



**HOUSTON COMMUNITY COLLEGE**  
**Texas Government Course Syllabus**

*GOVT 2306*

*Summer I: Jun. 3<sup>rd</sup> to July 7<sup>th</sup>, 2019*

*CRN 11527, 11035, 11038, 11725, 11023, 11979*

*Distance Education, Online*

3 Semester Credit Hours

48 Contact Hours

5 Weeks

**Instructor Name**

*Professor J. Danielle Bachan, MPA MPP*

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

***Department Contact information:***

Dr. Cammy Shay

[cammy.shay@hccs.edu](mailto:cammy.shay@hccs.edu)

Please attempt to remedy the situation with me before contacting the department chair.

**\*\*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. Do not send messages through Canvas, because they do not come to my inbox. Unbeknownst, to me, they end up in my clutter folder, and I am not responsible for communicating with students who communicate through any other means than directly logging in to and sending e-mail, from their hccs assigned student e-mail address.**

The link for students to access their hccs assigned student e-mail account is:

[https://login.microsoftonline.com/login.srf?wa=wsignin1.0&rpsnv=4&ct=1496078722&rver=6.7.6640.0&wp=MBI\\_SSL&wreply=https%3a%2f%2foutlook.office365.com%2fowa%2f%3frealm%3dHouComCol.onmicrosoft.com%26RpsCsrfState%3de05bbafe-b439-42a5-8de2-5153ba22afbc&id=260563&whr=HouComCol.onmicrosoft.com&CBCXT=out&msafed=0&client-request-id=84dc9277-9298-45af-a53c-18d3a275822b](https://login.microsoftonline.com/login.srf?wa=wsignin1.0&rpsnv=4&ct=1496078722&rver=6.7.6640.0&wp=MBI_SSL&wreply=https%3a%2f%2foutlook.office365.com%2fowa%2f%3frealm%3dHouComCol.onmicrosoft.com%26RpsCsrfState%3de05bbafe-b439-42a5-8de2-5153ba22afbc&id=260563&whr=HouComCol.onmicrosoft.com&CBCXT=out&msafed=0&client-request-id=84dc9277-9298-45af-a53c-18d3a275822b)

Office Hours: Available to chat online via e-mail or phone. If needed in extenuating circumstances I will be available in person for a face to face meeting at my office located at the Alief-Hayes Campus.

### **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.

### **2306**

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)**

1. Identify and describe the institutions of the State of Texas government.
2. Identify and evaluate information sources for political news, data, and opinion.
3. Analyze the effects of the historical, social, political, economic, and cultural forces on politics and government.

### **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 Eagle Online 2. Instructional delivery of course content, materials, assignments and information is done 100% online. Each student must maintain Internet access throughout this course. NO late, make-up or extensions will be granted.

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 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.

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) <<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_28_15%29_will.pdf)

## **Course Materials**

There is no textbook for this course. This course is tagged as “Zero-Textbook Costs” – meaning do NOT purchase a textbook – if you have done so please return it to the bookstore. All materials we will be using are free or OER (Open Educational Resources) -

*\*\*\*\*\*Additional zero-cost supplemental content and reading materials will be provided by the instructor through Eagle Online.*

## **Course Calendar**

**The content materials, including Modules and Book chapters, covered by each exam and quizzes will be posted, in Eagle Online (Canvas). Students can review this information, on the first day of class.**

PLEASE SEE CANVAS/EAGLE FOR UP TO DATE COURSE DUE DATES

\*\* notice the due dates are flexible so that you may ask questions and work at your own pace throughout this course as it is a LOT of material in a short amount of time. There are NO LATE ASSIGNMENTS accepted. Plan accordingly...

## **Student Assignments & Instructor Grading Criteria**

***20% Quizzes*** There are a total of 5 quizzes to be completed in this course. Students have 3 attempts at each quiz. The module content materials and book chapters that each quiz will test can be found by reviewing the each of the quizzes links within the Quiz Folder, in Eagle Online.

*There is a 45 minute time limit on each attempt. Students cannot start, then pause their once they begin. 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.*

**20% Reflective Writings** Students will complete a total of 5 reflective writings. Instructions on how to complete each reflective writing are located in the Reflective Writing Folder, within Eagle Online.

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. Writings must be a minimum length of 2 pages, and formatted with 1 inch margins.

All submissions are required to provide in-text (parenthetical) citations, as well as either a bibliography or works cited page. Works cited and bibliographies do not count toward the 2 page length requirement.

Works cited and Bibliographies and writing assignments are to be uploaded as a single file. You only have one attempt and can make one upload to submit your paper to the links provided. You may use MLA, APA or Chicago formatting, as long as you remain consistent through your paper, in-text citations and bibliography/works cited pages.

#### **Grading Requirements**

Assignments that fail to meet the above formatting requirements. Submissions indicated by Turn It In to have a 50% or greater match with content from any publications, online resources, scholarly works, or student submissions, and that lack proper in-text and bibliographic citations.

**No make-up, extensions, or resubmissions will be accepted. No exceptions.**

Reflective writings must answer directly the prompt or discussion topic, provided in the instructions. Responses should provide a critical assessment or pose an argumentative political position towards the prompt or discussion question. Purely summarizing the materials in response to the question or topic will be considered an average response and receive no higher than a grade of a 70.

Above average responses should provide at least one independently researched resource, as well as include example(s) from the materials, to show support of the student's assessment or political position.

**30% Current Event Article Discussions** 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.

Part 1- students will find a current event related to topics in Federal Government, the U.S. Constitution or American Politics. Students will post a 10 sentence summary analysis of the information in the article by providing a clear opinion statement and discussion of their personal perspective and political position towards the event or issue in their article. In addition, to

receive full credit, students **MUST** include a direct link to the original article's text that they are using to complete this assignment.

*Part 2- (cannot be completed until students first submit part 1) students will review summary analyses submissions, made in part 1, and select at least one to write a rebuttal to. Students must choose a submission from a political position and perspective that opposes their feelings toward the event or article, posted by their peer. Rebuttals must be 5-10 sentences in length, and must post with an opposing political perspective.*

**30% Exam** The module content materials and book chapters to be tested on can be found by reviewing the each Exam link within, in Eagle Online.

Students will have 2 attempts 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 that they are assigned.

**No due date extensions will be granted, and no make-up exams will be given.**

### **Grading Scale**

90-100%= A

80-89% = B

70-79% = C

60-69% = D

less than 60% = F

### **Instructional Materials**

Eagle Online, textbooks, online supplementary materials provided by instructor

### **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 documental 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](http://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](http://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. Students can access the college's official academic calendar with important refund and withdrawal deadlines at <http://www.hccs.edu/district/events-calendar/academic-calendar/>

### **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/>

### **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/>.

### **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:

[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)