Instructor Information
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Required Textbooks/Reading materials:

  
  Note: Special pricing of 30% discount available through the Brookhaven College bookstore only.

- Dallas Morning News, New York Times or access to any other major newspaper (knowledge of current events will be essential to course activities).

Technology Requirements
- Internet access (free access available in campus computer labs)
- USB flash drive for back-up storage of electronic files
- Active E-mail account (check at least three times per week)
- Basic use of a personal computer (word processing and internet browsing).
- Access to the DCCCD e-campus system: http://ecampus.dcccd.edu

Technical Support:
- Everything you need to know about accessing e-campus, using the tools and contacting tech support is located at this link: http://ecampus.support.dcccd.edu/v9/studenttutorials/studentIndexv91.html

Software Requirements (free versions of these programs are available for download on e-campus and inside the course):
- Microsoft Office or Open Office (word processor and presentation viewer)
- Windows Media Player
- Adobe Acrobat Reader
- All Quizzes/Tests/Exams for this course require the use of the Respondus Lockdown Browser. This must be installed on the computer from which you intend to take a quiz. As part of the course orientation, you will be asked to view the following guide on installing and using the Respondus Lockdown Browser: http://ecampus.support.dcccd.edu/v9/studenttutorials/StudentLockDownBrowser/StudentLockDownBrowser.htm
Course Grading System

Grading Scale (point system)
A = 900 – 1000
B = 800 – 899
C = 700 – 799
D = 600 – 699
F = 0 – 599

Activity Grade Values (*required activity)

*Orientation Quiz (1 x 40): 4% = 40 points
Chapter Activities (varies): 21% = 210 points
Mid-Term (1 x 300 each): 30% = 300 points
Discussion Forums (2 x 50 each): 10% = 100 points
*TX Policy Report (50 and 300): 35% = 350 points

Totals: 100% = 1000 points

Course Calendar - GOVT 2306 – Fall 2015

(All Unit Deadlines are 11:55 pm on a Tuesday)

Orientation

- Course begins Monday – 11/16/2015.
- The orientation is required and must to be completed online in the first day(s) of the course.
- Deadline: 11:55 pm on Thursday – 11/19/2015 (Mandatory)

Unit I – Deadline – 12/01/2015

- Activities for Chapters 1-6 Due
- Discussion Forum #1 Due (Primary post due 48 hours ahead of unit deadline)
- Mid-Term Essay Due
- Texas Policy Project Proposal Due (Mandatory via e-mail)

Optional: Extra Credit Due 12/08/2015

Unit II – Deadline – 12/15/2015

- Activities for Chapters 7-13 Due
- Discussion Forum #2 Due (Primary post due 48 hours ahead of unit deadline)
- Texas Policy Project Due (Mandatory)
Addendum I - General Course Information

Introduction to the Instructor

Welcome to American Government. My name is Ahad Hayaud-Din (I prefer Mr. Din). I am a graduate of the University of South Florida where I received a BA and a MA in Political Science and International Relations. My academic focus is in American Foreign Policy and International Affairs. I have had the honor of publishing several articles and lecturing at several prestigious policy conferences around the country. These and many other accomplishments were possible due to the strong academic foundation that was formed while I was a student at a community college.

Yes, not long ago, I sat where you are now. Please trust that I can understand your hopes, your fears, and the obstacles you face on your journey to obtain a higher education. Good communication is the key to success in any learning environment. Remember that I am here to assist. If you have a problem, question, or concern please feel free to contact me by way of telephone or e-mail. I will try to make this a fun and a productive learning experience for you. I have provided additional information about my background and my Teaching Philosophy Statement online.

Course Content

GOVT 2306 is designed to introduce students to the organization, the principles and the various functions of the Texas State Government. Together we will analyze the history, structure, changes, and continued evolution of politics in the state of Texas. In addition, we will explore a variety of contemporary political issues as they relate to the course material. This course does cover some historical information, but is primarily a study of modern Texas politics (not history).

This is one of the rare collegiate courses where watching television (the news) will greatly benefit you. In addition, I highly encourage you to stay informed about current events issues that are related to the course via print, televised and electronic media. These additional resources will be of great assistance in your efforts to understand the content covered in this course.

The larger effort in this course is to understand how and why Texas has created a vast, dynamic and complex governmental system on the state and local levels. Upon completion of this course, you will have the knowledge and analytical skills necessary to better understand the philosophy, structure and logical processes which govern the world we live in. More importantly, this course will provide you with the resources necessary to participate in politics and make informed decisions in the future.

Course Information

GOVT 2306 – Federal Government. This is a Texas Common Course Number.

Prerequisite: The following must be met: (1) DREA 0093 or English as a Second Language (ESOL) 0044 or have met the Texas Success Initiative (TSI) Reading Standard AND (2) DWRI in 0093, or English as a Second Language (ESOL) 0054 or have met the Texas Success Initiative (TSI) Writing Standard.
Course Description: 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. Coordinating Board Academic Approval Number 4510025125.

Student Learning Outcomes for GOVT 2306

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.

Core Objectives for GOVT 2306

1. Critical Thinking Skills: to include creative thinking, innovation, inquiry, and analysis, evaluation and synthesis of information
2. Communication Skills: to include effective development, interpretation and expression of ideas through written, oral and visual communication
3. Social Responsibility: to include intercultural competence, knowledge of civic responsibility, and the ability to engage effectively in regional, national, and global communities.
4. Personal Responsibility: to include the ability to connect choices, actions and consequences to ethical decision-making.

Addendum II - Course Policies and Performance Guidelines

General Guidelines for all Coursework

All course assignments must comply with the following requirements to be considered a completed work (incomplete items will receive a zero). Please read these requirements carefully:

- The deadline for each unit will always be on a Tuesday at 11:55 pm. Each unit and its deadline have been clearly identified in the course calendar. Only the mandatory course orientation has a separate deadline.
• Each "required" activity must be submitted to earn credit for the course. There are two categories of activities identified with an asterisks (*) in the syllabus (The Orientation and The Term Project).

• The Mid-term Essay and Term Project are to have a cover page with the following information: Your name, course and section number, semester of enrollment, a word count and a title indicating the topic of your essay. The word count should reflect your own work (do not include citations, paraphrased information, quotes, the cover page, or the works cited page).

• Each student is expected to utilize 2-3 scholarly sources (peer-reviewed articles from academic journals) for the writing assignments. There is a tool built into the course to help you obtain quality sources for your writing assignment, it is labeled “research center” on the main menu of the course. For current events related information, use a newspaper, news magazine, news website, a court case or an actual law. The course textbook, Wikipedia, internet search engines, blogs and similar items are examples of unacceptable research sources on the collegiate level.

• Only your own words will count toward the writing requirements. The writing assignments are intended to assess your comprehension of the material. Meaning, cited and paraphrased information should not be in your word counts.

• All assignments are expected to meet college level writing requirements; all answers are to be in essay format and the expectation is for each student to engage the topics using critical analysis. Please do not attempt to provide simplified or elementary answers if you wish to earn credit for your work. Take the time to fully explain your ideas and demonstrate the depth of your understanding to earn the grade you want.

• Failure to identify sources is plagiarism. Provide the full MLA or APA citation for all outside sources. All references are to be documented within the body of the assignment and on a works cited page.

• Do not use first person tones in the Mid-term Essay and Term Project assignments. The prompts are designed to help you think about the topic, not to generate a direct response. First person tone is inappropriate in a college essay, but may be used in discussion forum activities.

• The formatting requirements for all assignments are: typed / word processed, double-spaced, size 12 font, Arial or Times New Roman script, 1 inch margins (default setting), and a limited number of grammatical errors.

• All assignments are to be submitted as one electronic file to the appropriately titled online dropbox. Again, all pages of an assignment (cover page, body text, and works cited) are to be submitted together. Assignments will not be accepted via any other delivery method, unless prior approval was obtained.

• Assignments submitted online must be in one of the following file formats: doc, rtf or txt. Other document formats are unacceptable and will be rejected by the dropbox. Files that cannot be read by the SafeAssign system, opened in Microsoft Word or which are otherwise corrupted will automatically receive a zero as non-submissions.

• There is no credit for partial work. The minimum writing expectation for each assignment or activity must be satisfied to earn a grade. Incomplete assignments will receive a zero.
There is a specific course policy regarding late work. Chapter activities, discussion forums, extra credit, etc. are excluded from the late work policy and are always due by the stated deadline. Late work for the mid-term essay will only be accepted in a case where there are extenuating circumstances that the instructor was informed about in advance of the deadline.

Course Etiquette

- **E-mail** – Please allow 48 hours for a reply via e-mail. There may be periods where it may take longer to get a reply (such as weekends and holidays). Again, be patient and allow me time to get back to you. For any technical issues with e-campus or your computer, please contact the technical support team.
- **Communication Dialogue** – Personal attacks, racial or ethnic slurs, outbursts or other inappropriate forms of communication will result in immediate removal from the class and possibly from the college (see academic freedom statement). Think about what you are saying, before you hit the send or submit button.
- **Personal Requests** – I am happy to assist you with any questions you may have about the course, the news, or even college life in general. However, personal requests for exemptions to course policies will not be granted unless there is a legitimate reason. It is a form of discrimination by the instructor to grant exceptions without basis. Any exceptions made may require documentation and will only be considered in advance of a deadline. Please refrain from asking the instructor to engage in unprofessional or unethical behavior, such requests will be not receive an audience.

Mulligan Policy (mid-term essay only)

The term "mulligan" refers to doing something again after doing it poorly the first time, with the second effort replacing the first. The mulligan must be requested within 24 hours of your grade being posted online. Upon requesting the mulligan in writing (via e-mail), the revised assignment will be due within 48 hours (including weekends and holidays). The mulligan can only be used once during the semester for a mid-term essay that was submitted on time. The orientation, the term project, chapter activities, discussion forums, extra credit or any other activities are all excluded from this policy.

Late Work Policy

Ample time has been allotted to complete each Unit activity. All assignments are expected on or before the deadline indicated in the syllabus. I am certainly willing to work with you through extenuating personal circumstances should the need arise to submit a late essay. Any student that needs to submit a late paper must contact me in advance of the deadline for approval and to make alternative arrangements. You may be required to provide some form of written documentation in order to substantiate a request to submit a late assignment.

If approved, late work will be considered for up to 50% of the original value of an assignment. Late work must be submitted within two calendar days (48 hours) of the original deadline (including weekends and holidays). If the assignment has not been submitted within the time allotted after the original deadline, it will receive a zero. Due to time constraints, late work will not be accepted in the final unit of the course (the final
course deadline). Tests, discussion forum activities and extra credit are excluded from the late work policy and are due by the stated deadline.

**Online Course Attendance**

Students are expected to log-in and utilize e-campus for a total of three hours per week in a regular semester. You will also need to dedicate about the same amount of time to studying and working on assignments (approx. 4-6 hours total). In shorter semesters, where a week is equivalent to each day, that means you should plan to have 4-6 hours per day for successfully completing the course. As a general expectation, you should login to the course and check your e-mail three times per week (or once per day in a mini-term).

You are free to work ahead at your own pace. However, be sure to avoid falling behind. Each unit deadline will serve as a benchmark for your overall progress in the course. Remember, the distance education environment requires a high degree of self-discipline and intrinsic motivation. As you probably know, successfully completing an online course requires a special dedication. I want you to know that this task is possible, as hundreds of students have completed online courses with me in the past. Over time I have collected feedback from my students and they consistently report that time management is something they struggle with. So, my advice is to make a schedule for this course and stick to it. Trying to work on all the assignments just before a deadline is the recipe for disaster.

**Course E-mail / Announcements**

There are frequent updates posted in the course announcements area and sent out via e-mail. This is the primary avenue of communication for this course. Each student is expected to read the information and keep current with the course. Many frequently asked questions are addressed via announcements and some may contain vital course information. These are official course communications, so bear in mind that you will be held accountable for the information provided via electronic communications.

**Course Honor Code**

Scholastic dishonesty is a violation of the DCCCD Student Code of Student Conduct. Scholastic dishonesty includes, but is not limited to, cheating on a test, plagiarism, and collusion. Students are expected to complete all course work by their own efforts and in their own words.

When you cite or paraphrase another author, you are required to properly acknowledge all sources with a parenthetical citation in the body text and provide a bibliographic listing on a works cited page. If you have any questions about citations, contact me immediately. Any attempt to submit work that is not a product of your own efforts will result in an automatic “F” for the assignment and the course. In addition, you may face disciplinary action by the college administration leading up to expulsion from the college.

The college uses a premier plagiarism detection program known as “SafeAssign.” Since all papers will be electronically submitted for review, I implore you to avoid procrastinating and begin your work as soon as possible. Time seems to be the largest
factor in a student’s decision to plagiarize. Details on how to submit your work to the dropbox will be posted in the course announcement area.

**Statement of Academic Freedom**

The collegiate environment is one that promotes tolerance, understanding, communication and equality. Use the guidelines below in your interactions with the instructor and your peers:

Students are provided with the opportunity to demonstrate their comprehension of political issues and express their understanding of key points in this course. The discussion format in particular is an opportunity for students to enjoy their constitutional right to free speech and expression. This is not intended to serve as a platform for one to express their political ideology or personal feelings about a given issue. It is a forum for an intellectual dialogue and an exchange of ideas. Again, the expectation is that you will conduct yourself to the standards befitting a college student engaged in an intellectual dialogue (both inside and outside the classroom).

Academic freedom will be protected and respected by all students and the instructor. However, there are some limitations on free speech. Hateful, sexist, racist, hurtful, or otherwise obscene comments that are intended as a personal attack will not be tolerated. Additionally, any dialogue that does not specifically pertain to the topic at hand will not receive an audience. At the instructor's discretion, a student that violates these guidelines may be removed from the course and possibly from the college.

**Addendum III - Course Activities, Assignments, and Exams**

* Indicates a mandatory course requirement. Failure to submit a compulsory assignment will result in a failing grade (F/N) for the course.

**Orientation Activity (*Mandatory)**

As stated in the course catalog and on your registration forms, all INET courses have a mandatory orientation process. For this course, the process will be completed totally online. Once it has been completed, your attendance and participation will be reported to the college administration to certify you in the course. The Orientation is to be completed on the first day(s) of the course.

Any student that fails to complete the mandatory orientation will be reported as non-attending and will receive a letter grade of N (non-attending) on their final transcript. If you do not properly drop/withdraw, this will show up as an F on your permanent records. Be sure that your intentions are made clear to the registration office during the first day of the course.

**Course Readings, Lectures and Presentations**
Each student is expected to read the assigned material as detailed in the course calendar. In addition, there is a corresponding video(s) for each chapter (approx. 30 minutes each) and a Virtual Lecture (PowerPoint presentation) posted online that further address the assigned reading material. Students will be held accountable for assigned materials via the course assignments, discussion forums and unit exams. The textbook readings create the core of the online course experience. The supplemental materials are there to reinforce key points and help you succeed. Making appropriate use of the materials will have a significant impact on your grades.

It is vital that you manage your time and maintain a high degree of self-discipline to ensure your success in any college course. The course schedule has been designed to spread apart the major course topics so that you are able to comprehend the material. If you fall behind, it is difficult to adequately address the topics and this often creates a snowball effect leading to failure. Again, I implore you to keep pace with the class and not fall behind. The pace of the course is about 1 chapter per week during the full length term (or a chapter per day in a mini-term).

Chapter Activities

There are several short activities for each chapter. These activities are designed to cater to a variety of learning styles. The intention behind these activities is to help facilitate comprehension of the assigned readings from the textbook. The design is to assess your reading comprehension one chapter at a time, rather than assessing your ability to recall information across multiple chapters. The window to complete the quizzes will be the start and end date of a given unit (see the course calendar for details). Again, all chapter activities must be completed prior to the deadline for the unit in which they were assigned.

Each student may have unlimited attempts on the video and animation quizzes using a normal internet browser. However, the post-quiz will be limited to two attempts and the higher grade will be recorded. The post-quiz will require using the Respondus Lockdown Browser. If you do not finish an attempt, it will count as a zero. Once you click "OK" the quiz/test is officially in progress, do not click "Back" or close the browser. There will be 20 randomly generated multiple-choice questions for each post-quiz. Each attempt will have a 30 minute time limit. There will be a prompt to submit when you have one minute remaining. It is strongly suggested that you do not take the quiz on a computer with a wireless connection. The most reliable location for taking a quiz is in a DCCCD campus computer lab, where there are dedicated internet lines. If you do not finish an attempt, it will be recorded on an “as-is” basis.

By design, there is not enough time to look up an answer to each question. You must be highly prepared for each quiz by reading the assigned chapter. It is the unsecured nature of the distance education environment that mandates that you are highly prepared before each quiz. These restrictions provide a measure of integrity for the course assessments and help secure your identity. Do not procrastinate; give yourself time to complete each quiz in sequence as you progress through the unit. You may move at your own pace ahead of each deadline. I suggest completing the readings and quizzes well ahead of each deadline so you can focus on the primary unit activities (essays and
forums). There are a plethora of resources that have been provided to help you succeed in the course, ranging from video based supplements to PowerPoint presentations for each chapter.

On rare occasion, there may be an issue with the questions in the quiz pool. I will address those issues on a case-by-case basis. Also, unforeseen glitches during a quiz attempt can occur from time to time. There are several steps you can take to ensure you do not have a problem during an attempt. Detail information will be provided in the orientation to help ensure your computer is configured to interact with the e-campus system. Please contact the tech support team in case of a problem. However, they cannot and will not re-set a quiz. Tech support can assist in helping identify the source of any potential problem. I will then need to verify and document the problem with e-campus, if an attempt is to be re-set. If the error was on your end, the grade will be recorded “as is.” The only valid reason a quiz attempt will be re-set is when e-campus has a technical problem. **Again, I will not simply re-set a quiz attempt due to a technical error that could have been avoided on your end.**

All Post-Quizzes for this course require the use of the Respondus Lockdown Browser. This must be installed on the computer from which you intend to take a quiz. As part of the course orientation, you will be asked to view the following guide on installing and using the Respondus Lockdown Browser: [http://ecampus.support.dcccd.edu/v9/studenttutorials/StudentLockDownBrowser/StudentLockDownBrowser.htm](http://ecampus.support.dcccd.edu/v9/studenttutorials/StudentLockDownBrowser/StudentLockDownBrowser.htm)

**Mid-Term Essay**

Writing assignments are the primary assessment of your learning in this course. Reading the material and taking completing open book activities does not fully demonstrate your command of the information. For this reason, the majority of your grade will be based on your written work. The deadline for the mid-term essay has been clearly identified in the course calendar. Late work will only be considered according to the late work policy. Once the deadline passes, the grade will be recorded as a zero. It is suggested that you identify which essay prompt you want to work on at the start of the course and consistently progress toward a final draft.

All course readings, supplements and activities are expected to have been examined prior to writing the mid-term essay. As a standing requirement for all coursework, your assignment must utilize 2-3 scholarly sources (peer-reviewed articles from an academic journal). Each source is to be properly cited in the body of your text and on a works cited page using formal MLA or APA citation format. The essay must be completed using the formatting guidelines provided in Addendum II of the syllabus as “Guidelines for all Coursework.” Detailed directions on what is expected for each prompt have been provided in the guidelines for each essay option. Any additional information will be provided during the semester. The essays will be graded with an assessment rubric, it has been provided for your reference in the “resources” area of the course. As a reminder, first person tone is inappropriate in any college research essay.

**Each mid-term essay is to be 3-4 pages in length, with a minimum writing requirement of two full pages in your own words (excluding any cited or**
paraphrased information). Any assignment that does not meet or exceed the minimum writing expectations will be considered incomplete and will result in a zero. Simply meeting the minimum expectation does not guarantee a C; it only qualifies the assignment for a grade. Again, each essay must be 2 full pages in your own words and generally 3-4 pages with research to support your discussion around each prompt. If you want to earn a high grade, take the time to carefully respond to each question with research and critical thought.

There is a list of options for this assignment, please pick one topic from the list provided. Each prompt can be downloaded (in MS Word format) at any time, so feel free to plan ahead to determine which essays you wish to complete. The final product must be submitted to the SafeAssign dropbox labelled for this activity. Detailed procedures on using SafeAssign Dropbox are provided in the course orientation.

Discussion Forums

General Guidelines:

The discussion forums provide an opportunity for a collaborative and informative dialogue among peers. The expectation is that students have completed the assigned readings prior to engaging the discussion topic and have conducted independent research into the assigned prompts. This allows the discussions to remain focused and relevant.

Each forum activity consists of two postings, a primary thread and a reply posting. **Again, this is a two part activity. Both the original and reply posting must be submitted for the activity to be considered complete.** Discussion activities are excluded from the late work policy. This is a "conversation" between classmates, so it must be timely. Discussion grades will only be posted after the Unit deadline, to allow everyone an opportunity to participate. You may not go back and address discussion topics once the Unit has been completed. The deadline to complete each discussion activity has been identified in the course schedule.

Part I - Original Post/Thread Guidelines:

**The original post/thread will always be due 48 hours ahead of the unit deadline.** This allows your peers the opportunity to offer a meaningful reply.

Each discussion activity involves an element of independent research and critical analysis. The questions address your understanding of central themes in the textbook and your ability to think critically about the course material. The intent is to go beyond the textbook.

**Each student is expected to utilize 2-3 scholarly sources (peer-reviewed articles from academic journals) in the original post.** In addition, you may cite a newspaper, news magazine, news website, a court case or an actual law for current events related information. The course textbook, reference materials, Wikipedia, internet search
engines, blogs and similar items are examples of unacceptable sources on the collegiate level.

Your responses are to be in essay/paragraph format. Be sure to fully address each prompt and cite supporting evidence. The grade for the primary post will be determined by the quality, depth and originality of your writing. The minimum writing requirement for the original post is 250 of your own words (excluding cited or paraphrased information from the word count). Finally, provide a word count and a list of all works cited at the end of the post.

Part II - Reply Posting Guidelines:

The second part of each discussion forum involves replying to an original post offered by at least one of your peers. You may choose to reply more often, but the minimum expectation is for each student to engage in a dialogue with one person in each forum. Please reply to someone who does not have any replies, so that everyone may receive some degree of feedback. Your reply does not involve the same level of rigor as the original post, but it must be of substantial academic and intellectual value. Be sure to directly address the main points made in the original post and even offer additional sources to consider.

Simply cheering on your peers with phrases like "Good posting" or "I agree" will not suffice for this assignment. This is an opportunity for real exchange of ideas, so make the most of the opportunity to teach and learn from your classmates. Any personal attacks are grounds for immediate removal from the course and possibly the college.

Again, your grade will be based on the quality and originality of your feedback. The minimum writing requirement for a reply post is 100 of your own words (excluding cited or paraphrased information from the word count). Finally, provide a word count and if needed list any works cited at the end of the reply.

Extra Credit Discussion Option – Additional Reply Posts (up to extra 5 per forum):

In each discussion forum, one reply is required as part of the activity. As incentive to keep the conversation going, you can earn up to 2 extra credit points for making up to 5 additional reply comments to your peers (1 required + 5 optional = 6 total). There is a maximum of 10 extra credit points awarded per forum, or up to 20 points in total during the course. This option only applies when you are a participant in the forum. If your work was incomplete, late or you chose to skip the activity, you will not earn extra credit. Once the deadline for a given forum has passed, so does the opportunity for extra credit on that discussion topic.

*Formal Assessment Guidelines – Texas Policy Paper

Introduction

This activity is an opportunity for you to closely examine a contemporary policy issue facing the state of Texas. Over its history, the Texas government has had many conflicts
with the national government as part of the dynamics under a federal system of governance. These disputes have heated up in recent years, and include education policy, environmental policy, social welfare policy and many others issues. Select one of personal interest and objectively outline the nature of the dispute. This will allow you to work towards finding a solution.
Take into consideration constitutional disputes as well as political, economic and cultural differences. Look at the history underlying the dispute, how it is playing out within the governing institutions, and how you think the issue may be resolved, assuming that is possible.

Completing this activity is a mandatory component of this course. It serves as the standard course assessment for all GOVT 2306 students. Failure to submit this project in its entirety will result in a failing grade for the course. There are three steps to completing this project.

**Step 1**: Identify the issue and how both the US government and Texas government have been currently addressing it (historical perspective).

**Step 2**: Gather a minimum of three scholarly research articles and additional news/current events relevant to the topic. Each article is to be less than 10 years old and more than 5 pages in length.

**Step 3**: Prepare a formal policy report that is a minimum of 1000 words (excluding cited text), which includes a discussion of the following:

- A statement of the current policy
- Reasons for initiating changes
- Policy options to be considered
- Pros and cons of each option
- Recommended course of action
- Reasoning for selecting that course of action

The grading standards used to assess the quality of your work for this policy paper will be detailed in a grading rubric, which will be provided during the semester.

It is strongly suggested that you use the library database at the start of the semester to begin researching a topic. This assignment requires carefully planning throughout the semester. Refer to the course calendar for the specific due date. The final draft is to be submitted via the submission guidelines identified by the instructor.

**NOTE**: Procrastination on this project has resulted in many students, who were otherwise passing, having to fail and repeat the course.

**Term Project - Extra Credit Option**

You may submit a near final draft of the term project for up to 50 points, the equivalent of half a letter grade in the course. The extra credit draft must be a well-developed memo around the topic approved in your proposal. The draft is to meet/exceed the minimum writing expectations and proofread for technical writing errors.
It is strongly advised to show the draft to the tutor, before submitting it for a grade. There is a dropbox labeled "extra credit draft" in unit II, which is where you are to submit your work. The deadline is prior to the semester withdrawal date, see the syllabus or calendar for details.

**Extra Credit Opportunities**

At various points in the course, extra credit may be available in several forms. It may be part of an assignment, a separate assignment or simply a reply to an e-mail. If it is part of an assignment, be sure to include the extra credit on a separate page that appears after the works cited page. Again, extra credit that is part of an assignment should be submitted along with the primary assignment (combine all files into one for submission).

Extra credit that is assigned as a separate project will have its own Dropbox. If the extra credit is to reply to an e-mail based activity, be sure to reply by the deadline. Again, make sure that you submit any extra credit via the appropriate avenue to receive credit for the work.

**Addendum IV - DCCCD Institutional Policies**

**Institutional Policies:**
Please click on the following link to be aware of institutional policies at Brookhaven that may impact you as a student:
http://www.brookhavencollege.edu/about/vpi/Pages/Syllabus-Addendum.aspx

**Instructor’s Rights:**
The instructor reserves the right to modify any course requirements and calendar due dates as necessary to manage and conduct this course. Students are responsible for contacting the instructor and seeking clarification of any requirement that is not understood.

**Withdrawal Policy – Last day for a ‘W’ is December 10, 2015:**
If you are unable to complete this course, it is your responsibility to withdraw formally. Do not simply stop attending the course. The withdrawal request must be received in the Registrar's Office by (semester's drop date). Failure to do so will result in your receiving a performance grade, usually an “F.” If you drop a class or withdraw from the college before the official drop/withdrawal deadline, you will receive a “W” (Withdraw) in each class dropped. Again, the last opportunity to withdraw from the course with a grade of “W” is December 10, 2015.