



Course GOVT 2306.002
Course Name State and Local Government
Professor Professor Stephanie Davis
Term Fall 2016
Meetings MWF 11:00am – 11:50am, FN 2.102

Professor's Contact Information

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Other Information Email or visiting office hours is the best way to contact me.

Teaching Assistant	Misty Parker	Linda Carlson
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Office Hours	Thursdays 10:00am – noon	Tuesdays 1:00pm – 3:00pm

General Course Information

Description: This course will provide students with an introduction to Texas's state government and politics in the context of other US states and the federal government. Students will learn general information about state governments in general and the public policy process at the state level. The course begins with a discussion of state political cultures and economies and then exploring Texas's political culture and economy. The course will cover the concepts of federalism and state constitutions with a specific emphasis on the Texas state constitution. The course will be conducted primarily through lecture with limited class discussions.

Objectives: By the end of the semester student will:

- Learn about the interaction of state governments and the federal government/ learn about the interaction of citizens and their state
- Understand how Texas state government operates
- Apply political science theories to analyze to past and current political events
- Learn about the scientific process that political science use to better understand politics
- Think critically about past and current political events and articulate analyses in writing
- Gain a knowledge of civic responsibility and the ability to engage effectively in state and local government

Required Texts & Materials Anthony Champagne and Edward J. Harpham. 2015. *Governing Texas* 2nd Edition. New York: Norton.

Suggested Texts, Readings, & Materials Readings posted on eLearning. (Students are not required to print off electronic material.

Assignments & Academic Calendar

Assignments:

4 Exams (25% each): The exams will be given on the dates noted here in the syllabus. Exams will be closed book, no notes, and in-class. The exams are based on lecture materials AND required readings.

Dates	Topics & Reading Assignments
Aug 22	Introduction
Aug 24 -26	Political Culture, People and Economy of Texas Ch. 1, Champagne & Harpham
Aug 29 - Sept 2	The Texas Constitution * Articles of Confederation, US Constitution, Federalist 10 Ch. 2, Champagne & Harpham
Sept 7 - 12	Texas in the Federal System Ch. 3, Champagne & Harpham
Sept 14	Review of Ch. 1 – 3, Champagne & Harpham
Sept 16	Exam 1
Sept 19 - 21	Political Parties Ch. 4, Champagne & Harpham
Sept 23 - 28	Elections Ch. 5, Champagne & Harpham
Sept 30 - Oct 3	Interest Groups and Lobbying Ch. 6, Champagne & Harpham
Oct 5	Review of Ch. 4 – 6, Champagne & Harpham
Oct 7	Exam 2
Oct 10 – 14	The Texas Legislature Ch. 7, Champagne & Harpham
Oct 17 - 21	The Executive Branch Ch. 8, Champagne & Harpham
Oct 24 – 28	The Judiciary Ch. 9, Champagne & Harpham
Oct 31	Review of Ch. 7 – 10
Nov 2	Exam 3

Nov 4 – 9	Local Government in Texas Ch. 10, Champagne & Harpham
Nov 11 – 14	Public Finance in Texas Ch. 11, Champagne & Harpham
Nov 16 – 18 & Nov 28	Public Policy in Texas Ch. 12, Champagne & Harpham
Nov 30 – Dec 2	Crime and Corrections Policy in Texas Ch. 13, Champagne & Harpham
Dec 2	Review
Dec 7	Exam 4

No Class

- * Labor Day, September 5
- * Fall Break, November 21 - 23
- * Thanksgiving Break, November 24 – 26

Course Policies

Grading (credit) Criteria	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	Exam 1 25% Exam 2 25% Exam 3 25% Exam 4 25% <hr/> 100%
Make-up Exams	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.	
Extra Credit	No extra credit	
Class Attendance	There is no grade for class attendance. However, I will take attendance periodically throughout the semester, and attendance will be considered in final grading process.	
Classroom Citizenship	You may use laptops in class to take notes. However, if your use of any electronic devices is disruptive to the rest of the class or to me, you will be asked to leave or to put your device away.	
Comet Creed	<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>	

	“As a Comet, I pledge honesty, integrity, and service in all that I do.”
UT Dallas Syllabus Policies and Procedures	<p><i>The information contained in the following link constitutes the University’s policies and procedures segment of the course syllabus.</i></p> <p><i>Please go to http://go.utdallas.edu/syllabus-policies for these policies.</i></p>

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