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.

Course Prerequisites: 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.

Books Required:

Technical Support:
Call 972-669-6402 or consult http://dallastelecollege.dcccd.edu/

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
Use your student ID number preceded by a lower case letter "e" as both your username and password to gain access to the course the first time. Use the following example:
Username: e1234567
Password: e1234567

**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

**Core Curriculum Intellectual Competencies:**
1. Analyze and interpret a variety of printed materials--books, documents, and articles--above the 12th grade level.
2. Produce clear, correct, and coherent prose adapted to purpose, occasion, and audience--above the 12th grade level.
3. Analyze and interpret various forms of spoken communication, possess sufficient literacy skills of writing, reading--above the 12th grade level.
4. Apply both qualitative and quantitative skills analytically and creatively to subject matter in order to construct alternative strategies.
5. Use computer-based technology in communication, solving problems, and acquiring information.

**Student Learning Outcomes:**
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.

**Late Work Policy:** Late work may or may not be accepted. If the work is accepted, the grade may be lowered at the discretion of the instructor.

**Certification Procedures:** The certification date for this course is **February 2, 2016**. Any student who has not logged in to the course and completed the orientation quiz **before** this date will be reported to financial aid as non-attending.

**The withdraw date for this class is April 14, 2016.**

**Grade Scale (based on 1000 total points possible):**
A = 900 to 1000 points
B = 800 to 899 points
C = 700 to 799 points
D = 600 to 699 points
F = 0-599 points

**Chapter Work:**
For each chapter, do the following:
1. Read the learning objectives.
2. Carefully read the chapter in the textbook assignment.
3. Watch the power point presentation for the chapter.
4. Review flashcards.
5. When you have mastered the chapter, take the chapter exam.

Orientation Quiz (25 points):
After you have carefully proceeded through the first two steps of the Orientation process (that means you have read everything in Step 1 and have read the Syllabus in Step 2, then you should take the Orientation quiz.

Chapter Exams (350 points):
There are seven chapter exams in this course. The exam window for the assigned reading will be the start and end date of a given unit (see the course calendar for details). Each exam must be completed within the unit it was assigned.

The format for each exam is "open book" and each exam has a time limit of one hour. 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 PowerPoint presentations for chapter. It is the unsecured nature of the distance education environment that mandates that you are highly prepared before each exam. These restrictions provide a measure of integrity for the course exams and help secure your identity.

Each student will have two attempts per exam. The higher grade will be recorded. If you do not finish an attempt, it may count as a zero. There are 25 multiple-choice questions per exam. Each exam is worth 50 points. You will have one hour to complete each exam. The exam questions are pulled from a larger group of questions, therefore no two attempts will have the exact same questions. By design, there is not enough time to look up each and every question, so study prior to taking the exam. The exams are automated; they are generated from a pool of hundreds of questions. The grade will post immediately after submission.

You must be prepared for each exam by reading the assigned chapter. Do not procrastinate; give yourself time to complete each exam in sequence as you progress through the unit. You may, of course, move at your own pace ahead of each deadline.

If you are taking an exam on a wireless connection, make sure it is stable one. It is also suggested that you keep an Internet radio station active without volume during the exam to ensure your connection stays active during the examination. On rare occasions, there may be an issue with the exam questions. Please let me know if that is the case. I always appreciate help in catching errors in the exams. Always feel free to check the answers against the book – if you have a question about an answer marked wrong, just email me with the question and your evidence from the book.

Unforeseen glitches during an exam 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. Go ahead and contact me if you have any problems with the exam, if it is a tech support problem, I'll refer you to them.

Written Projects (425 points):
There are five written projects for the course.
- Unit I – Texas Rights Project (25 points)
- Unit II – Texas Interest Group Project (100 points), Texas Legislative Profiles (100 points)
- Unit III – Governor Profile Project (100 points)
- Unit IV – Local Government Project (100 points)
See instructions for each assignment in those units on Blackboard. There will be an attached rubric given with the grade on the written assignment. Be sure to answer all questions for each assignment. Questions that require more work are always worth more points. Do not skip questions that require paragraph summaries or extended replies, your grade on the assignment will suffer greatly if you do.

**Blackboard Discussion Board (100 points)**
Each discussion board is worth 25 points. To get the full credit, write a 250-300 word response (use your word processor to count the number of words and include that at the end of your post). Your response should carefully address all parts of the question in a coherent, organized, and professional manner. You must also respond to someone else’s post with a 100-word response (use word count again). Your responses should be your own words. Do not cut and paste - this is plagiarism. If you do quote the textbook or other sources, be sure to use parenthetical citation or footnotes for proper attribution.

You will primarily be graded on the completeness of your posts. If the professor asks a follow up question, be sure to reply and answer the question to get additional points. Make sure you read the comments on make on your posts. If I ask a follow up question, make sure you answer to receive more points for your post. To post, click "Create Thead" in the upper left hand corner of the Discussion Board.

**Facebook Group (100 points):**
There is a Facebook group assigned to your class. To join, click on S16 GOVT 2306 63402 MVC. You may join this group without being Facebook “friends” with the professor or with your other students. You are free to, of course, friend your classmates and the professor, if you wish. But it is not required.

You are required to post at least four times per week and comment on someone else’s post at least four times per week. Your posts should have something to do with topics discussed in the class readings, or politics in general. You can post political cartoons, videos, links to article, comment on a political issue and so on. If you post something (e.g. an article or video), be sure you have read the article or watched the video and be sure to comment on the post. Your comment should be at least a couple of sentences stating whether you agree, disagree, or why you found the content of the post interesting. Please utilize the Facebook group to also ask each other questions that you might not understand. If you have an issue with joining or using Facebook, there is a replacement assignment (a four page film review) posted on Blackboard under “Optional Film Project.”

The Facebook group welcomes views from all sides of the political spectrum. Posts and comments on the Facebook board should be respectful, not contain inappropriate language, and should never contain personal attacks. These comments should be written with the same respect that one would show in the classroom setting. If a student is found to violate this policy, they may be removed from the Facebook group and be required to obtain these points via the film project.

I will be keeping track of the number posts and comments, and the quality of your posts. To get full credit means full, thoughtful participation. Again, this means at least the four posts/four comments per week plus responding to my posts that are for the benefit of the whole class. Almost all students find this Facebook discussion board a fun and engaging activity.

**Academic Dishonesty:** Every member of the Dallas County Community College community is expected to maintain the highest standards of academic integrity. DCCCD may initiate disciplinary proceedings against a student accused of scholastic dishonesty. Scholastic dishonesty includes, but is not limited to, statements, acts, or omissions related to applications for enrollment, credit or class work, research, the award of a degree, and/or submitting work that is not one’s own. All work submitted for credit is expected to be the student’s own work.
Scholastic dishonesty shall involve, but is not limited to, one or more of the following acts: plagiarism, cheating, collusion, use of annotated texts or teacher’s editions, use of information about exams posted on the Internet or in any electronic medium, and/or falsifying academic records. Students are expected to record honestly and accurately the results of all their research. Falsification of research results includes misrepresentations, distortions, or omissions in data or reports on research. While specific examples are listed below, this is not an exhaustive list and scholastic dishonesty may encompass other conduct, including any conduct through electronic or computerized means.

**Plagiarism** is the use of an author’s words or ideas as if they were one’s own without giving credit to the source, including, but not limited to, failure to acknowledge a direct quotation. In the preparation of all papers and other written work, students must distinguish their own ideas and knowledge from information derived from other sources. The term “sources” includes not only published primary and secondary materials, but also information and opinions gained directly from other people. Whenever ideas or facts are derived from a source, the source must be indicated by the student.

**Cheating** is the willful giving or receiving of information in an unauthorized manner during an examination or to complete an assignment; collaborating with another student during an examination without authority; using, buying, selling, soliciting, stealing, or otherwise obtaining course assignments and/or examination questions in advance; unauthorized copying of computer or Internet files; using someone else’s work for as if it were one’s own. Student may submit or resubmit an assignment (in whole or in part) for more than one (1) class or institution without permission from the professor; or any other dishonest means of attempting to fulfill the requirements of a course.

**Collusion** is intentionally or unintentionally aiding or attempting to aid another in an act of scholastic dishonesty, including but not limited to, failing to secure academic work; providing a paper or project to another student; providing an inappropriate level of assistance or unauthorized collaboration; communicating answers to a classmate about an examination or any other course assignment; removing tests or answer sheets from a test site; and allowing a classmate to copy answers.

In cases where an incident report has been filed for an alleged violation of scholastic dishonesty, a faculty member is requested to delay posting a grade for the academic work in question, until the case is final. Students found responsible for scholastic dishonesty offenses may receive an authorized disciplinary penalty. The student may also receive an academic penalty in the course where the scholastic dishonesty took place. The faculty member will determine the appropriate academic penalty. Any student who has been found to have been academically dishonest due to plagiarism, cheating, or collusion on an assignment may receive a grade of zero for the assignment, and may be given an F for the course. Your enrollment indicates acceptance of the DCCCD Code of Student Conduct published in the DCCCD Catalog. More information is available at [https://www1.dcccd.edu/catalog/ss/code.cfm](https://www1.dcccd.edu/catalog/ss/code.cfm).

**Institution Policies:**
Please visit [http://www.mountainviewcollege.edu/Academics/Documents/Institutional%20Policies.pdf](http://www.mountainviewcollege.edu/Academics/Documents/Institutional%20Policies.pdf) for a complete list of institutional policies (Stop Before You Drop; Withdrawal Policy; Repeating a Course; Financial Aid; Academic Dishonesty; Americans with Disabilities Act Statement; Religious Holidays; and Campus Emergency Operation Plan and Contingency Plan.).

**Course Schedule:**
Next to each unit is the time allotted for that unit’s work to be completed. All Deadlines are by 11:55 pm on the date indicated. All the activities for a particular Unit should be done by the due date indicated. Do each chapter quiz after proceeding through the readings, power points, and video lecture for each chapter. Do the projects in the order you find them in each Unit. Be sure to keep pace and stay on schedule.
Introductory Discussion Board
Orientation Quiz due by 1-20

Unit I - The Texas Constitution (due 2-18)
Chapter 15 Readings, Power Point, Video Lecture, and Quiz
Chapter 16 Readings, Power Point, Video Lecture, and Quiz
Rights Project
Discussion Board #1
Facebook Discussion Posts and Comments

Unit II - Interest Groups and the Legislative Branch (due 3-13)
Chapter 21 Readings, Power Point, Video Lecture, and Quiz
Interest Group Project
Chapter 18 Readings, Power Point, Video Lecture, and Quiz
Texas Legislative Profiles
Discussion Board #2
Facebook Discussion Posts and Comments

Unit III – The Texas Executive (due 4-8)
Chapter 19 Readings, Power Point, Video Lecture, and Quiz
Governor Profiles
Discussion Board #3
Facebook Discussion Posts and Comments

Unit IV – Texas Judiciary and Local Government (due 5-5)
Chapter 20 Readings, Power Point, Video Lecture, and Quiz
Chapter 17 Readings, Power Point, Video Lecture, and Quiz
Local Government Project
Discussion #4
Concluding Discussion Board
Facebook Discussion Posts and Comments

Note: The professor reserves the right to make changes or modifications, if necessary, to this syllabus. Students will be notified of any major changes or modifications.