

Texas Government-12129

GOVT-2306

RT 2026 Section 021 3 Credits 01/12/2026 to 05/10/2026 Modified 01/18/2026

Our Vision

Houston City College will deliver relevant, high-quality education and training, ensuring success for all students, our community, economy and beyond. [About HCC \(https://www.hccs.edu/about-hcc/\)](https://www.hccs.edu/about-hcc/)

Course Meetings

Course Modality

In-Person (P)

Safe, face-to-face course with scheduled dates and times

2306.021 (Honors)

Tuesday/Thursday

11:00 AM-12:20 PM

Spring Branch 316

2306.022

Tuesday/Thursday

9:30 AM-10:50 AM

Spring Branch 217

2306.812 (Early College)

Monday/Wednesday

9:30 AM - 11:00 AM

West Loop C244

Welcome and Instructor Information

Instructor: Prof. Nathan Crosby

Email: nathaniel.crosby@hccs.edu

Office: Stafford 303.13

What's Exciting About This Course

The goal of this class is to discover how the Texas Government affect our everyday lives. We investigate Texas politics through the framework of "interests, interactions, and institutions." We learn that how policies or decisions that are made are impacted by the institutions that they are surrounded by and by the behavioral decisions of key actors.

Throughout the course of the semester, we will identify different actors in Texas politics and investigate why those actors conflict at some times and cooperate at others. Our focus will then turn to political institutions and the origins of these institutions. By the end of the semester, you will understand a variety of political challenges facing the Texas today.

During this course, you will also learn and discuss current events and issues facing the Texas, the United States, and the rest of the world, including a variety of controversial topics. In these discussions, you will be able to apply concepts and tools learned throughout the course in order to better understand these events and your opinions on these controversial topics.

My Personal Welcome

Welcome to the Texas Government! I am excited to see all of you on the first day of the course and get to know you.

Preferred Method of Contact

Email

Office Hours

Tuesday, Thursday, 1:00 PM to 3:30 PM, Teams

Course Overview

Course Description

Origin and development of the Texas constitution, structure and powers of state and local government, federalism and intergovernmental relations, political participation, the election process, public policy, and the political culture of Texas. Core Curriculum Course.

Requisites

Students must have passed ENGL 1301 (Composition I) or be co-enrolled in ENGL 1301 as a corequisite.

Government Department Website

<https://www.hccs.edu/programs/areas-of-study/social--behavioral-sciences/government/>

Core Curriculum Objectives (CCOs)

This course satisfies part of the Government/Political Science requirement in the HCCS core curriculum. The HCCS Government Discipline Committee has specified that the course addresses the following core objectives:

- **Critical Thinking Skills**—to include creative thinking, innovation, inquiry, and analysis, evaluation, and synthesis of information
- **Communication Skills**—to include effective development, interpretation, and expression of ideas through written, oral and visual communication
- **Empirical/Quantitative Skills**—to include manipulation and analysis of numerical data or observable facts resulting in informed conclusions
- **Teamwork**—to include the ability to consider different points of view and to work effectively with others to support a shared purpose or goal
- **Personal Responsibility**—to include the ability to connect choices, actions, and consequences to ethical decision-making
- **Social Responsibility**—to include intercultural competence, knowledge of civic responsibility, and the ability to engage effectively in regional, national, and global communities

Student Learning Outcomes and Objectives

Program Student Learning Outcomes (PSLOs)

1. **Texas institutions**- identify and describe the institutions of the state of Texas government.
2. **Evaluation of sources**- identify and evaluate information sources for our political news data and opinion
3. **Analytic inquiry**- analyze the effects of the historical social political economic and cultural forces on politics and government

4. **Citizenship**- recognize and assume the responsibilities of citizenship by developing one's critical thinking skills, engaging in public discourse, and by obtaining information through the news media.

Course Student Learning Outcomes (CSLOs)

Upon completion of GOVT 2306, students will be able to:

- Explain the origin and development of the Texas constitution.
- Describe state and local political systems and their relationship with the federal government.
- Describe separation of powers and checks and balances in both theory and practice in Texas.
- Demonstrate knowledge of the legislative, executive, and judicial branches of Texas government.
- Evaluate the role of public opinion, interest groups, and political parties in Texas.
- Analyze the state and local election process.
- Identify the rights and responsibilities of citizens.
- Analyze issues, policies, and political culture of Texas.

Departmental Practices and Procedures

The study of government and politics engages students with practices and issues that generate conflict. In light of the nature of the class you are enrolled in, it is important to understand that what you learn may challenge some of your beliefs. This kind of intellectual stretch is at the heart of higher education. Though some of your beliefs may be challenged, only you can decide to retain or change them. Consider the following quote from Rogers Smith, past president of the American Political Science Association :

"[A]ny political science teaching worthy of the name must examine controversial political matters and must present unpopular views concerning those subjects. The more teaching about politics is done by teachers who feel themselves to be in highly vulnerable positions, wary of offending taxpayers, governmental officials, or corporate donors, the more likely it is that political science teaching will be done in ways that simply canvass conventional perspectives, rather than promoting wide-ranging critical reflection and deeper public understanding of important political concerns."

Social Science Research Council, *Transformations of the Public Sphere*, 8.

Instructional Materials and Resources

Instructional Materials

The [HCC Online Bookstore \(https://hccs.bncollege.com/shop/hccs-central/page/find-textbooks\)](https://hccs.bncollege.com/shop/hccs-central/page/find-textbooks) provides searchable information on textbooks for all courses. Check with your instructor before purchasing textbooks because the book might be included in your course fees.

This course participates in the Houston Community College First Day Program. A discount has been applied to the required digital course materials. The discounted charge has been added to students' tuition and fee bills.

Students will access course materials through a link in Canvas. Instructions for opting out of the HCC First Day Program are also posted in Canvas. Students who opt out will still be responsible for obtaining required course materials.

Governing Texas

Author: Anthony Champagne, Edward J. Harpham, Jason P. Casellas, and Jennifer Hayes Clark

Publisher: WW Norton

Edition: 7th Edition

ISBN: 978-1324085645

Availability: Inclusive Access Link on Canvas

Price: 40

✓ Course Requirements

Assignments, Exams, and Activities

Type	Weight	Topic	Notes
Five Year Plan	5%	Introduction Week	<p>In 500-700 words, discuss where you would like to be in 5 years and the steps you need to take in order to achieve that goal. How attainable is these goal and what assistance do you need to reach your best chance at get to that completed goal in at least 5 years. Also take the political compass test. Attach your results and discuss in 250-350 words if you were surprised by the results or not, and any questions you had from the quiz.</p> <p>https://www.politicalcompass.org/test/en</p> <p>Here is a link to me taking the test if you do not understand any of the specific questions:</p> <p>https://www.youtube.com/watch?v=AQI06cJg2SY</p>
Midterm Exam	20%	Exams	There will be a midterm exam that will total 20% of your final grade. This exam consists of 100 multiple choice questions.
Final Exam	25%	Exams	There will be a final exam that will total 25% of your final grade. This exam consists of 100 multiple choice questions.
Annotated Bibliography	10%	Debate	In preparation for the debate, all team members are required to complete an annotated bibliography with 20 reputable sources about their topic that they plan to reference during their debate. Every team member needs to have 20 DIFFERENT sources. The annotations should be 150-200 words each summarizing the information from that source. Your annotated bibliography is the only thing debaters are allowed to have on their desk with them besides their flash cards. Everyone's annotated bibliographies are due the Sunday before the first debate. The annotated bibliography is worth 10% of your final grade.

Type	Weight	Topic	Notes
Debate	30%	Debate	<p>On the second day of the semester, the class will determine the topics in which they want to debate at the end of the term. I will then RANDOMLY place people onto debate teams in which they will work for the rest of the semester preparing for the debate. The overall format will be discussed later in the semester, but all members of the team must speak during the debate and complete their evaluation of their teammates. Along with your participation in your own debate, your evaluation of the other teams will be used to determine your grade and your classmates grades. Comments, Evaluation Forms, and Fellow Classmate Determinations will be done the day of the debate or due by the end of the week that debate took place. Your overall debate grade is 20% of your overall final grade.</p> <p>Overall Grade Breakdown of the Debate:</p> <p>10% Team Evaluation Form</p> <p>20% Other Debate Comments</p> <p>10% Fellow Classmates Determination</p> <p>60% Professors Grade Assessment of Debate Team Performance</p>
Attendance	10%	Attendance	

Grading Formula

Grade	Range	Notes
A	90-100	
B	80-89	
C	70-79	
D	60-69	
F	0-59	

* Instructor's Practices and Procedures

Incomplete Policy

In order to receive a grade of Incomplete ("I"), a student must have completed at least 75% of the work in the course. In all cases, the instructor reserves the right to decline a student's request to receive a grade of Incomplete.

Missed Assignments/Make-Up Policy

Missed exams will be excused and made-up after the fact in case of illness or personal emergency only with proper documentation. Please contact the instructor as soon as possible if an emergency arises that prevents you from taking the exam. If you can not take the exam at the time it's listed, contact the professor **as soon as possible** to reschedule when you can take it. You must have an actual excuse not just a desire to take it at a different time. Exams missed due to university sponsored events or religious holidays may also be excused, provided that the student informs me of the absence at least two weeks in advance. Vacation (e.g. leaving early for Fall, Spring or semester break) and social engagements will not be excused. Absolutely no excuse will be accepted for late assignments or missed exams, unless they are formally approved by the university. There will be no exceptions to this policy. Additionally, the documentation must explicitly state that the student was unable to attend class on the date in question. Students must provide proper documentation and make-up the missed assignment (or exam) within two weeks of the originally scheduled date. Failure to do so will result in a zero. Make-up exams may differ significantly in both structure and content from the original exam. Missed Quizzes and Discussions will not be accepted a late unless there is severe illness or personal emergency that takes the whole week that the assignment is open.

Academic Integrity

Scholastic dishonesty, involving but not limited to cheating on a test, plagiarism, collusion, or falsification of records will make the student liable for disciplinary action after being investigated by the Dean of Student Services. Proven violations of this nature will result in the student being dropped from the class with an "F". This policy applies campus wide, including Testing Center, as well as off-campus classroom or lab sites, including dual credit campuses. This information can be found in the at [Student Handbook. \(https://www.hccs.edu/studentprocedures\)](https://www.hccs.edu/studentprocedures). Don't cheat. Don't be that guy. Yes, you. You know exactly what I'm talking about.

Let's Define Plagiarism

The dictionary defines plagiarism as the unauthorized use or close imitation of the language and thoughts of another author and the representation of them as one's own original work. This basically means that you are submitting another person's words, ideas, images, or data as your own without giving the original author credit. Plagiarism includes, but is not limited to the following:

- Using phrases, quotes, or ideas that are not your own without giving credit to the original source/author.
- Paraphrasing the work of the others even though you may have changed the wording.
- Using facts or data not considered to be common knowledge.
- Cutting and pasting phrases or sentences from a website without giving credit to the original source.
- The use of an AI program, such as ChatGPT, is a form of plagiarism.

Tips to Avoid Plagiarizing

In order to avoid plagiarizing, use the tips below.

- Make a list of all the books, articles, websites, and other sources you used.
- Ask yourself, "Did I know this information before I read the book/article/website?" o If the answer is no, you must cite the source.
- Keep track of which information came from each source.
- When you use sentences exactly as they appear in the source (book/article/website), use quotation marks around them.
- When you summarize information in your own words, don't forget that you still need to list the source and cite where the information was found.
- Make sure to use the correct format to cite your sources. Your teacher is a great resource! Ask him or her for help if you need it.

Consequence for Plagiarizing

Plagiarism, a form of stealing, is considered cheating and will not be tolerated. If a student makes the choice to plagiarize, they will receive a zero for the assignment. If they are caught cheating again, they may face disciplinary actions by the college for cheating.

Artificial Intelligence

Artificial Intelligence (AI), defined as the intelligence of machines or software as opposed to human and/or animal intelligence, has been thrust to the forefront of matters related to academic integrity. Understand that student submissions of AI-generated work may constitute a violation of academic integrity. Any **unauthorized** use of ChatGPT, Grammarly, WordTune, or other AI-Generated content to complete written course requirements WILL be considered cheating. The ability to clearly articulate via written communication in a student's own words remains a vital part of the educational process at HCC. **Students should contact their instructor on what constitutes authorized use of AI-Generated content in this class.**

It is required for students who need assistance with spelling and basic grammar to utilize the spell check and grammar-check features available in most word-processing software, most of which are capable. Additionally, [HCC also offers online and face-to-face tutoring services.](https://iied21.hccs.edu/forms/allTutoring/index.html) (<https://iied21.hccs.edu/forms/allTutoring/index.html>)

Attendance Procedures

Attendance is a grade in this course (10%). Every day at the start of class, I will take attendance and if you miss the roll then it is your responsibility to rectify this at the end of class. I do not drop students for lack of attendance, so if you stop attending class it is your responsibility to drop.

Student Conduct

During Class

Activities that are disruptive to class will not be tolerated. Arriving late for class, reading newspapers, speaking while others are speaking, packing prior to the end of class, and cell phones are all highly disruptive. Cell phones, tablets, and other similar devices must be turned off during class, unless previously approved by the instructor. Laptops may be used for note-taking only; use of laptops for

purposes other than note-taking will result in the banning of laptops from the classroom. In addition, students are encouraged to discuss and express opinions on the many issues, some controversial, that are covered in class. Although differing opinions are encouraged, I will not tolerate any attacks of a personal nature or statements that single out students based on their race, gender, religion, age, ethnicity, nationality, abilities, appearance, or sexual orientation. Any student engaging in disruptive or disrespectful activities will be asked to leave the classroom, if it continues after the first warning and removal, you will no longer be welcome in attending this course. Eating and smoking are not allowed in class. This includes the use of e-cigarettes or other forms of vaping. Only students enrolled in the course are allowed in the classroom, except by special instructor's permission.

Outside of Class

Emailing the Instructor or Classmates

When emailing or contacting anyone involved with this course, especially the instructor, allow for 48 hours before resubmitting an email or request. You should not expect an email over the weekend, even if an assignment is due. The instructor or your classmate may check their email over the weekend, but is not obliged to respond to your email at that time. If you have questions, it is best to get those emails in prior to the weekend.

Online Decorum

All members of this class are expected to provide the same level of respect to their classmates in person as well as online in the discussion forums. Failure to respect your classmates or instructor can be treated with any penalty similar to those outlined for in class behavior.

Grading Timetable

The instructor will, to the best of their abilities, have all graded assignments back to students within 2 weeks of the due date. If there are unforeseen circumstances, the instructor will inform the class of the delay in receiving their work back prior to the two week deadline. Please refrain from emailing the instructor about grades during that two week window. Once grades are posted, the instructor will inform the class either by email or by an announcement in class.

Devices

No Electronic Devices are allowed in class without express consent from the instructor or accommodations. Laptops are allowed for note taking only but the right to use them in class can be revoked by the instructor if determined that the class is breaking this agreement.

Faculty Statement about Student Success

Daily reading assignments are listed in the syllabus. Students are required to complete all reading assignments PRIOR to attending the class for which they are assigned. Keeping up with the reading assignments will be essential for success in this class and will facilitate lecture and discussion. Although the overall theme between daily reading assignments and lecture will be the same, the exact

material may not. There will be reading assignments that are not covered in class and class lectures that are not covered in the readings. Students are responsible for all information covered by readings and lectures on the exams.

Participation in in-class discussions and asking questions when they arise are key to success in any course. With this course, students should take detailed notes on what is discussed in class that is NOT on the slides so that they can be prepared for their quizzes and exams.

Follow the rubric on all writing assignments and if you have any questions prior to the due date ask the instructor to explain in more detail.

Faculty-Specific Information Regarding Canvas

This course section will use Canvas (<https://eagleonline.hccs.edu> (<https://eagleonline.hccs.edu>)) to supplement in-class assignments, exams, and activities.

HCCS Open Lab locations may be used to access the Internet and Canvas. For best performance, Canvas should be used on the current or first previous major release of Chrome, Firefox, Edge, or Safari. Because it's built using web standards, Canvas runs on Windows, Mac, Linux, iOS, Android, or any other device with a modern web browser.

Canvas only requires an operating system that can run the latest compatible web browsers. Your computer operating system should be kept up to date with the latest recommended security updates and upgrades.

Social Justice Statement

Houston Community College is committed to furthering the cause of social justice in our community and beyond. HCC does not discriminate on the basis of race, color, religion, sex, gender identity and expression, national origin, age, disability, sexual orientation, or veteran status. I fully support that commitment and, as such, will work to maintain a positive learning environment based upon open communication, mutual respect, and non-discrimination. In this course, we share in the creation and maintenance of a positive and safe learning environment. Part of this process includes acknowledging and embracing the differences among us in order to establish and reinforce that each one of us matters. I appreciate your suggestions about how to best maintain this environment of respect. If you experience any type of discrimination, please contact me and/or the Office of Institutional Equity at 713-718-8271.

HCC Policies and Information

HCC Grading System

HCC uses the following standard grading system:

Grade	Grade Interpretation	Grade Points
A	Excellent (90-100)	4
B	Good (80-89)	3
C	Fair (70-79)	2
D	Passing (60-69), except in developmental courses.	1
F	Failing (59 and below)	0
FX	Failing due to non-attendance	0
W	Withdrawn	0
I	Incomplete	0
AUD	Audit	0
IP	In Progress. Given only in certain developmental courses. A student must re-enroll to receive credit.	0
COM	Completed. Given in non-credit and continuing education courses.	0

Link to Policies in Catalog and Student Handbook

Here's the link to the HCC Catalog and Student Handbook: [HCC Catalog \(https://catalog.hccs.edu/\)](https://catalog.hccs.edu/)

In it you will find information about the following:

- Academic Information
- Academic Support
- Attendance, Repeating Courses, and Withdrawal
- Career Planning and Job Search
- Childcare
- Ability Support Services
- Electronic Devices
- Equal Educational Opportunity
- Financial Aid TV (FATV)

- General Student Complaints
- Grade of FX
- Incomplete Grades
- International Student Services
- Health Awareness
- Libraries/Bookstore
- Police Services & Campus Safety
- Student Life at HCC
- Student Rights and Responsibilities
- Student Services
- Testing
- Transfer Planning
- Veteran Services

Link to HCC Academic Integrity Statement

[HCC Student Conduct \(https://www.hccs.edu/student-conduct\)](https://www.hccs.edu/student-conduct) (scroll down to subsections)

Campus Carry Link

Here's the link to the HCC information about Campus Carry:

[HCC Campus Carry \(https://www.hccs.edu/campuscarry\)](https://www.hccs.edu/campuscarry)

HCC Email Policy

When communicating via email, HCC requires students to communicate only through the HCC email system to protect your privacy. If you have not activated your HCC student email account, you can go [to HCC Eagle ID \(https://www.hccs.edu/email\)](https://www.hccs.edu/email) and activate it now. You may also use Canvas Inbox to communicate.

Office of Equal Opportunity and Title IX

Use the following link to access the HCC Office of Equal Opportunity and Title IX:

[HCC OEO Title IX \(https://www.hccs.edu/oeotix\)](https://www.hccs.edu/oeotix)

Ability Services

HCC strives to make all learning experiences as accessible as possible. If you anticipate or experience academic barriers based on your disability (including long and short term conditions, mental health, chronic or temporary medical conditions), please meet with a campus Abilities Counselor as soon as possible in order to establish reasonable accommodations. Reasonable accommodations are established through an interactive process between you, your instructor(s) and Ability Services. It is the policy and practice of HCC to create inclusive and accessible learning environments consistent with federal and state law. For more information, please go to the following website: [HCC Accommodations \(https://www.hccs.edu/accommodations\)](https://www.hccs.edu/accommodations)

Title IX

Houston City College is committed to cultivating an environment free from inappropriate conduct of a sexual or gender-based nature including sex discrimination, sexual assault, sexual harassment, and sexual violence. Sex discrimination includes all forms of sexual and gender-based misconduct and violates an individual's fundamental rights and personal dignity. Title IX prohibits discrimination on the basis of sex-including pregnancy and parental status in educational programs and activities. If you require an accommodation due to pregnancy please contact an Abilities Services Counselor. The Director of EEO/Compliance is designated as the Title IX Coordinator and Section 504 Coordinator. All inquiries concerning HCC policies, compliance with applicable laws, statutes, and regulations (such as Title VI, Title IX, and Section 504), and complaints may be directed to:

Sandra Jacobson, J.D., M.Ed., SHRM-SCP

Interim Director of EEO and Compliance/Title IX and ADA/Section 504 Coordinator

Office of Equal Opportunity and Title IX

3100 Main, 7th Floor

Houston, TX 77002

(713) 718-8271

hcc.oeotix@hccs.edu (<mailto:hcc.oeotix@hccs.edu>)

[HCC OEO Title IX Website](https://www.hccs.edu/oeotix) (<https://www.hccs.edu/oeotix>)

Mandatory Reporters

Under Texas Education Code 51.252 (formerly known as Senate Bill 212), HCC Instructors are mandatory reporters of sexual harassment, dating violence (domestic violence), sexual assault, and stalking. All instructors are required by law to report to the College's Title IX coordinator or Deputy Title IX coordinator all reports disclosed to them relating to sexual harassment, dating violence (domestic violence), sexual assault, and stalking alleged to have been committed by or against a person who was a student enrolled at or an employee of the institution at the time of the incident. Instructors are required by law to include all the information they know about the incident, including the name of the student(s), in the report to the College's Title IX coordinator or deputy Title IX coordinator.

Office of the Dean of Students

Contact the office of the Dean of Students to seek assistance in determining the correct complaint procedure to follow or to identify the appropriate academic dean or supervisor for informal resolution of complaints.

[HCC Dean of Students](https://www.hccs.edu/about-hcc/procedures/student-rights-policies--procedures/student-complaints/speak-with-the-dean-of-students/) (<https://www.hccs.edu/about-hcc/procedures/student-rights-policies--procedures/student-complaints/speak-with-the-dean-of-students/>)

Student Success

Expect to spend at least twice as many hours per week outside of class as you do in class studying the course content. Additional time will be required for written assignments. The assignments provided will help you use your study hours wisely. Successful completion of this course requires a combination of the following:

- Reading the textbook
- Attending class in person and/or online
- Completing assignments
- Participating in class activities

There is no short cut for success in this course; it requires reading (and probably re-reading) and studying the material using the course objectives as a guide.

Canvas Learning Management System

Canvas is HCC's Learning Management System (LMS), and can be accessed at the following URL:

[HCC Eagle Online - Canvas \(https://eagleonline.hccs.edu\)](https://eagleonline.hccs.edu)

HCCS Open Lab locations may be used to access the Internet and Canvas. For best performance, Canvas should be used on the current or first previous major release of Chrome, Firefox, Edge, or Safari. Because it's built using web standards, Canvas runs on Windows, Mac, Linux, iOS, Android, or any other device with a modern web browser.

Canvas only requires an operating system that can run the latest compatible web browsers. Your computer operating system should be kept up to date with the latest recommended security updates and upgrades.

HCC Online Information and Policies

Here is the link to information about HCC Online classes, which includes access to the required Online Information Class Preview for all fully online classes: [HCC Online \(https://www.hccs.edu/online\)](https://www.hccs.edu/online).

Scoring Rubrics, Sample Assignments, etc.

Look in Canvas for the scoring rubrics for assignments, samples of class assignments, and other information to assist you in the course: [HCC Eagle Online - Canvas \(https://eagleonline.hccs.edu\)](https://eagleonline.hccs.edu).

Instructor and Student Responsibilities

As your Instructor, it is my responsibility to:

- Provide the grading scale and detailed grading formula explaining how student grades are to be derived
- Facilitate an effective learning environment through learner-centered instructional techniques
- Provide a description of any special projects or assignments
- Inform students of policies such as attendance, withdrawal, tardiness, and making up assignments
- Provide the course outline and class calendar that will include a description of any special projects or assignments
- Arrange to meet with individual students during office hours, and before and after class as required

As a student, it is your responsibility to:

- Attend class in person and/or online
- Participate actively by reviewing course material, interacting with classmates, and responding promptly in your communication with me
- Read and comprehend the textbook
- Complete the required assignments and exams
- Ask for help when there is a question or problem
- Keep copies of all paperwork, including this syllabus, handouts, and all assignments
- Be aware of and comply with academic honesty policies in the [HCCS Student Handbook](https://www.hccs.edu/studenthandbook) (<https://www.hccs.edu/studenthandbook>).

EGLS3

The EGLS³ ([Evaluation for Greater Learning Student Survey System](https://hccs.campuslabs.com/courseeval/) (<https://hccs.campuslabs.com/courseeval/>)) will be available for most courses near the end of the term but before finals. Results are confidential and will be available to faculty and division chairs after the end of the term, after grades are due. Confidential means that responses to the survey will not be associated with your identity when provided to the faculty.

[Link to HCC EGLS3 \(https://www.hccs.edu/egls3\)](https://www.hccs.edu/egls3).

Housing and Food Assistance for Students

If you are experiencing any hardship related to food, shelter, mental health, or other basic needs areas, please visit the Basic Needs page for resources ([HCC Cares \(https://www.hccs.edu/cares\)](https://www.hccs.edu/cares)). You have the option to take the Basic Needs Questionnaire and ask to be contacted by a counselor for additional assistance or support ([HCC Basic Needs \(https://www.hccs.edu/basicneeds\)](https://www.hccs.edu/basicneeds)). Furthermore, please notify the professor if you are comfortable doing so.

Student Resources

Tutoring

HCC provides free and convenient academic support, in a large variety of subjects, to HCC students in both an online environment and in-person on campus. Tutoring is provided by HCC personnel in order to ensure that it is appropriate. Visit the HCC Tutoring Services website for more information at [HCC Tutoring \(https://www.hccs.edu/tutoring\)](https://www.hccs.edu/tutoring).

Libraries

The HCC Library System consists of 9 libraries and 6 Electronic Resource Centers (ERCs) that are inviting places to study and collaborate on projects. Librarians are available both at the libraries and online to show you how to locate and use the resources you need. The libraries maintain a large selection of electronic resources as well as collections of books, magazines, newspapers, and audiovisual materials. The portal to all libraries' resources and services is the HCCS library web page at [HCC Library \(https://library.hccs.edu\)](https://library.hccs.edu).

Supplementary Instruction

Supplemental Instruction is an academic enrichment and support program that uses peer-assisted study sessions to improve student retention and success in historically difficult courses. Peer Support is provided by students who have already succeeded in completion of the specified course, and who earned a grade of A or B. Find details at [HCC Supplemental Instruction \(https://www.hccs.edu/supplemental-instruction\)](https://www.hccs.edu/supplemental-instruction).

Resources for Students:

[HCC COVID-19 Information for Students \(https://www.hccs.edu/covid19students\)](https://www.hccs.edu/covid19students)

Basic Needs Resources:

[HCC Cares Basic Needs Resources \(https://www.hccs.edu/support-services/counseling/hcc-cares/basic-needs-resources/\)](https://www.hccs.edu/support-services/counseling/hcc-cares/basic-needs-resources/).

Student Basic Needs Application:

[HCC Basic Needs \(https://www.hccs.edu/basicneeds\)](https://www.hccs.edu/basicneeds)

COVID-19

Here's the link to the HCC information about COVID-19:

[HCC COVID-19 \(https://www.hccs.edu/covid-19\)](https://www.hccs.edu/covid-19)

Sensitive or Mature Course Content

In this college-level course, we may occasionally discuss sensitive or mature content. All members of the classroom environment, from your instructor to your fellow students, are expected to handle potentially controversial subjects with respect and consideration for one another's varied experiences and values.

Instructional Modalities

HCC offers many options for learning modalities and information may be obtained at [HCC College Your Way \(https://www.hccs.edu/campaigns/college-your-way/\)](https://www.hccs.edu/campaigns/college-your-way/).

All students, regardless of their selected learning options, will still have access to the support available to help with their success, including tutoring, student life, basic needs support, career and employment services, counseling and ability services, and supplemental instruction. HCC also provides financial aid options.

In-Person (P)

In-Person gives students the opportunity to participate in class in person.

Online on a Schedule (WS)

Online on a Schedule allows students to take classes online, but at scheduled dates and times. Instead of visiting the campus for class, students log into the class online at the specified time they selected during registration. This gives students a safe and flexible learning option that allows for more

interaction with professors and classmates without coming to campus. Access to a computer and WIFI are necessary to complete this class successfully.

Online Anytime (WW)

Online Anytime gives students the flexibility to complete coursework throughout the semester at times that works best for them. When a student enrolls in Online Anytime at the beginning of a semester, the course instructor will share pre-determined deadlines and requirements, along with the syllabus and full details of all assignments that must be completed to successfully finish the course. This option-most like a traditional online course -gives students the flexibility of completing coursework without visiting the campus. Access to a computer and WIFI is necessary to complete this class successfully.

Hybrid (H)

Hybrid provides students the opportunity to attend a lecture class meeting half-time in person and half-time remotely.

Hybrid Lab (HL)

Hybrid Lab-Based courses will be conducted in person and remotely, allowing HCC students access to essential hands-on, skills-based learning experiences needed for success.

Copyright Statement

In order to uphold the integrity of the academic environment and protect and foster a cohesive learning environment for all, HCC prohibits the unauthorized use of course materials. Materials shared in this course are based on my professional knowledge and experience as an instructor and are presented in an educational context for the students in the course. Authorized use of course materials is limited to personal study or educational uses. Material should not be shared, distributed, or sold outside the course without permission. Students are also explicitly forbidden in all circumstances from plagiarizing or appropriating course materials. This includes but is not limited to publicly posting quizzes, essays, or other materials. This prohibition extends not only during this course, but after. Sharing of the materials in any context will be a violation of the HCC Student Code of Conduct and may subject the student to discipline, as well as any applicable civil or criminal liability. Consequences for unauthorized sharing, plagiarizing, or other methods of academic dishonesty may range from a 0 on the specified assignment and/or up to expulsion from Houston City College. Questions about this policy may be directed to me, your instructor, or to the Manager of Student Conduct and Academic Integrity.

Unauthorized Disclosure

"Unauthorized disclosure" occurs when any student provides instructional materials and/or assessments to other students in violation of a clear prohibition by the instructor. Examples include: posting assessment items to online sites such as Chegg or CourseHero; asking exam questions in forums like Reddit or Yahoo Answers; discussions of confidential question using Wechat or GroupMe, etc.

Our Vision

Houston City College will deliver relevant, high-quality education and training, ensuring success for all students, our community, economy and beyond.

Course Calendar

Syllabus Modifications

The instructor reserves the right to modify the syllabus at any time during the semester and will promptly notify students in writing, typically by e-mail, of any such changes.

When	Topic	Notes
01/13/2026 9:30 AM - 12:20 PM	Syllabus Day	
01/15/2026 9:30 AM - 12:20 PM	Chapter 1 and Debate Draft	Political Culture, People, and Economy of Texas
01/18/2026 12:00 AM - 12:00 AM	Five Year Plan Due	
01/19/2026 12:00 AM - 12:00 AM	MLK Day - No School	
01/20/2026 9:30 AM - 12:20 PM	Chapter 2	Texas Constitution
01/22/2026 9:30 AM - 12:20 PM	Chapter 3	Texas in the Federal System
01/27/2026 9:30 AM - 12:20 PM	Chapter 4	Public Opinion and the Media
01/29/2026 9:30 AM - 12:20 PM	Chapter 5	Political Parties

When	Topic	Notes
02/03/2026 9:30 AM - 12:20 PM	Chapter 6	Campaigns and Elections
02/05/2026 9:30 AM - 12:20 PM	Chapter 7	Interest Groups
02/10/2026 9:30 AM - 12:20 PM	Review for Midterm	This is a student led review. I will provide answers to questions asked and guide you thru the study guide.
02/12/2026 9:30 AM - 12:20 PM	Midterm Exam	
02/16/2026 12:00 AM - 12:00 AM	President's Day - No School	
02/17/2026 9:30 AM - 12:20 PM	Chapter 8	The Legislature
02/19/2026 9:30 AM - 12:20 PM	Chapter 9	The Executive Branch
02/24/2026 9:30 AM - 12:20 PM	Chapter 10	The Texas Judiciary
02/26/2026 9:30 AM - 12:20 PM	Chapter 11	Local Government
03/03/2026 9:30 AM - 12:20 PM	Chapter 12	Public Finance
03/05/2026 9:30 AM - 12:20 PM	Chapter 13	Texas Public Policy
3/9 - 3/13	Spring Break - No School	

When	Topic	Notes
03/17/2026 9:30 AM - 12:20 PM	Amend Documentary	
03/19/2026 9:30 AM - 12:20 PM	Amend Documentary	
03/24/2026 9:30 AM - 12:20 PM	Chapter 14	Crime, Corrections, and Public Safety
03/26/2026 9:30 AM - 12:20 PM	Chapter 15	Governing a Changing Texas
03/31/2026 9:30 AM - 12:20 PM	Review for Final	This is a student led review. I will provide answers to questions asked and guide you thru the study guide.
04/02/2026 9:30 AM - 12:20 PM	Final Exam	
04/03/2026 12:00 AM - 12:00 AM	Good Friday - No School	
04/05/2026 12:00 AM - 12:00 AM	Annotated Bibliography Due	
4/7 - End of Class	Debates	

Additional Information

Artificial Intelligence Statement

Artificial Intelligence (AI), defined as the intelligence of machines or software as opposed to human and/or animal intelligence, has been thrust to the forefront of matters related to academic integrity. Understand that student submissions of AI-generated work may constitute a violation of academic integrity. Any **unauthorized** use of ChatGPT, Grammarly, WordTune, or other AI-Generated content to complete written course requirements WILL be considered cheating. The ability to clearly articulate via

written communication in a student's own words remains a vital part of the educational process at HCC. **Students should contact their instructor on what constitutes authorized use of AI-Generated content in this class.**

Students who need assistance with spelling and basic grammar should still be able to utilize the spell-check and grammar-check features available in most word-processing software, most of which are capable. Additionally, HCC also offers online and face-to-face tutoring services. Additional information regarding HCC's tutoring services Information can be found here:

<https://iied21.hccs.edu/forms/allTutoring/index.html> "

Departmental/Program Information

The Houston Community College Government Department supports students in a number of different ways. These include:

- Government Majors & Minors: Students can earn an Associate of Arts Degree in Government, which will prepare them for majoring in Political Science or Government when they transfer to a university. Majors and Minors—those students who are interested in Political Science or Government—are supported by a faculty committee that will connect them to events, news, and opportunities.
- Careers in Government: The study of Government or Political Science prepares students for work in the public and private sectors by emphasizing critical thinking, analytical, and communication skills.
- Government Student Organizations: The Government Department supports the activities of the *Center for Civic Engagement* and the *HCC Political Science Club*, both of which hold discussions and sponsor events to connect students to politics in the real world.
- GOVT Scholarship: The Government Department will work with students to locate scholarship support, when possible.

Process for Expressing Concerns about the Course

If you have concerns about any aspect of this course, please reach out to your instructor for assistance first. If your instructor is not able to assist you, then you may wish to contact the Department Chair.

Steven N. Tran, PhD

Faculty Division Chair - Government

Angela Morales Building, 101.12

6815 Rustic

Houston, Texas, 77087

713-718-6979

steven.tran@hccs.edu (<https://hccs.campusconcourse.com/steven.tran@hccs.edu>)