



**Course Number** GOVT 2306.PAC  
**Course Name** State and Local Government  
**Professor** Dr. Elliott  
**Term** Fall Semester 2016  
**Meeting Times** MW, 11:30am – 12:45 pm GR 4.204

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#### PROFESSORS' CONTACT INFORMATION

<b>Office Phone</b>	972-883-2066
<b>Office Location</b>	GR 3.104
<b>Email Address</b>	<a href="mailto:elliott@utdallas.edu">elliott@utdallas.edu</a>
<b>Office Hours</b>	12:00-1:00pm Tuesday and Thursday and by appointment
<b>Teaching Asst.</b>	Brett Cease (e-mail: Brett.Cease @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 of students preparing for a career in medicine. The course begins with a discussion of Texas political culture and the political 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. Given the relatively small class size, the course will be conducted primarily through seminar-type discussions and periodic student presentations. There will also be guest presentations scheduled strategically during the semester. Also, 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 three tests, each worth 20 percent of your grade, scheduled over the course of the semester. The tests will be short essay in content. The grading scale is the standard undergraduate A, A-, B+, B, B-, C+, C, C-, D and F.

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

Students will also be graded on a group presentation consisting of three or four students each at the end of the semester. The presentation will cover a topic of your choice dealing with Texas government and public policy that relates to the medical profession in health care. The presentation will be worth

15 percent of your grade. In addition to this oral presentation, all students will be submit a short 4-5 page paper summarizing and synthesizing the major points and key findings of your group presentation. The paper is worth 15 percent of your grade. The paper should reflect your own work and not be done in consultation with your team members. You will also be evaluated on your general class participation. I will also circulate periodically an attendance sheet. While attendance is not a formal part of your grade, you obviously need to be present to participate!

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

Test No. One	15%
Test No. Two	15%
Test No. Three/Final Exam	20%
Group Presentation	20%
Short Paper	20%
Class Participation	<u>10%</u>

TOTAL	100%
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Make-up tests and submission of late exams will not be allowed except under exceptional circumstances. Go to <http://provost.utdallas.edu/home/syllabus-policies> for additional information regarding policies and procedures.

### **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 including public opinion, political parties and interest groups and electoral processes.
4. Describe development of the Texas Constitution.
5. Describe state and local political systems and relationship to federal government.
6. Understand executive legislature and judicial branches of government in Texas.
7. Analyze issues, policies and political culture in Texas.

### **Required Books**

Champagne, Anthony and Edward J. Harpham. 2015. Governing Texas. (Second Edition) New York and London: WW Norton.

Some additional readings will be posted on e-reserve and on e-learning. These will be discussed in class.

## ASSIGNMENTS & ACADEMIC CALENDAR

Date(s)	Topics Covered in Class Time
Aug. 22	<b>Introduction to the Course</b>
Aug. 24 – Aug. 29	<p><b>Political Culture, People and Economy of Texas</b></p> <p>Reading: Chapter 1, <u>Governing Texas</u> [henceforth, GT]</p> <p>Fernandez, Manny. May 7, 2016. What Makes Texas, Texas. <i>NY Times</i>.  <a href="http://www.nytimes.com/2016/05/08/us/what-makes-texas-texas.html?_r=0">http://www.nytimes.com/2016/05/08/us/what-makes-texas-texas.html?_r=0</a></p> <p>Ramsey, Ross. March 11, 2016. Analysis of What Might Be Next for Texas Politics. <i>Texas Tribune</i>.  <a href="https://www.texastribune.org/2016/03/11/analysis-what-might-be-next-texas-politics/">https://www.texastribune.org/2016/03/11/analysis-what-might-be-next-texas-politics/</a></p> <p>Gawande, Atul. 2009. The Cost Conundrum. <i>The New Yorker</i> (June).  <a href="http://www.newyorker.com/magazine/2009/06/01/the-cost-conundrum">http://www.newyorker.com/magazine/2009/06/01/the-cost-conundrum</a></p> <p><b>One or more Guest Speakers: Technology and the Changing Face of Medicine. The Healthcare Landscape in the Metroplex.</b></p>
Aug. 31 – Sept. 7  [Sept. 5 Labor Day Holiday]	<p><b>The Texas Constitution</b></p> <p>Read Chapter 2, <u>GT</u></p> <p>Grissom, Brandi. April 21, 2016. With State Hospitals Packed Inmates Wait in County Jails that Aren't Equipped for them. <i>Dallas Morning News</i>. <a href="http://trailblazersblog.dallasnews.com/2016/04/with-state-hospitals-packed-mentally-ill-inmates-wait-in-county-jails-that-arent-equipped-for-them.html/">http://trailblazersblog.dallasnews.com/2016/04/with-state-hospitals-packed-mentally-ill-inmates-wait-in-county-jails-that-arent-equipped-for-them.html/</a></p> <p>Elbein, Saul. 2013. Anatomy of a Tragedy. <i>The Texas Observer</i> (August 2013).  <a href="http://www.texasobserver.org/anatomy-tragedy/">http://www.texasobserver.org/anatomy-tragedy/</a></p>
Sept. 12– Sept. 19	<p><b>Texas and the Nation: A Federal System</b></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. <i>Publius</i> 43: 315-346.</p> <p>Feibel, Carrie. May 24, 2016. Majority of Texans and Floridians Want Medicaid Expansion. <i>Kaiser Health News</i>. <a href="http://khn.org/news/majority-of-texans-and-floridians-want-medicaid-expansion-survey-shows/">http://khn.org/news/majority-of-texans-and-floridians-want-medicaid-expansion-survey-shows/</a></p> <p>Mangan, Dan. June 1, 2016. Big Drop in Texans without healthcare, but poor lag. <i>CNBC</i>.  <a href="http://www.cnn.com/2016/06/01/big-drop-in-texans-without-health-insurance-but-poor-lag.html">http://www.cnn.com/2016/06/01/big-drop-in-texans-without-health-insurance-but-poor-lag.html</a></p> <p>Shefali Luthra, June 14, 2016. Gaps in Women's Health Care May Derail Zika Prevention in Texas,</p>

	<p>Florida. <i>Houston Public Media</i>.  <a href="https://www.houstonpublicmedia.org/articles/news/2016/06/14/156749/gaps-in-womens-health-care-may-derail-zika-prevention-in-texas-florida/">https://www.houstonpublicmedia.org/articles/news/2016/06/14/156749/gaps-in-womens-health-care-may-derail-zika-prevention-in-texas-florida/</a></p>
<b>Sept. 21</b>	<b>Test Number One</b>
<b>Sept. 26 – Sept. 28</b>	<p><b>Political Parties</b></p> <p>Read Chapter 4, <u>GT</u></p> <p>Meyer, Harris. June 9, 2016. On coverage expansion, Republicans and Democrats are on different planets. <i>Modern Healthcare</i>. <a href="http://www.modernhealthcare.com/article/20160609/BLOG/160609901">http://www.modernhealthcare.com/article/20160609/BLOG/160609901</a></p>
<b>Oct. 3 – Oct. 10</b>	<p><b>Elections</b></p> <p>Read Chapter 5, <u>GT</u></p>
<b>Oct. 12 – Oct. 17</b>	<p><b>Interest Groups and Lobbying</b></p> <p>Read Chapter 6, <u>GT</u></p> <p>Rosenthal, Brian. October 11, 2015. Texas Doctors, Insurers Taking Balance Billing Fight Public. <i>Houston Chronicle</i>. <a href="http://www.houstonchronicle.com/news/houston-texas/houston/article/Texas-doctors-insurers-taking-balance-billing-6565359.php">http://www.houstonchronicle.com/news/houston-texas/houston/article/Texas-doctors-insurers-taking-balance-billing-6565359.php</a></p> <p>Walters, Edgar. October 1, 2015. New Era for Healthcare Drives Demand for Medical Scribes. <i>Texas Tribune</i>. <a href="https://www.texastribune.org/2015/10/01/electronic-health-records-grow-so-do-medical-scrib/">https://www.texastribune.org/2015/10/01/electronic-health-records-grow-so-do-medical-scrib/</a></p>
<b>Oct. 19</b>	<b>Test Number Two</b>
<b>Oct. 24 – Oct. 26</b>	<p><b>The Texas Legislature</b></p> <p>Read Chapter 7, <u>GT</u></p> <p><b>Possible Guest Speaker</b></p>
<b>Oct. 31 – Nov. 2</b>	<p><b>The Executive Branch</b></p> <p>Read Chapter 8, <u>GT</u></p>
<b>Nov. 7– Nov. 9</b>	<p><b>The Judiciary</b></p> <p>Read Chapter 9, <u>GT</u></p> <p><b>Possible Guest Speaker or Group Presentations</b></p> <p>Boston Globe Editorial, March 11, 2016. Stakes High For Ruling on Texas Abortion Law. <i>Boston Globe</i>. <a href="https://www.bostonglobe.com/opinion/editorials/2016/03/11/stakes-are-high-for-ruling-texas-abortion-law/sXw6mL62sP7SWNjZgHDt7K/story.html">https://www.bostonglobe.com/opinion/editorials/2016/03/11/stakes-are-high-for-ruling-texas-abortion-law/sXw6mL62sP7SWNjZgHDt7K/story.html</a></p>

	<p>Arkush, David, et. al. 2009. Liability Limits in Texas Fail to Curb Medical Costs. <i>Politic Citizen</i> (December 2009). <a href="http://www.citizen.org/documents/Texas_Liability_Limits.pdf">http://www.citizen.org/documents/Texas_Liability_Limits.pdf</a></p> <p>Ramshaw, Emily. 2009. Have Texas Medical Malpractice Caps Failed? <a href="http://www.texastribune.org/2009/12/17/have-tx-medical-malpractice-caps-failed/">http://www.texastribune.org/2009/12/17/have-tx-medical-malpractice-caps-failed/</a></p>
<p><b>Nov. 14- Nov. 16</b></p>	<p><b>Texas Public Policy and Local Government</b></p> <p>Local Government, Chapter 10, <u>GT</u></p> <p>Public Finance, Chapter 11, <u>GT</u></p> <p>Policy Process, Chapter 12, <u>GT</u></p> <p>Education and Welfare, Chapter 12, <u>GT</u></p> <p>Medicaid and Health Care, Chapter 12 (continued), <u>GT</u></p> <p>Crime and Corrections Policy, Chapter 13, <u>GT</u></p>
<p><b>Nov. 21 – Nov. 27</b></p>	<p><b>Thanksgiving Holiday</b></p>
<p><b>Nov. 28 – Dec. 7</b></p>	<p>Finish Chapter 10,11, 12 and 13/ Group Presentations</p>
<p><b>Dec. 12</b></p>	<p><b>All Final Papers Due by 12 Noon.</b></p>
<p><b>Dec. 14</b></p>	<p><b>Test Number Three/Final Exam (11:00am-1:45pm)</b></p>

NOTE: The instructor reserves the right to make modest changes to the course schedule as necessary. It may also be necessary to schedule one additional Saturday class in order to cover necessary material.