HCC | HOUSTON COMMUNITY COLLEGE

Division of Social and Behavioral Sciences
Government Department
https://www.hccs.edu/programs/areas-of-study/social--behavioral-sciences/government/

GOVT 2306: Texas Government | Lecture | #16057
Fall 2019 (Second Start) | 12 Weeks (9.23.2019-12.15.2019)
Online
3 Credit Hours | 48 hours per semester

Instructor Contact Information

Instructor: Dr. Nichole Boutte-Heiniluoma

Office: West Loop 215

HCC Email:
n.boutteheiniluoma@hccs.edu

Office Phone: 713-718-2412

Office Hours: By Appt

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 Canvas (preferred) or my HCC email (preferred method of contact). 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 Monday morning.

What's Exciting About This Course

Students who finish GOVT 2306 will have completed one of the most important classes taken during in their college career. In this class, it will 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 concepts, while equally important, also are in conflict with each other. Laws that promote liberty may compromise security and vice versa. To what extent does the Texas Governmental structure and its institutional structure find a balance between liberty and security? What role do we, as residents of the great State of

Texas, play in promoting (or even inhibiting) liberty and/or security and, more generally, influence the actions of our government? 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.
- First, students should complete assigned chapter readings in the textbook, which are provided in the course schedule found at the end of the syllabus. Courtesy of Smartbook and Connect your assigned chapter readings are available online, which you can access with the access code provided by the Publishers.
- Second, 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.)
- Third, 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. While students should not be actively anticipating an announcement by a certain day and time of the week, expect there to be at least one announcement per week.

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) extensively for making instructional material available and for communication with students.

All of the handouts, videos, and other resources will be available on Eagle Online. All of your written assignments will be submitted on Eagle Online. Please check the online calendar for due dates. Eagle Online will also include links to writing resources, recommended materials, and library links. Sign in daily for new information.

Attendance: Log In to Canvas daily. You MUST complete the mandatory syllabus quiz and first discussion by the close of business on September 25th in order to stay enrolled in the class.

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
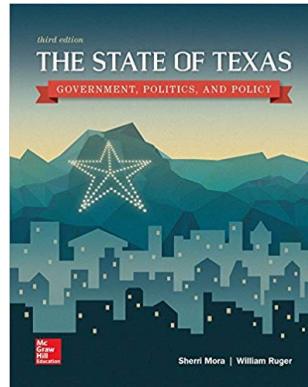
Other Instructional Resources

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 2305 is one of two courses designed to introduce students to the study of 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 scientists study politics scientifically. This course is fully transferable to all Texas State colleges and universities.

Core Curriculum Objectives (CCOs)

This course satisfies the Government/Political Science requirement in the HCCS core curriculum. The HCCS Government Discipline Committee has specified that the course address the following core objectives:

- o **Critical Thinking Skills**—to include creative thinking, innovation, inquiry, and analysis, evaluation and synthesis of information
- o **Communication Skills**—to include effective development, interpretation and expression of ideas through written, oral and visual communication
- o **Empirical/Quantitative Skills**—to include manipulation and analysis of numerical data or observable facts resulting in informed conclusions
- o **Teamwork**—to include ability to consider different points of view and to work effectively with others to support a shared purpose or goal
- o **Personal Responsibility**—to include the ability to connect choices, actions and consequences to ethical decision-making
- o **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:
 * Identify the structure, functions and nature of the institutions of the American national government.
 * Understand and describe the development, purpose and attributes of the US Constitution * Identify the policy making process and comprehend the outcomes of foreign and domestic policy in the United States.
 * Understand how political values and ideas are developed and expressed and the means through which one may engage in the political system.
 * Comprehend how media, interest groups, parties and the structure of the political system influence political participation.

Learning Objectives

Learning Objectives for each CSLO can be found at GOVT 2305 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

Weekly Activities/Discussions: This class will have at least 2-4 assignments each week to determine your knowledge of topic matter at hand. These assignments will be in both canvas and in Connect (the textbook supplement). It is vitally important that you stay on top of the readings so that you will be able to complete each assignment. Some of these assignments will be simple quizzes while others may be a short writing over a special topic from that week. Each assignment is worth 5-50 points apiece.

Most weeks, we will have a peer discussion where I post a video and/or a question related to that week's readings. It will be your responsibility to post your initial posting as well as to meaningfully respond to at least 2 of your peers in order to receive access to the maximum points possible for each discussion. Assignments and discussion prompts will be posted on Sunday evenings and the corresponding due dates will be noted on the assignment in Canvas. Please be mindful of those as assignments in the same week can (and usually will) have different due dates

Please note-if you are not completing the weekly assignments you can be dropped from the course.* You must complete the first week's course assignments (getting to know you and unit one paper assignment) if you want to stay enrolled in the class. You must complete the first writing assignment on time if you do not want to be dropped from the course. Failure to complete these assignments will result in you being dropped from the class. **

Written Assignment

Paper Assignments/Presentations (No Plagiarism, No Extensions, and No Makeups)

Each student is to write major one writing assignment. Each student will also complete a presentation over that writing assignment. **For this paper, you are going to choose a topic based on what you believe to be the most important/pressing issue facing Texas today. In essence, you are going to do a research paper on what you believe is the most important problem facing Texas today.** This can be anything from our education system, our political process, the lack of resources for our underserved populations just to name a few issues. Your topic will have to be approved by the instructor by December 20th (an assignment submission area will be open for you to submit your chosen topic in). Your final paper should follow the following guidelines:

This paper should have a title page, be typed, double-spaced with normal margins and 12-point font (Arial or Times New Roman). Papers will be graded on the following standards:

-Use of language and writing;

-Organization of paper and format of essay;

-Spelling, grammar, and punctuation;

-Consistency and use of logic;

-Use of literature;

-Originality of research.

The text portion of the papers should be exactly 6-7 pages in length. Please remember to cite sources for statements of fact or any statement not attributable to you, wherever necessary. APA is the accepted citation and formatting method.

This assignment is due on **December 11th by 9am.**

Your presentation should be a powerpoint or prezi which will cover your final paper topic. This presentation should present the arguments posed in the paper and display evidence to support them. The presentations should be at most 4 minutes in length. You are allowed to add arguments and facts not found in your paper to your presentation. The presentations will be graded based on the following standards for evaluation:

-Reasoning, analysis, logic;

-Innovative, effective arguments;

-Organization/Refutation of opposition arguments;

-Overall persuasiveness;

-Assertions supported and documented. This

assignment is due **December 12**th by 9am.

Exams

For a unit write up paper, I want you to pick one interesting topic from the chapters covered in your assigned module. After a bit of extra research (you must utilize at least 2 outside sources), I want you to write a 3 page paper that discusses one aspect of the general topic you picked.

For instance, if you picked the criminal justice system in Texas, you can pick the death penalty in Texas and discuss the pros and cons of it (again using at least 2 outside resources not including your text).

This paper should be typed, double-spaced with normal margins and 12-point font (Arial or Times New Roman). Papers will be graded on the following standards:

-Use of language and writing;

-Organization of paper and format of essay;

-Spelling, grammar, and punctuation;

-Consistency and use of logic;

-Use of
literature;

-Originality of research.

The text portion of your paper should be **3-4 pages in length**. Please remember to cite sources for statements of fact or any statement not attributable to you, wherever necessary. APA is the only accepted citation and formatting method.

You must have a reference page (not included in your 3-4 pages of text).

Online Module Activities

See weekly assignment write up above.

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. Students will have unlimited opportunities to take and retake the quiz until the maximum number of points (TEN) can be earned. 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.

Final Exam

Final Exam is your final paper and presentation.

Grading Formula

Complete all required reading/video assignments prior to each assignment. This is the key to success in this course. The breakdown of points in this course is as follows:
1. Unite Writeups 35%
2. Papers 35%
3. Weekly Assignments 30%

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 complete 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

<< **Modify Section & Delete Placeholder Text** Instructors are expected to modify course calendar to reflect correct dates for each assignment, the present semester and length of term for the course.>>

Module	READING ASSIGNMENT	Reference Chapter
September 23rd-October 12th	Getting to Know You Study the News Texas Demographics The environment of Texas Politics Houston Paper Topic Submission	Syllabus, Ch. 1, 2, 6 and 11
October 13th-November 2nd	The Perfect Candidate Annotated Bibliography Your Representatives Medicaid Discussion Teach Us- The Criminal Justice System	Chapter 3-5 and 12
November 3rd-November 23rd	You Are In Charge: Political Party Development Design Your Own Interest Group Be Active Voting In America Rough Draft	Chapters 7-10
November 24th-December 12th	Course Overview Assignment Final Paper Final Presentation Final Extra Credit	Chapters 13-14

Other important dates:

Last day to withdraw with a "W" 11/22/19
Thanksgiving Holiday (Good Friday/Easter Holiday): 11/28/19
- The deadline for Exam 1 or Exam 2 makeup is on Wednesday, 11/27/19 at 11:59 pm.

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 module assignments unless there are extreme circumstances. 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 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 are expected to log into their courses 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 of your level of participation in the course.

Unless stated otherwise, the deadlines for all online assignments (i.e. exams, discussions, and chapter activities) are 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 for all respective assignments are hard, firm, and assignments will NOT be re-opened.

Student Conduct

Students will be required to participate in discussion activities and interact with fellow classmates in class and/or 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 violations of student conduct by completing a Maxient report. An HCC counselor will contact the student named in the Maxient report to discuss and resolve the issue it identifies.

Instructor's Course-Specific Information (As Needed)

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[3]

The EGLS[3] (Evaluation for Greater Learning Student Survey System) will be available for most courses near the end of the term. This brief survey will give valuable 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.
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 food 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 your professor if you are comfortable doing so.

This will enable HCC to provide 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
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
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.