



Course Number GOVT 2306
Course Name State and Local Government
Professor Euel Elliott
Term Fall Semester 2013
Meeting Times Tuesday and Thursday, 8:30am – 9:45am GR 2.530

PROFESSORS' CONTACT INFORMATION

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| Office Phone | 972-883-2066 |
| Office Location | GR 3.104 |
| Email Address | eelliott@utdallas.edu |
| Office Hours | 12:00-1:00pm Tuesday; 3:00-4:00 pm Thursday |
| Teaching Asst. | Ferzana Havewala (email: fxh110330@utdallas.edu) |

GENERAL COURSE INFORMATION

Course Description This course is designed to provide students in the PACT program with an introduction to Texas's State government and politics. The course covers topics related to state government and the public policy process that are especially relevant for students preparing for a career in medicine. The course begins with a discussion of Texas political cultures and economy of Texas within the framework of federalism, and the Texas Constitution. The course then proceeds to a discussion of political parties, elections, state government structures and public policy. While a large component of the materials will be communicated through lecture, there should be ample opportunity for seminar-type discussions. There will also be guest presentations and panel discussions scheduled strategically during the semester. It is crucial that the student will have read the material prior to class and be prepared to discuss.

Course Requirements and Grading Criteria There will be two tests and a final exam scheduled over the course of the semester. The tests will be short answer and short essay in content. The final exam will be a take-home essay exam. All tests and exams will be weighted 30% each, and in-class participation will count 10%. The grading scale is the standard undergraduate A, A-, B+, B, B-, C+, C, C-, D and F.

Make-up tests and submission of late exams will not be allowed except under exceptional circumstances. Go to <http://govtdallas.edu/syllabus-policies> for additional information.

Course Objective Students should, at the completion of the course, be able to:

1. Provide examples of and apply important theoretical and scholarly approaches to understanding state institution's behavior, citizen involvement and interactions between citizens and institutions of government.
2. Analyze and appreciate historical trends in development of state governmental institutions and their constitutional foundations
3. Identify, describe and analyze various mechanisms of citizen political involvement.

Required Books Champagne, Anthony and Edward J. Harpham. 2012. Governing Texas. New York and London: WW Norton.

ASSIGNMENTS & ACADEMIC CALENDAR

| Date(s) | Topics Covered in Class Time |
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| Aug. 27 | Introduction to the Course |
| Aug. 29 – Sept. 3 | <p>Political Culture, People and Economy of Texas</p> <p>Reading: Chapter 1, <u>Governing Texas</u> [henceforth, GT]</p> <p>Medical Technology and Related Industries in Texas</p> <p>Guest Speaker</p> <p>http://kaiserfamilyfoundation.files.wordpress.com/2013/01/8267.pdf “The Texas Health Care Landscape”</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • USNWR Best Dallas Hospitals: http://health.usnews.com/best-hospitals/area/dallas-fort-worth-tx • National Leapfrog hospital study “grades” for Dallas-area hospitals: http://www.dallasnews.com/investigations/patient-safety/headlines/20120612-five-major-dallas-hospitals-get-a-grade-of-c-in-study-by-national-group.ece • 5 Texas hospitals ranked among best in nation: http://www.bizjournals.com/dallas/stories/2007/07/09/daily39.html |
| Sept. 5 – Sept. 10 | <p>Texas and the Nation: A Federal System</p> <p>Articles of Confederation, Constitution of U.S.; Federalist 10 and 51 [online]</p> <p>Reading Chapter 2, <u>GT</u></p> <p>Bowling, Cynthia J. and J. Mitchell Pickerill. 2013. Fragmented Federalism: The State of American Federalism 2012-13. <u>Publius</u> 43: 315-346.</p> <p>Rigby, Elizabeth and Jake Haselwerdt. 2013. Hybrid Federalism Partisan Politics, and Early Implementation of State Health Insurance Exchanges. <u>Publius</u> 43: 368-391.</p> <p>Texas and Its Response to the Patient Protection and Affordable Care Act [Obamacare]: Discussion and possible guest speaker.</p> |
| Sept. 12 - Sept. 17 | <p>The Texas Constitution</p> <p>Read Chapter 3, <u>GT</u></p> <p>The Texas Constitution and Medical Malpractice</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Overview of rulings on the constitutionality of state medical malpractice award caps: http://onlinelibrary.wiley.com/doi/10.1111/j.1748-720X.2005.tb00515.x/abstract “Are |

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| | <p>Medical Malpractice Damages Caps Constitutional? An Overview of State Litigation.”</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> Article describing the 2003 TX law, briefly listing pros and cons, and discussing its impact from various angles: http://www.cleveland.com/nation/index.ssf/2009/12/exas_tort_reform_law_held_up_a.htm Health Affairs article suggesting that the presumed savings of malpractice awards caps may be overstated: http://isites.harvard.edu/fs/docs/icb.topic837372.files/Thomas%20et%20al%202010%20Low%20Costs%20Defensive%20Med.pdf “Low Costs of Defensive Medicine, Small Savings From Tort Reform.” 2009 pro and con in the Atlanta Journal Constitution regarding whether or not tort reform should be a part of the ACA: http://www.ajc.com/news/news/opinion/pro-con-should-liability-damage-caps-be-a-part-of-/nQTgD/ |
| Sept. 19 | <i>Test Number One</i> |
| Sept. 24 – Sept. 26 | <p>Political Parties</p> <p>Read Chapter 4, GT</p> |
| Oct. 1 – Oct. 3 | <p>Elections</p> <p>Read Chapter 5, GT</p> |
| Oct. 8 – Oct. 10 | <p>Interest Groups and Lobbying</p> <p>Read Chapter 6, GT</p> <p>The Texas Medical Association and Other Interests</p> |
| Oct. 15 | <i>Test Number Two</i> |
| Oct. 17 – Oct. 24 | <p>The Texas Legislature</p> <p>Read Chapter 7, GT</p> <p>The Battle Over Insurance Exchanges and Medicaid Expansion</p> <p>Guest Speaker</p> |
| Oct. 29 – Nov. 5 | <p>The Executive Branch</p> <p>Read Chapter 8, GT</p> |

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| Nov. 7 – Nov. 12 | The Judiciary Read Chapter 9, <u>GT</u> |
| Nov. 14 – Dec. 3 | Texas Public Policy and Local Government Education and Welfare, Chapter 12, <u>GT</u> Medicaid and Health Care, Chapter 12 (continued), <u>GT</u> Local Government, Chapter 12, <u>GT</u> Possible Guest Speaker <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • http://www.healthcare.gov/law/information-for-you/tx.html starting Oct 2013, people will be able to access info about all the plans available through the Texas Health Insurance Marketplace • http://www.chron.com/news/article/Perry-officially-rejects-Texas-insurance-exchange-4041653.php • Aggregation of several articles on the TX legislation rejecting medicaid expansion: http://www.kaiserhealthnews.org/daily-reports/2013/may/28/state-medicaid-expansion.aspx • pro-expansion editorial listing potential benefits: http://www.brownsvilleherald.com/news/local/article_caf425ee-d0ae-11e2-b684-001a4bcf6878.html “Analysts: Texas loses big by rejecting Medicaid expansion” • anti-expansion editorial by 4 state reps who are also physicians: http://www.hcms.org/uploadedFiles/Business_of_Medicine/Medicaid/Lege%20docs%20support%20Perrys%20rejection%20of%20Medicaid%20expansion%20and%20Ins%20Exchange-July2012.pdf “Passing on Obamacare’s Medicaid Expansion and • http://www.newyorker.com/reporting/2009/06/01/090601fa_fact_gawande “The Cost Conundrum: What a Texas Town Can Teach Us About Healthcare.” |
| Dec. 3 | Hand out Final Exam Take-Home Questions |
| Dec. 5 – Dec. 10 | Abortion and Other Issues Abortion in U.S. [Wikipedia] <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • http://www.pewforum.org/2013/01/16/a-history-of-key-abortion-rulings-of-the-us-supreme-court/ • www.people-press.org/2013/07/29/widening-regional-divide-over-abortion-laws/ • www.nytimes.com/2013/07/19/us/perry-signs-texas-abortion-restrictions-into-law.html?r=U Panel Discussion if time permits. |
| Dec. 17 | <i>Final Exam. Exam Due at 12 noon.</i> |

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