

El Paso Community College
Syllabus
Part II
Official Course Description

SUBJECT AREA	<u>Government</u>
COURSE RUBRIC AND NUMBER	<u>GOVT 2306</u>
COURSE TITLE	<u>State and Local Government</u>
COURSE CREDIT HOURS	<u>3 3 :</u> <u>0</u>
	Credits Lec Lab

I. Catalog Description

Studies 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. **Prerequisite: READ 0309 or INRW 0311 or ESOL 0340 or by placement exam or ENGL 1301 with a “C” or better or ENGL 1302 with a “C” or better. (3:0).**

II. Course Objectives

Upon satisfactory completion of this course, the student will be able to:

- A. Explain the importance, as State and Local Government students, of the practice of reading for background information, out-of-class preparation, and listening for pertinent class material as presented by the instructor.
- B. Express verbally or in writing an understanding of the nature of political power, the democratic process, and a variety of approaches to analyze politics and government, focusing upon the elements of national, state, and local political environments.
- C. Express verbally or in writing an understanding of American and Texas political culture, Texas political history, and the structure and nature of the Texas Constitution, federalism, and the Texas political system.
- D. Express verbally or in writing an understanding of the nature and scope of political socialization, public opinion, public opinion polling, interest groups, and lobbying in the context of state and local elections, political campaigns, voting processes, and political parties, with special emphasis on Texas.
- E. Express verbally or in writing an understanding of the nature of state legislatures, state executive systems, and state judicial systems, with a special emphasis upon Texas.
- F. Express verbally or in writing an understanding of the major domestic policy issues of state and local governments, in a federal context.
- G. Express verbally or in writing an understanding of the nature of urbanization and the structures and powers of local government that are used across the United States.
- H. Express verbally or in writing an understanding of the nature of taxation and budgeting at the state and local level, with special emphasis on the state of Texas.

III. THECB Learning Outcomes (ACGM)

Upon successful completion of this course, students will:

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.

IV. Evaluation

- A. Grading will follow current EPCC catalog standards. The assignment of letter grades to numerical or percentage scores is to be determined by the individual Instructor and is noted in Part I of this Syllabus.

Grade Scale:

A = Excellent	I = Incomplete (See current college catalog for explanation)
B = Above Average	W = Withdrew or withdrawn (See current college catalog.)
C = Average	
D = Below Average	
F = Failing	

- B. Attendance Policy: Unless noted otherwise by **the** Instructor (see Syllabus, Part I) the current college catalog policy on Attendance and Course Pursuit will apply to this course.

V. Disability Statement (Americans with Disabilities Act [ADA])

EPCC offers a variety of services to persons with documented sensory, mental, physical, or temporary disabling conditions to promote success in classes. If you have a disability and believe you may need services, you are encouraged to contact the Center for Students with Disabilities to discuss your needs with a counselor. All discussions and documentation are kept confidential. Offices located: VV Rm C-112 (831-2426); TM Rm 1400 (831-5808); RG Rm B-201 (831-4198); NWC Rm M-54 (831-8815); and MDP Rm A-125 (831-7024)

VI. 6 Drop Rule

Students who began attending Texas public institutions of higher education for the first time during the Fall 2007 semester or later are subject to a 6-Drop limit for all undergraduate classes. Developmental, ESL, Dual Credit and Early College High School classes are exempt from this rule. All students should consult with their instructor before dropping a class. Academic assistance is available. Students are encouraged to see Counseling Services if dropping because exemptions may apply. Refer to the EPCC catalog and website for additional information.