



Texas Government Course Syllabus

GOVT 2306

Spring 2018

CRN-55277, 55283, 55286, 55287, 55290

Jan. 16- May 13th

16 week/48 Hours / 3 semester credit hours

Instructor : Jennifer “Danielle” Bachan

E-mail: jennifer.bachan@hccs.edu

***Students are required to communicate using through official HCCS student email. E-mails coming from a personal (i.e. yahoo, gmail, hotmail....etc.) will not be responded to.*

Office Hours: Available to chat online or via e-mail. In-person meetings, by appointment only, and with at least 48 hours advance notice. Office is located at Alief.

Government Department Chair

Evelyn Ballard

Evelyn.ballard@hccs.edu

713-718-2490

Course Description

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.

Prerequisite, Co-requisite

Must have passed or co-enrolled in English 1301 (Composition I) as a co-requisite.

Academic Program Learning Outcomes:

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.

Course Student Learning Outcomes (SLO)

Identify and describe the institutions of the State of Texas government. GOVT 2306

Identify and evaluate information sources for political news, data, and opinion. GOVT 2306

Analyze the effects of the historical, social, political, economic, and cultural forces on politics and government. GOVT 2306

Core Objectives

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.

Technical Requirements

This class is a distance education course that requires coursework be completed using the Houston Community College System's Canvas Learning Management System.

Instructional delivery of course content, materials, assignments and information is done 100% online. Each student must maintain Internet access throughout this course.

Failure to maintain internet access will not excuse incomplete, failed or missed submissions of assignments. The impact will significantly affect student's academic success, and lead to a reduction in grade for this course. If student's experience technical difficulties they should immediately contact Distance Education and the instructor to show documentation of issues.

In addition, to required internet access, you are also responsible for maintaining up-to-date software as required by the instructor; a stable Internet connection; and use of the Firefox browser when using Canvas. The instructor is not required to give consideration for lost/missing/unacceptable work stemming from technical non-compliance and/or end- user technical issues.

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 (two weeks is typical) and whom the Professor is unable to contact is subject to being dropped without further warning, resulting in either a "W" or a "FX" grade, depending upon the time of the term at which the behavior is noted. If a student has not reset his/her email profile within PeopleSoft to reflect that email which he/she uses most often, the Eagle Online system will default to delivering notifications and messages to that student's HCC default email address, i.e., yourfirstname.yourlastname@student.hccs.edu <<mailto:yourfirstname.yourlastname@student.hccs.edu>> (please access the link <<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

Student Compliance & Course Requisites Course Prerequisites

Must be placed into college-level reading and college-level writing

Distance Education Access DE Policies on their Web site:

All students are responsible for reading and understanding the DE Student Handbook, which contains policies, information about conduct, and other important information. For the DE Student Handbook click on the link below or go to the DE page on the HCC website.

The Distance Education Student Handbook contains policies and procedures unique to the DE student. Students should have reviewed the handbook as part of the mandatory orientation. It is the student's responsibility to be familiar with the handbook's contents. The handbook contains valuable information, answers, and resources, such as DE 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.

Refer to the DE Student Handbook by visiting this link:

[http://de.hccs.edu/media/houston-community-college/distance-education/student-services/pdf/2015-HCC-DE-Student-Handbook-%28Revised-5 28 15%29 will.pdf](http://de.hccs.edu/media/houston-community-college/distance-education/student-services/pdf/2015-HCC-DE-Student-Handbook-%28Revised-5%2015%29-will.pdf)

Campus Carry

At HCC the safety of our students, staff, and faculty is our first priority. As of August 1, 2017, Houston Community College is subject to the Campus Carry Law (SB11 2015). For more information, visit the HCC Campus Carry web page at <http://www.hccs.edu/district/departments/police/campus-carry/>.

Course Calendar

Exam 1- due by midnight Sun. Mar. 4

Exam 2- due at midnight Sun. April 29th

Exam 3- AKA: Presentation due at midnight Fri. May 11th

Quiz 1- due Jan. 31st by 8 am (census day and AKA: Introductions)

Quiz 2- due Sunday Feb. 4 (weeks 1-3)

Quiz 3- due Sunday Feb. 25th (weeks 4-6)

Quiz 4- due Sunday April 1 (weeks 8-11) NO this is not a joke

Quiz 5- due Sunday April 29th (Weeks 12-15) yes this is the same day as exam 2

Current Event Article Discussion 1 due midnight Fri. Mar. 2nd

Current Event Article Discussion 2 due midnight Fri. Mar. 30th

RW 1- due Sunday Feb. 4 by midnight

RW 2- due Sunday Feb. 25th at midnight

RW 3- due Sunday April 15th at midnight

Student Assignments and Grade Calculation

20% Quizzes (4% each) Students have 3 attempts at each quiz. The book chapters and module content materials, covered on each quiz, will be listed next to each quiz. Students can view the book chapters 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.

30% 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.

20% Current Event Article Discussions (10 % each) Students will participate in 2 separate current event class discussions. There are two parts to each discussion. Current events must be pertinent to one of the 12 American Government Topics assigned in this course. To be current, articles must be retrieved within the last 3 months.

30% Exam (10% each) Exam 1 & 2 are not comprehensive. The final, which is a presentation is a video uploaded and sent to me.

Students will have 1 attempt at each exam. 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 book chapters that they are assigned.

Grading Scale

90-100%= A
80-89% = B
70-79% = C
60-69% = D
less than 60% = F

Instructional Methods

Video Lectures, exams, module readings, class discussions, external internet links and webpages, video links

Instructional Materials

Brown, Lyle C., Joyce A. Langenegger, Sonia R. Garcia, Ted A. Lewis, and Robert E. Biles, Ryan Rynbrandt, Veronica Reyna. Practicing Texas Politics, 2015-2016 Edition. Cengage Learning.

Text-Only Student Edition ISBN-13: 978-1-285-85310-9

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

HCC Policies

ADA Policy: If you have any special needs which affect your ability to learn in this class, please inform me. Appropriate steps will be taken to assist you with your needs. Any student with a documented disability (physical, learning, psychiatric, vision, hearing, etc.) who needs to arrange reasonable accommodations must contact the ADA counselor at the beginning of each semester. There is a Disability Support Services Office at each campus. To find the name of the ADA counselor at your campus, visit www.hccs.edu, then click future students, scroll down the page and click on the words Disability Information. Faculty members are authorized to provide only the accommodations requested by the Disability Support Services Office.

Title IX of the Education Amendments of 1972 requires that institutions have policies that protect students; rights with regard to sex/gender discrimination. Information regarding these rights are in the HCC website under Students-Anti-discrimination. Students who are pregnant and require accommodations should contact any of the ADA Counselors for assistance.

Student Rights and Responsibilities: It is important that every student understands and conforms to respectful behavior while at HCC. Sexual misconduct is not condoned and will be addressed promptly. Know your rights and how to avoid these difficult situations.

Log in to www.edurisksolutions.org Sign in using your HCC student e-mail account, then go to the button at the top right that says **Login** and enter your student number.

Scholastic Dishonesty:

HCCS students are responsible for conducting themselves with honor and integrity in fulfilling course requirements. Penalties and/or disciplinary proceedings may be initiated by HCC System officials against a student accused of scholastic dishonesty.

"Scholastic dishonesty" includes, but is not limited to, cheating on a test, plagiarism, and collusion. Cheating on a test includes but is not limited to: Copying from another student's test paper; using unauthorized materials during a test, unauthorized collaboration with another student during a test; knowingly using, buying, selling, stealing, transporting, or soliciting in whole or part the contents of a test; and bribing another person to obtain a copy of a test. Plagiarism includes the appropriation of another's work and the unacknowledged incorporation of that work in one's own written work. Collusion includes the unauthorized collaboration with another person in preparing written work.

Enter your specific policies dishonesty

Attendance: Enter your specific policy. College policy allows students to be dropped by the instructor for exceeding absences, but you must be careful in crafting your policy so that it is enforceable and reasonable.

Withdrawals:

Students who take a course for the third time or more must now pay significant tuition/fee increases at HCC and other Texas public colleges and universities. At HCC, it is an additional \$50 per credit hour. If you are considering course withdrawal because you are not earning passing grades, confer with your instructor/ counselor as early as possible about your study habits, reading and writing homework, test-taking skills, attendance, course participation, and opportunities for tutoring or other assistance that might be available. Also, the state of Texas has passed a new law limiting new students (as of Fall 2007) to no more than six withdrawals throughout their academic career in obtaining a baccalaureate degree. The last day to drop the course is Nov. 13, 2017.

Repeating Courses:

As a result of recent Texas legislative changes, please be advised that HCC is charging additional tuition for students who enroll in the same class three or more times at HCC. While it is the hope of HCC that students will be successful in their first attempt at classes, we realize that life demands, academic struggles, and other issues may

result in students needing to take the same class more than once. Speaking with an advisor will help you develop student success skills, improving your overall academic performance. If a student repeats a course in which a grade (A-F) has been received, the highest grade received at HCC is the permanent grade for the course and will be used in computing the GPA. All grades earned in a given course will be reflected on the transcript. Other colleges may compute the GPA differently than HCC.

HCC Student Handbook:

Please note that it is each student's responsibility to read and be familiar with the HCC Student Handbook. Please see:

<http://central.hccs.edu/students/student-handbook/>

Distance Education

The Distance Education Student Handbook contains policies and procedures unique to the DE student. Students should have reviewed the handbook as part of the mandatory orientation. It is the student's responsibility to be familiar with the handbook's contents. The handbook contains valuable information, answers, and resources, such as DE 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. Refer to the DE Student Handbook by visiting this link:

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