



Texas Government-11250 GOVT-2306

RT 2024 Section 0010 3 Credits 01/16/2024 to 05/12/2024 Modified 01/15/2024

Our Vision

Houston Community College shapes the future for all students with innovative, affordable, timely, responsive, and continuously improving educational programs and services. Partnered with the communities we serve, we take a defining role in regional economic, workforce, and social development.

<https://www.hccs.edu/about-hcc/> (<https://www.hccs.edu/about-hcc/>).

Course Meetings

Course Modality: Hybrid

Meeting Days: Tues 11-12:30pm

Meeting Location: Alief Hayes

Welcome and Instructor Information

Professor : Jennifer Bachan, MPA MPPA

Email: 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)

1. **Texas institutions**- identify and describe the institutions of the state of Texas government.
2. **Evaluation of sources**- identify and evaluate information sources for our political news data and opinion
3. **Analytic inquiry**- analyze the effects of the historical social political economic and cultural forces on politics and government
4. **Citizenship**- 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.

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>

*Artificial Intelligence (AI), defined as the intelligence of machines or software as opposed to human and/or animal intelligence, has been thrust to the forefront of matters related to academic integrity. Understand that student submissions of AI-generated work may constitute a violation of academic integrity. Any **unauthorized** use of ChatGPT, Grammarly, WordTune, or other AI-Generated content to complete written*

course requirements WILL be considered cheating. The ability to clearly articulate via written communication in a student's own words remains a vital part of the educational process at HCC. **Students should contact their instructor on what constitutes authorized use of AI-Generated content in this class.**

It is required for students who need assistance with spelling and basic grammar to utilize the spell-check and grammar-check features available in most word-processing software, most of which are capable. Additionally, HCC also offers online and face-to-face tutoring services. Additional information regarding HCC's tutoring services Information can be found here: <https://iied21.hccs.edu/forms/allTutoring/index.html> (<https://iied21.hccs.edu/forms/allTutoring/index.html>).

✓ 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 data-bbox="725 191 1507 258">30% Exam (10% each) Exam 1 & 2 are not comprehensive. The final, which will either be in the form of a comprehensive exam.</p> <p data-bbox="725 338 1507 485">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 data-bbox="725 525 1451 592">To preserve the integrity and security of each exam, all tests will contain each of the following provisions.</p> <ul data-bbox="760 632 1511 1205" style="list-style-type: none"> <li data-bbox="760 632 1511 932">• 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 data-bbox="760 940 1511 1205">• 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 <p data-bbox="725 1245 1511 1465">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 data-bbox="725 1505 1500 1726">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>

Type	Weight	Topic	Notes
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

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.

"In general, the Government Department **DOES NOT** reinstate students who were dropped from their courses for either *non-payment* or *non-participation*.

- In all classes offered by the Government Department at HCC, students need to ensure that they are current and in compliance with college tuition guidelines and responsibilities. Failure to remain current on tuition may lead to withdrawal from the class due to *non-payment*.
- Students are also responsible for maintaining an active presence in their courses, especially prior to the Official Day of Record. Students who are identified by the instructor as inactive may also be withdrawn due to *non-participation*. "

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> (<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

Hybrid: Lecture class that meets safely 50% face-to-face and 50% virtually.

<https://www.hccs.edu/campaigns/college-your-way/> (<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
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 Catalog and Student Handbook

Here's the link to the HCC Catalog and Student Handbook: <https://catalog.hccs.edu/>
(<https://catalog.hccs.edu/>).

In it you will find information about the following:

- Academic Information
- Academic Support
- Attendance, Repeating Courses, and Withdrawal
- Career Planning and Job Search
- Childcare
- Ability 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/student-conduct> (<https://www.hccs.edu/student-conduct>), (scroll down to subsections)

Campus Carry Link

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

<https://www.hccs.edu/campuscarry> (<https://www.hccs.edu/campuscarry>).

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 \(https://www.hccs.edu/email\)](https://www.hccs.edu/email), and activate it now. You may also use Canvas Inbox to communicate.

Office of Equal Opportunity and Title IX

Use the following link to access the HCC Office of Institutional Equity, Inclusion, and Engagement:

<https://www.hccs.edu/eoo> (<https://www.hccs.edu/eoo>).

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/accommodations> (<https://www.hccs.edu/accommodations>).

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:

Oswaldo Gomez, MSW
Director of EEO and Compliance/Title IX Coordinator
Office of Equal Opportunity and Title IX
3100 Main, 7th Floor
Houston, TX 77002

(713) 718-8271

hcc.oetix@hccs.edu (<mailto:hcc.oetix@hccs.edu>).

<https://www.hccs.edu/oetix/> (<https://www.hccs.edu/oetix/>).

Mandatory Reporters

Under Texas Education Code 51.252 (formerly known as Senate Bill 212), HCC Instructors are mandatory reporters of sexual harassment, dating violence (domestic violence), sexual assault, and stalking. All instructors are required by law to report to the College's Title IX coordinator or Deputy Title IX coordinator all reports disclosed to them relating to sexual harassment, dating violence (domestic violence), sexual assault, and stalking alleged to have been committed by or against a person who was

a student enrolled at or an employee of the institution at the time of the incident. Instructors are required by law to include all the information they know about the incident, including the name of the student(s), in the report to the College's Title IX coordinator or deputy Title IX coordinator.

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

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/studenthandbook) (<https://www.hccs.edu/studenthandbook>).

Copyright Statement

In order to uphold the integrity of the academic environment and protect and foster a cohesive learning environment for all, HCC prohibits the unauthorized use of course materials. Materials shared in this course are based on my professional knowledge and experience as an instructor and are presented in an educational context for the students in the course. Authorized use of course materials is limited to personal study or educational uses. Material should not be shared, distributed, or sold outside the course without permission. Students are also explicitly forbidden in all circumstances from plagiarizing or appropriating course materials. This includes but is not limited to publicly posting quizzes, essays, or other materials. This prohibition extends not only during this course, but after. Sharing of the materials in any context will be a violation of the HCC Student Code of Conduct and may subject the student to discipline, as well as any applicable civil or criminal liability. Consequences for unauthorized sharing, plagiarizing, or other methods of academic dishonesty may range from a 0 on the specified assignment and/or up to expulsion from Houston Community College. Questions about this policy may be directed to me, your instructor, or to the Manager of Student Conduct and Academic Integrity.

Unauthorized Disclosure

"Unauthorized disclosure" occurs when any student provides instructional materials and/or assessments to other students in violation of a clear prohibition by the instructor. Examples include: posting assessment items to online sites such as Chegg or CourseHero; asking exam questions in forums like Reddit or Yahoo Answers; discussions of confidential question using Wechat or GroupMe, etc.

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.

EGLS3

The EGLS³ ([Evaluation for Greater Learning Student Survey System \(https://www.hccs.edu/egls3\)](https://www.hccs.edu/egls3)) 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. EGLS³ 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/egls3> (<https://www.hccs.edu/egls3>).

Housing and Food Assistance for Students

If you are experiencing any hardship related to food, shelter, mental health, or other basic needs areas, please visit the Basic Needs page for resources (<https://www.hccs.edu/cares> (<https://www.hccs.edu/cares>)). You have the option to take the Basic Needs Questionnaire and ask to be contacted by a counselor for additional assistance or support (<https://www.hccs.edu/basicneeds> (<https://www.hccs.edu/basicneeds>)). Furthermore, please notify the professor if you are comfortable doing so.

Student Resources

Tutoring

HCC provides free and convenient academic support, in a large variety of subjects, to HCC students in both an online environment and in-person on campus. Tutoring is provided by HCC personnel in order to ensure that it is appropriate. Visit the HCC Tutoring Services website for more information at <https://hccs.edu/tutoring> (<https://hccs.edu/tutoring>).

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/](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/supplemental-instruction> (<https://www.hccs.edu/supplemental-instruction>).

Resources for Students:

<https://www.hccs.edu/covid19students> (<https://www.hccs.edu/covid19students>),

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://www.hccs.edu/basicneeds> (<https://www.hccs.edu/basicneeds>),

COVID-19

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

<https://www.hccs.edu/covid-19> (<https://www.hccs.edu/covid-19>),

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	2/2
Current Event Article 2	3/8
reflective writing 3	4/8
Reflective Writing 1-	3/4
Reflective Writing 2-	3/25
Reflective writing 4	4/29
Reflective writing 5	5/7
Exam 1	5/7
Exam 2	5/7
Final Presentation	4/23

Quiz 1	1/25
Quizzes 2-5	5/7

Additional Information

Artificial Intelligence Statement

Artificial Intelligence (AI), defined as the intelligence of machines or software as opposed to human and/or animal intelligence, has been thrust to the forefront of matters related to academic integrity. Understand that student submissions of AI-generated work may constitute a violation of academic integrity. Any **unauthorized** use of ChatGPT, Grammarly, WordTune, or other AI-Generated content to complete written course requirements WILL be considered cheating. The ability to clearly articulate via written communication in a student's own words remains a vital part of the educational process at HCC. **Students should contact their instructor on what constitutes authorized use of AI-Generated content in this class.**

Students who need assistance with spelling and basic grammar should still be able to utilize the spell-check and grammar-check features available in most word-processing software, most of which are capable. Additionally, HCC also offers online and face-to-face tutoring services. Additional information regarding HCC's tutoring services Information can be found here:

<https://iied21.hccs.edu/forms/allTutoring/index.html> "

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.

Steven N. Tran, PhD

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