Course Number:	**GOVT 2306.007**
Course Name:	**State and Local Government**
Professor:	Dr. Elliott
Term:	Fall Semester 2022
Meeting Times:	**MWF 8:00-8:50 AM**
Location	ECSW 1.315

PROFESSOR'S CONTACT INFORMATION

Office Phone	972-883-2066
Office Location	GR 2.808
Email Address	eelliott@utdallas.edu
Office Hours	11:00 AM – 12:00 noon Monday and Wednesday or by appointment
Teaching Assistant	TBA
Other Contact Information	TBA

COURSE PRE-REQUISITES, CO-REQUISITES AND OTHER RESTRICTIONS:

None

Course Description   This course will provide students with an introduction to Texas' state government in the context of the federal government and other US states. The course covers the political institutions of state governments, including the legislative, executive, and judicial branches, as well as political parties and interest groups. The course also covers political behavior, including culture, elections, and media. We will conclude with a discussion of public policy and local government.

This course will be offered in **class.** Should the need arise to move to an online platform, details will be provided at the appropriate time.

Learning Objectives   In this course, students will:

1. Learn about the interaction between federal, state, and local governments.
2. Identify, describe, and evaluate state political institutions and electoral processes.
3. Analyze and think critically about contemporary developments in Texas politics.
4. Apply course topics meaningfully to living in Texas.

Required Books   Online Learning Platform: Top Hat Subscription: TBA

Online Textbook: State and Local (Brunell et al.): TBA
Instructions for ordering access to the e-text will be provided the first week of class.

Class Format   All course material will be delivered through lectures delivered in class. I will refer to the slides in my lectures. The slides in each chapter will be posted on e-Learning prior to each test.

Course Requirements and Grading Criteria (Tests and Quizzes)	There will be five tests (non-cumulative) scheduled over the course of the semester. The tests will be objective (multiple choice and true-false) and include material from your readings, textbook, slides and lectures. All tests will be conducted through e Learning and will be open-book/open-note in format. You will have approximately 120 minutes to complete each test, consisting of 50-60 questions, but you will be given a minimum a 24-hour window in which to access the test. Once you begin the test at any point within that window you must complete the test. Details will be provided a week or so prior to each test.

Grading Scale:

A = 94 and above
A- = 90-93
B+ = 87-89
B = 84-86
B- = 80-83
C+ = 77-79
C = 74-76
C- = 70-73
D+ = 67-69
D = 64-66
D- = 60-63
F = below 60

The grading criteria for the course, allocated by percentages, are as follows:

Test One	20%
Test Two	20%
Test Three	20%
Test Four	20%
Test Five	20%
TOTAL	100%

Make-up tests will not be allowed except under exceptional circumstances. Go to http://provost.utdallas.edu/home/syllabus-policies for additional information regarding policies and procedures.

CLASS PARTICIPATION

Regular class participation as defined by attendance is expected; however, since you are adults, I will not take attendance. Students who fail to participate in class regularly are inviting scholastic difficulty. Successful participation is also defined as consistently adhering to university requirements, as presented in this syllabus. Failure to comply with these University requirements is a violation of the Student Code of Conduct.

DISCUSSION BOARD

We may have periodic virtual conversations on the eLearning discussion board. Appropriate announcements will be made ahead of time regarding these sessions.

CLASS MATERIALS

Class materials will be made available to all students registered for this class as they are intended to supplement the classroom experience. Classroom materials may not be reproduced or shared with those not in class or uploaded to other online environments except to implement an approved Office of Student AccessAbility accommodation. Failure to comply with these University requirements is a violation of the Student Code of Conduct.

The information contained in the following link lists the University's academic support resources for all students.

Please go to http://go.utdallas.edu/academic-support-resources.

ACADEMIC SUPPORT RESOURCES

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INTERNET ACCESS

It is essential you have internet capability, defined as access to a high-speed Internet connection. Information on computer and browser requirements can be found on the eLearning Help Page. You may also use one of UTD's on-campus computer labs. For location and hours, visit Computer Labs - ACUS | IR - UT Dallas

TECHNICAL PROBLEMS

Remember computer technology can be unreliable, so plan ahead. Tests will be timed, and once you start your test, you cannot reset the clock – the test must be completed within the allotted time period. If you are booted off or experience a slow connection, you will not be able to start over.

If you run into trouble, send me, as well as my teaching assistant an email IMMEDIATELY to document the problem. Or you may send an email to the UTD Computing Help Desk (assist@utdallas.edu) and copy me on the email. If your problem is related specifically to eLearning, call the help desk anytime of the day or night at 1-866-588-3192 and ask for an email copy of your ticket, which you can then forward to me for verification. For more information, visit the eLearning Help Desk website.

eLEARNING SYSTEM

This class uses UTD's eLearning System to manage the tests and to post slides. You should log in to your eLearning account on the first day of class to ensure that you have no problems accessing the site. If you are not familiar with the NEW e:Learning, watch this online learning demo. Once you are logged

in, you will find links to [eLearning student tutorials](). You can get more help by calling 1-866-588-3192 or visiting [eLearning - The University of Texas at Dallas]()

EMAIL ACCOUNT

Please be sure that you know how to access your UTD email account and can check it regularly. The university provides students with free email accounts in order to maintain a high degree of confidence in the identity of individuals corresponding and the security of the transmitted information. Therefore, the university encourages all official student email correspondence be sent only to a student's UT Dallas email address and that faculty and staff consider email from students official only if it originates from a UTD student account. For help with your UTD email account, call 972-883-2911 or go to http://www.utdallas.edu/ir/helpdesk/

POLICIES AND PROCEDURES

MAKE-UP EXAMS AND LATE ASSIGNMENTS

The dates of tests are indicated on the class schedule. Given that you have 24 hours in which to take a 120 minute test it is unlikely that you will need a make-up. However, in case of extenuating circumstances, make-ups will only be given for legitimate reasons and with proper written documentation. Forgetting a due date does not qualify as a legitimate reason. If you fail to take a test within the specified timeframe, without a reasonable excuse, you will receive a "0" for that portion of the course. The due dates for your online quizzes are specified in the syllabus. Assuming appropriate time management you should have plenty of time to complete the necessary assignments.

INCOMPLETE GRADE POLICY

As per university policy, incomplete grades will be granted only for work unavoidably missed at the semester's end and only if 70% of the course work has been completed. An incomplete grade must be resolved within eight (8) weeks from the first day of the subsequent long semester. If the required work to complete the course and to remove the incomplete grade is not submitted by the specified deadline, the incomplete grade is changed automatically to a grade of **F**.

ACADEMIC INTEGRITY

The faculty expects a high level of responsibility and academic honesty from students. Because the value of an academic degree depends upon the absolute integrity of the work done by the student for that degree, it is imperative that a student demonstrate a high standard of individual honor in his or her scholastic work. **For online classes, letting another person complete your work for you or representing them as you is considered cheating.** Only students registered for the class may participate in class work or assignments.

SCHOLASTIC DISHONESTY

Any student who commits an act of scholastic dishonesty is subject to discipline. Scholastic dishonesty includes but is not limited to cheating, plagiarism, collusion, the submission for credit of any work or

materials that are attributable in whole or in part to another person, taking an examination for another person, any act designed to give unfair advantage to a student or the attempt to commit such acts. Plagiarism, especially from the web, from portions of papers for other classes, and from any other source is unacceptable and will be dealt with under the university's policy on plagiarism. Here is more information on how to avoid academic dishonesty.

GENERAL POLICIES AND PROCEDURES

The University of Texas at Dallas has developed a number of policies and procedures designed to provide students with a safe and supportive learning environment. For UT Dallas policy related to the following go to UT Dallas Syllabus Policies and Procedures:

Field Trip Policies	**Withdrawal from Class**	
Student Conduct & Discipline	**Student Grievance Procedures**	**Religious Holy Days**
Email Use	**Disability Services**	

ASSIGNMENTS & ACADEMIC CALENDAR

Please note: Assignments in TopHat are not always in the order they appear in the e-text. Also, please note that additional lecture material beyond that covered in TopHat may be incorporated into the lectures and those slides made available on e-Learning.

Date(s)	Topics Covered in Class Time
Aug. 22	**Introduction to the Course**
Aug. 24-26	**Culture, Socioeconomic and Political Context** Chapter 1 [Top Hat]
Aug. 29-Sept. 2	**State Constitutions and the Texas Constitution** Chapter 2 [TopHat] **Sept. 5 - No class: Labor Day Holiday**
Sept. 7-14	**Federalism and the States** Chapter 3 [Top Hat]
Sept. 16 (Friday)	**Test Number One (details to be provided prior to the test)** **No Class Unless Necessary**
Sept. 19-23	**Participation, Political Parties, and Elections** Chapter 6 [Top Hat]
Sept. 26-Oct. 5	**Public Opinion, Lobbying and Interest Groups** Chapter 7 [Top Hat]
Oct. 7 (Friday)	**Test Number Two (details to be provided prior to the test)** **No Class Unless Necessary**
Oct. 10	**The Executive Branch** Chapter 8 [Top Hat]
Oct. 12-14	**The Texas Legislature**

	Chapter 9 [Top Hat]
Oct. 17-19	**The Judiciary** Chapter 10 [Top Hat]
Oct. 21 (Friday)	**Test Number Three (details to be provided prior to the test)** **No Class Unless Necessary**
Oct. 24-31	**Local Government, and State and Local Government Relations** Chapters 4 and 5 [Top Hat]

Nov. 2-9	**Taxes and Spending** Chapter 11 [Top Hat]
Nov. 11 (Friday)	**Test Number Four (details to be provided prior to the test)** **No Class Unless Necessary**
Nov. 14-18	**Criminal Justice and Social Welfare and Healthcare** Chapters 12 and 13 [Top Hat]
Nov. 20-27	**Thanksgiving Holiday: No Class**
Nov. 28-Dec. 7	**Education, and Environmental and Energy Policy** Chapters 14 and 15 [Top Hat]
Dec. 8 (Thursday)	**Test Number Five (details to be provided prior to the test)** **Not a class day**

NOTE: The instructor reserves the right to make modest changes to the course schedule as necessary.