



**Division of Social and Behavioral Sciences
Government Department**

<http://www.hccs.edu/programs/areas-of-study/social--behavioral-sciences/government/>

GOVT 2306: Texas Government | Lecture | #10486

Spring 2020 | 12 Weeks (2/18/2020- 5/17/2020)

Online

3 Credit Hours | 48 hours per semester

Instructor Contact Information

Instructor: Renatta Lindsey, MPA, M.A.
HCC Email: renatta.lindsey@hccs.edu

Office Phone: Please contact me via email
Office Hours: M-TH 5:30p.m. to 6:30p.m.

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 your concerns and to discuss course topics.

Instructor's Preferred Method of Contact

You can contact me through either my HCC email at renatta.lindsey@hccs.edu (preferred method of contact) my HCC email with your HCC email. You may also contact me through Canvas email. 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; I will reply to weekend messages on Monday mornings.

What's Exciting About This Course

Students who finish GOVT 2306 will have completed one of the most important classes they will take 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. Which state and/or local institutions come up with these practices and enforces them? How do they come up with these practices? What role do we, as Texas residents, play in this balance between liberty and security? This will be a large theme in my course.

My Personal Welcome

On behalf of the Government Department, I welcome you to the study of Texas Government at Houston Community College. While this is a traditional, face-to-face course, there will be a web-enhanced component. As we will be using Canvas and a whole host of online technology, students will need to be proficient with computers and other necessary electronic devices to access instructional material and course assignments. More information to follow below.

Prerequisites and/or Co-Requisites

GOVT 2306 requires college-level reading and writing skills. The minimum requirement for enrollment in GOVT 2306 include 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](#).

Eagle Online Canvas Learning Management System

This section of GOVT 2306 will use [Eagle Online Canvas \(https://eagleonline.hccs.edu\)](https://eagleonline.hccs.edu) to supplement in-class assignments, exams, and activities. While this course is a traditional in-person class, there is a web-enhanced component to the class as the bulk of instructional material is available only on Eagle Online Canvas. Very little material will be available by your instructor as a traditional hard-copy.

HCCS Open Lab locations may be used to access the Internet and Eagle Online Canvas. It is recommended that you **use [FIREFOX](#) or [CHROME](#) as your 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/>

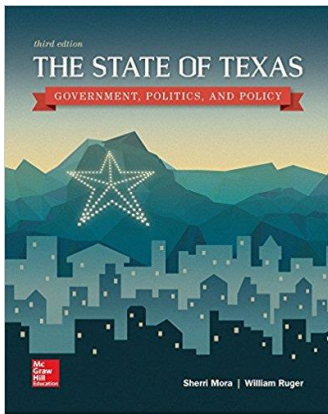
Scoring Rubrics, Sample Assignments, etc.

Look in Eagle Online 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



Sherri Mora & William Ruger, *The State of Texas*, 3rd Edition. (ISBN: 9781260664188.)

This ISBN is for a package that includes the loose-leaf version of the text with the Connect access card. The Connect access contains a SmartBook/eBook.

It is included in a package that contains the text as well as an access code and are found at the [HCC Bookstore](#). You may either use a hard copy of the book, or rent the e-book from McGraw-Hill. Order your book here: [HCC Bookstore](#)

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 libraries' 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 2306 is one of two courses designed to introduce students to the study of the 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. This particular survey of the Texas state system of government includes the fundamental principles of political science, the study of the Texas state constitution, the state legislative, executive and judicial branches, local governments, methods of participation, and analysis of contemporary policies. This course is fully transferable to all Texas State colleges and universities.

Core Curriculum Objectives (CCOs)

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.

Program Student Learning Outcomes (PSLOs)

1. Identify and describe the institutions of the State of Texas government
2. Identify and evaluate information sources for political news, data, and opinion.
3. Analyze the effects of the historical, social, political, economic, and cultural forces on politics and government.

Course Student Learning Outcomes (CSLOs)

Upon successful completion of this course, students will:

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

Learning Objectives

Learning Objectives for each CSLO can be found [here](#).

Student Success

Expect to spend at least twice as many hours per week on your own in addition to the time you would normally spend during instruction. 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 your 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 make up
- Provide the course outline and class calendar which 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
- Be aware of and comply with academic honesty policies in the [HCCS Student Handbook](#)

Assignments, Exams, and Activities

Written Assignment

The course objectives will be accomplished through the following activities 1.) Lectures 2.) Assigned readings 3.) Class discussions 4.) Exams 5.) a Research Paper. Students are expected read and study assigned reading materials, take notes, participate in class discussions and activities in order to do well in the course.

Research Paper:

Students are required to complete a 3 to 5 pages' research paper for this course. The research paper must represent original work; emphasize concept, underlying principals, and your personal analysis of the information. Students will write on the following topic:

- Keeping in mind the current topic "Border Wall"; how would this impact the state of Texas? You may wish to consider some of the following ways:
 - Economically
 - Border Community
 - Education
 - Government Relations

Research Paper Guidelines:

The following guidelines must be adhered to in your research paper. Failure to do so will result in a lowered grade.

- This paper should not be less than 3 pages and not more than 5 pages, double-spaced, 12-point font, and one-inch margins. Cover pages and Bibliography pages do not count as part of the pages. This paper will be written in MLA format.
- You must use source citations for all quotes, paraphrases, or borrowed ideas or facts on the above topic.
- Do preliminary research to ensure that you have sufficient sources to support your paper. In a paper of this length you should have no fewer than three sources.
- Every well-written paper should have at least three main parts. You should have an opening statement with a thesis, which addresses the question or issue you are researching, and adopt a framework/design/plan for organizing the information/data of your research. The body of the paper should present the evidence to support your thesis. If there is contradicting evidence from your sources, you should pay attention to that also. The paper should end with a well-stated conclusion that either supports or refutes your thesis and explains why and the effect or repercussion of the issue you are researching.

Critical Analysis Paper:

Students are required to complete a 2 to 3 pages' critical analysis paper. The critical analysis must represent original work; emphasize concept, underlying principals, and your personal analysis of the information. Students will analyze a chapter from the course textbook.

Exams

There will be 2 Quizzes and one (1) final comprehensive exam scheduled over the course of the semester. Each exam will comprise of 50 – 60 multiple choice and fill-in-the-blank questions. Each exam will cover a combination of material from assigned chapter readings and lecture notes.

Additional guidelines pertaining to the exam are as follows:

- 1) Students will have 1 hour to complete each exam. To take full advantage of the time allotted.*
- 2) Important Note: Quizzes/Exams should not be difficult with adequate preparation in advance (i.e. attend every class, take thorough notes, and keep up with the assigned readings, etc.).*

Activities

Students are required to complete discussion post as outlined in syllabus. Discussion post must be at least a paragraph and be thoughtfully discussed, demonstrate an understanding of the course work, be logical, and include facts on position.

Final Exam

All class MUST incorporate a final exam in accordance with HCC's final exam schedule. Instructors have discretion in determining the manner in which a final exam is administered (i.e. whether the exam is comprehensive of all course material covered during semester, etc.)

Extra Credit

Any and all extra credit opportunities to improve your grade will be announced ONLY in class. 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 announce in class.

Grading Formula

To calculate your grade, simply add up your top three exam scores and both of your written assignments. You can earn a maximum of 100 points.

Course Assignments	Points for Each Assignment
<i>QUIZ I</i>	15
<i>Quiz II</i>	15
<i>Discussions</i>	10
<i>Research Paper</i>	20
<i>Article Summary</i>	10
<i>Critical Analysis</i>	10
<i>Final Exam</i>	20
TOTAL	100 POINTS

After adding up all the necessary grades, match your total number with the appropriate letter grade as follows below.

Grading Scale

90-100% = A

80-89% = B

70-79% = C

60-69% = D

Less than 60% = F

HCC Grading Scale can be found on this site under Academic Information:
<http://www.hccs.edu/resources-for/current-students/student-handbook/>

Course Calendar

Class Dates	Chapters and Assignments
Week 1	Introduction, Syllabus Review Chapter 1: Texas Government Chapter 2: The Texas State Constitution and the American Federal System Discussion Post
Week 2	Chapter 3: Texas Legislature Research Paper Discussed and Assigned Discussion Post
Week 3	Chapter 4: The Executive Department and the Office of the Governor of Texas Discussion Post
Week 4	Chapter 5: The Court System in Texas Quiz I (Chapters 1-4)
Spring Break!!!! No Class	-----
Week 5	Chapter 6: Local Governments in Texas Critical Analysis Paper
Week 6	Chapter 7: Voting and Political Participation in Texas Chapter 8: Campaigns and Elections in Texas Discussion Post
Week 7	Chapter 9: Political Parties in Texas Quiz II (Chapters 5-8)
Week 8	Chapter 10: Interest Groups and Lobbying in Texas Chapter 11: Public Policy in Texas Discussion Post
Week 9	Chapter 12: The Criminal Justice System Research Paper Due
Week 10	Chapter 13: Financing State Government Article Summaries Due
Week 11	Chapter 13 Continued Course Review
Week 12	Final Exam

Other important dates:

MLK Day: 1/20/2020

President's Day: 02/17/2020

Spring Break: 03/16-03/22/2020

Last day to withdraw with a "W": 04/16/20

Good Friday/Easter Holiday: 04/10/2020

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

Make up exam permission is only given under certain conditions with noted documentation and email request sent to me through Canvas Inbox. Legitimate excuses are only military orders, illness, and jury summons. If the student comes to me with appropriate notice beforehand, I may make accommodations if reason is considered acceptable. I will note that any reason that includes recreation (i.e. concerts, football games, etc.) will not be granted. Furthermore, all makeup exams will be administered on the same day during finals week. Only one makeup per student is allowed per semester.

Dual credit courses taught at the High School will have a different make-up procedure. School officials at their convenience will administer make-up exams.

It is the responsibility of the student to be aware of deadlines for assignments, discussions, and exams. Although it is the responsibility of the student to officially withdraw from the course, a student may be dropped from the course for reasons stated in the Policy Regarding "W," "F," and "I" section on the last page of the syllabus. Failure of a student to officially withdraw could result in the student receiving a grade of "F" in the course or a "W" at the discretion of the professor.

Academic Integrity

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/>

Houston Community College is committed to a high standard of academic integrity in the academic community. In becoming a 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 a grade of "F" for the course, being withdrawn from the course, or being expelled from the College.

Attendance Procedures

Students are expected to attend all class meetings, know the rules and expectations of the course, keep up with announcements, and meet assignment deadlines. Your course grade will reflect your level of participation in the course.

Student Conduct

As this is an in-person class with a lecture-oriented component, disruptive behavior and activities that interfere with my teaching and your learning will not be tolerated. Any instances of these disruptions may result in an administrative withdrawal without refund. At a minimum, such disruption can result the student in question being asked to leave the classroom and not be allowed back without a forthcoming, contrite apology.

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, 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.

Electronic Devices

Laptop computers and/or other electronic devices are conditionally permitted for educational purposes at my discretion. If it is clear to me that any use of such a device serves as a disruption at any point during the semester, I reserve the right to prohibit any and all use of such devices.

Students with disabilities who need to use a recording device as a reasonable accommodation should contact the Office for Students with Disabilities for information regarding reasonable accommodations.

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	Incomplete Grades
Academic Support	International Student Services
Attendance, Repeating Courses, and Withdrawal	Health Awareness
Career Planning and Job Search	Libraries/Bookstore
Childcare	Police Services & Campus Safety
disAbility Support Services	Student Life at HCC
Electronic Devices	Student Rights and Responsibilities
Equal Educational Opportunity	Student Services
Financial Aid TV (FATV)	Testing
General Student Complaints	Transfer Planning
Grade of FX	Veteran Services

EGLS³

The EGLS³ ([Evaluation for Greater Learning Student Survey System](#)) 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. EGLS³ surveys are only available for the Fall and Spring semesters. -EGLS3 surveys are not offered during the Summer semester due to logistical constraints.

<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 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.

Government Program 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.

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 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/>

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.