Course Information

**Course Number:** GOVT 2306

**Course Title:** Texas Government (Texas Constitution and Topics)

**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.

Note: Students transferring a government course from out-of-state must enroll in this course to complete the Texas legislative requirement.

**Course Credit Hours:** 3

**Placement Assessments:** Placement in ENGL 1301; College-Level Reading

**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. Describe the rights and responsibilities of citizens
8. Analyze issues, policies and political culture of Texas.

**Withdrawal Policy:** Last day to withdraw with a grade of a “W” is April 29, 2017.

**DCCCD Academic Policies:** See the current Student Handbook online

**Americans with Disabilities Act Statement:** Eastfield College will adhere to all applicable federal, state and local laws, regulations and guidelines with respect to providing
reasonable accommodations as required to afford equal educational opportunity. It is the student's responsibility to contact the Disability Office to arrange for appropriate accommodations.

**INSTRUCTOR INFORMATION:**

**Instructor's Name:** T. Nacoste  
**E-mail:** tiffanynacoste@dcccd.edu

**Communication:** The best way to contact me is through email. When emailing me please identify which class you are registered in. Please give me ample time to respond to your inquiries. I check my email at least once a day, not including weekends or holidays. The time of day may vary, therefore please allow up to 36 hours for me to respond. I will post announcements under the “Announcements” tab. I will also send emails with any information that is time sensitive.

**CLASS INFORMATION:**

**Class Information:** GOVT 2306  
**Section Number:** 43435


**Supplies:** computer access, textbook

**Course Requirements:** Students are expected to manage their time as well as be self-motivated. These qualities will prove to be extremely valuable in pacing themselves with reading each chapter in such a way to be prepared for the completion of the exams, discussion topics and writing assignments by their respective deadlines.

**Method of Evaluation:** The grade in this class will be based upon 2 examinations, a writing assignment and 5 discussion topics. The midterm and final exam will be worth 100 points each. The writing assignment is worth 100 points. The five blog-style discussion topics are worth 20 points each.

**Exams** will be based upon the content of the textbook. The midterm and final exams are worth 100 points each. Completion of both exams is required. Exams can be found under the Exam tab. The midterm exam will be made available starting at 12 am Monday, April 10th through 11:59 pm Sunday, April 16th. The final exam will be made available starting at 12am Friday, May 5th through 11:59 pm Thursday, March 11th. Both exams are 50 questions and will be timed. Questions will be presented one at a time and no backtracking will be allowed. It is strongly suggested that you do not use Internet Explorer, as it is more likely to “freeze”. If your exam “freezes” or gets “stuck”, please send me an email. During the week
The **writing assignment** is worth 100 points each. The topic for the writing assignment can be found under the writing assignment tab. The grade will be based on ability to following instructions as well as the content and thoroughness of the student’s response. It must be completed and uploaded by the due date and time. The writing assignment will be made available for 1 week starting on Monday at 12 am and close the following Sunday at 11:59 pm. **All deadlines are firm!**

The five blog-style **discussion topics** are worth 20 points each. Fifteen points will be awarded for responding to the prompt with a minimum of 400 words. An additional 5 points will be awarded for post responding to a fellow classmate. The response must be a minimum of 100 words. A maximum of twenty points will be awarded for completion of both steps. Each discussion topic must be completed by the due date and time. The discussion topics will be made available for 1 week starting on Monday at 12 am and close the following Sunday at 11:59 pm (with the exception of discussion topic 1). **Again all deadlines are firm!**

Letter grades are assigned according to the following scale:

**Grading Scale:**
- A = 360-400
- B = 320-359
- C = 280-319
- D = 240-279
- F = 0-239

**Academic Ethics:** Every member of the DCCCD community is expected to maintain the highest standards of academic integrity. The College 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 or the award of a degree, and/or the submission as one’s own work material that is not one’s own. Scholastic dishonesty may involve, but is not limited to, one or more of the following acts: cheating, plagiarism, collusion, use of annotated texts or teacher’s editions, use of information about exams posted on the Internet or electronic medium, and/or falsifying academic records. 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.

**Cheating** is the willful giving or receiving of information in an unauthorized manner during an examination; 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; copying computer or Internet files; using someone else’s work for assignments as if it were one’s own; 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; 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 alleged violation of scholastic dishonesty, faculty are requested to delay posting a grade, for the academic work in question, until the Dean of Student’s Office renders an administrative decision of the case. Students found responsible for scholastic dishonesty offenses will receive an authorized disciplinary penalty from the Dean of Students Office. The student may also receive an academic penalty in the course where the scholastic dishonesty took place. The professor will determine the appropriate academic penalty.

**Title IX and Diversity:** Eastfield College is committed to creating and fostering a learning and working environment that reflects, respects, and celebrates diversity. This is an integral part of the College’s mission to provide excellence in teaching and learning. If you encounter sexual harassment, sexual misconduct, sexual assault, or discrimination based on sex, sexual orientation, and/or gender identity, we encourage you to contact the college’s Title IX coordinator, Rachel Wolf (http://www.eastfieldcollege.edu/SSI/title-ix/report-incident). Additionally, if you feel comfortable doing so, you may discuss the incident with me. However, please be aware that while I will maintain your privacy, once you have shared information with me, I am required to share the basic facts of the incident with Ms. Wolf.

For more information about Title IX and the college’s policies, see the Eastfield College website: http://www.eastfieldcollege.edu/SSI/title-ix/index

**COURSE CALENDAR:**

- **Confirm Enrollment** Due 3/24 at 5pm
- **Week 1** 3/20-3/26 Discussion topic 1
- **Week 2** 3/27-4/2 Discussion Topic 2
- **Week 3** 4/3-4/9 Discussion Topic 3
- **Week 4** 4/10-4/16 Midterm Exam (chapters 1-7)
- **Week 5** 4/17-4/23 Discussion Topic 4
- **Week 6** 4/24-4/30 Writing Assignment (Drop Date 4/29)
- **Week 7** 5/1-5/7 Discussion Topic 5
- **Week 8** 5/5-5/11 Final Exam (Chapters 8-14)

I reserve the right to revise the syllabus at any time.