

Introduction

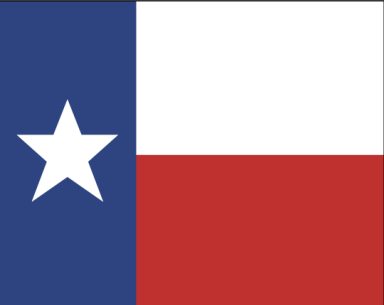
State and Local Government

GOVT 2306

Professor Davis

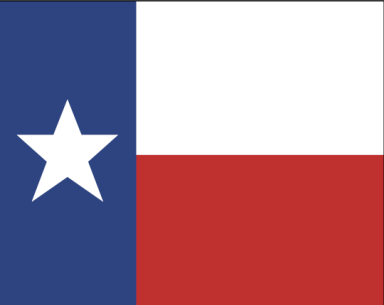
Office GR 3.526

Office hours: Wednesdays noon –
3:00pm



Welcome

- The syllabus is available on eLearning
- Class announcements available on eLearning
- Frequently asked questions and answers or “FAQ” are available on eLearning
- My office hours and the office hours of the TAs are found on the syllabus
- TA Introduction
 - Ms. Linda Carlson
 - Mr. Soham Das



Frequently Asked Questions

GOVT 2305
American National Government
Spring 2017

Frequently Asked Questions

Q: I've just enrolled in your class, and I missed the first day. What do I need to know?

A: Please read the syllabus. The syllabus includes details on all reading assignments and quizzes

Q: Should I attend class?

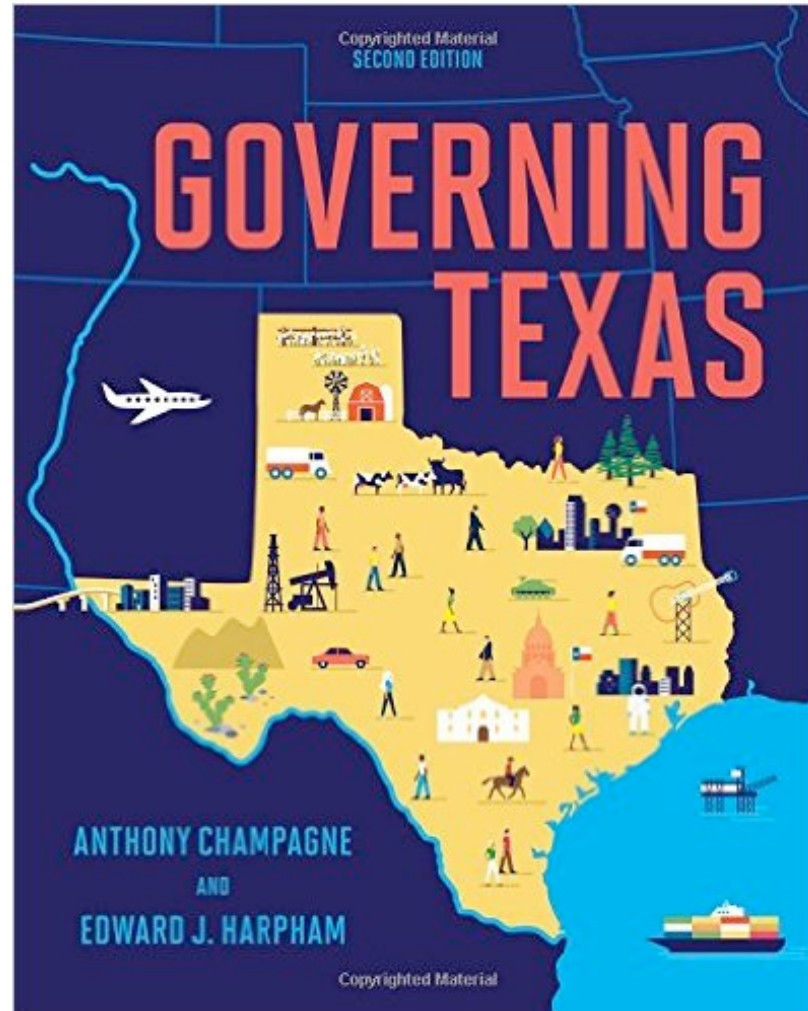
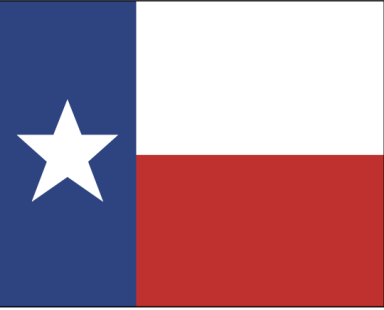
A: Yes

Q: What happens if I forget to do a quiz? Can I still take it?

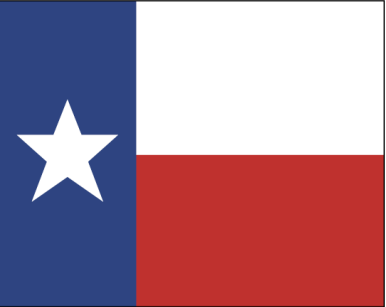
A: No. Quizzes are open on eLearning for at least a week. This should allow you plenty of time to take the quiz. It is your responsibility to make sure the quiz is submitted. I do not recommend waiting until the last minute to take the quiz. If you experience technical problems with eLearning, I cannot help you. However, you can find resources on the internet and on campus to help with that.

Q: What should I do about taking my quiz if I don't have a computer (or if my computer is broken, etc.)?

A: UT Dallas provides access to computers. You will need to find a computer lab on campus. Search on utdallas.edu for the locations of on-campus computer labs.



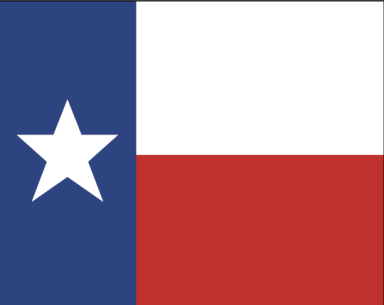
Anthony Champagne and Edward J. Harpham. 2015. *Governing Texas* 2nd Edition. New York: Norton.



Frequently Asked Question

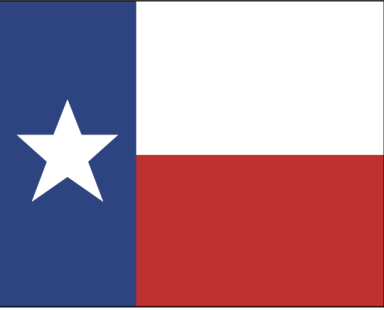
Can I use an earlier edition of the textbook?

I ask you to use the second edition of Champagne and Harpham. I am not familiar with earlier versions of the textbook, and I don't know how each differs. I will be teaching out of the fourth edition. If you choose to use an earlier edition, it is your responsibility to take note of those differences.



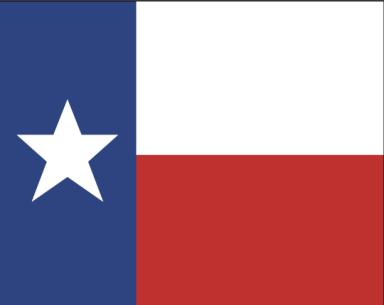
Course Objectives

- 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



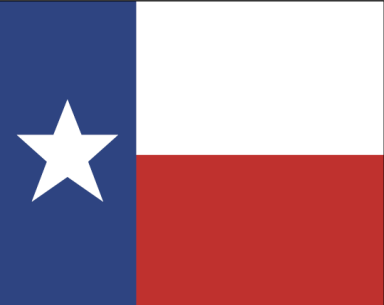
Assignments: 5 Exams

- 5 exams that cover specific chapters
 - Not comprehensive
- See syllabus for exam dates
- Your lowest test grade is dropped when calculating the final grade
- Exams will include questions from the chapters and the lectures
 - Students who do not attend class tend to not do well on exams



Exam Dates

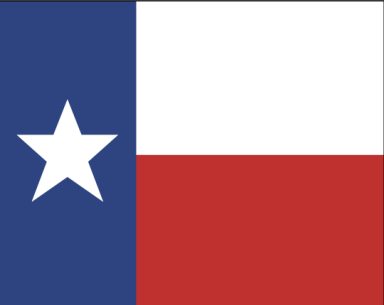
EXAM	EXAM DATE	CHAPTERS
Exam 1	Feb. 1	Ch. 1 - 3
Exam 2	Feb. 20	Ch. 4 - 6
Exam 3	Mar. 10	Ch. 7 & 8
Exam 4	April 2	Ch. 9 & 10
Exam 5	April 28	Ch. 11 - 13



Frequently Asked Question

Can I miss an exam?

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.



Grading Schema

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%

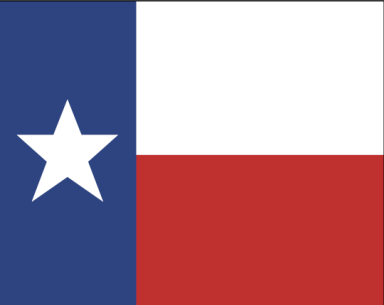
Exam 3 20%

Exam 4 20%

Exam 5 20%

|100%

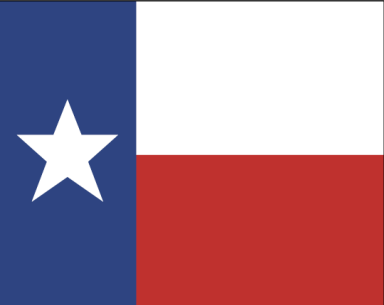
* You may drop your lowest test score



Frequently Asked Question

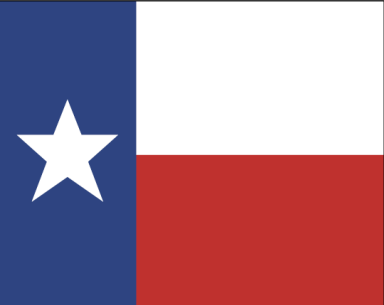
Can you give me extra points at the end of the semester to bump my final grade up to the next letter grade?

No.



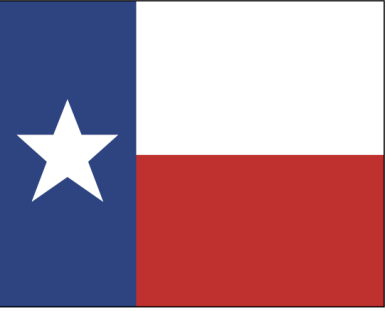
Course Policies

- Make-up Exam Policy
 - Make-up tests and submission of late exams will **NOT be** allowed except for school-sanctioned events.
- Extra Credit
 - From time to time, I offer extra credit questions on the exams. Outside of that, I give no extra credit points.



Course Policies

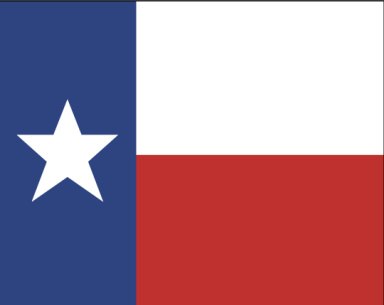
- Class Attendance
 - There is no grade for class attendance. However, I will take attendance periodically throughout the semester, and attendance will be considered in final grading process.
- Disclaimer
 - The descriptions and timelines contained in this syllabus are subject to change at the discretion of the Professor.



Frequently Asked Question

Should I attend class?

Yes.



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.