**GOVERNMENT 2306**

**HOUSTON COMMUNITY COLLEGE SYSTEM**

**Central College** **Summer I 2015**

Course: **Texas Government** Section: **CRN 55876 (Summer I)**

Professor: **Kwame Acheampong** Room: **Central Campus** **Room**

**CE- San Jacinto Bldg. Room 208**

Time: **M/W** **12 noon – 2:00 PM**

E-mail: **Kwame.acheampong@hccs.edu**

**Purpose of the Course:**

Government 2306 is designed to introduce students to the politics of government in America at the national level. This course studies the origin and development of the U.S. Constitution, structure and powers of the national government including the legislative, executive, and judicial branches, federalism, political participation, the national election process, public policy, civil liberties and civil rights. The course goals are to develop an understanding of the institutions and political processes of the American political System; encourage critical thinking about political events; and introduce students to the discipline of political science and how political scientist study politics scientifically. This course is fully transferable to all Texas State colleges and universities.

**The Government Department of Houston Community College requires one textbook for Government 2306**

 Newell, Charldean, Prindle, David, Riddlesperger, James**:** *Texas Politics, Twelfth Edition.*

This book can be purchased online and from local college bookstores.

Students are encouraged to read daily newspapers, notable periodicals/magazines and major TV Network news for information and current events for enrichment and understanding of government and politics.

**GRADE COMPUTATION:**

**(500 points – 100%)**

**Reading assignments & Text Summary Presentation** (20% of Final Grade, equivalent of 100 points): Periodic reading quizzes, group exercises, video presentations, and other techniques assist the student to monitor their learning and success in meeting the course objectives.

**FOUR EXAMS** (80% of Final Grade equivalent of 400 points, 100 points each)

**Exam I – Wednesday, June 17, 2015**

**Exam II – Tuesday, June 27, 2015**

**Exam III – Friday 3, 2015**

**Exam IV – Finals, July 8, 2015 (To be confirmed).**

This course includes three (3) major examinations, which are non-comprehensive in nature. The three exams consist of fifty (50) objective (multiple choice) components, or questions. The final examination may be comprehensive but the detail of the exams would be discussed in class.

**Please take all exams at the scheduled time. Makeup exams will be given only in emergency situations**.

All grades 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:

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

**ADA STATEMENT:**

HCC is compliant with the ADA and Sec. 504 of the Rehabilitation Act of 1973. “Any student with a documented disability (e.g. physical, learning, psychiatric, vision, hearing, etc.) who needs to arrange reasonable accommodations must contact the Disability Service Office at the respective college at the beginning of each semester. Faculty are authorized to provide only the accommodations requested by the Disability Services Office.” The Disability Services Office number for Southwest College is 713-718-7909.

**ATTENDANCE POLICY**:

You should attend class regularly. It is my experience that students with good attendance records usually do well in the course. The college provides that students MAY be dropped after missing more than six hours of class time. I do not wish to drop anyone who is making a good faith effort to succeed in the course. If it appears to me, however, that you have stopped attending, I will drop you because the alternative is to give you an F. Please keep me informed if you are having problems that are affecting your attendance and I will do my best to work with you.

If you decide you must drop the course, please fill out the appropriate form in the college office on campus. Instructors are not allowed to withdraw students with a grade of “W” on the final grade sheet. You must also drop the course by the specified withdrawal deadline.

**THREE-PEATER STATEMENT:**

Students who take a course for the third time or more may face significant tuition/fee increases at HCC and other Texas public colleges and universities. 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.

**HONESTY POLICY**:

Ethical conduct is part of being a competent student. Academic dishonesty (cheating) will result in a zero for the assignment and/or failure of the course, depending on the severity of the offense.

**CLASS PREPARATION**

Each student must purchase all books necessary for this course and be prepared to discuss the reading assignments in advance of each class meeting.

**STUDENT CONFERENCES**

Students are encouraged to see me to discuss any course-related problems. However, I must emphasize that this should be arranged at the appropriate time during the semester. Conferences will be scheduled by appointment only.

**I am confident that students would find this course engaging and stimulating indeed!**

**Class Schedule**

***Foundation of Texas Politics***

**The Context of Texas Politics**

Read: Chapter 1.

**2. Constitutional Setting**

Read: Chapter 2.

***Political Behavior***

**Interest Groups**

Read: Chapter 3

**Political Parties**

Read: Chapter 4

**Voting, Campaigns & Elections**

Read: Chapter 5

**First Exam - see above for calendar date**

***Political Institutions***

**Texas Legislature**

Chapter 6.

**The Governor & The Administrative State**

Chapter 7 & 8

**The Judiciary**

Chapter 9.

**The Substance of Justice**

Chapter 10

**Second Exam - see above for calendar date**

***Local Government Structure, Finance & Public Policy***

**Local Government**

Chapter 11

**The State Economy and the Financing of State**

Chapter 12

**Public Policy – People & Resources**

Chapter 13 & 14

**Third Exam - - see above for calendar date**

**Exams IV (Finals)** - **see above for calendar date**