
BRAZOSPORT COLLEGE

GOVT 2306 – Texas Government

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Course Description

GOVT 2306 Texas Government - CIP 4510025125 A functional study of the origin and development of the Texas Constitution, structure and powers of state and local government, federalism and inter-governmental relations, political participation, the election process, public policy, and the political culture of Texas.

Academic Freedom is the principle that teachers and students have the right and the duty to pursue the search for truth wherever the inquiry may lead, free of political, religious, or other restrictions except those of accepted standards of scholarship.

Political Science Dictionary, Jack C. Plato, The Dryden Press, 1973.

Course Overview, Structure, and Student Assessment

- The class is supported by D2L resources that provide an archive of all assignments and a record of your accomplishments in the class. Class assignments will be devoted (but not limited) to discussion board postings, analyzing images, discussion of current events, reviewing power points, readings, and other activities.
- Fifty percent of the class grade will be awarded based on your performance on a variety of writing assignments and activities.
- Fifty percent of the class grade is awarded on your performance on the mid-term exam and final exam.

Eight Learning Outcomes

1. Explain the origin and development of the Texas constitution.
2. Describe state and local political systems and their relationship with the federal government.
3. Describe separation of powers and checks and balances in both theory and practice in Texas.
4. Demonstrate knowledge of the legislative, executive, and judicial branches of Texas government.
5. Evaluate the role of public opinion, interest groups, and political parties in Texas.
6. Analyze the state and local election process.

7. Identify the rights and responsibilities of citizens.
8. Analyze issues, policies and political culture of Texas.

Course Requirements and Assessments

- There will be a Mid-Term Exam and a Final Exam. Fifty percent of the course grade will be based on these two exams.
- Fifty percent of the course grade will be based on essays submitted to your D2L Dropbox.
- Any items submitted to D2L should use Microsoft Word.
- Consult Updates/Course Calendar frequently.

The Mid-Term Exam focuses on the topics found in Modules One, Two, Three, and Four. Exam items may review current issues such as those covered in The Texas Tribune. Check D2L Calendar for Due Dates.	Module 1: Origin and Development of the Texas Constitution
	Module 2: State and Local Political Systems and their Relationship with the Federal Government
	Module 3: Separation of Powers & Checks and Balances
	Module 4: The Legislative, Executive and Judicial Branches of Texas
The Final Exam focuses on the content found in Modules Five, Six, Seven, and Eight. Current issues related to Texas government may also appear on the Final Exam. Check D2L Calendar for Due Dates.	Module 5: Public Opinion, Interest Groups, and Political Parties in Texas
	Module 6: State and Local Elections
	Module 7: Rights and Responsibilities of Citizens
	Module 8: Issues, Policies and Political Culture of Texas

Grades

Under “Assessments” you will see “Grades.” The gradebook gives you an up to the minute record of your progress/grade for the class.

D2L Grade Book: Your “final calculated grade” will give you an up-to-date view of where you stand in the course at any given point in the semester. The following scale will be used to determine your course grade:

Final Calculated Grade	Course Grade
100-90 %	A
89-80 %	B
79-70 %	C
69-60 %	D
59-0 %	F

Student Support

- **Help Desk**
 - [Chat with a Helpdesk representative](#)
 - helpdesk@brazosport.edu
 - 979-230-3266
 - [Helpdesk website](#)
 - Campus Location: K.100
- **Online Tutors**
 - [Create an Online MATH Tutoring Appointment](#)
 - **Help Guide:** [Create MATH Appointment](#)
 - [Schedule an Online WRITING Appointment](#)
 - Video: [Scheduling an Online Session](#)
 - Video: [Attending an Online Session](#)
- **Online Academic Advisor**
 - [Chat with an Academic Advisor](#)
 - 979-230-3238 or contact the department secretary at 979-230-3237
 - [Online Counseling Services](#) website
 - Campus Location: E-Wing
- **Learning Services**
 - [Chat live with a Learning Service Representative](#)
 - [Proctor Testing](#)
 - 979-230-3253
 - [Learning Services website](#)
 - Campus Location: [view map](#)

- **Library**
 - [Chat live with a Librarian](#)
 - 979-230-3310
 - [Library website](#)
 - Campus Location: F.134
- **Campus Bookstore**
 - [Bookstore website](#)
 - 979-230-3410
 - Campus Location: [view map](#)
- **Distance Learning**
 - [Virtual Campus Manuals & Tutorials](#)
 - [Success Tips](#)
 - [Student Guide & Calendar](#) website
 - [Online Course Tools Tour](#) RSVP form
 - [Distance Learning website](#)
 - 979-230-3436

Additional [support service information](#), including Virtual Campus Accessibility information is detailed on the Distance Learning website.

When Taking an Online Course

The following shows what it takes to be successful in learning while taking a course that has little if no face-to-face contact with either your instructor or fellow students:

- Class time ~ in an online course you should expect to spend at least the same number of hours preparing for the course as you would expect to spend in a face- to-face class.
 - Study time ~ the more time you invest in preparing for this course the more successful you should be in the course. Success in learning and understanding the material usually results in a higher grade in the course.
 - ask questions
- Grades ~
 - Generally, the more hours you put into a course the higher your grade
 - keep track of your own grades using the **grade book**
 - calculate your own grades to keep track of grade requirements
 - have questions about your grade ASK immediately via email (don't wait till the end of the course)
- Accountability ~
 - monitor your own time
 - practice good time management strategies
 - understand the requirements for this class

- DON'T procrastinate

Participation and Attendance

As per college policy, you are expected to attend and participate in class regularly. D2L keeps track of when you login to the course.

Course Disclaimer

Every attempt is made to provide a complete syllabus that provides an accurate overview of the courses. However, circumstances and events may make it necessary for the instructor to modify the syllabus during the semester. This may depend, in part, on the progress, needs and experiences of the students.

College Policies

View current [Student Guide & Calendar](#) (includes Student Conduct, Honor Codes, and Academic Honesty) for detailed College Policy information.

Online Student Conduct

- Students are expected to abide by Brazosport College's code of student conduct, including the rules applicable to online courses and student conduct in general.
- Students enrolled in distance education courses are expected to perform with the highest level of academic honesty and integrity.
- Breaches of conduct include:
 - Misconduct
 - Cheating on a Test
 - Plagiarism
 - Collusion

Special Needs & Accessibility

BC is committed to quality education and to providing equal educational opportunities to every student. BC offers services for individuals with special needs and capabilities. Contact Phil Robertson, ADA Coordinator (Email: Phil.Robertson@brazosport.edu | Call: 979-230-3236) for additional information.

- [Steps to Apply for Disability Services at Brazosport College](#)
- **Brightspace** (formally known as D2L), our Learning Management System provides tools which are compliant and easy to navigate and understand using assistive technologies and devices that support their needs. To learn more about Desire2Learn's commitment to accessibility visit their [Accessibility Commitment](#) page as well as their [Accessibility Resource Center](#) for both faculty and students.

- **YouSeeU** is used in our online courses for Virtual Classrooms (live presentations) and Video Assignments. The YouSeeU interface is screen reader friendly and has a high contrast user interface, visit their [Accessibility](#) page for additional information.
- **YouTube Videos** may also be used in online courses. Visit [YouTube Accessibility Settings](#) page for additional information on how to set [accessibility for YouTube on Android](#), [turn captions on and off](#) and [use YouTube with a screen reader](#).

Student Privacy

Brazosport College is committed to providing services and support to meet your needs and achieve your educational goals. We are equally committed to protecting your privacy. For information regarding the confidentiality of student records please view the [Brazosport College Distant Learning Student Privacy Statement](#). For additional information related to Student Privacy contact the Registrar (979-230-3010).

Withdrawals

Withdrawal from a course is, first and foremost, the student's responsibility. An instructor may process an "administrative withdrawal" on a student for excessive absences.

However, it is the student's responsibility to ensure, prior to the deadline for withdrawal, that he/she has been officially withdrawn. Because you stop participating in a class, does not mean that you have officially withdrawn from the class.

Copyright Policy

The [Digital Millennium Copyright Act \(DMCA\)](#) updates copyright law for the online (digital) environment. All information posted within the Virtual Campus is copyrighted under this and previous copyright law. No material can be used or redistributed without permission from Brazosport College.

[Alternative legal sources are available](#) for use by faculty and students including books, music, and movies. There is also [our campus library](#) which has a variety of existing licensed and subscription based materials for use. Go to [CopyRight@BC](#) for additional information and resources dealing with copyright, practices, and procedures.

Title IX Statement

Brazosport College faculty and staff are committed to supporting students and upholding the College District's non-discrimination policy. Under Title IX and Brazosport College's policy FFDA (Local), discrimination based on sex, gender, sexual orientation, gender identity, and gender expression is prohibited. If you experience an incident of discrimination, we encourage you to report it. While you may talk to a faculty or staff member at BC, please understand that they are "Responsible Employees" and must report what you tell them to college officials. You can also contact the Title IX Coordinators directly by using the contact information below. Additional information is found on the Sexual Misconduct webpage at www.brazosport.edu/sexualmisconduct. Mareille Rolon, HR Coordinator and Title IX Coordinator Office C-114; 979-230-3303; mareille.rolon@brazosport.edu