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. (3 Lec.)
Coordinating Board Academic Approval Number 4510025125

Student Learning Outcomes
Upon successful completion of this course, students will:
1. Explain the origin and development of the Texas constitution.
2. Demonstrate an understanding of 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.

Overview of Semester/Year
(tentative)

This is a self-paced online class…the only due date is the last day of class.
This class goes from March 20, 2017 to April 9, 2017.
The Last Day to Drop with a “W” is April 4, 2017.

Ch. 1 Texas Politics
Ch. 2 Texas Constitution
Ch. 3 Texas within the Federal System
   Exam 1

Ch. 4 Interest Groups and Political Power in Texas
Ch. 5 Mass Media
Ch. 6 Party System
Ch. 7 Elections, Campaigns, and Political Behavior
   Exam 2

Ch. 8 Texas Legislature
Ch. 9 Texas Executive
Ch. 10 Texas Bureaucracy
Ch. 11 Texas Judiciary
   Exam 3

Ch. 12 Local Government in Texas
Ch. 13 Contemporary Issues in Texas
   Final Exam

Grading Procedures: Students are evaluated on a point system. Points can be earned in a variety of ways. A total of 400 points can be earned from exams, and 100 points can be earned from discussions.

   Students have an opportunity to earn 500 points during the semester. Letter grades are assigned as follows:

   450-500 Points.......... A
   400-449 Points.......... B
   350-399 Points.......... C
   300-349 Points.......... D

Tests: Tests will be multiple-guess. You will have 1hr 30min to complete the fifty-question exam. There are no make-ups.
**Discussion Posts:** Each week or so, I will post a discussion question. In order to earn points you must post an original opinion and then at least one response to someone else’s post. The original post should be about 200 words. Good Netiquette is mandatory. Postings should be civil, respectful, show an understanding of the question and critical thinking. Stereotyping, put-downs, slurs, and profanity are inappropriate and will not be tolerated.

Discussion Posts will add up to 100 points (same as a test grade).

**Dropping Class:** “If a student is unable to complete the course(s) in which he/she is registered, it is the student’s responsibility to withdraw from the course by the appropriate date, which is published in the class schedule. The instructor cannot initiate the drop process. If the student stops attending class but does not officially withdraw, he/she will receive a performance grade, usually a grade of F”.

**STOP BEFORE YOU DROP**

For students who enrolled 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 campus counseling/advising center will give you more information on the allowable exceptions.

Remember that once you have accumulated 6 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. For more information, you may access: [https://www1.dcccd.edu/coursedrops](https://www1.dcccd.edu/coursedrops)

**Student E-Mail:**

Legal privacy issues prevent your instructor from discussing your grades on commercial e-mail accounts (like yahoo or hotmail). If you wish to send your request grade information by e-mail you must open a student e-mail account. The account is free. You may set it up by going to [www.dcccd.edu](http://www.dcccd.edu) and selecting Student Services, Online Services, and Student E-Mail. All students receiving financial aid must open a student NetMail account.

**ADA STATEMENT:** It is the policy of Dallas County Community College to provide reasonable accommodations for qualified individuals who are students with disabilities. This college will adhere to all applicable federal, state, and local laws, regulations, and guidelines with respect to providing reasonable accommodations as required affording equal educational opportunity. It is the student’s responsibility to contact the Services for Special Populations (room C-246, phone 7032) Office in a timely manner to arrange for appropriate accommodations.

**Scholastic Dishonesty:** If you are caught cheating in any way you will fail the course. You are expected to do your own work. Do not download written work from the Internet and try to pass it off as your own. The College may initiate disciplinary proceedings against a student accused of scholastic dishonesty.
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, and/or falsifying academic records.

**Non-Discrimination Policy:** It is against the policy of the District to discriminate against, or exclude from participation in any benefits or activities either on the staff or in the student body, any person on the grounds of race, color, creed, religion, national origin, sex, age or handicap.

**Equal Educational and Employment Opportunity Policy:** The DCCCD is committed to providing equal educational and employment opportunity regardless of sex, marital or parental status, race, color, religion, age, national origin or disability. The District provides equal opportunity in accordance with federal and state laws.

**Please Note:** I do not check my email more than once a day so expect at least a 24 hr lag between sending me email and an answer….I generally do not check my email on weekends so it will probably be Monday before you hear from me for problems arising Friday through Sunday.

The instructor reserves the right to amend this syllabus as necessary.
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 or contact DCCCD Office of Institutional Equity at (214) 378-1633.

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**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.

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