HCC

Instructional Services · Social and Behavioral Sciences · Government

Texas Government-13104

GOVT-2306

SS 2021   Section 0009   3 Credits   09/20/2021 to 12/12/2021   Modified 09/19/2021

🕐 Course Meetings

Course Modality

This course is a completely online (WW) course.

Meeting Days

This course is an asynchronous online course. There are no meeting days except for optional office hours.

Meeting Times

This course is an asynchronous online course. There are no meeting times except for optional office hours.

Meeting Location

This course is an asynchronous online course. There are no meeting location except for your canvas course shell.

👤 Welcome and Instructor Information

Instructor : Dr. Nichole Boutte-Heiniluoma

Email: n.boutteheiniluoma@hccs.edu

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.

Preferred Method of Contact

You can contact me through either Canvas (preferred) or my HCC email (n.boutteheiniluoma@hccs.edu) if you haven't received a response in Canvas within 48 hours. 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 after 4pm on Friday to get a response on Monday morning.

Office Hours

Virtual Office Hours:

Office hours will be in our embedded webex within Canvas on the following days:

Tuesdays- 5pm-6pm

Wednesdays- 10am-11am

🖥 Course Overview

Course Description

Origin and development of the Texas constitution, structure and powers of state and local government, federalism and intergovernmental relations, political participation, the election process, public policy, and the political culture of Texas. Core Curriculum Course.

Requisites

Students must have passed ENGL 1301 (Composition I) or be co-enrolled in ENGL 1301 as a corequisite.

Government Department Website

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

◎ Core Curriculum Objectives (CCOs)

This course satisfies part of the Government/Political Science requirement in the HCCS core curriculum. The HCCS Government Discipline Committee has specified that the course addresses 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 the 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

📊 Student Learning Outcomes and Objectives

Program Student Learning Outcomes (PSLOs)

- Define and relate critical course concepts to contemporary issues in government and politics.
- Describe and assess the importance of civic engagement in the representative democratic structures of national, state, or local governments.
- Evaluate different kinds of data used in the study of government and politics.

- Articulate their own positions on contemporary issues in government and politics.

Course Student Learning Outcomes (CSLOs)

Upon completion of GOVT 2306, students will be able to:

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

☰ Departmental Practices and Procedures

The study of government and politics engages students with practices and issues that generate conflict. In light of the nature of the class you are enrolled in, it is important to understand that what you learn may challenge some of your beliefs. This kind of intellectual stretch is at the heart of higher education. Though some of your beliefs may be challenged, only you can decide to retain or change them. Consider the following quote from Rogers Smith, past president of the American Political Science Association :

"[A]ny political science teaching worthy of the name must examine controversial political matters and must present unpopular views concerning those subjects. The more teaching about politics is done by teachers who feel themselves to be in highly vulnerable positions, wary of offending taxpayers, governmental officials, or corporate donors, the more likely it is that political science teaching will be done in ways that simply canvass conventional perspectives, rather than promoting wide-ranging critical reflection and deeper public understanding of important political concerns."

Social Science Research Council, *Transformations of the Public Sphere*, 8.

📙 Instructional Materials and Resources

Instructional Materials

Inclusive Access:

This course participates in the Houston Community College First Day Program. A discount has been applied to the required digital course materials. The discounted charge has been added to students' tuition and fee bills.

Students will access course materials through a link in Canvas. Instructions for opting out of the HCC First Day Program are also posted in Canvas. Students who opt out will still be responsible for obtaining required course materials.

✔ Course Requirements

Assignments, Exams, and Activities

Type	Weight	Topic	Notes

Type	Weight	Topic	Notes
Exams/Unit WriteUps	30%		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. (Your three pages does not include your title or reference pages).
			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).
			You will have 4 unit write-ups in this course.
In-Class Activities	40%		Weekly Activities/Discussions: This class will have at least 4-6 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 10-75 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. ***

Type	Weight	Topic	Notes
Final Paper/Presentation	30%		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 April 1st (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. 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. You MUST utilize the notes section of your powerpoint to include your talking points that are not included on your slides. You NEVER have all of your words on each slide- rather the slide if your guide. 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.
Extra Credit			Extra Credit is given at the discretion of the instructor. These assignments can only help your final grade- they can never hurt them. 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. These assignments are always optional.

Grading Formula

Grade	Range	Notes
A	90-100	
B	80-89	
C	70-79	

Grade	Range	Notes
D	60-69	
F	below a 60	

✳ Instructor's Practices and Procedures

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.

Missed Assignments/Make-Up Policy

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.

Please communicate with me ahead of a deadline if there are issues that hinder your ability to complete a(n) assignment(s). Communication is KEY!!

Academic Integrity

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

https://www.hccs.edu/about-hcc/procedures/student-rights-policies--procedures/student-procedures/ (https://www.hccs.edu/about-hcc/procedures/student-rights-policies--procedures/student-procedures/)

Attendance Procedures

Attendance is required and 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

I will make an effort to ensure that all grades will be returned to students in a timely manner. As this is an 12 week class- the turnaround time for most assignments will be two-three days.

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.

Devices

As this is a completely online course- please ensure that you have access to good (reliable) wifi, Microsoft word and Microsoft powerpoint.

Faculty Statement about Student Success

I want each you in this course to succeed. As such, I think you should follow the following guidelines.

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
- Logging in regularly to check announcements
- 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. Finally- communication is key. Utilize my office hours, email if you have questions. The only bad question is the one you don't ask.

Faculty-Specific Information Regarding Canvas

This course section will use Canvas (https://eagleonline.hccs.edu (https://eagleonline.hccs.edu)) to supplement in-class assignments, exams, and activities.

HCCS Open Lab locations may be used to access the Internet and Canvas. For best performance, Canvas should be used on the current or first previous major release of Chrome, Firefox, Edge, or Safari. Because it's built using web standards, Canvas runs on Windows, Mac, Linux, iOS, Android, or any other device with a modern web browser.

Canvas only requires an operating system that can run the latest compatible web browsers. Your computer operating system should be kept up to date with the latest recommended security updates and upgrades.

Social Justice Statement

Houston Community College is committed to furthering the cause of social justice in our community and beyond. HCC does not discriminate on the basis of race, color, religion, sex, gender identity and expression, national origin, age, disability, sexual orientation, or veteran status. I fully support that commitment and, as such, will work to maintain a positive learning environment based upon open communication, mutual respect, and non-discrimination. In this course, we share in the creation and maintenance of a positive and safe learning environment. Part of this process includes acknowledging and embracing the differences among us in order to establish and reinforce that each one of us matters. I appreciate your suggestions about how to best maintain this environment of respect. If you experience any type of discrimination, please contact me and/or the Office of Institutional Equity at 713-718-8271.

🏛 HCC Policies and Information

HCC Grading System

HCC uses the following standard grading system:

Grade	Grade Interpretation	Grade Points
A	Excellent (90-100)	4
B	Good (80-89)	3
C	Fair (70-79)	2
D	Passing (60-69), except in developmental courses.	1
F	Failing (59 and below)	0
FX	Failing due to non-attendance	0
W	Withdrawn	0
I	Incomplete	0
AUD	Audit	0
IP	In Progress. Given only in certain developmental courses. A student must re-enroll to receive credit.	0
COM	Completed. Given in non-credit and continuing education courses.	0

Link to Policies in Student Handbook

Here's the link to the HCC Student Handbook https://www.hccs.edu/resources-for/current-students/student-handbook/ (https://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

Link to HCC Academic Integrity Statement

https://www.hccs.edu/resources-for/faculty/student-conduct-resources-for-faculty/ (https://www.hccs.edu/resources-for/faculty/student-conduct-resources-for-faculty/)

Campus Carry Link

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

https://www.hccs.edu/departments/police/campus-carry/ (https://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 (https://www.hccs.edu/resources-for/current-students/student-e-maileagle-id/) and activate it now. You may also use Canvas Inbox to communicate.

Office of Institutional Equity

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

Ability 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 https://www.hccs.edu/support-services/ability-services/ (https://www.hccs.edu/support-services/ability-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/ (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.

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.

Canvas Learning Management System

Canvas is HCC's Learning Management System (LMS), and can be accessed at the following URL:

https://eagleonline.hccs.edu (https://eagleonline.hccs.edu)

HCCS Open Lab locations may be used to access the Internet and Canvas. For best performance, Canvas should be used on the current or first previous major release of Chrome, Firefox, Edge, or Safari. Because it's built using web standards, Canvas runs on Windows, Mac, Linux, iOS, Android, or any other device with a modern web browser.

Canvas only requires an operating system that can run the latest compatible web browsers. Your computer operating system should be kept up to date with the latest recommended security updates and upgrades.

HCC Online Information and Policies

Here is the link to information about HCC Online classes, which includes access to the required Online Information Class Preview for all fully online classes: https://www.hccs.edu/online/ (https://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 (https://eagleonline.hccs.edu/login/ldap)

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 during office hours, and 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

- Be aware of and comply with academic honesty policies in the HCCS Student Handbook (https://www.hccs.edu/resources-for/current-students/student-handbook/)

EGLS3

The EGLS[3] (Evaluation for Greater Learning Student Survey System (https://www.hccs.edu/resources-for/current-students/egls3-evaluate-your-professors/)) 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[3] surveys are only available for the Fall and Spring semesters. EGLS3 surveys are not offered during the Summer semester due to logistical constraints.

https://www.hccs.edu/resources-for/current-students/egls3-evaluate-your-professors/ (https://www.hccs.edu/resources-for/current-students/egls3-evaluate-your-professors/)

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.

Student 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 (https://www.hccs.edu/resources-for/current-students/tutoring/) 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 libraries' resources and services is the HCCS library web page at https://library.hccs.edu (https://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 https://www.hccs.edu/resources-for/current-students/supplemental-instruction/ (https://www.hccs.edu/resources-for/current-students/supplemental-instruction/).

Resources for Students:

https://www.hccs.edu/resources-for/current-students/communicable-diseases/resources-for-students/ (https://www.hccs.edu/resources-for/current-students/communicable-diseases/resources-for-students/)

Basic Needs Resources:

https://www.hccs.edu/support-services/counseling/hcc-cares/basic-needs-resources/ (https://www.hccs.edu/support-services/counseling/hcc-cares/basic-needs-resources/)

Student Basic Needs Application:

https://hccs.co1.qualtrics.com/jfe/form/SV_25WyNx7NwMRz1FH (https://hccs.co1.qualtrics.com/jfe/form/SV_25WyNx7NwMRz1FH)

COVID-19

Here's the link to the HCC information about COVID-19:

[https://www.hccs.edu/resources-for/current-students/communicable-diseases/ (https://www.hccs.edu/resources-for/current-students/communicable-diseases/)](https://www.hccs.edu/resources-for/current-students/communicable-diseases/)

Sensitive or Mature Course Content

In this college-level course, we may occasionally discuss sensitive or mature content. All members of the classroom environment, from your instructor to your fellow students, are expected to handle potentially controversial subjects with respect and consideration for one another's varied experiences and values.

Instructional Modalities

In-Person (P)

Safe, face-to-face course with scheduled dates and times

Online on a Schedule (WS)

Fully online course with virtual meetings at scheduled dates and times

Online Anytime (WW)

Traditional online course without scheduled meetings

Hybrid (H)

Course that meets safely 50% face-to-face and 50% virtually

Hybrid Lab (HL)

Lab class that meets safely 50% face-to-face and 50% virtually

📅 Course Calendar

Course Calendar

Please note that I (the instructor) reserve the right to modify the course calendar at any point in the semester. I will always update you via the announcements in the course of any changes well before assignments/readings are due.

Modules	Weekly Assignments*	Reference Chapter
Weeks One-Three	Getting to Know You Study the News Texas Demographics The environment of Texas Politics Houston Current Event Discussion Paper Topic Submission	Syllabus, Prologue, Ch. 1-3
Weeks Four-Six	The Perfect Candidate Annotated Bibliography Your Representatives Medicaid Discussion Current Events Discussion Teach Us- The Criminal Justice System	Chapter 7-9

Weeks Seven-Nine	You Are In Charge: Political Party Development Design Your Own Interest Group Be Active Voting In America Current Event Discussion Rough Draft	Chapters 4-6
Weeks Ten-Twelve	Course Overview Assignment Current Events in Texas Wrap Up Discussion Final Paper Final Presentation Final Extra Credit	Chapters 10-12

Other important dates:

Last day to withdraw with a "W"- See Announcements

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 announcements, of any such changes. All assignments may not be listed in the module list on the syllabi. Please refer to your weekly announcements for any changes/updates in the course.

Additional Information

Departmental/Program Information

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

- Government Majors & Minors: 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 that will connect them to events, news, and opportunities.
- Careers in Government: 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.
- Government Student Organizations: The Government Department supports the activities of the *Center for Civic Engagement* and the HCC *Political Science Club*, both of which hold discussions and sponsor events to connect students to politics in the real world.
- GOVT Scholarship: The Government Department will work with students to locate scholarship support, when possible.

Process for Expressing Concerns about the Course

If you have concerns about any aspect of this course, please reach out to your instructor for assistance first. If your instructor is not able to assist you, then you may wish to contact the Department Chair.

Cammy Shay, Ph.D. (she/her/hers)
Faculty Division Chair - Government
Angela Morales Building, 101.12
6815 Rustic

Houston, Texas, 77087
713-718-7141
cammy.shay@hccs.edu
http://learning.hccs.edu/faculty/cammy.shay