UTD

GOVT2306.0u1 State and Local Government
Summer 2024 Course Syllabus

Course Information

Course Number/Section	GOVT 2306.0u1
Course Title	State and Local Government
Room/Day/Time	Room: JSOM 2.722
	Day/Time: **Tuesdays and Thursdays 3pm-5:15pm**

Instructor Contact Information

Primary Instructor	Sadman Shafiq
Email Address	sadman.shafiq@utdallas.edu
Professor Office Hours	Tuesdays 1pm to 2pm (GR 3.314) *or* by appointment
Email	Students must use UTD email–response w/in 2 business days.
Teaching Assistants	Shivani Chowdhry (shivani.chowdhry@utdallas.edu)
	Minh Dao (minh.dao@utdallas.edu)
	Dagmar Heintze (dagmar.heintze@utdallas.edu)
TA Office Hours	By appointment.

REQUIRED TEXTBOOKS & MATERIALS

1) Textbook*: State and Local Government contained within the TopHat platform. The link for accessing the textbook is below: https://app.tophat.com/e/594469/content/course-work/item/1198521::29975820-9a62-4745-85c7-87ee7bdb6fc7*

INSTRUCTION ABOUT TEXTBOOK: The online textbook will have to be accessed through the "TopHat" platform. For access, follow the link above where you will have to buy a subscription. The text will be used as an aid to the topics covered in the course.

Course Pre-requisites, Co-requisites, and/or Other Restrictions

None required. All majors are welcome to take this course and no prior knowledge of course content is required.

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.

Student Learning Objectives/Outcomes

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.

Accessibility Resource Center Accommodations: If you have a certified disability from UT Dallas ARC and are in need of accommodations for this class, please contact me ASAP via email and provide me a copy of your documentation so we may discuss how to best facilitate you in the course. **It is very important for students with ARC accommodations to give prior notice to instructors of assessment accommodations,**

and I ask for a two week notice in advance as a minimum so that I can make sure that you are fully accommodated.

CLASSROOM SAFETY AND COVID-19

Sickness
If you have been exposed, have symptoms or are positive for COVID, Flu, or other <u>serious</u> illness--
Note that if you have a serious illness or get very sick with multiple week absences that prevents you from attending class, you will need to consider whether you can continue in this class or others. While I will help make course materials available, you must keep up with all course deadlines and exams and you are expected to attend this class in person. <u>I will NOT asynchronously record class for those who cannot attend- you will need to get class notes from another student.</u> With that being said, I ask you to not come to class if you are sick with flu or COVID. Email me, get tested and see a doctor, and send me your positive test results and I will work with you. Missing one class will not be overwhelmingly detrimental to your grades – but you must email me in advance and have a doctor's note to miss a test.

Mental Health Services and Student Support Resources
This is a gentle reminder that you have mental health services available to you on campus. Students who experience any distress from the sensitive class materials that are covered in this course ow who are facing personal struggles are encouraged to seek self-care via the on-campus services provided through the Office of Campus Resources and Support with various offices such as:

The **Center for Students in Recovery** helps students seeking recovery from substance and alcohol use, eating disorders, and other addictions and compulsive behaviors. They also help students affected by these issues or individuals exploring the impact of addictions or compulsive behaviors within their lives. Their mission is to provide a safe, supportive community to enable students to thrive both socially and academically while living in recovery. They are located in SSB 4.500, on the fourth floor of the Student Services Building. They can be contacted by calling 972-883-7320 or they can be reached by emailing them at recovery@utdallas.edu.

The **Comet Cupboard** is a UT Dallas food pantry initiative dedicated to helping students in need. The Comet Cupboard is located in MC 1.604, on the first floor of the McDermott Library, and can be contacted by calling 972-883-6613 or emailing cupboard@utdallas.edu

Comet Cents provides financial literacy to students with the peer-to-peer model. This money management center provides one-on-one appointments and workshops throughout the semester. Comet Cents works to help students improve their financial situation with topics such budgeting, credit card debit, investing and other personal finance areas.

Intercultural Programs provides a host of transition programs for international students and intercultural competency trainings for all students. They are located in SSB 3.6, on the third floor of the Student Services Building. Their phone number is 972-883-4528.

The **Student Counseling Center** offers confidential services to students either for individual appointments or as part of groups. Initial appointments must be made in person in the Student Counseling Center, which is located in SSB 4.600, on the fourth floor of the Student Services Building. Their main number is 972-883-2575 and the 24/7 Crisis Hotline is 972-883-8255 (972-UTD-TALK).

The **Student Health Center (SHC)** provides primary and preventative medical care to currently enrolled students who have paid medical fees and are attending classes. Currently enrolled students can obtain a wide variety of services, such as physicals, diagnosis and treatment of acute illnesses and injuries, general medical problems, gynecological problems, treatment of stabilized chronic illnesses, allergy injections, limited immunizations, x-rays, and ultrasound. SHC staff of licensed medical providers is committed to keeping the UT Dallas community healthy and believes that health and wellness information complement the academic success of students. SHC is located on the fourth floor of the Student Services Building, SSB 4.700 and they can be reached by telephone, 972-883-2747, fax, 877-769-7514, or by email, healtcen@utdallas.edu.

The **Graduation Help Desk** is a one-stop resource within the Office of Undergraduate Education designed to help undergraduate students overcome obstacles to a timely graduation. The Graduation Help Desk supports undergraduate students, faculty and staff to develop solutions to complex academic and non-academic issues. This resource is equipped to promote all undergraduate students' success by helping them at any point during their academic careers from their arrival at UT Dallas until their graduation. Contact the Graduation Help Desk at graduationhelpdesk@utdallas.edu.

The **Student Success Center (SSC)** offers assistance to students in the areas of writing, mathematics, communication, multiple science fields, study skills, and other academic disciplines. These services are available through individual appointments, small group appointments, drop-in labs, workshops, and weekly reviews. All undergraduate students enrolled at UT Dallas are eligible to participate in these services. Not all courses will be supported by all services. Please check the website at the beginning of each semester to find out which courses are supported by which services.

Technical Requirements
In addition to a confident level of computer and Internet literacy, certain minimum technical requirements must be met to enable a successful learning experience. Please review the important technical requirements on the Getting Started with eLearning webpage.
Course Access and Navigation
This course can be accessed using your UT Dallas NetID account on the eLearning website. Please see the course access and navigation section of the Getting Started with eLearning webpage for more information. To become familiar with the eLearning tool, please see the Student eLearning Tutorials webpage. UT Dallas provides eLearning technical support 24 hours a day, 7 days a week. The eLearning Support Center includes a toll-free telephone number for immediate assistance (1-866-588-3192), email request service, and an online chat service.

We may use Microsoft Teams for sharing of course files besides eLearning—and this is also the platform used by UT Dallas for remote meetings during office hours for example. As such, you should download that application on your laptop and mobile phone. Go to: Access Teams by downloading the application (https://teams.microsoft.com/download) or using the web version at https://teams.microsoft.com or https://atlas.utdallas.edu/TDClient/30/Portal/Requests/ServiceDet?ID=38

Communication
This course utilizes tools for interaction and communication. Some external communication tools such as regular email and Microsoft Teams and Power Point will also be used during the semester. For more details, please visit the Student eLearning Tutorials webpage for video demonstrations on eLearning tools.

EMAIL USE

UT Dallas recognizes the value and efficiency of communication between faculty/staff and students through electronic mail. At the same time, email raises some issues concerning security and the identity of each individual in an email exchange. All official student email correspondence will be sent only to a student's UT Dallas email address and UT Dallas will only consider email requests originating from an official UT Dallas student email account. This allows the University to maintain a high degree of confidence in the identity of each individual corresponding via email and the security of the transmitted information. UT Dallas furnishes each student with a free email account that is to be used in all communication with university personnel. The Office of Information Technology provides a method for students to have their UT Dallas mail forwarded to other email accounts. To activate a student UT Dallas computer account and forward email to another account, go to https://www.utdallas.edu/oit/netid/self-service.

With the high volume of emails I get, I ask you to put our class name(GOVT 2306.0u1) in the subject line and always email from your UTD email account. Please be specific in your email about your question, address me as Mr. Shafiq, and sign your name to the email. Do NOT email the TAs—all email questions about absences, grades, assignments, etc. should come to the instructor and you can expect a return email within one-two business days. I respond to emails Monday-Friday from 8am-5pm. Do not use texting language when emailing your professors and remember to be collegial and not ask questions that can be easily answered if you consult the syllabus. Be respectful and you will find that faculty and staff will be the same back to you.

Academic Calendar

Access the academic calendar for important drop and due dates at:
https://www.utdallas.edu/academiccalendar/

COURSE POLICIES, REQUIREMENTS & ASSIGNMENTS
All elements of this syllabus may be changed by the instructor with notice

CLASS ATTENDANCE (10%)
This is a semester long IN PERSON live course. Class attendance and active participation is expected. Please show respect to the instructor, guest speakers, and your fellow students by **being on time and not leaving the classroom once it starts**! The instructor reserves the right to deduct class participation points for negative student behaviors that adversely affect the classroom**.** Another classmate may NOT sign in for you for in person classes—this will be considered to be an act of academic dishonesty.

The Criteria for getting the class attendance points are as follows:

Class presence	Points (out of 10)
90% and above	10
80%	09
70%	07
60%	05
50%	03
Below 50%	0

RECORDINGS: Recording material or lectures while attending live classes is prohibited for all students except those with ARC accommodations that have been approved by the instructor. Recordings, documentaries and guest speaker presentations may not be published, reproduced, posted, or shared with those persons not in the class, or uploaded to other online, cloud-based, electronic, or other environments without the express written consent of the instructor. Failure to comply with these University requirements is a violation of the Student Code of Conduct and will result in an immediate referral. You may not use any provided intellectual material or any of your submitted writings or papers in this class in another course at any university.

Students are required to check your UTD emails for class announcements and course materials several times per week AND prior to class so that you are prepared.

TESTS: 5 x 18% each (total 90%)
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 60 minutes to complete each test, consisting of 50-60 questions, but you will be given a 48-hour window in which to access the test. Details will be provided a week or so prior to each test.

MAKE-UP EXAMS: These will only be considered for instances of an emergency (e.g., documented death of immediate relative or student hospitalization), you have an official UTD-sponsored event that conflicts with the exam date, _and_ I am contacted via email _before 8am on the day THE EXAM GOES LIVE_. UTD-related absences or religious holiday conflicts should be communicated to the instructor as soon as they are known, but preferably one week prior to exam day so we can make arrangements for the exam retake day and time. Documentation of all excused absences may be required.

Extra Credit
A maximum of 5 extra credits can be earned on this course. The extra credit activities are listed below:

Activity	Points
Active engagement and outstanding contribution to the discussion topic in class. (Students participating in such discussion should make sure that their names have been recorded by the instructor before leaving the classroom.)	1
Short presentation/discussion on any topic/subtopic within a chapter. (Interested students should contact the instructor a week prior to the date the chapter will be covered. If multiple students are interested in presenting/discussing the same topic, it will be assigned on a first-come, first-served basis.)	2

Academic Calendar
Access the academic calendar for important drop and due dates at:
https://www.utdallas.edu/academiccalendar/

GRADING POLICY & SCALE

Grading Policy

Class attendance	10%
Test 1	18%
Test 2	18%
Test 3	18%
Test 4	18%
Test 5	18%
TOTAL	**100%**

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

Comet Creed

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:" As a Comet, I pledge honesty, integrity, and service in all that I do."

Please see the following site for detailed information regarding UTD syllabus policies regarding Student Conduct & Discipline, Academic Integrity, Incomplete Grades, Withdrawals, etc.:
http://go.utdallas.edu/syllabus-policies

Course Calendar: State and Local Government Summer 2024

DATE   **SCHEDULED LECTURES/READINGS DUE FOR EACH CLASS**
May 28   **Introduction to the course. Syllabus overview**

May 30   **Culture, Socioeconomic and Political Context**
Reading:
Chapter 1 [Top Hat]

Jun 04   **State Constitutions and Texas Constitution**

Chapter 2 [Top Hat]

Jun 06   **Federalism and the States**

Chapter 3 [Top Hat]

Jun 07   **Test Number One (details to be provided prior to the test)**

Not a Class Day

Jun 11   **Participation, Political Parties, and Elections**

Chapter 6 [Top Hat]

Jun 13   **Public Opinion, Lobbying and Interest Groups**

Chapter 7 [Top Hat]

Jun 14   **Test Number Two (details to be provided prior to the test)**

Not a Class Day

Jun 18   **The Executive Branch**

Chapter 8 [Top Hat]

Jun 20   **The Legislature**

Chapter 9 [Top Hat]

Jun 25   **The Judiciary**

Chapter 10 [Top Hat]

Jun 27   **Review**

Jun 28   **Test Number Three (details to be provided prior to the test)**

Not a Class Day

Jul 02   **Local Government, and State and Local Government Relations**

Chapters 4 and 5 [Top Hat]

Jul 04   University closed: Independence Day

Jul 09   **Taxes and Spending**

Chapters 11 [Top Hat]

Jul 11   **Review**

Jul 12   **Test Number Four (details to be provided prior to the test)**

Not a Class Day

Jul 16   **Criminal Justice**

Chapters 12 [Top Hat]

Jul 18   **Social Welfare and Healthcare**

Chapters 13 [Top Hat]

Jul 23   **Education**

Chapters 14 [Top Hat]

Jul 25   **Environmental and Energy Policy**

Chapters 15 [Top Hat]

Jul 30   **Review**

Aug 01   **Test Number Five (details to be provided prior to the test)**

Last updated: 05/24/24