



Government Course Syllabus

GOVT 2306-0001 Texas Government
Fall-First 8 Weeks Term 2018, CRN:10978
Campus: Online College, Course Time: Distance Education

3 Semester Credit Hours
48 Contact Hours Number
of Weeks: 8
DE

Instructor Name

William Parent
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Government Department Chair

Dr. Cammy Shay
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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.

Office Hours

Office Hours: *before and after class or by appointments is okay*

Special Note the primary way to contact me is through email. I only reply to Houston Community College email accounts. I check my email regularly and will respond to you within 48 hours. I will grade your exams and discussion posts within 96 hours of the due date.

Course Description

Texas-- 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.

Prerequisite, Co-requisite

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

Academic Program Learning Outcomes:

2017-2020 HCC Government Program Student Learning Outcomes

- * Identify the structure, functions and nature of the institutions of government in Texas.
- * Understand and describe the development, purpose and attributes of the Texas Constitution
- * Identify the policy making process and comprehend the outcomes of state and local policy in Texas.
- * Understand how political values and ideas are developed and expressed and the means through which one may engage in the political system.
- * Comprehend how interest groups, parties and the structure of the political system influence political participation.

Course Student Learning Outcomes (SLO)

1. Identify and describe the institutions of 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.

Core Objectives

The Higher Education Coordinating Board (THECB) mandates that the core curriculum must ensure that students will develop the essential knowledge and skills they need to be successful in college, in a career, in their communities, and in life. Through the Texas Core Curriculum, students will gain a foundation of knowledge of human cultures and the physical and natural world, develop principles of personal and social responsibility for living in a diverse world, and advance intellectual and practical skills that are essential for all learning. Students enrolled in GOVT 2305/2306 core curriculum courses will complete assessments designed to measure the following core objectives:

Critical Thinking Skills—to include creative thinking, innovation, inquiry, and analysis, evaluation and synthesis of information

Communication Skills—to include effective development, interpretation and expression of ideas through written, oral and visual communication

Personal Responsibility—to include the ability to connect choices, actions and consequences to ethical decision-making

• Social Responsibility—to include the ability to connect choices, actions, and consequences to ethical decision-making

Student assessment of proficiencies mandated by THECB may include testing, projects,

or assignments.

Course Calendar

College Holidays:

September 3rd Labor Day

UNIT ONE

DISCUSSION ONE: will open on Monday, August 27th at 8:00 a.m. and is due no later than Sunday, September 2nd at 10:00 p.m. (Introduction)

DISCUSSION TWO: will open on Monday, August 27th at 8:00 a.m. and is due no later than Sunday, September 2nd at 10:00 p.m. (covers chapter 1)

DISCUSSION THREE: will open on Monday, September 3rd at 8:00 a.m. and is due no later than Sunday, September 9th at 10:00 p.m. (covers chapter 2)

DISCUSSION FOUR: will open on Monday, September 3rd at 8:00 a.m. and is due no later than Sunday, September 9th at 10:00 p.m. (covers chapter 6)

EXAM ONE: will open on Monday, September 3rd at 8:00 a.m. and is due no later than Sunday, September 9th at 10:00 p.m. _Exam One will cover the following chapters: 1, 2 & 6.

Chapter 1 (Introduction to Texas History and Politics)

Chapter 2 (The Texas State Constitution and the American Federal System)

Chapter 6 (Local Government in Texas)

UNIT TWO

DISCUSSION FIVE: will open on Monday, September 10th at 8:00 a.m. and are due no later than Sunday, September 23rd at 10:00 p.m. (covers chapter 3)

DISCUSSION SIX: will open on Monday, September 10th at 8:00 a.m. and are due no later than Sunday, September 23rd at 10:00 p.m. (covers chapter 4)

DISCUSSION SEVEN: will open on Monday, September 10th at 8:00 a.m. and are due no later than Sunday, September 23rd at 10:00 p.m. (covers chapter 5)

EXAM TWO: will open on Monday, September 17th at 8:00 a.m. and are due no later than Sunday, September 23rd at 10:00 p.m. Exam Two will cover the following chapters: 3, 4, & 5.

Chapter 3 (The Texas Legislature)

Chapter 4 (The Executive Department and the Office of the Governor of Texas)

Chapter 5 (The Court System of Texas)

UNIT THREE

DISCUSSION EIGHT: will open on Monday, September 24th at 8:00 a.m. and are due no later than Sunday, October 7th at 10:00 p.m. (covers chapter 7)

DISCUSSION NINE: will open on Monday, September 24th at 8:00 a.m. and are due no later than Sunday, October 7th at 10:00 p.m. (covers chapter 8)

DISCUSSION TEN: will open on Monday, September 24th at 8:00 a.m. and are due no later than Sunday, October 7th at 10:00 p.m. (covers chapter 9)

DISCUSSION ELEVEN: will open on Monday, September 24th at 8:00 a.m. and are due no

later than Sunday, October 7th at 10:00 p.m. (covers chapter 10)

EXAM THREE: will open on Monday, October 1st at 8:00 a.m. and are due no later than Sunday, October 7th at 10:00 p.m. Exam Three will cover the following chapters: 7, 8, 9, & 10.

Chapter 7 (Voting and Political Participation in Texas)

Chapter 8 (Elections and Campaigns in Texas)

Chapter 9 (Political Parties in Texas)

Chapter 10 (Interest Groups and Lobbying in Texas)

UNIT FOUR

DISCUSSION TWELVE: will open on Monday, October 8th at 8:00 a.m. and are due no later than Thursday, October 18th at 10:00 p.m. (covers chapter 11)

DISCUSSION THIRTEEN: will open on Monday, October 8th at 8:00 a.m. and are due no later than Thursday, October 18th at 10:00 p.m. (covers chapter 12)

DISCUSSION FOURTEEN: will open on Monday, October 8th at 8:00 a.m. and are due no later than Thursday, October 18th at 10:00 p.m. (covers chapter 13)

DISCUSSION FIFTEEN: will open on Monday, October 8th at 8:00 a.m. and are due no later than Thursday, October 18th at 10:00 p.m. (covers chapter 14)

EXAM FOUR: will open on Monday, October 15th at 8:00 a.m. and are due no later than Thursday, October 18th at 10:00 p.m. Exam Four will cover the following chapters: 11, 12, 13 & 14.

Chapter 11 (Public Policy in Texas)

Chapter 12 (The Criminal Justice System in Texas)

Chapter 13 (Financing State Government)

Chapter 14 (Public Opinion and the Media in Texas)

Instructional Methods

This is a Distance Education course which means it will be fully delivered Online. The material will be made available through PowerPoint Presentations and supplemental activities and resources through the publisher's website as well as assigned chapters from the course textbook.

Student Assignments

During the semester, there are four scheduled class exams. All exams will be administered online, and each exam is worth 15% of your overall grade. It is imperative that students keep up with class assignments and readings if they wish to succeed in this course. The exam dates are listed in the course calendar (see above). Exams One, Two, Three and Four will each consist of a combination of seventy-five objective questions worth one point apiece. There will also be an essay question for each of these four exams which are worth twenty-five points. Each exam will cover only the material since the last exam, including both the readings and class discussion. You will only have seventy-five minutes to complete Exams One, Two, & Three. You will have one hundred- twenty minutes to complete Exam Four.

There will be fifteen discussion questions that I will post throughout the semester online. Each discussion is worth two points towards your overall grade in the class. I drop your five lowest discussion posts. The discussion dates are listed in the course calendar (see above).

Students will be expected to write a research paper for the class and submit it through Eagle Online. The research paper must be submitted by 10:00 p.m. Sunday, October 14th, 2018. The paper is worth 20% of your overall grade for the class. Guidelines for the research paper will be posted on Eagle Online.

Make-up Policy

Please complete all discussions and exams by their individual deadlines which can be found on the course calendar. Students who fail to complete a discussion by the deadline will receive a zero for that discussion. Students who miss exams one, two or three have an opportunity to make up the exam; however, there will be a 30-point deduction. There will be no opportunities to make up exam four if missed; a grade of zero will be given for exam four. **Please note:** that if a student has a valid excuse then I will allow them to make up missed work without any type of penalty being assessed. Documentation must be provided such as a doctor's note.

Grading Scale

90-100%= A

80-89% = B

70-79% = C

60-69% = D

Less than 60% = F

Instructor Grading Criteria

Your final course grade will be calculated according to the following formula:

EXAM ONE = 15%

EXAM TWO = 15%

EXAM THREE = 15%

EXAM FOUR= 15%

DISCUSSIONS= 20%

RESEARCH PAPER=20%

TOTAL = 100%

Instructional Materials

The State of Texas: Government, Politics, and Policy

By Sherri Mora, & William Ruger

3rd edition, 2017

McGraw-Hill

HCC Policies

ADA Policy: If you have any special needs which affect your ability to learn in this class, please inform me. Appropriate steps will be taken to assist you with your needs. Any student with a documental disability (physical, learning, psychiatric, vision, hearing, etc.) who needs to arrange reasonable accommodations must contact the ADA counselor at the beginning of each semester. There is a Disability Support Services Office at each campus. To find the name of the ADA counselor at your campus, visit www.hccs.edu, then click future students, scroll down the page and click on the words Disability Information. Faculty members are authorized to provide only the accommodations requested by the Disability Support Services Office.

Title IX of the Education Amendments of 1972 requires that institutions have policies that protect students' rights with regard to sex/gender discrimination. Information regarding these rights are in the HCC website under Students-Anti-discrimination. Students who are pregnant and require accommodations should contact any of the ADA Counselors for assistance.

Student Rights and Responsibilities: It is important that every student understands and conforms to respectful behavior while at HCC. Sexual misconduct is not condoned and will be addressed promptly. Know your rights and how to avoid these difficult situations.

Log in to www.edurisksolutions.org Sign in using your HCC student e-mail account, then go to the button at the top right that says **Login** and enter your student number.

Scholastic Dishonesty:

HCCS students are responsible for conducting themselves with honor and integrity in fulfilling course requirements. Penalties and/or disciplinary proceedings may be initiated by HCC System officials against a student accused of scholastic dishonesty.

"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.

Honest work and effort are expected and are rewarded. However, if any student is caught cheating on a test or plagiarizing papers, the student will receive a grade of zero on that test or assignment. A second infraction will result in a grade of "F" for the semester. Academic dishonesty includes, but is not limited to, unauthorized collusion on tests or papers, copying directly from another person's work but passing it off as your own, or using unauthorized "cheat sheets", during a test. Review your obligations in the

HCC Student Handbook.

Class Attendance:

As stated in the HCC Catalog, all students are expected to attend classes regularly. Students in DE courses must log into their Eagle Online class or they will be counted as absent. Just like an on-campus class, your regular participation is required. Although it is the responsibility of the student to withdraw officially from a course, the professor also has the authority to block a student from accessing the class, and/or to withdraw a student for excessive absences or failure to participate regularly. DE students who do not log into their online class before the Official Day of Record will be automatically dropped for non-attendance. Completing the DE online orientation does not count as attendance.

Withdrawals:

Students who take a course for the third time or more must now pay significant tuition/fee increases at HCC and other Texas public colleges and universities. At HCC, it is an additional \$50 per credit hour. If you are considering course withdrawal because you are not earning passing grades, confer with your instructor/ counselor as early as possible about your study habits, reading and writing homework, test-taking skills, attendance, course participation, and opportunities for tutoring or other assistance that might be available. Also, the state of Texas has passed a new law limiting new students (as of Fall 2007) to no more than six withdrawals throughout their academic career in obtaining a baccalaureate degree.

The drop/withdrawal date this semester is Monday, October 1st, 2018.

Repeating Courses:

As a result of recent Texas legislative changes, please be advised that HCC is charging additional tuition for students who enroll in the same class three or more times at HCC. While it is the hope of HCC that students will be successful in their first attempt at classes, we realize that life demands, academic struggles, and other issues may result in students needing to take the same class more than once. Speaking with an advisor will help you develop student success skills, improving your overall academic performance. If a student repeats a course in which a grade (A-F) has been received, the highest grade received at HCC is the permanent grade for the course and will be used in computing the GPA. All grades earned in a given course will be reflected on the transcript. Other colleges may compute the GPA differently than HCC.

HCC Student Handbook:

Please note that it is each student's responsibility to read and be familiar with the HCC Student Handbook. Please see:

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

Distance Education

The HCC Online Student Handbook contains policies and procedures unique to the DE student. Students should have reviewed the handbook as part of the mandatory orientation. It is the student's responsibility to be familiar with the handbook's contents. The handbook contains valuable information, answers, and resources, such as DE contacts, policies and procedures (how to drop, attendance requirements, etc.), student services (ADA, financial aid, degree planning, etc.), course information, testing procedures, technical support, and academic calendars. Refer to the DE Student Handbook by visiting this link:

<http://www.hccs.edu/media/houston-community-college/distance-education/student-services/pdf/HCC-Online-Student-Handbook.pdf>

Other:

At HCC the safety of our students, staff, and faculty is our first priority. As of August 1, 2017, Houston Community College is subject to the Campus Carry Law (SB11 2015). For more information, visit the HCC Campus Carry web page at

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

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 for support (call 713 718 2000 to request name/location). Furthermore, please notify the professor if you are comfortable in doing so.