

Government Course Syllabus: 2306

Spring 2018

Northline Campus 3 semester credit hours; 48 contact hours; 16 weeks; face to face



		Regular Term, Spring 2018; 1/16 - 5/13				
Week of:	Monday			Week of:	Monday	3/11 - 3/18 Spring Break
Week 1	1/15	MLK Day, 15th; 1st day Tues. 1/16		Week 9	3/19	
Week 2	1/22			Week 10	3/26	
Week 3	1/29	2/1 Census / State of Union		Week 11	4/2	4/5 Withdrawal/Drop date
Week 4	2/5	TEST 1, end of week		Week 12	4/9	TEST 3, end of week
Week 5	2/12			Week 13	4/16	
Week 6	2/19	President's Day, 2/19		Week 14	4/23	
Week 7	2/26			Week 15	4/30	
Week 8	3/5	3/6 Texas Primary, TEST 2		Week 16	5/7-5/11	TEST 4, end of week; Saturday 5/12 Graduation

Instructor Name:

Max Beauregard

832/892-2123 cell

Max.Beauregard@hccs.edu

Office Hours, Room 310

713/718-2425 cubicle office hours M&W 9-9:30 & 2-2:30 or by appointments
T&R 10-11am & 2 to 2:30

Instructor retains the option to alter this syllabus and schedule as needed. Use it as a DRAFT calendar throughout the semester. The course is organized into 4 sets of 4 weeks, each followed by a test. The tests are not comprehensive over previous weeks' material and Test 2 / midterm and Test 4 / final are not comprehensive.

Learning Web address: <http://learning.hccs.edu/faculty/max.beauregard>

Online tutoring: AskOnline Tutoring has changed to hccs.upswing.iohccs.edu/tutoring

Campus tutoring hccs.edu/findatutor or in the Learning Lab on 4th floor

Government Department Chair

Evelyn Ballard

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Note: if you have a problem with your Government course, grade, or instructor; please contact your instructor before contacting the Dept. Chair.

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. **2306** covers the major institutions [Governor, Texas Legislature, State Courts, Texas Constitution], prisons/death penalty, local government (cities, counties, ISDs/schools, METRO, regional government), taxes, and the Texas election process (Primaries, state conventions).

Prerequisite, Co-requisite

Must have passed or co-enrolled in English 1301 (Composition I) as a co-requisite.

2017-2020 HCC Government Program Student Learning Outcomes (SLOs)

- 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 American national government. GOVT 2305
2. Identify and describe the institutions of the State of Texas government. GOVT 2306
3. Identify and evaluate information sources for political news, data, and opinion. GOVT 2306
4. Analyze the effects of the historical, social, political, economic, and cultural forces on politics and government. GOVT 2306

5. 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. GOVT 2305

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.

Course Calendar is detailed above and on the last page.

Make-up Policy

There are no make-ups other than for emergency situations only. Arrangements must be made by calling in advance and taken on the students' own time during another class taught by the instructor or in the Testing Center. If you fail a test, you must go back over it to see *WHY you missed the questions*, so you do not make the same errors again.

Instructional Materials

The textbook is new and the online version is affordable, but not required. All other study materials will be posted to the Learning Web where you can access it before tests. Additional resources are located there [term paper materials, videos, other reading materials] so bookmark that page and use it weekly. These materials are outlined on the last page.

Grading Scale

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

Grade of FX is given to students that stop coming to class after the drop date. Consequences of this grade are to jeopardize your financial aid, including military benefits. Please note that HCC will not disperse financial aid funding for students who have never attended class. Students who receive financial aid, but fail to attend class will be reported to the US Department of Education and may have to pay back their aid. A grade of "FX" is treated exactly the same as a grade of "F" in terms of GPA, probation, suspension, and satisfactory academic progress. F1 Visa students have to show that they are attending their classes. A similar requirement is in place for some Veteran awards.

Instructor Grading Criteria are determined by equal parts of the following assignment categories:

4 tests (17% each) covering the reading, news clippings, Power Points/PDFs, & videos	= 68%
Class participation, homework, syllabus test , videos, TV specials, and <u>weekly news summaries</u>	= 16%
1 of the following items: Paper/Campaign Project/Political Cartoon Journal	= 16%
Total	= 100%

HCC government department requires that **25% of a student's grade must be based on written work – which is derived from a combination of the Term Project, news summaries, video summaries, or other written homework.** Objective exams alone are not enough to determine the grade. Students must provide their own test Scantrons, sold in the Library or Bookstore.

Attendance, Tardiness, Leaving the room, Disruptive behavior, and Dropping the class

- Roll is taken at the beginning of class each day and you must come PREPARED to class every period. This is college: not grade 13. If you miss a class, you can attend any other day or time when your class is taught. You are responsible for the material whether you attend or not. Most of the study materials are posted online to facilitate access from any PC and internet connection. The amount of material and course workload are determined by the state, so we have to keep on schedule and move forward. Check for any handouts if you miss a class when you return.
- **You are allowed four absences during the 16-week semester “no questions asked”, but this is not recommended.** Excessive absences threaten your performance and with more than 4, **you are subject to Drop by the Instructor without notice.** There is no difference between “excused” or “unexcused absences”. We all have other obligations and extenuating circumstances that may occasionally require missing class, but use your discretion. Doctor/dentist appointments are unacceptable excuses and can easily be re-scheduled if you ask them or try. Missing class for children’s school or driving others to appointments is also not advised. Make your family aware that your school is just as important as their activities! Always make class a priority; and find out from classmates or me what you missed (lecture, announcements, handouts, etc.) Most materials are posted online, so you can access them if you miss class. Please communicate personal problems via email or phone immediately if you miss multiple classes so that I can be aware of the problem before it festers or becomes a habit.
- A rainstorm is not cause to cancel a class, although Houston does have periods of intense rain and occasional flash flooding. **You will be called and texted by HCC emergency services if there is a class cancellation for any reason.** This is why it is important to register your phone and email via PeopleSoft with the college in your private student records.
- **Habitual tardiness will not be tolerated.** It is important to be on time to avoid missing announcements made at the beginning of class. Houston traffic and weather are always unpredictable, but ask your boss to leave a few minutes early so you can get here on time. Allow for the extra time it takes to park and walk from the garage. Most employers are supportive and cooperative with your school commitment. Possibly you can make-up the worktime during lunch or by coming in early or late. **Multiple tardies (3) will count as an absence** and you are subject to drop without notice if you are habitually late or leave early. **Do not schedule class at another campus in immediate sequence any class.**
- **Phones and texting will not be tolerated in class under any conditions. This is college policy and common courtesy. Do not display your phone [or gun] on your desk. It is not needed.**
- Please stay in your seat during the entire class. Use the restroom before or after class unless you absolutely have to leave. If you have an emergency, of course please leave the room, but do not text in class under any circumstances.
- Disruptive behavior and unnecessary fidgeting of any type is not tolerated.

Withdrawals:

- **Drop date is April 3, 4:30 pm.** It is the student responsibility to Drop. I will advise you of your grades and options beforehand, but you must be the one to drop from your PeopleSoft. Do not expect me to drop you. Likewise, if you are unhappy or disappointed in any way, please speak with me so we can resolve conflict before it intensifies. You only have 6 drops throughout your college career, so use them wisely. If you Drop other times, please email or tell me so I am not looking for you.

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. 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. 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 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, 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 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:
<http://www.hccs.edu/district/students/disability-services/>

"CAMPUS CARRY"

During the 84th Texas Legislature 2015, lawmakers passed a law we know as the "Campus Carry" Bill (Senate Bill 11). 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 <http://www.hccs.edu/district/departments/police/campus-carry/> **You must be 21y/o and have a CHL Concealed Handgun License to carry a concealed gun on campus. It cannot be carried in areas with signage that prohibits it.**

Food and Housing Insecurity

"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 Student for support. Furthermore, please notify the professor if you are comfortable in doing so. This will enable us to provide any resources that HCC may possess."

PARKING PERMITS

You must have a parking permit to use the lots or garage. Print your permit from your records in PeopleSoft and display in the rear window, lower left corner.

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.

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. A new policy requires that cheating is reported to the Dean of Students and this report becomes part of the permanent student record.

"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 or scantron; 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. An example is not having a **Works Cited** page on the term paper. Collusion includes the unauthorized collaboration with another person in preparing written work. Group activities for study are encouraged, but not to author individual work.

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/>

Term Project: Choose of 1 of the following:

You must complete the Paper or Project to pass the class, no matter what your test grades are.

It is always wise to begin your project early before you get distracted with other classes and social events. It is called a “term project” because you should be working the entire term!

It is anticipated that any of the Project choices will take 8-10 hours to complete, which is why it is called a ‘Term Project.’ Do not wait until the last minute. My job is to assist you in the Project, so please use the references that I will provide to maximize your focus and understanding of the issues. Often students get wrong ideas about topics and it is difficult to re-learn something once it is misconstrued. A government paper has a special focus, so it is different than any other paper. Our focus is Houston, Texas, and US, so do not get distracted by unrelated materials. You must also use the FREE services of tutors and staff in the Learning Lab; plus computer spell-check! Focus your paper on the items discussed in the document **“What is GOVT?”**

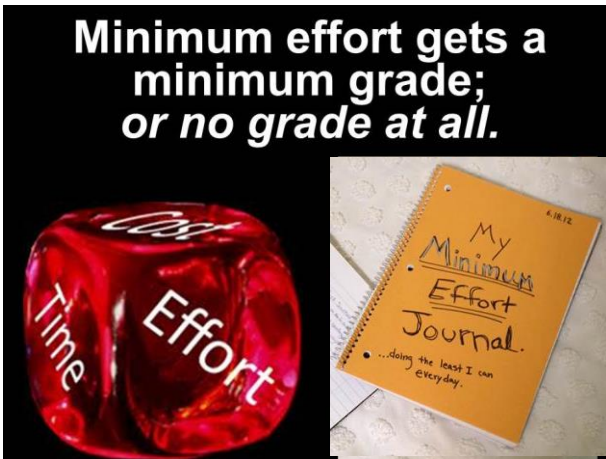
Research / Commentary Paper (Option 1). Write a 4-6 page paper on a topic of governmental policy, agency, issue, or person/group that interests you (typed, 12 point font, space & half). Sample topics will be given. The purpose of any paper is for you to research and expand your current knowledge based on FACTS of the role of government in that topic (especially government agencies, departments, people, power structures) and to express your ideas and thoughts on the topic; not to copy or paraphrase the topic from research sources. Build on what you already know, but learn something new about the topic, especially from a governmental perspective and with a local focus local or state). Specific guidelines on structure and content of the paper will be given later.

Political Cartoon Project (Option 2) Political cartoons are a common and equally powerful means of making political commentary by journalists. Historically the population was largely illiterate, so visual and graphic communications were the only method to educate, communicate, and engage citizens on timely issues. The power and controversy of political cartoons was fully realized in January 2015, when a French satirical newspaper, Charlie Hebdo, was targeted by Islamic terrorists who killed 12 journalists/cartoonists and 5 other innocent Jewish citizens in Paris. One of the greatest liberties in USA is freedom of speech/press; and the French embrace it in the same reverent manner. After all, it was the French who gave us the Statue of Liberty in 1875! They are our allies and have similar values a do we for liberty and democracy.

Your task is to explore, collect a series of cartoons, and use PowerPoint to compile a diary of digital cartoons copied from the Chronicle or other online newspapers or publications. Most importantly, provide your personal analysis of the issues, effectiveness of the cartoon, and the author to communicate and persuade the public with his artistic work. Specific guidelines on structure and method will be given later.

Campaign Project (Option 3): Texas has elections every year, so there are many opportunities to volunteer and engage in the campaign/election process. However, **there are no elections or campaigns this semester so this is not a valid choice.**

Volunteering for a political campaign, Party, or candidate is an excellent way to gain insight into the workings of candidates and campaign operations. Such participation will involve travel to the campaign HQ, usually requiring extra time, and the clerical tasks of phone banking, block walking, or preparing campaign literature. This Project gives you the rare time to get offline, out of the library, and into the streets of your community where grassroots government occurs! Prepare a PowerPoint summary of your experiences with photos and commentary. Potential candidates and details will be provided. Specific guidelines on structure and content will be given later.



Texas Government 2306: Course Calendar and Topics

Weeks 1: **Storm holiday**

Week 2- 3: **Introduction to Beauregard, “We Love Houston”**. What can you expect in this class and what is expected of you? What is government and why do we have it? Changing political landscape and disagreement over the role of government.

Week 4 Changing Political Demographics
videos; Local Governments, Cities, Counties

Week 5: Election Hybrid
Elections, voting, Primaries, Conventions

TEST 1

Week 6: Texas Legislature

**Week 7 Consequences of 2014 Election
Low Voter Turn Out**

Understanding the elected officials in Texas and their duties.

**Weeks 8: Texas Constitution and
importance of Federalism** (power to the states, especially Texas), the Bureaucracy.

Midterm TEST 2
Projects due after Spring Break

**Week 10: Governor and Plural
Bureaucracy:**

Week 11:

**Week 12: Suburbanization and
Transportation Planning; Impact of school
Desegregation on urban form**

TEST 3

**Week 13: Taxes, METRO, Regional Planning
& Schools/ ISDs**

Week 14: Texas Governor & Legislature

**Week 16: The Texas Judiciary, Prisons, &
Harris Co. Criminal Justice System**
What happens if you get arrested for DUI or
you are falsely accused of a crime? What are
your rights and what is the process to prove
your innocence? What happens on jury duty?
Significant criminal justices reforms are
resulting in Harris Co. and Texas from the
availability of DNA evidence, which has
exonerated numerous falsely incarcerated
persons after serving years in prison. These
realities have led to extensive changes in
criminal investigations, the jury selection

Week 16: TEST 4 Final Test

Instructor retains the option to alter the
Syllabus as needed.

**My job is to teach you “stuff”, but also how
to THINK, to become empowered to control
your own life, and so you can teach
yourself when the course is over!**

