

# Government 2306

## State and Local Politics: Texas

### Fall 2018

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Dr. Edward J. Harpham  
972-883-6729

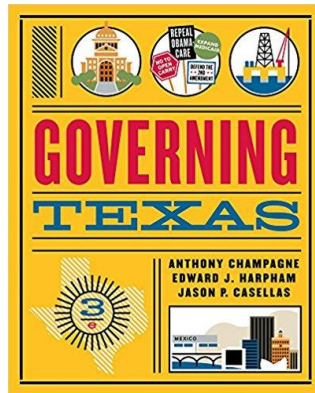
[harpham@utdallas.edu](mailto:harpham@utdallas.edu)

GC 2.204

Class time: MW 8:30-9:45

Location: AD 2.238

Office Hours: M 11:00-12:00 and by appointment



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**Course Pre-requisites, Co-requisites, and/or Other Restrictions:** none. This is a Collegium V Honors Course and requires permission of the instructor to enroll. This class is also part of the Liberal Arts Honors Cohort curriculum.

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**Course Description:** This honors readings course will involve an in-depth study of politics and government in Texas. It meets one portion of the core state requirement in government.

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**Student Learning Objectives/Outcomes:** Upon completing the class, students will be able to

- 1) Explain the role that the Texas Constitution plays in shaping governmental institutions and politics.
- 2) Explain and assess the place of Texas in the federal system of government in the United States.
- 3) Describe the way in which the legislative, executive and judicial branches work and affect public policy in Texas
- 4) Identify the demographic and economic challenges that face state and local government in Texas today and suggest solutions to these problems

The course will address the following core objectives through class meetings, assignments, and exams:

- **Critical Thinking Skills** - including creative thinking, innovation, inquiry, and analysis, evaluation and synthesis of information
- **Communication Skills** - including effective development, interpretation and expression of ideas through written, oral and visual communication
- **Social Responsibility**: including intercultural competence, knowledge of civic responsibility, and the ability to engage effectively in regional, national, and global communities.
- **Personal Responsibility** – including the ability to connect choices, actions and consequences to ethical decision-making

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### Required Textbooks and Materials:

Anthony Champagne, Edward J. Harpham, and Jason P. Casellas. *Governing Texas*. 3rd edition. New York: W.W. Norton, 2017.

Other reading will be available through elearning. Note that electronic readings do not need to be printed, just read online.

#### Other Recommended Readings:

Texas Almanac 2018-2019: in CV lounge.

Texas Almanac 1857-2013: <http://www.texasalmanac.com/>

Texas Tribune: <https://www.texastribune.org/>

Dallas Morning News: <http://www.dallasnews.com/>

Houston Chronicle: <http://www.chron.com/>

Austin American Statesman: <http://www.statesman.com/>

Texas Observer: <http://www.texasobserver.org/>

Texas Monthly: <http://www.texasmonthly.com/>

The Handbook of Texas online: <https://www.tshaonline.org/handbook>

Texas Legislative Budget Board: <http://www.lbb.state.tx.us/>

Texas Constitution: <http://www.constitution.legis.state.tx.us/>

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Amendments to the Texas Constitution:

<http://www.tlc.state.tx.us/pubsconamend/constamend1876.pdf>

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Texas Statutes: <http://www.constitution.legis.state.tx.us/>

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### Assignments & Academic Calendar

## Background

## August 20: Introduction to the Study of Texas politics and government

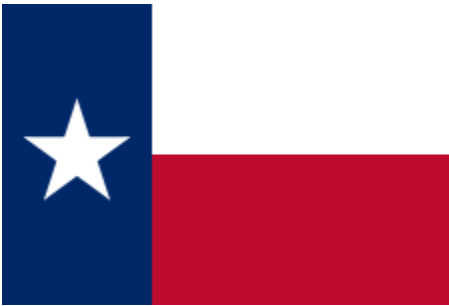
The Capitol Building: <https://www.tshaonline.org/handbook/online/articles/ccc01>



**The State Capitol (1886)**  
**The Goddess of Liberty (1886)**



**The State Capitol (2014)**



The Lone Star Flag: originally adopted January 25, 1839.





## The State Seal

**Seal obverse:** The Seal of the State shall be a star of five points, encircled by olive and live oak branches, and the words, "The State of Texas." (Constitutional provision)

**Reverse side:** [T]he design for the reverse side of the Great Seal of Texas shall consist of a shield, the lower half of which is divided into two parts; on the shield's lower left is a depiction of the cannon of the Battle of Gonzales; on the shield's lower right is a depiction of Vince's Bridge; on the upper half of the shield is a depiction of the Alamo; the shield is circled by live oak and olive branches, and the unfurled flags of the Kingdom of France, the Kingdom of Spain, the United Mexican States, the Republic of Texas, the Confederate States of America, and the United States of America; above the shield is emblazoned the motto, "REMEMBER THE ALAMO", and beneath the shield are the words, "TEXAS ONE AND INDIVISIBLE"; over the entire shield, centered between the flags, is a white five-pointed star. (Statutory provision)

## Culture, Demographics and Economy in the Lone Star State

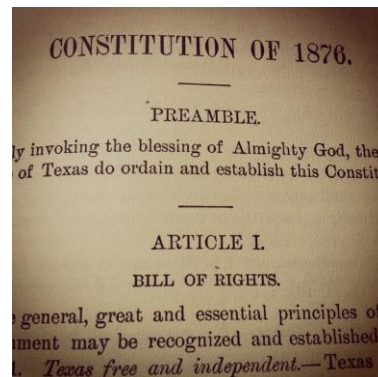
### August 22 and 27:

**Read:**

1) Champagne and Harpham: Chapter 1

## Constitutionalism

**August 29 and September 5: The Constitutions.**  
**No class on September 3.**



**Read:**

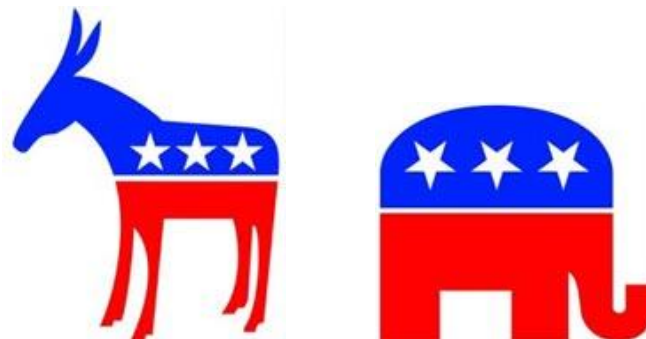
- 1) Champagne and Harpham Chapter 2
  - 2) Champagne and Harpham Appendix
  - 3) Texas Constitution:  
<http://www.constitution.legis.state.tx.us/>
  - 4) Amendments to the Texas Constitution:  
<http://www.tlc.state.tx.us/pubsconamend/constamend1876.pdf>
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## **September 10 and 12: Texas and the Federal System**

- 1) Champagne and Harpham Chapter 3

## **Politics**

### **September 17 and 19: Political Parties in Texas**



**Read:**

- 1) Champagne and Harpham Chapter 4
- 2) Republican state platform
- 3) Democratic state platform

**Websites:**

**Republican Party Website:** <http://www.texasgop.org/>

**History:** <http://www.texasgop.org/about-the-party/overview-and-history/>

**Platform:** <http://www.texasgop.org/wp-content/uploads/2014/06/2014-Platform-Final.pdf>

**Democratic Party Website:** <http://www.txdemocrats.org/>

**Platform:** <http://txdemocrats.bytrilogy.com/pdf/2014-Platform.pdf>

**Third Parties:**

**Libertarian Party:** <https://www.lptexas.org/>

**Platform:** <https://www.lptexas.org/state-platform>

## September 24: Elections in Texas



**Read:** Champagne and Harpham Chapter 5

**Websites:**

**Texas Secretary of State:**

<http://www.sos.state.tx.us/elections/index.shtml>

**Elections Results:**  
<http://www.sos.state.tx.us/elections/historical/index.shtml>

## **September 26: Interest Groups in Texas**

**Read: Champagne and Harpham Chapter 6**



## **October 1: Guest Speaker**

## **October 3: REVIEW AND CATCHUP**

## **October 8: First Exam**





# The Institutions of Texas Government

## October 11 and 15: The Texas Legislature



**State House of Representatives (2014)**



**State Senate (2014)**

**Read:**

- 1) Champagne and Harpham Chapter 7
- 2) Texas Constitution Article 3 elearning
- 3) The Senate Rules (1845) elearning
- 4) The Senate Rules (2013) elearning
- 5) The House Rules (1845) elearning
- 6) The House Rules (2013) elearning
  
- 7) Texas Legislature online: <http://www.capitol.state.tx.us/>

## October 17 and 22: The Plural Executive



**Read: Champagne and Harpham Chapter 8**

## October 24: Second Guest Speaker:

## October 29: The Texas Judiciary



**Read Champagne and Harpham Chapter 9**

## October 31: Local Government in Texas



## Read Champagne and Harpham Chapter 10



Loving County



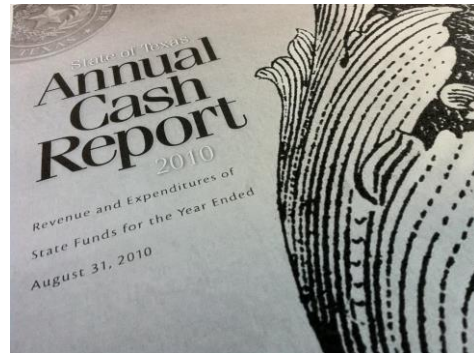
Hill County

## November 5: Guest Speaker



# Taxes and Public Policy in Texas

## November 7: Public Finance in Texas

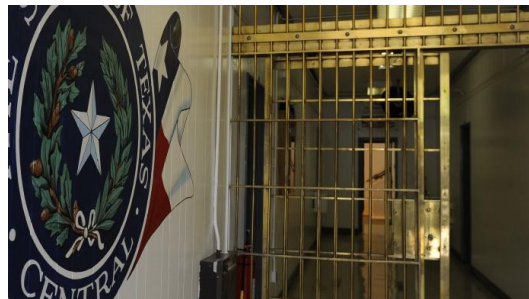


**Read Champagne and Harpham Chapter 11**  
**Read *Fiscal Sizeup* (elearning), Chapters 1 and 2**

## November 12: Crime and Corrections Policy in Texas



**Texas Rangers Company B (1880)**



**Texas Corrections Institution**



**Read:**

- 1) Champagne and Harpham Chapter 13
- 2) *Fiscal Sizeup: (elearning), Chapter 8*

## **November 14: Education Policy and Welfare Policy**



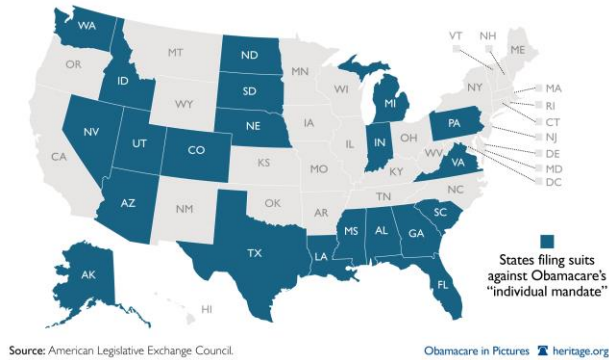
**Read:** Champagne and Harpham Chapter 14, pp. 384-402  
*Fiscal Sizeup (elearning), Chapters 5 and 6*

## **November 22-25: NO CLASSES. Thanksgiving Break**

## **November 26 and 28: Healthcare Policy and Water Policy**

## States: Obamacare is unconstitutional

The Attorneys General of 21 states have filed suits to protect their citizens from being forced by the federal government to purchase health insurance.



**Read Champagne and Harpham Chapter 14, pp. 403-421**  
***Fiscal Sizeup*, Chapter 5 and 9**

## December 3: Review and catch up



## December 5: Second exam



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### **Grading Policy:**

Students are expected to come to class prepared to discuss the material. There are a total of 200 points that can be earned over the semester:

- In-class participation is worth 20 points of the final grade. Students receive 0.5 points for every class attended for a total of 12 points. They will also receive up to 6 points for contributions to class and up to 1 point for contributions to guest sessions.
- Students are allowed one unexcused absence and are expected to make up material missed in the course. After that, missing classes will result in a 2 point penalty per missed unexcused class.
- There will be 2 in-class exams, each worth 80 points, for a total of 160 points.
- Short assignments prepared for class and periodic quizzes will be conducted at the beginning of select classes for a total of 20 points. This portion of the grade will include preparing materials on the speakers visiting our classes.

### **UT Dallas Syllabus Policies and Procedures**

The information contained in the following link constitutes the University's policies and procedures segment of the course syllabus.

Please go to <http://go.utdallas.edu/syllabus-policies> for these policies.

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