



**Division of Social and Behavioral Sciences  
Government Department**

<https://www.hccs.edu/programs/areas-of-study/social--behavioral-sciences/government/>

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**GOVT 2306: Texas Government | Lecture | 21812 21813**

SPRING 2021 | 16 weeks

Online on a Schedule

3 Credit Hours | 48 hours per semester

**Instructor Contact Information**

Instructor: Jennifer Danielle Bachan  
Office: Alief Hayes  
HCC Email: [jennifer.bachan@hccs.edu](mailto:jennifer.bachan@hccs.edu)

Office Phone: 713-718-2781  
Office Hours: Online by appointment  
Office Location: 432 - Alief Hayes

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.

**Instructor's 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.

**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.

## Prerequisites and/or Co-Requisites

GOVT 2306 requires college-level reading and writing skills. The minimum requirement for enrollment in GOVT 2306 includes concurrent enrollment in or successful completion of ENGL 1301. If you have enrolled in this course having satisfied this prerequisite, you have a higher chance of success than students who have not done so. Please carefully read and consider the repeater policy in the [HCCS Student Handbook](#).

## Canvas Learning Management System

This section of GOVT 2306 will use [Canvas \(https://eagleonline.hccs.edu\)](https://eagleonline.hccs.edu) extensively for making instructional material available and for communication with students.

HCCS Open Lab locations may be used to access the Internet and Canvas. **USE [FIREFOX](#) OR [CHROME](#) AS THE INTERNET BROWSER.**

## HCC Online Information and Policies

Here is the link to information about HCC Online classes including the required Online Orientation for all fully online classes: <http://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>

## Instructional Materials

### Textbook Information

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.

### Other Instructional 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](#) 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 library resources and services is the HCCS library web page at <http://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 <http://www.hccs.edu/resources-for/current-students/supplemental-instruction/>.

## Course Overview

**Government 2306** is one of two courses designed to introduce students to the study of the 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. This particular survey of the Texas state system of government includes the fundamental principles of political science, the study of the Texas state constitution, the state legislative, executive and judicial branches, local governments, methods of participation, and analysis of contemporary policies. This course is fully transferable to all Texas State colleges and universities.

### Core Curriculum Objectives (CCOs)

This course satisfies the social science requirement in the HCCS core curriculum. The HCCS Government Discipline Committee has specified that the course address 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 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

### **Program Student Learning Outcomes (PSLOs)**

Can be found at:

<https://www.hccs.edu/programs/areas-of-study/social--behavioral-sciences/government/>

### **Course Student Learning Outcomes (CSLOs)**

Upon completion of this course, the student will be able to:

1. Explain the origin and development of the Texas constitution.
2. Describe state and local political systems and their relationship with the federal government.
3. Describe separation of powers and checks and balances in both theory and practice in Texas.
4. Demonstrate knowledge of the legislative, executive, and judicial branches of Texas government.
5. Evaluate the role of public opinion, interest groups, and political parties in Texas.
6. Analyze the state and local election process.
7. Identify the rights and responsibilities of citizens.
8. Analyze issues, policies and political culture of Texas.

### **Learning Objectives**

Learning Objectives for each CSLO can be found at GOVT 2306 can be found [here](#).

## 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.

### 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 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
- Attain a raw score of at least 50% on the departmental final exam
- Be aware of and comply with academic honesty policies in the HCCS Student Handbook

## Assignments, Exams, and Activities

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.

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.

### Written Assignment

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.

### Exams

30% Exam (10% each) Exam 1 & 2 are not comprehensive. The final, which will either be a presentation in the form of a video assignment or an exam.

To preserve the integrity and security of each exam, all tests will contain each of the following provisions.

- 1) 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.
- 2) Students will be given SIXTY continuous minutes on each exam. *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.* 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

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.

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.

Students should not expect to know their grade on any exam until sometime AFTER the exam period closes. No exam will EVER be available for public viewing to preserve the exam's integrity. Students who wish to review the exam questions may only do so through two ways:

- 1) By setting up an appointment to meet with me in person on-site at an HCC Campus during a mutually convenient time. Showing up unannounced is not acceptable to discuss your exams.

### **Online Module Activities**

#### **CURRENT EVENT DISCUSSIONS**

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 Government Topics assigned in this course. To be current, articles must be retrieved within the last 3 months.

Each module will include a current event discussion. Depending on the module, expect there to be some variation in the activity. In some cases, students will be asked to watch a video I have provided for the discussion; in other cases, you may read an article that relates to the module. After completing your viewing activity, you will be asked to complete the following parts of this discussion:

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)

Part 2: Respond to TWO posts 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)

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.

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 *hold a dialogue*. 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.

#### **SYLLABUS QUIZ**

In addition to exams and module assignments, there will also be a required syllabus quiz open during the first week of the semester. While the syllabus quiz will not be an official grade that students can earn, any student who fails to earn the maximum number of points on the syllabus quiz will not gain full access to the course AND will be at risk of being withdrawn from the course. The purpose of the syllabus quiz is to insure that all enrolled students become familiar with my course expectations and requirements. Lastly, the format of the syllabus quiz is multiple choice.

## Grading Formula

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

## Extra Credit

Any and all extra credit opportunities to improve your grade will be announced only to the entire class on Canvas. Points awarded will be calculated in your overall grade in addition to points earned at the end of the semester. No other extra credit chances will be provided beyond what I have announced to the class.

## 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.

**HCC Grading Scale can be found on this site under Academic Information:**  
<http://www.hccs.edu/resources-for/current-students/student-handbook/>



## Course Calendar

Review Course Calendar for all assignment due dates, in Eagle Online (Canvas)

Assignment	Due Date ALL midnight deadline
Current Event Article Discussion Post Analysis (part 1) and Rebuttals (part 2) 1	2/12
Current Event Article 2	3/25
Current Event Article 3	4/5
Reflective Writing 1	3/19
Reflective Writing 2	4/20
Exam 1	5/8
Exam 2	5/8
Exam 3	5/8
Quiz 1	2/1
Quizzes 2-5	5/8

Official Day of Record (Census date) Feb 1, 2021

Last day to withdraw with a "W" April 6, 2021

### 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.

## Instructor's Practices and Procedures

### Missed Assignments

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.

### 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.

*All faculty at HCC are required to document these violations in Maxient, a system used to report any student behavior that constitutes a violation of academic integrity, triggering involvement from other appropriate departments.*

Here's the link to the HCC information about academic integrity (Scholastic Dishonesty and Violation of Academic Scholastic Dishonesty and Grievance):

<http://www.hccs.edu/about-hcc/procedures/student-rights-policies--procedures/student-procedures/>

## **Attendance Procedures**

Attendance is required and is taken daily (or if an online class is monitored regularly). 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.

## **Government Department Information**

The Houston Community College Government department supports students in a number of different ways. These include:

- GOVT Majors – 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 who will connect them to events, news, and opportunities.
- Careers in GOVT – 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.
- GOVT Student Organizations – The HCC Political Science Club holds discussions and sponsors events to connect students to politics in the real world.
- GOVT Scholarships – The Government Department will work with students to locate scholarship support, when possible.

## **HCC Policies**

Here's the link to the HCC Student Handbook <http://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

## **EGLS<sup>3</sup>**

The EGLS<sup>3</sup> (Evaluation for Greater Learning Student Survey System) 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. -EGLS<sup>3</sup> surveys are not offered during the Summer semester due to logistical constraints.

<http://www.hccs.edu/resources-for/current-students/egls3-evaluate-your-professors/>

### **Campus Carry Link**

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

<http://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](#) and activate it now. You may also use Canvas Inbox to communicate.

### **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.

## **Office of Institutional Equity**

Use the link below to access the HCC Office of Institutional Equity, Inclusion, and Engagement (<http://www.hccs.edu/departments/institutional-equity/>)

### **disAbility 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 <http://www.hccs.edu/support-services/disability-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)  
<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/>

### **Department Chair Contact Information**

Department Chair: Dr. Cammy Shay  
Email Address: [cammy.shay@hccs.edu](mailto:cammy.shay@hccs.edu)  
Office Number: 713-718-7141

Per the HCC Student Handbook, if you have a problem with your Government course, please contact your instructor before contacting the department chair.