



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

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

GOVT 2306: Texas Government | LearnFlex | #12635

Fall 2020 | 16 Weeks (8/24-12/13/20)

Credit Hours | 48 hours per semester

Instructor Contact Information

Instructor: Tom Haymes

Office: n/a

HCC Email: tom.haymes@hccs.edu

Office Phone: TBD (Please use email)

Office Hours: Email for appointments

Office Location: My home office

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.

What's Exciting About This Course

You are what's exciting about this course. This course is about understanding what it means to live in a democracy, why it works the way that it does, and how you can change it. In this class we will examine a set of issues and design solutions for moving them forward in the context of Texas politics and political culture.

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](#).

Instructional Materials

The online portions of this class will take place in Eagle Online (eagleonline.hccs.edu). Detailed instructions are in the course shell there.

Textbook

McFaden, Osterman, and Teas, *Texas Government* available in the course shell. You do not need to buy an additional textbook. The course is entirely self-contained.

Assignments and Activities

This class will use the RISE method (risemodel.com) for evaluating all student work. This method measures the level of student thinking and ability to process information. Points will be assigned based on the difficulty of the assignment on the RISE scale as follows:

- 1) **Reflect** – Students will be asked to respond to different areas of the class through direct comment (usually short). Two Reflection Posts will be counted every comments section for a total of 10 points (5 points each)
- 2) **Inquire** – Students will be asked to provide additional information through research and further reading both in comments and in class activities. Inquire posts must consist of a citation and a brief statement as to why that citation is relevant. Two Inquiry Posts will be counted for every comments section for a total of 20 points (10 points each)
- 3) **Suggest** – Students will be evaluating other students' work. A suggestion consists of a brief selection from blog, rewriting that selection, and backing up your rewrite with a citation. One Suggestion Post will be counted for every comments section for a total of 30 points (30 points each)
- 4) **Elevate** – Students will be asked to synthesize and contribute original thought to their areas of interest. ELEVATE Assignments will be reflections on the week's work using material discussed in class (further instructions will be posted online) – ELEVATE blogs will be worth up to 100 points each and the final portfolio will be worth 300 points

Source Assignment Homework – SOURCES are similar to inquiries. Every section you will be asked to contribute 6 sources (10 points each) related to your design challenge. These sources can be snippets from the textbook or relevant articles from the internet. Like an inquiry you should add a sentence or two that summarizes and relates the main point of the source or quote to the rest of the group. These will be posted on the class blog site and added to your concept maps. *These should be completed before class on the due date. Your source must be original and cannot duplicate the sources already posted.*

Web Drafts – After each blog assignment you will be asked to add a draft section to your final portfolio website based on the blog. This will be a partially in-class assignment and each will be worth 30 points if completed.

Concept Mapping and Review Chats – These are synchronous meetings online or in person. Concept Mapping and Reading Review chats are designed to review sources and place them into the proper context to assist you in writing your blogs. Review chats are to review work done and plan for the Final Portfolio assignments. These sessions will be recorded and placed in the Canvas shell for those who can't make it.

Course Calendar, Readings, and Assignments:

Class sessions are working sessions and progress is in large part dictated by the speed the class moves. Assignment deadlines are at the end of each section of the course and the relevant sections of the textbook are spelled out below.

- *Map #1: Challenge Mapping and Exploration.*
 - SOURCES Due 8/31
 - ELEVATE BLOG #1 **DUE 9/14**
 - COMMENTS#1 Due 9/21,
 - WEB DRAFT #1 DUE 9/23
 - READINGS: Intro to Political Culture, Choices of Government @learning.hccs.edu/faculty/tom.haymes/govt2306, Texas Government Ch. 7
- *Map #2: The Texas Political Environment and Your Challenge*
 - SOURCES Due 9/28
 - ELEVATE BLOG #2 **DUE 10/12**
 - COMMENTS Due 10/19
 - WEB DRAFT #2 DUE 10/21
 - READINGS: TX Gov. Ch. 3, 4, 5
- *Map #3: Find Ideal Scenarios for Your Challenge*
 - SOURCES Due 10/26;
 - ELEVATE BLOG #3 **DUE 11/2**
 - COMMENTS Due 11/9
 - WEB DRAFT #3 11/11
 - READINGS: Texas Government Ch. 9, 10, 11, 13, Bureaucracy & Budget Supplement
- *Final Portfolio: Design Strategies*
 - SOURCES DUE: 11/16
 - FINAL PORTFOLIO **DUE 12/13 at Midnight**
 - READINGS: Texas Government Chapters 2, 6

Assignment	Reflect	Inquire	Suggest	Elevate	Total	Grading Scale
Sources (x4 weeks)		60			240	900-1000 = A
Blogs (#1, #2, #3)				100	300	800-899 = B
Web Drafts (#1, #2, #3)				30	90	700-799 = C
Comments on Blog #1	10	20	30		60	600-699 = D
Comments on Blog #2	10	20	30		60	0-599 = F
Comments on Blog #3	10	20	30		60	
Final Portfolio				250	250	
					Available Pts. →	1060

Important dates:

Last day to withdraw with a "W" 10/30/20

Grading Criteria

Students will be given points based on the quality of effort and the kind of assignment the student is being asked to undertake. Reflections are worth 5 points each, Inquiry, 10 points, Suggestion, 30 points, Elevate up to 250 points. Research will equal 240 points to include 6 Sources per section that meet the *Inquiry* standard above (link and brief explanation of relevance) Grading scale: 0-599/F, 600-699/D, 700-799/C, 800-499/B, and 900-1000/A.

HCC Grading Scale can be found on this site under Academic Information:

<http://www.hccs.edu/resources-for/current-students/student-handbook/>

Instructor's Practices and Procedures

- Class points are only available up until the time the assignment is due (at class start time on the due date).

- **There are no late assignments allowed in this class.** This is because it is essential that the entire class move at the same pace. All graded assignments are submitted online so there is no reason to miss a deadline. Additionally, I have included 60 extra points in the grading rubric to allow for missed assignments or synchronous activities.
- All assignments are submitted online so even if you cannot make it to class there is nothing to stop you from submitting assignments. You must attend class to receive in-class points.
- **You MUST complete the Final Portfolio to Pass this Class. All students failing to submit a Final Portfolio will receive an "F" for the class unless previously withdrawn.**

Support Services

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>. This class will have an embedded Digital Librarian (see class site for details)

Supplemental 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

Program Student Learning Outcomes (PSLOs)

- Identify and describe the institutions of the Texas government.
- 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.

Course Student Learning Outcomes (CSLOs)

Upon successful completion of this course, students will:

- 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.

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

Academic Integrity

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.

HCC Scholastic Dishonesty and Violation of Academic Scholastic Dishonesty and Grievance policy is at:

<http://www.hccs.edu/about-hcc/procedures/student-rights-policies--procedures/student-procedures/>

"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; 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. Collusion includes the unauthorized collaboration with another person in preparing written work. **Any violation of the scholastic dishonesty policy will result in zero points for that assignment.** Students receiving a 0 for plagiarism have a responsibility to immediately consult with the professor to avoid a second violation. **More than one violation will result in an "F" for the course. No exceptions.**

Attendance Procedures

It is expected that you log into the class on a regular basis and follow the activity chart on the class home page. Attendance at synchronous class sessions either online or in person are required and attendance will be taken. Active participation will be required in this class so come prepared to talk.

Student Conduct

Students will be required to participate in discussion activities and interact with fellow classmates in an online setting. Any and all communication among class participants must remain civil and respectful. Any instances of these disruptions may result in an administrative withdrawal without refund.

HCC Policies and Student Support

The HCC Student Handbook is at <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](http://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. 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 Information:

<http://www.hccs.edu/departments/police/campus-carry/>

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.

HCC Office of Institutional Equity, Inclusion, and Engagement

[\(http://www.hccs.edu/departments/institutional-equity/\)](http://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 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
Houston, TX 77266-7517
(713) 718-8271 or Institutional.Equity@hccs.edu

<http://www.hccs.edu/departments/institutional-equity/title-ix-know-your-rights/>

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.

Department Chair Contact Information

Department Chair: Dr. Cammy Shay

Office Number: 713-718-7141

Email Address: cammy.shay@hccs.edu

Per the HCC Student Handbook, if you have a problem with your Government course, please contact your instructor before contacting the department chair.



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