



**Course** GOVT 2306.001  
**Course Name** State and Local Government  
**Professor** Professor Stephanie Davis  
**Term** Spring 2017  
**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** sxd168630@utdallas.edu  
**Office Hours** Wednesdays noon – 3:00pm  
**Other Information** Email or visiting office hours is the best way to contact me.

<b>Teaching Assistant</b>	Linda Carlson	Soham Das
<b>Office Location</b>	GR 3.314	GR 3.314
<b>Email Address</b>	ljc160130@utdallas.edu	sxd153330@utdallas.edu
<b>Office Hours</b>	Thursdays 1pm - 3pm	Tuesdays 1pm – 3pm

### Supplemental Instruction:

Supplemental Instruction (SI) is offered for this course. SI sessions are free group study opportunities, scheduled three times per week. Sessions are facilitated by an SI Leader, who has recently taken the course and received a high final grade. Attendance is voluntary. For information about the days, times, and locations for SI sessions, refer to [www.utdallas.edu/studentsuccess/leaders/si.html](http://www.utdallas.edu/studentsuccess/leaders/si.html). Your SI instructor will also provide these dates in an e-mail and through announcements.

**Supplemental Instructor** Brea Baygents  
**Email Address** brb140230@utdallas.edu

### 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 the public policy process, specifically Texas's state government. The course begins with a discussion of state political cultures. The course will cover the concepts of federalism and state constitutions with a specific emphasis on the Texas state constitution. We will also focus on the institutions of Texas state government and some specific policies that affect the state like education, welfare and water policies. The course will be conducted primarily through lecture with limited class discussions.

**Objectives:** By the end of the semester students will:

- Learn about the interaction of state governments and the federal government/ learn about the interaction of citizens and their state
- Understand how the institutions of Texas state government operates
- Apply political science theories to analyze to past and current political events
- 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:**

**5 Exams (20% each):** The exams will be given on the dates noted here in the syllabus. Exams will be closed book, no notes, and in the usual classroom (HH 2.402). The exams are based on lecture materials AND required readings. \* You may drop your lowest test score.

Dates	Topics & Reading Assignments
Jan 9 - 13	Introduction: Political Culture, People and Economy of Texas Ch. 1, Champagne & Harpham
Jan 16	MLK Day – NO CLASS
Jan 18 - 20	The Texas Constitution Ch. 2, Champagne & Harpham
Jan 23 - 27	Texas in the Federal System Ch. 3, Champagne & Harpham
Jan 30	Review of Ch. 1 – 3, Champagne & Harpham
Feb 1	Exam 1: Ch. 1 – 3
Feb 3 - 6	Political Parties Ch. 4, Champagne & Harpham
Feb 8 - 10	Elections Ch. 5, Champagne & Harpham

<b>Feb 13 - 15</b>	Interest Groups and Lobbying Ch. 6, Champagne & Harpham
<b>Feb 17</b>	Review of Ch. 4 – 6, Champagne & Harpham
<b>Feb 20</b>	Exam 2: Ch. 4 – 6
<b>Feb 22 - 27</b>	The Texas Legislature Ch. 7, Champagne & Harpham
<b>Mar 1 - 6</b>	The Executive Branch Ch. 8, Champagne & Harpham
<b>Mar 8</b>	Review of Ch. 7 & 8, Champagne & Harpham
<b>Mar 10</b>	Exam 3: Ch. 7 & 8
<b>Mar 13 - 18</b>	Spring Break – NO CLASS
<b>Mar 20 - 24</b>	The Judiciary Ch. 9, Champagne & Harpham
<b>Mar 27 - 29</b>	Local Government in Texas Ch. 10, Champagne & Harpham
<b>Mar 31</b>	Review of Ch. 9 – 10, Champagne & Harpham
<b>Apr 3</b>	Exam 4: Ch. 9 & 10
<b>Apr 5 - 10</b>	Public Finance in Texas Ch. 11, Champagne & Harpham
<b>Apr 12 - 17</b>	Public Policy in Texas Ch. 12, Champagne & Harpham
<b>Apr 19 - 24</b>	Crime and Corrections Policy in Texas Ch. 13, Champagne & Harpham
<b>Apr 26</b>	Review of Ch. 11 – 13 Champagne & Harpham
<b>Apr 28</b>	Exam 5: Ch. 11 - 13

**No Class**

\* MLK Day, Jan 16

\* Spring Break, March 13 - 18

## **Course Policies**

### **Make-up Exam Policy**

Make-up tests and submission of late exams **will NOT be** allowed except for school-sanctioned events. If you miss an exam for reasons that are not for school-sanctioned activities, I encourage you to drop that exam grade, since it will be a zero. If you miss an exam due to a school-sanctioned activity, you must provide proof from the activity supervisor.

Go to <http://go.utdallas.edu/syllabus-policies> for additional information regarding policies and procedures.

### **Extra Credit**

From time to time, I offer extra credit questions on the exams. Outside of that, I give no extra credit points.

### **Grading Schema**

A+ = 96 and above  
A = 94 - 96□  
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 20%  
Exam 2 20%  
Exam 3 20%  
Exam 4 20%  
Exam 5 20%  
100%

\* You may drop your lowest test score

### **Class Attendance**

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.

### **Classroom Citizenship**

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.

### **Comet Creed**

*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:*

“As a Comet, I pledge honesty, integrity, and service in all that I do.”

**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.***