



Course Number GOVT 2306.003
Course Name State and Local Government
Professor Dr. Elliott
Term Fall Semester 2016
Meeting Times MWF, 3:00-3:50pm HH 2.402
Teaching Assistants: Sandra Odimegwu (seo150130@utdallas.edu)
Shaivya Verma (sxv133830@utdallas.edu)

PROFESSORS' CONTACT INFORMATION

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Office Location	GR 3.104
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Office Hours	12:00-1:00pm Tuesday and Thursday or by appointment

GENERAL COURSE INFORMATION

Course Description

This course is designed to provide students 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. Given the large class size, the course will be conducted primarily through lecture, but with some class discussions. 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 four tests scheduled over the course of the semester. The tests will be objective (multiple choice and true-false). 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

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

Test No. One	25%
Test No. Two	25%
Test No. Three	25%

Test No. Four/ Final Exam 25%

TOTAL 100%

Although there is no formal grade for attendance, attendance will be taken periodically over the course of the semester, and exemplary attendance will be considered in assigning grades.

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, to be determined over the course of the semester, will be posted on e-reserve and e-learning. You will be notified when posted.

ASSIGNMENTS & ACADEMIC CALENDAR

Date(s)	Topics Covered in Class Time
Aug. 22	Introduction to the Course
Aug. 24 – Aug. 26	Political Culture, People and Economy of Texas Reading: Chapter 1, <u>Governing Texas</u> [henceforth, GT]
Aug. 29- Sept. 7 [Sept. 5	The Texas Constitution Read Chapter 2, GT

Labor Day Holiday]	
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Sept 9 – Sept. 16	Texas and the Nation: A Federal System Articles of Confederation, Constitution of U.S.; Federalist 10 and 51 [online] Reading Chapter 3, <u>GT</u>
Sept. 19	Wrap Up and Review
Sept. 21	Test Number One
Sept. 23 – Sept. 28	Political Parties Read Chapter 4, <u>GT</u>
Sept. 30 – Oct. 5	Elections Read Chapter 5, <u>GT</u>
Oct. 7 – Oct. 14	Interest Groups and Lobbying Read Chapter 6, <u>GT</u>
Oct. 16	Wrap Up and Review
Oct. 19	Test Number Two
Oct. 21 – Oct. 28	The Texas Legislature Read Chapter 7, <u>GT</u>
Oct. 31 – Nov. 7	The Executive Branch Read Chapter 8, <u>GT</u>
Nov. 9 – Nov. 16	The Judiciary Read Chapter 9, <u>GT</u>

	Possible Guest Speaker or Group Presentations
Nov. 18	Test Number Three
Nov. 28 – Dec. 7 [Nov. 21 – Nov. 27 Thanksgi- ving Holiday]	Texas Public Policy and Local Government Local Government, Chapter 10, <u>GT</u> Public Finance, Chapter 11, <u>GT</u> Policy Process, Chapter 12, <u>GT</u> Education and Welfare, Chapter 12, <u>GT</u> Medicaid and Health Care, Chapter 12 (continued), <u>GT</u> Crime and Corrections Policy, Chapter 13, <u>GT</u>
Dec. 9	Test Number 4/ Final Exam (2:00-4:45 PM)

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