



Government Course Syllabus

GOVT 2306

Spring, 2017, CRN: 16069

Stafford - Learning Hub Rm 321 , Friday 8:00AM - 11:00AM

3 Semester Credit Hours

48 Contact Hours

16 Weeks

Lectures, group discussions, videos on current topics

Instructor Name

Julie A. Janzer

julie.janzer@hccs.edu (713) 459-4536

Government Department Chair

Evelyn Ballard

Evelyn.ballard@hccs.edu

713-718-2490

Note: if you have a problem with your Government course, please contact your instructor before contacting me.

Office Hours:

before and after class or by appointment

Course Description

Texas-- 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:

- * Identify the structure, functions and nature of the institutions of government in Texas.
- * Understand and describe the development, purpose and attributes of the Texas Constitution
- * Identify the policy making process and comprehend the outcomes of state and local policy in Texas.
- * Understand how political values and ideas are developed and expressed and the means through which one may engage in the political system.
- * Comprehend how interest groups, parties and the structure of the political system influence political participation.

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.

Reaching Your Highest Potential

To achieve a good grade in this course, I highly recommend you attend each class, do the test reviews after each lecture & allow yourself plenty of time to complete the assignments in its entirety.

Student Assignments

Homework assignments will be due on assigned dates. **These assignments are not to be done in groups, unless otherwise instructed.** Grade penalties will be given if work is done with another student.

Assignments - You can either choose to type the question before the answer or give the answer. Make sure the answer corresponds to the correct number. Answer questions in complete sentences unless the question lends itself to numerical short answers. Make sure to answer all parts of the question. **All assignments are to be typed unless otherwise instructed.**

Make-up Policy

Take all exams at the scheduled time. The testing center has limited availability for makeup exams and cannot guarantee access this semester.

There are six exams and I will only allow one make up the entire semester. In order to qualify for the makeup exam ,you must provide medical documentation and take the exam **within two days** of the original testing date.

Failure to notify me before the time of the test by text, email ,or a phone call will automatically result in a grade of zero.

You will not be able to take a makeup for the final.

You are responsible for bringing a **scantron** (form no 882-ES) and a #2 pencil to each test.

Cell phones

Take care of all your phone call before class. All cell phones are to be turned off during class. No one is permitted to leave the room to answer calls. This is very disruptive to the class. If there is a pending emergency or a particular concern on the day of class, you may discuss this with me before the class starts and accommodations might be allowed for that day.

Classroom Behavior

I respect your time so I come prepared. Please respect our time in class by not being tardy to class, giving me your undivided attention by not looking at your cell phone or material on the computer not related to class, and not talking with another classmate while I am lecturing.

Grading Scale

All work will be scored 0-100. The final percentage value resulting from the sum of the above components will be converted into letter grades according to the following scale:

90-100%= A

80-89% = B

70-79% = C

60-69% = D

less than 60% = F

Instructor Grading Criteria

Your final course grade will be calculated according to the following formula:

6 examinations 10.83% each	65%
5 Homework assignments at 7% each	<u>35%</u>
	100%

Instructional Materials

The Government Department of Houston Community College requires this textbook for Government 2306:

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

Assignments, Outlines and copies of supplemental readings for class assignments will be place on my HCC learning website. The link is:

<http://learning.hccs.edu/faculty/julie.janzer>

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. Southwest College 713-718-7909. 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.

Academic dishonesty may result in a zero for the assignment or failure of the course, depending on the severity of the offense.

Attendance:

Attendance is mandatory and a record of attendance is carefully maintained. Students who miss class frequently rarely perform as well as those who attend regularly. **Please arrange vacations, trips, court dates, doctor's appointments and work schedules accordingly. Policy allows students to be dropped if they miss more than 6 hours of class time.**

Tardiness interferes with the class presentation. If you cannot make it to class at the scheduled time, please consider transferring to another government class that will accommodate your time constraints.

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.

If a student wishes to drop the course, it is his/her responsibility to fill out the appropriate form in the college office on campus. A student may drop the course for any reason up to **April 3, 2017, at 4:30 p.m.** After **April 3, 2017**, a student will receive the grade that he/she has earned. College policy prohibits faculty from submitting a grade of W after the official drop date.

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/>

Course Calendar

2306 COURSE SYLLABUS (Friday)

Jan. 20

Read: Chapter 1 The Environment of Texas Politics pp. 2-35

Jan. 27

Read: Chapter 2 Federalism and the Texas Constitution pp 42-72

Feb. 3

Read: Chapter 3 Local Government pp 78-113

First Test (Chap. 1 & 2)

Feb. 10

First Assignment Due on Feb. 10

Continue Chapter 3 Local Government pp 78-113

Read: Chapter 4 Political Parties pp. 122-149

Feb. 17

Continue Chapter 4 Political Parties pp. 122-149

Second Test (on Chapter 3 only)

Feb. 24

Read: Chapter 5 Campaigns and Elections pp. 158-192

March 3

Second Assignment Due March 3

Read: Chapter 7 The Politics of Interest Groups pp. 238-266

March 10

Read: Chapter 8 The Legislature pp. 274-310

Third Test (Chap. 4,5 & 7)

March 24

Third Assignment Due March 24

Continue Chapter 8 The Legislature pp. 274-310

Read: Chapter 9 The Executive pp. 321-354

March 31

Continue Chapter 9 The Executive pp. 321-354

Fourth Test (on Chapter 8 only)

April 7

Read: Chapter 10 Public Policy & Administration pp. 358-396

April 21

Read: Chapter 11 Judicial Branch pp. 404-428

Read: Chapter 12 Criminal Justice System pp. 437-458

Fifth Test (Chap. 9 & 10)

Fourth Assignment Due on April 21

April 28

Continue: Chapter 11 Judicial Branch pp. 404-428

Continue: Chapter 12 Criminal Justice System pp. 437-458

Read: Chapter 13 Finance & Fiscal Policies pp. 463-498

May 5

Fifth Assignment Due on May 5

Continue Chapter 13 Finance & Fiscal Policies pp. 463-498

May 12 Final Exam 8:00-11:00

Covers Chapters 11, 12 & 13