


GOVT 2306.001 Syllabus – January 13, 2024

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|  | <b>Course</b>       | <b>GOVT 2306.001</b>                           |
|   | <b>Course Title</b> | <b>State and Local Government</b>              |
|   | <b>Professor</b>    | Robert Lowry                                   |
|   | <b>Term</b>         | Spring 2024                                    |
|   | <b>Meetings</b>     | Monday & Wednesday. 10:00-11:15.<br>ECSW 1.315 |

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**Professor's Contact Information**

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| <b>Office Phone</b>      | 972-883-6720  |
| <b>Office Location</b>   | GR 3.533  |
| <b>Email Address</b>     | <a href="mailto:Robert.lowry@utdallas.edu">Robert.lowry@utdallas.edu</a>                      |
| <b>Office Hours</b>      | Wednesday 1:30-3:30, or by appointment. I am flexible about scheduling meetings via MS Teams. |
| <b>Other Information</b> | I typically do not read eLearning mail. Send messages to the email address above.             |

**Teaching Assistant**

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|                        | Maitreyi Pillai  |
| <b>Office Location</b> | GR 3.318   |
| <b>Email Address</b>   | <a href="mailto:Maitreyi.Pillai@UTDallas.edu">Maitreyi.Pillai@UTDallas.edu</a> > |
| <b>Office Hours</b>    | Monday 12-2  |

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**General Course Information**

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| <b>Pre-requisites, Co-requisites, &amp; other restrictions</b> | None   |
| <b>Course Description</b>                                      | GOVT 2306 satisfies the University's core requirement in government and political science. Courses in this category focus on consideration of the Constitution of the United States and the constitutions of the states, with special emphasis on that of Texas. Courses involve the analysis of governmental institutions, political behavior, civic engagement, and their political and philosophical foundations.   |
| <b>Learning Outcomes</b>                                       | <p><b>Critical Thinking (CT)</b>—to include creative thinking, innovation, inquiry, and analysis, evaluation, and synthesis of information.</p> <p><b>Communication (COM)</b>—to include effective development, interpretation, and expression of ideas through written, oral, and visual communication.</p> <p><b>Social Responsibility (SR)</b>—to include intercultural competence, knowledge of civic responsibility, and the ability to engage effectively in regional, national, and global communities.</p> <p><b>Personal Responsibility (PR)</b>—to include the ability to connect choices, actions, and consequences to ethical decision-making.</p>   |
| <b>.Required Texts &amp; Materials</b>                         | <p>There are two requirements for this course: a textbook and a subscription to a digital learning platform called Top Hat. The textbook is fully integrated into Top Hat, which means that you cannot access the textbook without purchasing the Top Hat subscription. Both can be ordered via this link (be sure to use the ISBNs when ordering): <a href="https://app.tophat.com/e/316005">https://app.tophat.com/e/316005</a></p> <p><i>Required Texts</i><br/> Thomas Brunell, et al. <i>State and Local Government</i>. ISBN 978-1-77412-285-3.</p> <p><i>Required Materials</i><br/> Top Hat Classroom Subscription. ISBN 978-0-9866151-0-8.</p> <p>Note that if you purchased a full-year subscription in the fall, it is still good and you do not need another subscription for spring.</p> <p><i>Accessing the Textbook and Required Materials</i><br/> The course join code is: <b>316005</b>. Upon purchasing your subscription to Top Hat and the textbook, you will have full access to the necessary course materials.</p> |

## Assignments & Academic Calendar

Note that topics listed for each day are approximate.

| Dates           | Topics   | Reading & Assignments  |
|-----------------|--|--|
| Jan. 17         | Introduction   |  |
| Jan. 22, 24     | Socioeconomic and Political Context<br>State Constitutions                           | Brunell, ch. 1<br>Brunell, ch. 2   |
| Jan. 29, 31     | State Constitutions<br>Federalism and the States                                     | Brunell, ch. 2<br>Brunell, ch. 3   |
| Feb. 5, 7       | Local Governments<br>State and local Government Relations                            | Brunell, ch. 4<br>Brunell, ch. 5   |
| Feb. 12, 14     | State and Local Government Relations<br>Catch-up and review                          | Brunell, ch. 5<br><b>Homework for chapters 1-5 due 9 pm, February 14</b> |
| Feb. 19, 21     | <b>First exam Feb. 19</b><br>Citizen Participation, Parties and Elections            | Brunell, ch. 6   |
| Feb. 26, 28     | Participation, Parties and Elections<br>Public Opinion, Lobbying and Interest Groups | Brunell, ch. 6<br>Brunell, ch. 7   |
| March 4, 6      | Public Opinion, Lobbying and Interest Groups<br>The Executive Branch                 | Brunell, ch. 7<br>Brunell, ch. 8   |
| March 11, 13    | <b>No Class- Spring Break</b>  |  |
| March 18, 20    | State Legislatures<br>State Legislatures   | Brunell, ch. 9<br>Brunell, ch. 9   |
| March 25, 27    | State Judiciary<br>Catch-up and Review   | Brunell, ch. 10<br><b>Homework for chapters 6-10 due 9 pm March 27</b>   |
| April 1, 3      | <b>Second Exam April 1</b><br>Taxes and Spending                                     | Brunell, ch. 11  |
| April 8, 10     | Taxes and Spending<br>Criminal Justice Policy  | Brunell, ch. 11<br>Brunell, ch. 12                                       |
| April 15, 17    | Social Welfare and Health Policy<br>Education Policy                                 | Brunell, ch. 13<br>Brunell, ch. 14                                       |
| April 22, 24    | Education Policy<br>Environmental and Energy Policy                                  | Brunell, ch. 14<br>Brunell, ch. 15                                       |
| April 29, May 1 | Catch-up and review<br><b>Third Exam, May 1</b>                                      | <b>Homework for chapters 11-15 due 9 pm, April 29</b>                    |

**Exam Dates and Times**

|                  |       |
|------------------|-------|
| Monday, Feb. 19  | 10 am |
| Monday, April 1  | 10 am |
| Wednesday, May 1 | 10 am |

**Course Policies**

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| <b>Class Materials</b>           | The instructor may provide class materials that will be made available to all students registered for this class as they are intended to supplement the classroom experience. These materials may be downloaded during the course, however, these materials are for registered students' use only. 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 <a href="#">Student Code of Conduct</a> .   |
| <b>Class Attendance</b>          | The University's attendance policy requirement is that individual faculty set their course attendance requirements. Regular and punctual class attendance is expected. Students who fail to attend class regularly are inviting scholastic difficulty. Faculty have the discretion to set an attendance policy for their in-person meetings.   |
| <b>Class Participation</b>       | Regular class participation is expected. Students who fail to participate in class regularly are inviting scholastic difficulty. Successful participation is defined as consistently adhering to University requirements, as presented in this syllabus. Failure to comply with these University requirements is a violation of the <a href="#">Student Code of Conduct</a> .  |
| <b>Class Recordings</b>          | <p>Students are expected to follow appropriate University policies and maintain the security of passwords used to access recorded lectures. Unless the Office of Student AccessAbility has approved the student to record the instruction, students are expressly prohibited from recording any part of this course. Recordings may not be published, reproduced, or shared with those not in the 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 <a href="#">Student Code of Conduct</a>.</p> <p>The instructor may record meetings of this course. These recordings will be made available to all students registered for this class if the intent is to supplement the classroom experience. If the instructor or a UTD school/department/office plans any other uses for the recordings, consent of the students identifiable in the recordings is required prior to such use unless an exception is allowed by law.</p> |
| <b>Grading (credit) Criteria</b> | Grades will be based on three exams and 15 homework assignments, using the following weights:  |

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|---|---|
|   | <p>Exam 1            2/9</p> <p>Exam 2            2/9</p> <p>Exam 3            2/9</p> <p>Homework        3/9</p> <p>Homework is integrated into your textbook, accessible via Top Hat. By completing the questions embedded in the assigned reading (e.g., in each textbook chapter), you have completed the homework. All homework grades will be averaged together to produce your total homework grade for the class.</p> <p>The scale for semester letter grades will be no stricter than the traditional 90-80-70-60 scale, with plusses and minuses.</p> |
| <b>Make-up Exams</b>                              | You are expected to take all exams on the date scheduled. If for some reason you cannot take the exam on that date, let me know <u>as soon as possible</u> . I may require documentation of your reason.  |
| <b>Extra Credit</b>                               | There is no extra credit.   |
| <b>Late Work</b>                                  | If homework assignments are not completed on time I can extend the deadline, but the penalty will be 20 % per day, including weekends.  |
| <b>Classroom Citizenship</b>                      | Laptops or other electronic devices are allowed and encouraged for the purpose of taking notes. Do not use your device for any purpose that may cause a distraction for other students. Mobile phones should be silenced during class.  |
| <b>Comet Creed</b>                                | <p><i>This creed was voted on by the UT Dallas student body in 2014. It is a standard that Comets choose to live by and encourage others to do the same:</i></p> <p><i>“As a Comet, I pledge honesty, integrity, and service in all that I do.”</i></p>   |
| <b>Academic Support Resources</b>                 | <p>The information contained in the following link lists the University’s academic support resources for all students.</p> <p>Please go to <a href="http://go.utdallas.edu/academic-support-resources">http://go.utdallas.edu/academic-support-resources</a>.</p>   |
| <b>UT Dallas Syllabus Policies and Procedures</b> | <p>The information contained in the following link constitutes the University’s policies and procedures segment of the course syllabus. Please review the sections regarding the <a href="#">credit/no credit</a> grading option and withdrawal from class.</p> <p>Please go to <a href="http://go.utdallas.edu/syllabus-policies">http://go.utdallas.edu/syllabus-policies</a> for these policies.</p>   |

*The descriptions and timelines contained in this syllabus are subject to change at the discretion of the Professor.*