COURSE SYLLABUS

EASTFIELD COLLEGE
Texas Government 2306-43434
All course work is done online

Instructor: Carlos Antonio Rvelo
Email: crovelo@dcccd.edu

COURSE DESCRIPTION:
GOVT 2306  Texas Government (3)

This is a Texas Common Course Number.
Prerequisite: Developmental Reading 0093 or English as a Second Language (ESOL) 0044 or have met the Texas Success Initiative (TSI) standard in Reading. This course is an introduction to the study of political science. Topics include the origin and development of constitutional democracy (United States and Texas), federalism and intergovernmental relations, local governmental relations, local government, parties, politics, and political behavior. Coordinating Board Academic Approval Number 4510025125

REQUIRED TEXTBOOK: Free of charge PDF files are provided by instructor.

INTELLECTUAL COMPETENCIES:
Reading: ability to analyze and interpret a variety of printed materials—books, documents, articles- above 12th grade.

Writing: ability to produce clear, correct, and coherent prose adapted to purpose, occasion, and audience- above 12th grade

Speaking: ability to communicate orally in clear, coherent, and persuasive language appropriate to purpose, audience - above 12th grade

Listening: analyze and interpret various forms of spoken communication, possess sufficient literacy skills of writing, reading – above 12th grade

Critical Thinking: think and analyze at a critical level

Computer Literacy: understand our technological society, use computer-based technology in communication, solving problems, acquiring information.
EDUCATIONAL OBJECTIVES:

1. To develop and communicate alternative explanations or solutions for contemporary social issues.

2. To comprehend the origins and evolution of U.S. and Texas political systems, with a focus on the growth of political institutions, the constitutions of the U.S. and Texas, federalism, civil liberties, and civil and human rights.

3. To understand the evolution and current role of the U.S. in the world.

4. To analyze, critically assess, and develop creative solutions to public policy problems.

5. To recognize and assume one’s responsibility as a citizen in a democratic society by learning to think for oneself, by engaging in public discourse, and by obtaining information through the news media and other appropriate information sources about politics and public policy.

LEARNING OUTCOMES:

1. Upon completion of this course students will understand the importance of their participation in the governmental process.

2. Students will have a working knowledge of the United States and Texas Constitutions so they understand their rights and responsibilities as citizens.

3. Students will have the tools necessary to locate information so they are able to understand public policy issues that are important to them.

4. They will have the understanding necessary to become engaged in the political process, and to vote as educated and informed citizens.

5. Students will have an understanding of how the federal system of government works, and why it is of importance to them.

Tests & Discussions: There will be three (3) required exams in this course and students will be required to participate on four discussion board activities.

Test Dates:
Test 1: **Monday, April 3rd, 2017**
Chapter 18 - Introduction to Texas Government
Chapter 19 - The State Constitution
Chapter 20 - Participation and Interest Groups in Texas Politics
Test 2: **Monday, April 17th, 2017**
Chapter 21 - Political Parties and Elections in Texas
Chapter 22 - The Texas Legislature
Chapter 23 - The Office of Governor and State Agencies in Texas

Test 3: **Thursday, May 4th, 2017**
Chapter 24 - The Court System in Texas
Chapter 25 - Public Policy in Texas
Chapter 26 - Local Government in Texas

**Discussion Board Dates**
Discussion 1: Begins Tuesday, March 21st **ends** Thursday, March 30th at 10:00AM
Discussion 2: Begins Friday, March 31st **ends** Thursday, April 13th at 10:00AM
Discussion 3: Begins, Friday, April 14th **ends** Thursday, April 27th at 10:00AM
Discussion 4: Begins Friday, April 28th **ends** Monday May 8th at 10:00AM

**EVALUATION:** Grades are based on the student’s awareness of the course content as demonstrated in assignments and tests. Students should seek assistance from the Learning Assistance Center—C236—for writing and study support.

**COURSE GRADE:** The final course grade is based in 500 points total and is calculated as follows:
Tests: 3 at 20% each = 60% of grade
Blackboard Discussions: 4 at 10% each = 40% of grade

NO MAKE UP EXAMS OR LATE REPORTS ARE ALLOWED. NO EXCEPTIONS!

**Grading Scale:**
100-90= A  
89-80 = B  
79-70 = C  
69-60 = D  
59 and below = F

**WRITING EXPECTATIONS:**
Students are expected to submit their best possible writing, reflecting critical inquiry into the writing subject and the understanding of how to communicate informed thoughts and opinions. The MLA style of citation will be used in the larger—two to three page—writing assignment. Finished writing should convey the student’s clear understanding of proper grammar, punctuation, sentence structure, word usage and course vocabulary.
PLAGIARISM:
It is defined as “The unacknowledged, wholesale use of another writer’s work in a writing assignment.” I will give a zero on the assignment or test if I find evidence or cheating or plagiarism. The district policy as writing on the catalog will be implemented.
www.dcccd.edu/cat0506/ss/code.cfm

ACADEMIC HONESTY:
The purpose of the Student Code of Conduct is to provide guidelines for the educational environment of The Dallas County Community College District. Such an environment presupposes both rights and responsibilities. Disciplinary regulations at the college are set forth in writing in order to give students general notice of prohibited conduct. Students should be aware of disciplinary actions for all forms of academic dishonesty, including cheating, fabrication, facilitating academic dishonesty, plagiarism, and collusion. Your College Catalog and the DCCCD Catalog contain the entire Student Code of Conduct, which is also on the Internet at http://dcccd.edu.

EVALUATION: Grades are based on the student’s awareness of the course content as demonstrated in assignments and tests. Students should seek assistance from the Learning Assistance Center—for writing and study support.

“W” Date: April 29th, 2017 is the last day to drop this course with a grade of “W.” Failure to withdraw from this class by stated drop date will result in a performance grade being assigned. It is the student’s responsibility to withdraw if needed by the stated date.

FINANCIAL AID STUDENTS:
If you are receiving Financial Aid grants or loans, you must begin attendance in all classes. Do not drop or stop attending any class without consulting the Financial Aid Office. Changes in your enrollment level and failing grades may require that you repay financial aid funds. Failure to contact the instructor will result in your name being submitted to the Financial Aid Office as a “non-attendee.” All students receiving financial aid must open an Email account through NetMail. See directions in this syllabus for opening an Email account.

Financial Aid Statement:
Students who are receiving any form of financial aid 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.

REPEATABILITY ISSUE:
Pending legislative action and DCCCD Board approval, effective for Fall Semester 2005, the Dallas County Community Colleges will charge a higher tuition rate 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 higher tuition to be charged. Developmental Studies and some other courses will not be charged a higher tuition rate. Third attempts include courses taken at any of the Dallas County Community Colleges since the Fall 2002 semester. For complete information and updates, go to: http://www.dcccd.edu/ThirdCourseAttempt/.

STUDENT E-MAIL:
Legal privacy issues prevent your instructor from discussing your work or your grades on commercial e-mail accounts. If you wish to send your papers as attachments to an e-mail (and the instructor permits it), or if you have a question about your grade, you must open a student e-mail account. The account is free. You may set it up by going to www.dcccd.edu and click on Student Services, Online Services, and Student NetMail. All students receiving financial aid must open a student NetMail account.

RELIGIOUS HOLIDAYS/OBSERVANCES:
Students who will be absent from class for the observance of a religious holiday must notify the instructor in advance. Please refer to the college catalog section on Student Responsibilities.

ADA SERVICES:
If you are a student with a disability and/or special needs who requires ADA accommodations, please contact Eastfield College Disability Services Office at 972-860-8348. For any testing accommodation, you must go through the EFC Disability Services Office.

INCOMPLETES: Incompletes are only granted based on the circumstances and standing of the student. A contract must be signed before it is given.

OBTAINING YOUR GRADES AT THE END OF THE SEMESTER:
Grade reports are no longer mailed. Convenient access is available online or by telephone. Just use your student identification number when you log in to e-Connect or call DCCCD Touch Tone Services. Web site address: http://econnect.dcccd.edu/. Telephone number: 972-613-1818.

The Office of Institutional Equity, in coordination with DCCCD colleges, has the primary responsibility for reviewing, updating and implementing compliance policies and procedures. The Institutional Equity and Compliance Officer and the Office of Institutional Equity will ensure compliance with College District policies, federal and state laws related to sexual assault, Title IX, Title II (Americans with Disabilities Act) and the Military Veterans Full Employment Act to support diversity and inclusion.
**Students with Disabilities:**
If you are a student with a disability and/or special needs, or if you think you may have a disability, please contact the college Disability Services Office (DSO). Please note that all communication with DSO is confidential. If you are eligible for accommodations, please provide or request that the DSO send your accommodation letter to me as soon as possible (students are encouraged to contact DSO at the beginning of the semester). For more information regarding the College Disability Services Office, please visit the Student Services website: dcccd.edu/DSO Offices or contact DCCCD Office of Institutional Equity at (214) 378-1633.

**College Disability Services Offices**
Brookhaven 972-860-4673  
Cedar Valley 972-860-8119  
Eastfield 972-860-8348  
El Centro 214-860-2411  
Mountain View 214-860-8677  
North Lake 972-273-3165  
Richland 972-238-6180

**A Note on Harassment, Discrimination and Sexual Misconduct**
We are committed to assure all community members learn and work in a welcoming and inclusive environment. Title VII, Title IX and DCCCD policy prohibit harassment, discrimination and sexual misconduct. If you encounter harassment, sexual misconduct (sexual harassment, sexual assault, stalking, relationship violence, stalking), retaliation or discrimination based on race, color, religion, age, national origin, disability, sex, sexual orientation, gender identity, and/or gender expression, please contact your College Title IX Coordinator or the Office of Institutional Equity. We treat this information with the greatest degree of confidentiality possible while also ensuring student welfare and college safety.

We are concerned about the well-being and development of our students, and are available to discuss any concerns. There are both confidential and non-confidential resources and reporting options available to you. If students wish to keep the information confidential, please contact the college Counseling or Student Health Services. As required by DCCCD policy, incidents of discrimination and/or sexual misconduct shared with faculty will be reported to the College Title IX Coordinator or District Title IX Coordinator. The Title IX Coordinator will contact the student and determine if further investigation is needed. For more information about policies, resources or reporting options, please contact your college Title IX Coordinator or visit www.dcccd.edu/titleIX.

**College Title IX Coordinators**
Brookhaven  Terri Edrich  TitleIX-BHC@dcccd.edu  972-860-4825
<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th>Location</th>
<th>Name</th>
<th>Title IX Email</th>
<th>Phone</th>
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<tbody>
<tr>
<td>Cedar Valley</td>
<td>Grenna Rollings</td>
<td><a href="mailto:TitleIX-CVC@dcccd.edu">TitleIX-CVC@dcccd.edu</a></td>
<td>972-860-8181</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Eastfield</td>
<td>Rachel Wolf</td>
<td><a href="mailto:TitleIX-EFC@dcccd.edu">TitleIX-EFC@dcccd.edu</a></td>
<td>972-860-7358</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>El Centro</td>
<td>Shanee’ Moore</td>
<td><a href="mailto:TitleIX-ECC@dcccd.edu">TitleIX-ECC@dcccd.edu</a></td>
<td>214-860-2138</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Mountain View</td>
<td>Regina Garner</td>
<td><a href="mailto:TitleIX-MVC@dcccd.edu">TitleIX-MVC@dcccd.edu</a></td>
<td>214-860-8561</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>North Lake</td>
<td>Rosemary Meredith(acting)</td>
<td><a href="mailto:TitleIX-NLC@dcccd.edu">TitleIX-NLC@dcccd.edu</a></td>
<td>972-860-3992</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Richland</td>
<td>Bill Dial</td>
<td><a href="mailto:TitleIX-RLC@dcccd.edu">TitleIX-RLC@dcccd.edu</a></td>
<td>972-238-6386</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Dallas Colleges Online</td>
<td>Le’Kendra Higgs</td>
<td><a href="mailto:TitleIX-LEC@dcccd.edu">TitleIX-LEC@dcccd.edu</a></td>
<td>972-669-6672</td>
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**District Title IX Coordinator**

Office of Institutional Equity  LaShawn Grant TitleIX-District@dcccd.edu  214-378-1633

**CLASS SCHEDULE**

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**Discussion Board Dates**

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The instructor reserves the right to change or revise the course syllabus.