studies to excel in computer based classes such as this one.

To meet the expectations placed in this course, students are required to do several things.

- Students should also take advantage of the Eagle Online modules that correspond with the assigned readings. In addition, ancillary material (i.e. practice questions, textbook-based activities, etc.)
- I also will make class announcements, which will often address questions some of you might have about your status in the class or the general progress of the overall course. These announcements also serve as reminders of upcoming deadlines of assignments, exams, etc.

### Preferred Method of Contact

You can contact me through either my HCC email (preferred method of contact)

Note that Canvas and 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 around Monday morning.

## Office Hours

BY APPOINTMENT

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.

## Course Overview

### 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)

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

### 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

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

### Instructional Materials

This course does not require a textbook. If you have bought one please return it to the bookstore, we will not be using it. Instead we will be using OER (open educational resources) and materials provided by the instructor.

Additional supplemental content and reading materials will be provided by the instructor through Eagle Online/Canvas.

Your free OER textbook is found at : <https://www.oercommons.org/courseware/8435>

## Course Requirements

### Assignments, Exams, and Activities

Type	Weight	Topic	Notes
Reflective Writing	20		20% Reflective Writings (10% each) Students will complete three reflective writings, this semester.  Reflective writings are to be written in essay format, double spaced, with paragraphs, using complete sentences, proper grammar, 12 point font in Times New Roman.  topics: Texas Legislative Branch & Death Penalty
Quizzes	20%		20% Quizzes (4% each) Students have 3 attempts at each quiz. The topic and module content materials, covered on each quiz, will be listed next to each quiz. Students can view the topics and module content materials, by clicking on each quiz. The highest graded attempt will be recorded in the grade book and count towards the final course average. No make-up or extensions will be granted.

Type	Weight	Topic	Notes
Exams	30%		<p>30% Exam (10% each) Exam 1 &amp; 2 are not comprehensive. The final, which will either be in the form of a comprehensive exam.</p> <p>Exams must be completed and submitted within a 2 hour time limit. Exams will be comprised of multiple choice and true false questions, based on the information from the module content materials and topics that they are assigned.</p> <p>To preserve the integrity and security of each exam, all tests will contain each of the following provisions.</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>No two students will receive anything close to the same exam. Questions that appear for each exam and for each student originate from an extensive pool of questions spanning multiple chapters randomly pulled for each student, both in the order of when/if the question appear on the exam and on whether they appear at all. It is entirely possible for students to receive a completely and absolutely different exam from each other so as long as they are drawn from the same chapters.</li> <li>Students will be given SIXTY continuous minutes on each exam. <i>All exams must also be turned in by a certain date (see schedule) at 11:59pm CENTRAL time. All exams will be submitted by 11:59pm regardless of completion status.</i> To be afforded the full time, be sure to start an exam at 10:59pm or before on the deadline date. Students that open an exam AFTER 10:59pm will only have until 11:59pm that same day to finish</li> </ul> <p>Students SHOULD NOT take any breaks during the middle of the exam; doing so will count against the minutes remaining to complete the exam as the clock will continue to tick. As such, before starting the exam, make sure that all bodily needs have been met and that you are in a distraction-limited environment to insure exam completion within the allotted time.</p> <p>All tests are intended to be closed-note exams. Before starting an exam, be sure to put away all notes, your textbook and other study material that you may have used in preparation for the exam. Strong students who have kept up with all of the course specifics should realize that any use of open material during the exam will be unnecessary if you have the appropriate preparation beforehand.</p>
Current Event Article Discussions	30%	Police Body Cams, Social Media Regulation and Free College for All	<p>30% Current Event Article Discussions (10 % each) Students will participate in 3 separate current event class discussions. There are two parts to each discussion. Current events must be pertinent to one of the Government Topics assigned in this course. To be current, articles must be retrieved within the last 3 months.</p> <p>You will be asked to complete the following parts of this discussion:</p> <p>Part 1: In no less than 200 words, answer the prompt I have written following your viewing of said activity. This will serve as your primary post. (10 Points)</p> <p>Part 2: Respond to one post from your peers and offer a thoughtful response to what you have read in no less than 150 words. To satisfy this portion of the assignment, students can either respond to fellow student's primary post or to their response to your primary post. (10 points)</p> <p>Part 3: Monitor replies from your fellow classmates regarding your primary post and respond whenever appropriate. While no points will be directly awarded if you respond to a reply of your primary post, your overall Discussion grade may reflect your contribution to the debate.</p> <p>While you should have ample time to complete all discussion activities, I do caution against waiting until near the deadline to make your primary post as the intent of these discussions is to <i>hold a dialogue</i>. Such delay does not allow your classmates time to interact with you and defeats the purpose of the assignment; your grade may also reflect this aspect of your participation.</p>

## Grading Formula

Grade	Range	Notes
A	90-100	
B	80-89	
C	70-79	
D	60-69	
F	60 and less	

# \* 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 all remaining work as determined by the instructor.

## Missed Assignments/Make-Up Policy

There will be NO make-up opportunities to any missed assignments. Expect the deadlines to submit these assignments to be hard, firm deadlines. Students are also encouraged to start early on these assignments to avoid any potential problems and/or difficulties that may surface as the respective deadlines approach.

If there is an opportunity to submit work late for any reason follow the instructions given exactly as they are given or the late work will not be accepted.

## Academic Integrity

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 an "F" for the course, being withdrawn from the course, or being expelled from the College.

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

This course is online anytime. If you do not take Quiz 1 by the drop date you will be removed from the course.

Attendance in this online class is monitored regularly by viewing active participation. Students who do not attend and actively participate in class will be marked as "never attended on the official census roster, triggering an administrative withdrawal from the course. Students who are absent and/or who are not current with the required coursework will receive an Early Alert email from their professor and from an HCC adviser. The Early Alert system is designed to help students who may be facing challenges that impact their ability to succeed in class.

Online students expected to log into their course in Eagle Online, know the rules and expectations in the course, keep up with announcements, and meet assignment deadlines. Your course grade WILL be a reflection on your level of participation in the course.

Unless stated otherwise, the deadlines for all online assignments (i.e. exams, discussions, and chapter activities) are due at 11:59pm central time. My recommendation: Stay AT LEAST a day or two ahead of the deadlines in case something goes wrong (technical/computer difficulties, the death of a close relative, etc.) as deadlines to all respective assignments are hard, firm, and will NOT be opened.

## Student Conduct

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

## Instructor's Course-Specific Information

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

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

## Faculty Statement about 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/modules/links/videos
- Attending class in person and/or online
- Completing assignments on time
- 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.

## 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.

## Instructional Modalities

### Online Anytime (WW)

Fully online, no scheduled meetings

<https://www.hccs.edu/campaigns/college-your-way/online-anytime/> (<https://www.hccs.edu/campaigns/college-your-way/online-anytime/>).

## Social Justice Statement

Houston Community College is committed to furthering the cause of social justice in our community and beyond. HCC does not discriminate on the basis of race, color, religion, sex, gender identity and expression, national origin, age, disability, sexual orientation, or veteran status. I fully support that commitment and, as such, will work to maintain a positive learning environment based upon open communication, mutual respect, and non-discrimination. In this course, we share in the creation and maintenance of a positive and safe learning environment. Part of this process includes acknowledging and embracing the differences among us in order to establish and reinforce that each one of us matters. I appreciate your suggestions about how to best maintain this environment of respect. If you experience any type of discrimination, please contact me and/or the Office of Institutional Equity at 713-718-8271.

## HCC Policies and Information

### HCC Grading System

HCC uses the following standard grading system:

Grade	Grade Interpretation	Grade Points
A	Excellent (90-100)	4

Grade	Grade Interpretation	Grade Points
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
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 \(https://www.hccs.edu/resources-for/current-students/student-e-mail-eagle-id/\)](https://www.hccs.edu/resources-for/current-students/student-e-mail-eagle-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

## 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.

Assignment	Due Date
	ALL midnight deadline
Current Event Article Discussion Post Analysis (part 1) and Rebuttals (part 2) 1	9/12
Current Event Article 2- social media	10/10
Current Event Article 3- free college	11/7
Reflective Writing 1- Tx Leg	10/3
Reflective Writing 2- death penalty	11/21
Exam 1	12/6
Exam 2	12/6
Exam 3	12/6
Quiz 1	12/6
Quizzes 2-5	12/6

## Additional Information

### 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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