



**Course** GOVT 2306.008  
**Course Name** State and Local Government  
**Professor** Professor Stephanie Davis  
**Term** Fall 2016  
**Meetings** MWF 9:00am – 9:50am, HH 2.402

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#### **Professor's Contact Information**

**Office Phone** 972-883-3518  
**Office Location** GR 3.526  
**Email Address** [stephanie.davis@utdallas.edu](mailto:stephanie.davis@utdallas.edu)  
**Office Hours** Wednesdays noon – 2:00pm  
**Other Information** Email or visiting office hours is the best way to contact me.

<b>Teaching Assistant</b>	Misty Parker	Linda Carlson
<b>Office Location</b>	GR 3.314	GR 3.314
<b>Email Address</b>	<a href="mailto:mxp045000@utdallas.edu">mxp045000@utdallas.edu</a>	<a href="mailto:ljc160130@utdallas.edu">ljc160130@utdallas.edu</a>
<b>Office Hours</b>	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:**

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

<b>Nov 11 – 14</b>	Public Finance in Texas Ch. 11, Champagne & Harpham
<b>Nov 16 – 18 &amp; Nov 28</b>	Public Policy in Texas Ch. 12, Champagne & Harpham
<b>Nov 30 – Dec 2</b>	Crime and Corrections Policy in Texas Ch. 13, Champagne & Harpham
<b>Dec 2</b>	Review
<b>Dec 7</b>	<b>Exam 4</b>

### **No Class**

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

### **Course Policies**

<b>Grading (credit) Criteria</b>	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%
<b>Make-up Exams</b>	Make-up tests and submission of late exams will not be allowed except under exceptional circumstances. Go to <a href="http://provost.utdallas.edu/home/syllabus-policies">http://provost.utdallas.edu/home/syllabus-policies</a> for additional information regarding policies and procedures.	
<b>Extra Credit</b>	No extra credit	
<b>Class Attendance</b>	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.	
<b>Classroom Citizenship</b>	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.	
<b>Comet Creed</b>	<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.”	

<b>UT Dallas Syllabus Policies and Procedures</b>	<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 <a href="http://go.utdallas.edu/syllabus-policies">http://go.utdallas.edu/syllabus-policies</a> for these policies.</i></p>
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***The descriptions and timelines contained in this syllabus are subject to change at the discretion of the Professor.***