Eastfield College  
Social Sciences Division  

Winter 2017  
Texas Government  
GOVT 2306, Section 42245  
3 Credit Hours  

Monday through Friday  
12/11/17 to 01/05/18  
Room G203  

Instructor:  Anthony Carr  

Contact Information:  
Office:  C236  
Phone:  (972) 391-1047  
Email address:  AnthonyCarr@dcccd.edu  
Hours Available:  By Appointment Only (In-Person or via Skype)  

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.)  

Textbooks and Other Course Materials:  

Governing Texas (3rd Edition)  
Author(s): Anthony Champagne, Edward J. Harpham, and Jason P. Casellas  

Developmental Courses  
The Texas Success Initiative (TSI) is a statewide program designed to ensure that students enrolled in Texas public colleges and universities have the basic academic skills needed to be successful in college-level course work. The TSI requires assessment, remediation (if necessary), and advising of students who attend a public college or university in the state of Texas. The program assesses a student's basic academic skills in reading, writing, and math. Passing the assessment is a prerequisite for enrollment in many college-level classes such as English 1301/1302, History1301/1302, Math 1414, etc. Students who do not meet assessment standards may complete prerequisite requirements by taking developmental courses in the deficient area and passing them with a grade of C or higher. In some cases, retesting will also be required. It is up to each student to be aware and informed about requirements that are subject to change. Additional information is available from the TSI Office.  
https://www1.dcccd.edu/cat0910/admiss/tsi.cfm?loc=4
Student Learning Outcomes:

1. Explain the origin and development of the Texas constitution.
2. Describe the state and local political system & their relationship with the federal government.
3. Describe the separation of powers and checks and balances in both theory and practice in Texas.
4. Demonstrate knowledge of legislative, executive & judicial branches of Texas government.
5. Evaluate the roles 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.

Course Objectives:

Learning Objectives: The following outcomes of the course are to give students a clear understanding of the democratic process of at the state level. Upon completion of the course the students will:

1. Evaluate the role of public opinion, interest groups and political parties in Texas.
2. Analyze the state and local election process.
3. Describe the rights and responsibilities of citizens.
4. Analyze issues, policies and political culture in Texas.

Evaluation Procedures:

Exams: Two (2) Quizzes and Final Exam will be given on the following dates:

Quiz One:  Available: 12/15/17 at 12:00 AM and Due by 12/17/17 at 10:00 P.M.
Quiz Two:  Available: 12/22/17 at 12:00 AM and Due by 12/24/17 at 10:00 P.M.
Final Exam: THURSDAY, JANUARY 4, 2018 from 9:00 A.M. to NOON.

STUDY TIPS:

(1) Know Texas' Seven Constitutions by name, year, and influence on Texas Government;
(2) Go through the index of the textbook and study the information about Edmund J. Davis;
(3) Be sure to know what the term “Plural Executive” means & the govt. officials that make up the “Plural Executive” in Texas.

The format of the examination questions may take the form of multiple choice, true or false, fill in the blank, or short answers and essays. A “Make-Up” option for any quiz or exam can be utilized only once and on a limited basis. A student with a valid, documented emergency can utilize the make-up option.
which will be in a format TBD. No student can utilize the “Make-Up” option to remedy a grade earned on any quiz or exam. **E-MAIL THE INSTRUCTOR TO REQUEST THE MAKE-UP OPTION.**

Also, there will be an opportunity (TBD) for a student to earn *(5)* extra credit points during the course term that can be applied to the overall course grade. Students will also be provided with an opportunity to make-up one (1) homework assignment. **E-MAIL THE INSTRUCTOR TO REQUEST THE MAKE-UP OPTION.**

**Grading Scale:**

- **A** = 90 – 100
- **B** = 80 - 89
- **C** = 70 - 79
- **D** = 60 - 69
- **F** = 59 & Below

**Grades:**

- Homework = 10%
- Current Events = 15%
- Short Paper = 15%
- Exam 1 = 20%
- Exam 2 = 20%
- Final Exam = 20%
- Extra Credit = (TBA)

**Short Paper:** Each student will be required to complete a four to five (4 to 5) page “Short Paper” on a topic within Texas government. Please see Blackboard for a pre-selected list of topics. E-mail the instructor to get approval to write about a topic that is not on the pre-selected list.

**Current Events:** The student will upload to Blackboard two (2) current event summaries for this course. The current event should be on an issue within Texas government (state, county, municipal, city, etc.). The current event summary must be ½ page in length and include a copy of the internet URL at the bottom of the page.

**A useful website for Texas government news articles is TexasTribune.org**

Students are also encouraged to browse news articles in other publications that may cover topics relevant to Texas government. Some websites of interest include:

(a) The Dallas Morning News: DallasNews.com

(b) National Public Radio: NPR.org

(c) Ft. Worth Star Telegram: Star-Telegram.com

(d) C-SPAN: C-SPAN.org

**Short Paper:** Each student will be required to complete a four to five (4 to 5) page “Short Paper” on a topic within Texas government. **Please see Blackboard for a pre-selected list of topics.** E-mail the instructor to get approval to write about a topic that is not on the pre-selected list.

*All make-up assignments, the extra credit options, and the Short Paper must be submitted by Wednesday, January 3, 2018 at NOON. There will be an option to submit these items via Blackboard.*
Obtaining Final Course Grades Using eConnect

Final Grade Reports are no longer mailed. Convenient access is available online at www.econnect.dcccd.edu. Use your identification number when you log onto eConnect, an online system developed by the DCCCD to provide you with timely information regarding your college record. Your grades will also be printed on your Student Advising Report, which is available in the Admissions Office.

Eastfield College Email Policy

Faculty and students must have and use a DCCCD account for all correspondence relating to academic coursework. For information on setting up a DCCCD student email account go to: https://www.dcccd.edu/SS/OnlineSvs/Pages/MSOffice.aspx

Basic Course Outline:

<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th>Weekly Outline</th>
<th>Textbook Chapters</th>
<th>Monday</th>
<th>Tuesday &amp; Wednesday</th>
<th>Thursday &amp; Friday</th>
<th>Sunday</th>
</tr>
</thead>
<tbody>
<tr>
<td>12/11/17</td>
<td>Chapters 1-5</td>
<td>Hwk. 1-5 Accessible</td>
<td>Chpt. 1-5 + Texas' Seven Constitutions</td>
<td>Hwk. 1-5 Due Friday</td>
<td>QUIZ ONE DUE AT 10:00 P.M. (NO EXCEPTIONS)</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>12/18/17</td>
<td>Chapters 6-10</td>
<td>Hwk. 6-10 Accessible</td>
<td>Current Events Due Friday</td>
<td>Hwk. 6-9 Due Friday</td>
<td>QUIZ TWO DUE AT 10:00 P.M. (NO EXCEPTIONS)</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>01/01/18</td>
<td>Chapters 11-13</td>
<td>Hwk. 11-13 Accessible</td>
<td>Hwk Ch. 11-13 and the Short Paper Due On WEDNESDAY</td>
<td>FINAL EXAM THURSDAY JANUARY 4, 2018</td>
<td>(No Class on Friday 01/05/18)</td>
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</table>
**Technology:** Assignments are DUE as outlined in the course calendar. Waiting until the last minute can be problematic as issues may arise with computers. **Experiencing technological difficulties or not having access to a computer are not acceptable reasons for missing assignment deadlines.** Students should plan in advance to complete assignments utilizing resources available to them; for example, a local library or the Eastfield College library and computer lab.

**Attendance Policy:**

Please notify the instructor at least in advance if you will miss an assignment or a quiz and/or exam due to a religious observance day. Examination and Quiz questions come primarily from reading assignments and materials posted to Blackboard.

You must attend and participate in your on-campus or online course(s) in order to receive federal financial aid. Your instructor is required by law to validate your attendance in your on-campus or online course in order for you to receive financial aid.

You must participate in an academic related activity pertaining to the course but not limited to the following examples: initiating contact with your instructor to ask a question about the academic subject studied in the course; submitting an academic assignment; taking an exam; completing an interactive video; participating in computer-assisted instruction; attending a study group assigned by the instructor; or participating in an online discussion board about academic matters relating to the course.

In an online course, simply logging in is not sufficient by itself to demonstrate academic attendance. You must demonstrate that you are participating in your online class and are engaged in an academically related activity such as in the examples described above. Failure to do so will prevent you from being certified and will affect your financial aid.

**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.**

**Financial Aid Statement for Distance Learning Classes**

If you are receiving Financial Aid grants or loans and are enrolled in a Distance Learning class, you must show participation in this class prior to the certification date by either e-mailing or contacting the instructor or logging on to eCampus. 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.

**Repeating This Course: (Third Attempt to Enroll in a Course)**

Effective for Fall Semester 2005, the Dallas County Community Colleges will charge 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 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. See Third Attempt to Enroll in a Course at: [http://www.dcccd.edu/thirdcourseattempt/](http://www.dcccd.edu/thirdcourseattempt/)

**Academic Honesty Statement**

Scholastic dishonesty is a violation of the Code of Student Conduct. Scholastic dishonesty includes, but is not limited to, cheating on a test, plagiarism, and collusion.

As a college student, you are considered a responsible adult. Your enrollment indicates acceptance of the DCCCD Code of Student Conduct [published in the DCCCD Catalog at http://www1.dcccd.edu/cat0506/ss/code.cfm](http://www1.dcccd.edu/cat0506/ss/code.cfm)

Academic dishonesty includes, but is not limited to, cheating on tests, plagiarism and collusion. **Cheating** includes copying from another student's test or homework paper, using materials not authorized, collaborating with or seeking aid from another student during a test, knowingly using, buying, selling, stealing, or soliciting the contents of a non-administered test, and substituting for another person to take a test.

**Plagiarism** is the appropriating, buying, receiving as a gift, or obtaining by any means another's work and the unacknowledged submission or incorporation of it in one's own written work.

**Collusion** is the unauthorized collaboration with another person in preparing written work for fulfillment of course requirements. Academic dishonesty is a serious offense in college. You can be given a failing grade on an assignment or test, can be failed for the class, or you can even be suspended from college.

**Food and Drink Policy**

*Food, drinks, and tobacco products are prohibited in Eastfield College classrooms.*

**Food and Drink Policy Statement**

We the undersigned understand that bringing drinks and food into the college classroom is a privilege and a responsibility. Out of respect for other members of the Eastfield College community, we agree to take full responsibility for our actions. This includes but is not limited to removing cans,
Bottles, trash, etc. from the classroom when we leave, at the conclusion of each class session, and depositing our trash in appropriate receptacles outside the classrooms.

Also, we agree to clean up spills and, if special cleaning is needed, to contact appropriate college personnel immediately. Foods with strong odors will have to be removed and/or consumed outside of the classroom. The right and responsibility for setting classroom food and drink policy does not extend to classrooms or other areas where students and faculty are working directly with or around college property such as computers, lab materials, equipment, and/or college-owned books.

Classroom and other spaces such as these will be restricted from the use of food and drink at all times for students and college personnel. In addition, the right and responsibility for setting classroom food and drink policy does not extend to items that are generally prohibited from the campus (e.g. alcohol, tobacco products)

**ADA Statement**

Students with a physical, mental or learning disability who require accommodations should contact the college Disability Services Office in C237. Call 972.860.8348 or email efcdso@dcccd.edu. For more information: [http://www.eastfieldcollege.edu/SSI/DSO/index.html](http://www.eastfieldcollege.edu/SSI/DSO/index.html)

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

<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th>College</th>
<th>Name</th>
<th>Email</th>
<th>Phone</th>
</tr>
</thead>
<tbody>
<tr>
<td>Brookhaven</td>
<td>Terri Edrich</td>
<td><a href="mailto:TitleIX-BHC@dcccd.edu">TitleIX-BHC@dcccd.edu</a></td>
<td>972-860-4825</td>
</tr>
<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>
</tr>
</tbody>
</table>

District Title IX Coordinator

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

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

**Religious Holidays**

Absences for observance of a religious holy day are excused. Notification of the absence must be given to the instructor in writing at least two weeks prior to the date of the holy day. A student whose absence is excused to observe a religious holy day is allowed to contract with the instructor to take a make-up examination without penalty and/or complete an assignment within at a mutually agreed upon time after the absence.

**Withdrawal Policy**

If you are unable to complete this course, it is your responsibility to withdraw formally. The withdrawal request must be received in the Registrar’s Office by **DECEMBER 22, 2017**. Failure to do so will result in your receiving a performance grade, usually an “F.” If you drop a class or withdraw from the college before the official drop/withdrawal deadline, you will receive a “W” (Withdraw) in each class dropped. For more information about drop deadlines, refer to the current printed Credit Class Schedule, contact the Admissions/Registrar’s Office at 972-860-7167 (Room C119), or contact the division office.

**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

**Family Educational Rights and Privacy Act of 1974 (FERPA)**

In compliance with the Family Educational Rights and Privacy Act of 1974 (FERPA), the College may release information classified as “directory information” to the general public without the written consent of the student. Directory information includes: (1) student name, (2) student address, (3) telephone numbers, (4) date and place of birth, (5) weight and height of members of athletic teams, (6) participation in officially recognized activities and sports, (7) dates of attendance, (8) educational institution most recently attended, and (9) other similar information, including major field of student and degrees and awards received. Students may protect their directory information at any time during the academic year. If no request is filed, directory information is released upon written inquiry. No telephone inquiries are acknowledged. No transcript or academic record is released without written consent from the student, except as specified by law.
Classroom/Online Etiquette

Professionalism is greatly appreciated by the instructor. There will be opportunities for the student to express his or her opinions about current events and topics pertinent to the course materials. Students are encouraged to pay greater attention to news articles in local, state, and/or national publications. Everyone will be expected to show mutual respect for the instructor, as well as individuals and persons while addressing policy and/or legal topics in Texas government.

If there is a (documented) emergency situation that may affect the student’s ability to turn in any class assignment and/or to complete any scheduled test, please contact the instructor ASAP to discuss options, including the possibility of arranging a time to submit and/or complete the course requirement.

The instructor reserves the right
To amend this syllabus as necessary.