Texas Government (INET)
GOVT 2306-23402/93443

Brookhaven College – DCCCD
Division of Social Sciences
Spring 2015

Instructor Information
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Required Course Materials
Textbooks/reading materials:


- Dallas Morning News, New York Times or access to any other major newspaper. Knowledge of current events is essential to the 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://dccc.blackboard.com/

Technical Support:
- Everything you need to know about accessing e-campus, using the tools and contacting tech support is located on their webpage.

Software Requirements (free versions of these programs are available for download on the link above):
- 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.dccc.edu/v91/studenttutorials/StudentLockDownBrowserv91/StudentLockDownBrowserv91.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 (1 x 25): 2.5% = 25 points
Unit Essays (2 x 200 each): 40% = 400 points
Chapter Quizzes (9 quizzes): 22.5% = 225 points (across all quizzes)
Discussion Postings (2 x 50 each): 10% = 100 points
*TX Policy Report (1 X 250): 25% = 250 points

Totals: 100% = 1000 points

Course Calendar (Please make note of the unit deadlines indicated below)

Mandatory Orientation:
The deadline to complete the Orientation is 11:55 pm on Wednesday, January 28th, 2015. Failure to complete the Orientation will result in being listed as “non-attending” and receipt of an F for the course grade.

Orientation Deadline: January 28th, at 11:55 pm.
Deadline Activities:
• Formal Orientation Quiz (Mandatory)
• Extra credit quiz: Acknowledging Sources (optional)

Deadline: Sunday, March 15th at 11:55 pm.
Readings: Chapters 19, 20, 23, 24, 25
Deadline Activities:
• Chapter Quizzes 19, 20, 23, 24, 25 Due
• Unit 1 Essay Due
• Unit 1 Discussion Forum Due (primary post due 24 hours ahead of Unit deadline)

Deadline: Sunday, May 3rd at 11:55 pm.
Readings: Chapters 21, 22, 26, 27
Deadline Activities:
• Chapter Quizzes 21, 22, 26, 27 Due
• Unit 2 Essay Due
• Unit 2 Discussion Forum Due (primary post due 24 hours ahead of Unit deadline)
• Extra Credit Essay Due (optional)

Course Research Project Deadline: May 12th at 11:55 pm.
• TX Policy Report Due (Mandatory)
Section 1 - General Course Information

Introduction to the Instructor
Welcome to American Government. My name is Mark Skorick (I prefer Dr. or Prof. Skorick). I received my Ph.D. in Political Science from Texas A&M University and my B.A. in International Studies from Pepperdine University. My academic foci include American Foreign Policy, International Affairs, and Political Psychology.

Course Content
GOVT 2306 is designed to introduce students to the organization, the principles and the various functions of the Texas Government. Together we will analyze the history, structure, changes, and continued evolution of politics in 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 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.

Section 2 - Course Policies and Performance Guidelines

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 activities is indicated in the course calendar. All assignments due for each lesson must be submitted prior to the unit deadline date at 11:55 pm.
- Each “mandatory” activity must be submitted to earn credit for the course. The two mandatory activities are identified in the syllabus with an asterisk (*).
- All essays are to have a simple cover page with the following information: Your name, course / section #, semester, word count and essay topic. Word counts do not include citations, quotes, cover pages, or a bibliography. Do not put photos, artwork, or other embellishment on the cover page.
- 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.
- The course textbook, Wikipedia, internet search engines, blogs and similar items are examples of unacceptable research sources at the collegiate level. Each student is expected to utilize high quality sources (academic journals, scholarly articles, current laws/policy, court cases, etc). 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 or news website.

- All key arguments, assertions, claims, and facts should be supported with research.
- The writing assignments are intended to assess your comprehension of the material. **Only your own words will count toward the writing requirements.**
- All assignments are expected to meet college level writing requirements. Papers that are filled with incorrect spelling and grammar will not be accepted. 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.**
- Do not use first person in a college essay unless the assignment specifically requires or asks for it
- The minimum writing expectation for each assignment or activity must be satisfied to earn a grade. Incomplete assignments will receive a zero. **There is no credit for partial work.**
- Failure to identify sources is plagiarism. **APA or MLA citation style is mandatory for all outside sources in all written work (essays and discussion board assignments).** All references are to be documented within the body of the assignment using parenthetical citations and on a works cited page.
- **Use parenthetical citations.** Do not use footnotes or endnotes.
- **All pages of an assignment (cover page, body text, and works cited)** are to be submitted as one electronic file to the appropriately titled online dropbox. Assignments will not be accepted via any other delivery method, unless prior approval was obtained.
- **There is a specific course policy regarding late work.** Quiz and discussion board activities are excluded from the late work policy and are always due by the stated deadline. Late work will only be accepted in a case where there are extenuating circumstances that the instructor was informed about in advance of the deadline.
- **Assignments submitted online must be in one of the following file formats: doc (or docx), rtf, or pdf.** Other document formats are unacceptable.

**Communications 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). Professional email correspondence mandates the correct salutation (“Dr. Skorick”), correct spelling (do not “text” me via email) and proper grammar/punctuation.
- 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, about 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 ignored.

**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. **Extensions are very rarely given, and only in the case of emergency circumstances.** 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 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 never be accepted in the final week of the course (the final course deadline).** Quiz and discussion forum activities 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 minimum of three hours per week and dedicate a significant amount of time to studying and working on assignments. **As a minimum expectation, you should login to the course and check your e-mail at least three times per week.** 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. Time management is something many students struggle with, so make a schedule for this course and stick to it. Trying to work on all the assignments a day before a deadline is a 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.

**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 quiz, 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 plagiarism prevention 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.

**Section 3 - Course Activities, Assignments, and Exams**

* Indicates a 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. All registered students are to complete the orientation activities by the stated deadline. The Orientation deadline is **11:55 pm, Jan 28th, 2015**.

Any student that fails to complete the mandatory orientation quiz will be reported as non-attending and will get a grade of N on their final transcript. If you do not properly 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.
Chapter Quizzes (1 per chapter)
There are chapter level quizzes in this course, not cumulative tests. The design is to assess your reading comprehension one chapter at a time, rather than assessing your ability to recall information from multiple chapters. The testing window for the assigned reading will be the start and end date of a given unit (see the course calendar for details). Each quiz must be completed within the unit it was assigned.

The quizzes are not comprehensive. Each quiz covers detailed material from the assigned chapter. There are a plethora of resources that have been provided to help you succeed in the course, ranging from the textbook publisher’s website to virtual lecture/PowerPoint presentations for chapter. The unsecured nature of the distance education environment mandates that you are highly prepared before each quiz. These restrictions provide a measure of integrity for the course exams and help secure your identity.

The quizzes are automated; they are generated from a pool of hundreds of questions. The grade will post immediately after submission. Each student will have two attempts per quiz. The higher grade will be recorded. There are approximately 32-36 randomly generated multiple-choice questions per quiz. You will have 45 minutes to complete each quiz. The quizzes are not designed to be “open book.” By design, there is not enough time to look up each question. You must be prepared for each quiz by reading the assigned chapter. 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).

Quizzes require the use of the Respondus Lockdown Browser. This must be installed on the computer from which you intend to take the exam. Once a quiz has started, you will not be able to leave, back out or close the quiz screen. Instructions on installing and using the Respondus Lockdown Browser can be found here:

http://ecampus.support.dcccd.edu/v91/studenttutorials/StudentLockDownBrowserv91/StudentLockDownBrowserv91.htm

It is strongly suggested that you do not take the quiz on a computer with a wireless connection. On rare occasions, there may be an issue with the quiz pool. I will address those issues on a case-by-case basis.

There are several steps you can take to ensure you do not have a problem during a quiz. Detailed information will be provided to help ensure your computer is configured to interact with the e-campus system. Again, 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 not re-set a quiz due to a technical error that could have been avoided.

Unit Essays
Written work is the primary assessment of your learning in an online course. Reading the material and taking a quiz 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 each essay is the end of the unit for which it was assigned (see calendar for details). It is suggested that you identify which essay you want to work on at the start of each unit and consistently progress toward a final draft.

Each essay must rely on a minimum of three high quality academic sources (academic journals, scholarly articles, current laws/policy, court cases, etc). 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 or news website. The course textbook, Wikipedia, internet search engines, blogs and similar items are examples of unacceptable research sources on the collegiate level. All assigned course readings, videos and lecture materials are expected to have been examined prior to submitting the essay.

As always, the essays are to be in your own words. When a source has been cited, you are expected to acknowledge the source in the body of your text and on a works cited page using formal MLA or APA citation format. Each essay must be completed using the formatting guidelines provided in the syllabus as “Guidelines for all Coursework.” Detailed directions on what is expected for each essay have been provided in the guidelines for each assignment. 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.

Each unit essay is to be 3-4 pages in length. The minimum writing requirement is two full pages for each essay (around 800 words). Anything less than 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 cited materials included. If you want to earn a high grade, take the time to carefully respond to each question with research and critical thought.

You can access the essay tab on e-campus to download the essay topics (in MS Word format) at anytime to determine which essays you wish to complete over the course of the term. The final work products must be submitted to the Dropbox area of the course when completed. Detailed procedures on using SafeAssign will be provided via e-mail and course announcements.

**Discussion Board Assignment**

**General guidelines:**
Each discussion board assignment consists of two parts, both of which must be completed in order to receive credit for the assignment. For each discussion board assignment, a minimum of two postings must be made by the unit deadline for the assignment to be considered complete.

The expectation is that students have completed the assigned readings prior to engaging the discussion topic, and not before. This allows the discussions to remain relevant to the assigned topics. You may not go back and address discussion topics once the Unit has been completed. The deadline for the discussion postings will be the end of each Unit as noted in the syllabus. Both the original and reply posting must be submitted for the activity to be considered complete. You must post your word count at the end of your original and reply posting.

**Part I - Original Posting Guidelines:**
During each unit, you are expected to post an answer (in your own words) to the primary set of questions posed for the discussion forum. Please do not wait until the deadline to make your
submission. You and your peers are expected to reply to each other’s posting, so try to allow enough
time to reply. Each 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.

Your responses are to be in essay format. Be sure to fully explain your position, citing quality sources to
support all key arguments, facts, assertions and claims. High quality sources include academic journals,
scholarly articles, current laws/policy, court cases, etc. The course textbook, Wikipedia, blogs and
similar items are examples of unacceptable sources for college level work. The grade for the primary
posting will be determined by the quality, depth and originality of your writing. The minimum writing
requirement is 250 words for the original posting, be sure to add your word count at the end of the
posting.

Part II – Reply Posting Guidelines:
The second part of each discussion forum involves a reply to a primary posting made by at least one of
your peers. You may chose to reply more often, but the minimum expectation is for each student to
engage in a dialogue with one person in each forum. It is preferable that you reply to a posting that does
not have any replies, so that everyone may receive some degree of feedback. Your reply or comment
doesn’t need to be quite as extensive as the original posting, but it must be of substantial academic and
intellectual value. The best replies are ones which incorporate research to support key arguments,
claims, facts and assertions.

Be sure to directly address the main points made in the original posting. “Good posting” or “I agree” will
not suffice for this part of the assignment. This is an opportunity for a free exchange of ideas, so take
advantage of the opportunity to learn from your classmates. Any personal attacks are grounds for
immediate removal from the course and possibly the college. As always, your grade will be based on the
quality and originality of your feedback. The minimum word count is 100 words per reply posting, be
sure to add your word count at the end of the posting.

*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 immigration policy, 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.

**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.**

**Section 4 - DCCCD Institutional Policies**

**DROP/WITHDRAWAL POLICY [Last day for a ‘W’ is April 18, 2015]:** Withdrawing from a course is a formal procedure which YOU must initiate; the instructor cannot do it for you. You may withdraw from a class in either the Admissions office or Advising Center. If you stop attending or are unable to complete this class and you do not withdraw before the official drop date, you will receive a performance grade, usually a grade of “F.” Students sometimes drop a class when help is available that would enable them to continue. Please discuss your plans with the instructor if you feel you need to withdraw. The full drop and withdrawal policy is online in the college catalog. [https://www1.dcccd.edu/catalog/ss/oep/dw.cfm?use_nav=acad_info&loc=econ](https://www1.dcccd.edu/catalog/ss/oep/dw.cfm?use_nav=acad_info&loc=econ)

**STOP BEFORE YOU DROP:** For students who enroll in college level courses for the first time in the fall of 2007, Texas Education Code 51.907 limits the number of courses a student may drop. You may drop no more than 6 courses during your entire undergraduate career unless the drop qualifies as an exception. Your college counseling/advising center will give you more information on the allowable exceptions. Remember that once you have accumulated six non-exempt drops, you cannot drop any other courses with a “W.” Therefore, please exercise caution when dropping courses in any Texas public institution of higher learning, including all seven of the Dallas County Community Colleges. The full drop and withdrawal policy is online in the college catalog. [https://www1.dcccd.edu/coursedrops](https://www1.dcccd.edu/coursedrops)
**FINANCIAL AID STATEMENT:** Failure to attend classes could result in a loss of Financial Aid (FA). If you are receiving any form of financial aid, you should check with the Financial Aid Office prior to withdrawing from classes. Withdrawals may affect your eligibility to receive further aid and could cause you to be in a position of repayment for the current semester. Students who fail to attend or participate after the drop date are also subject to this policy.

**INTERNATIONAL STUDENTS:** Students on an F-1 visa cannot withdraw from classes without jeopardizing their official status. If you are on an F-1 visa, you MUST NOT withdraw from any class without the permission of an International Student Advisor in the Multicultural Center, in Room S-136 or at 972-860-4192.

**RELIGIOUS HOLIDAYS:** A student shall be excused from attending classes, or other required activities, including examinations, for the observance of a religious holy day, including travel for that purpose. A student whose absence is excused under this provision may not be penalized for that absence and shall be allowed to take an examination or complete an assignment within a reasonable time after the absence.

**ADA STATEMENT:** If you feel you may need special assistance or accommodation (such as help with taking notes, extra time on tests, etc.) because of any type of physical disability or learning difference, please contact Disability Support Services in Room S136 or at 972-860-4673.

**ACADEMIC INTEGRITY:** Scholastic dishonesty is a violation of the Student Code of Conduct and is punishable as stated in college policies. Please review the full Student Code of Conduct as listed in the college catalog for additional information. [https://www1.dcccd.edu/catalog/ss/code.cfm](https://www1.dcccd.edu/catalog/ss/code.cfm). Scholastic dishonesty shall include, but not be limited to, cheating on a test, plagiarism, and collusion. The purpose of the Student Code of Conduct is to provide guidelines for the educational environment of the Dallas County Community College District. This environment views students in a holistic manner, encouraging and inviting them to learn and grow independently. Such an environment presupposes both rights and responsibilities.

**REPEATING THIS COURSE:** Each college of the DCCCD charges additional tuition to students registering the third or subsequent time for a course. All third and subsequent attempts of the majority of credit and continuing education/workforce training courses will result in additional tuition being charged. Developmental Studies and some other courses will not be charged a higher tuition rate. Third attempts included courses taken at any of the DCCCD colleges since the Fall 2002 semester. The District’s policy for tuition charges relating to a third attempt is in the college’s catalog. [https://www1.dcccd.edu/catalog/ss/oep/third_attempt.cfm?loc=econ](https://www1.dcccd.edu/catalog/ss/oep/third_attempt.cfm?loc=econ)

**GRADE REPORTS:** Final grade reports are not mailed to students. You may obtain your final grades online at eConnect, [https://econnect.dcccd.edu/](https://econnect.dcccd.edu/). From the student menu, select “My Grades” under “My Personal Information.” If you are not already logged in, you will be prompted to do so. Select the grade type you wish to review. Press the submit button and all grades for the selected grade type will be displayed.

**INSTRUCTOR’S RIGHT TO MODIFY:** The instructor has the right to add, delete, or revise this course syllabus.

**FERPA:** The Family Educational Rights and Privacy Act (FERPA) affords students certain rights with
respective to their education records. More information about the FERPA guidelines is available online in the college catalog at [https://www1.dcccd.edu/catalog/about/privacy.cfm](https://www1.dcccd.edu/catalog/about/privacy.cfm)

**GOVT 2306 – Texas 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.