



Course Number: GOVT 2306.HN3
Course Name: State and Local Government
Professor: Dr. Elliott
Term: Fall Semester 2017
Meeting Times: MWF, 8:00-8:50am
Room: SLC 1.202

PROFESSORS' CONTACT INFORMATION

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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 state government and politics and the relationship of Texas to the U.S. federal political structure. The course also covers topics related to state government and the public policy process. The course begins with a discussion of Texas political culture 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. There will be little or no lecture in this course. Rather, the course will be conducted seminar-style, so students must read the course material ahead of class meetings. I also hope to have guest discussants come to class periodically over the course of the semester.

Course Requirements and Grading Criteria

There will be three tests scheduled over the course of the semester. The tests will be take home essay exams. There will also be three or four quizzes administered periodically over the course of the semester. The quizzes will be unannounced and will cover key terms and concepts in the readings. They may be short answer, multiple choice or some combination of the two. The lowest quiz grade will be dropped. Finally, there will be a short five page paper covering some aspect of Texas politics and public policy. Details are provided below. 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	20%
Test No. Two	20%
Test No. Three	20%
Paper	20%
Quizzes	<u>20%</u>
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, Edward J. Harpham and Jason Casellas. 2017. *Governing Texas*. (Third Edition) New York and London: WW Norton.

Elliott, Euel and Doug Goodman. 2017. *Texas Yesterday and Today: Readings in Texas Politics and Public Policy*. Austin. Great River Learning. This is an eBook. You will be given a password in order to access the material.

Brennan, Jason. 2016. *Against Democracy*. Princeton and Oxford: Princeton University Press.

There may be some additional readings, in addition to those shown for "Week One" that will be posted on e-reserve and e-learning. You will be notified when posted.

Paper

The paper will consist of an approximately 5 page (8 page maximum) analysis of some institutional or public policy reform you believe should be enacted in the state of Texas. Papers should be double-spaced, size 12 font and one inch margins. Any citation style is acceptable as long as you are consistent. The details will be discussed at the first class, and periodically over the course of the semester.

ASSIGNMENTS & ACADEMIC CALENDAR

Date(s)	Topics Covered in Class Time
Aug. 21	Introduction to the Course
Aug. 23 – Aug. 28	<p>Political Culture, People and Economy of Texas</p> <p>Reading: Chapter One, <i>Governing Texas</i> [henceforth, <i>GT</i>]</p> <p>Tunstall in <i>Texas Yesterday and Today</i> [hereafter <i>TYT</i>] (“The Changing Face of Texas: The Demographics and Political Economy of the Lone Star State”)</p> <p>Mortensen in <i>TYT</i> (“Texas History: Rulers and Revolutionaries”)</p> <p>C. Jillson, “The Texas Way” from <i>Lone Star Tarnished: A Critical Look at Texas Politics and Public Policy</i>, 2nd ed. (Routledge)</p> <p>R. Griffith, “Republicanism” from <i>The Encyclopedia of Political Thought</i> (Wiley Blackwell)</p> <p>D. Dow, “Liberalism” from <i>The Encyclopedia of Civil Liberties in America</i> (M.E. Sharpe)</p> <p>D. Ivison, “Democracy” from <i>The Encyclopedia of Political Thought</i> (Wiley Blackwell)</p>
Aug. 30- Sept. 8	<p>The Texas Constitution</p> <p>Read Chapter 2, <i>GT</i></p> <p>Read Miller in <i>TYT</i> (“The Texas Constitution Revisited”)</p>
Sept. 4	Labor Day Holiday: No class
Sept 11 – Sept. 18	<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 3, <i>GT</i></p> <p>Read Elliott, Goodman and Kim in <i>TYT</i> (“Friend, Foe or Something in Between? Texas, the National Government and Federalism”)</p> <p>Read Labastida, Gathman and Elliott in <i>TYT</i> (“What if Texas Had Never Joined the Union?”)</p> <p>Take Home Test No. One Distributed</p>
Sept. 20	No Class: Take Home Test No. One Due
Sept. 22 – Sept. 27	<p>Political Parties</p> <p>Readings:</p> <p>Chapter 4, <i>GT</i></p> <p>Begin reading Brennan, <i>Against Democracy</i> (selected chapters)</p>
Sept. 29 – Oct. 6	<p>Elections</p> <p>Readings:</p> <p>Chapter 5, <i>GT</i></p> <p>Continue reading Brennan, <i>Against Democracy</i> (selected chapters)</p> <p>Also read Iliev in <i>TYT</i> (“At the Ballot Box: Voting and Elections in Texas”)</p>
Oct. 9 – Oct. 13	<p>Interest Groups and Lobbying</p> <p>Readings:</p> <p>Chapter 6, <i>GT</i></p> <p>Also read Iliev in <i>TYT</i> (“Big Groups, Big Money: Interest Groups in Texas”)</p> <p>Take Home Test No. Two Distributed</p>
Oct. 16	No Class: Take Home Test No. Two Due
Oct. 18 – Oct. 25	<p>The Texas Legislature</p> <p>Readings:</p> <p>Chapter 7, <i>GT</i></p> <p>Also read Larue and Hernandez in <i>TYT</i> (“Legislation, Legislatures and Executives: The Ten Percent</p>

	Plan”)
Oct. 27 – Nov. 1	<p>The Executive Branch</p> <p>Readings:</p> <p>Chapter 8, <i>GT</i></p> <p>Read Battaglio in <i>TYT</i> (“Administering Texas: Bureaucrats and Bureaucracy in the Lone Star State”)</p>
Nov. 3 – Nov. 8	<p>The Judiciary</p> <p>Readings:</p> <p>Chapter 9, <i>GT</i></p> <p>Read Kirby in <i>TYT</i> (“Neighborhood Justice: The Role of Justice of the Peace Courts in Texas”)</p> <p>Read Borges in <i>TYT</i> (“In the Wrong Hands? Texas Public Policy and the Judiciary”)</p> <p>Take Home Test No. Three Distributed</p>
Nov. 10	No Class: Take Home Test No. Three Due
Nov. 13-15	<p>Local Government and Public Finance</p> <p>Readings:</p> <p>Chapters 10, 11 in <i>GT</i></p> <p>Gorina in <i>TYT</i> (“Other People’s Money: Financing Public Goods in Texas”)</p>
Nov. 12 – Nov. 29	<p>Policy Process and Public Policy Issues</p> <p>Chapter 12 in <i>GT</i> pp 399-404</p> <p>Read Alexander in <i>TYT</i> (“Contested Terrain: Texas’ Immigration Policy”)</p> <p>Read Forbis and Newman in <i>TYT</i> (“Environmental and Energy Politics in Texas”)</p> <p>Read Scotch and Sutton in <i>TYT</i> (“The Health of Texas: Health Care Policy in a Conservative State”)</p> <p>Lowry in <i>TYT</i> (“Reading, Writing and Wrangling: Education Politics and Policy in Texas”)</p> <p>Laprade and Worrall chapters in <i>TYT</i> (“The Ultimate Price: The Evolution of the Death Penalty in Texas”)</p>
Nov. 20 – Nov. 26	Thanksgiving Holiday
Dec. 1 –	Readings:

Dec. 6	Chapter 13 in <i>GT</i> Discussion of student papers and brief informal reports
Dec. 6	Papers Due by 5 PM

NOTE: The instructor reserves the right to make modest changes to the course schedule as necessary. Also, there may be the need for one or two make up classes due to the unavoidable travel by the instructor. Makeup classes will likely be held on Saturdays and announced well in advance.