

CATHEDRAL HIGH SCHOOL

GOVT 2306 — State and Local Government CRNs: 32187, 32188

Summer Session I, 2010

Syllabus Part I

I. Course Number and Instructor Information.

The course is taught by Chief Justice Richard Barajas, Director of Advanced Studies at Cathedral High School, 1309 N. Stanton Street, El Paso, Texas 79902. Voice: (915) 532-3238; Fax: (915) 533-8248; E-mail: rbarajas71@cathedral-elpaso.org. Office hours are 7:15 to 8:00 a.m. and 3:30 to 5:00 pm, Monday through Friday at the Center for Advanced Studies, or by appointment and/or e-mail.

This College Early Admissions course in State and Local Government is a one-half unit course at Cathedral High School and a three-hour course at the El Paso Community College. It has been designated as GOVT 2306 in the El Paso Community College course catalog. It meets in Room 204, but may meet in the school auditorium, at your instructor's discretion. The course is designed to teach the mature student how Texas government is structured and how it operates. Emphasis will be placed on the Texas Constitution, the branches of government and their bureaucracies, federalism, civil rights and civil liberties, as well as the student's responsibility as citizens of the United States and of the State of Texas. The course is in compliance with rules and regulations as promulgated by the El Paso Community College and its accrediting agencies. You may access the course webpage at <http://www.cathedral-elpaso.org/advancedstudies/govt2306>

II. Text and Instructional Materials:

Textbook: Maxwell, William and Crain, Ernest, *Texas Politics Today*, 13th ed. Florence, KY: Cengage Learning, 2008; ISBN 0495410675.

Readings: Cheek & Champagne, *Judicial Politics in Texas: Partisanship, Money, and Politics in State Courts*. New York, NY; Peter Lang Publishing, 2005; ISBN: 0820467677.

Readings: McEnteer, *Deep in the Heart: The Texas Tendency in American Politics*. Westport, CT; Praeger Publishers, 2005; ISBN: 0275983064.

Computer applications, in particular Microsoft PowerPoint®, Microsoft Access®, Microsoft Excel®, Adobe Acrobat®.

Use of the Internet, as assigned

III. Course Requirements.

GRADING SCALE: For purposes of both your Cathedral High School and El Paso Community College transcript, your final grade will be determined by applying the EPCC Standard Grading Scale as follows:

- A - 90-100%
- B - 80-89%
- C - 70-79%
- D - 60-69%
- F - 59% and below

FINAL GRADE: The final grade you receive for this course will be derived and determined using the following criteria:

- Daily Grade, to include but not be limited to quizzes, analysis of political cartoons and assigned collateral materials, group projects and Internet Assignments (30%);
- Class Participation (10%);
- Chapter Tests (30%);
- Final Examination (30%).

TOTAL: 100%

MAKE-UP TESTS/QUIZZES: Make-up work for scheduled tests/quizzes will be allowed only for excused or requested absences. You will be unable to make up unscheduled pop-quizzes. It is YOUR responsibility to contact your instructor for all make-up tests/quizzes. Absent prior approval, your failure to make up any assigned tests/quizzes or homework by the second day back to school will result in a failing grade for that work. Make-up tests/quizzes will be given in the classroom at 7:45 am, unless otherwise notified. Make-up work will not be permitted for an unexcused absence. Consequently, an "F" or a failing grade of "0" will be recorded for any work for which a grade was given during the unexcused absence.

TARDY ASSIGNMENTS: Scheduled assignments not accounted for by the designated time will result in a reduction of no more than 20% of the maximum grade allowed for that particular assignment, exclusive of the merit of the assignment. Tardy assignments, with the above reduction, will be accepted up to and including the day on which the succeeding chapter lecture commences. Scheduled assignments which are tardy as a result of an excused absence must be accounted for on the day of your return. Total failure to account for a tardy scheduled assignment will result in an "F" or a failing grade of "0" for that particular assignment. It is YOUR responsibility to insure that all assignments have been submitted.

IV. Instructor's Policies.

IN GENERAL. My biographical data can be accessed via the class Internet web site at <http://www.cathedral-elpaso.org/advancedstudies/govt2306>. I take the responsibility to instruct each of you as adults enrolled in a college course. In addressing your instructor, speaker, lecturer or visitor, you will be required to address them by their formal title, if any. You will be permitted to leave the classroom only in the event of an emergency. Independent of the above guidelines, each student is expected to comply with the various provisions and code of conduct as found in the Cathedral High School Student Handbook as well as the student catalog for the El Paso Community College.

ACADEMIC HONESTY. This is a college course. Academic honesty is highly valued at Cathedral High School, just as it is at any college or university. A student must always submit work that represents his or her original works or ideas. If any words or ideas are used, that do not represent the student's original work or ideas, the student must cite all relevant sources. The student should also make clear the extent to which such sources were used. Words or ideas that

require citations include, but are not limited to, all hardcopy or electronic publications, whether copyrighted or not, and all verbal or visual communication when the content of such communication clearly originate from an identifiable source. You are required to read, understand, and follow the Cathedral High School Academic Integrity Code at all times.

DISABILITY. Each student enrolled in this course has been prescreened for recognized disabilities and reasonable accommodations have been made. To the extent that additional accommodations to aid in meeting the academic requirements of the El Paso Community College may be necessary, all students claiming any disability should contact the Center for Students with Disabilities and submit written documentation to the instructor prior to the commencement of the second week of the semester.

ATTENDANCE: You are required to be present in class and at your desk, each scheduled class day prior to the second bell of your assigned class period. You are required to notify your instructor before all anticipated class absences, whether for academic or athletic trips, or illness.

TARDINESS. Punctuality is demanded, is expected, and is your responsibility. Tardiness seriously interferes with class progress and is clearly a disturbance for the instructor as well as the class. As a result, you are expected to be in the classroom and at your desk when the second, i.e., the tardy, bell rings. It is my custom to direct that the doors to the classroom be closed upon the ringing of the second bell.

STUDENT RIGHTS AND RESPONSIBILITIES. Your rights and status as a student is defined and explained by specific policies in both the Cathedral High School Student Handbook as well as the El Paso Community College Catalog. You are required to read, understand, and follow the El Paso Community College Student Code of Conduct at all times.

V. Calendar:

All dates and class activities listed here are subject to change upon prior notification by your instructor.

EL PASO COMMUNITY COLLEGE
El Paso, Texas

GOVT 2306 — State and Local Government

Summer Session 1, 2010 Calendar

June (Week 1)	1	Organization and Introduction
	2	Texas Culture, People, and History
	3	Texas Culture, People, and History
	4	The Texas Constitution in Perspective
June (Week 2)	7	The Texas Constitution in Perspective
	8	Voting and Elections
	9	Political Parties
	10	Interest Groups
June (Week 3)	11	The Legislature: Organization and Structure
	14	The Legislature: Organization and Structure
	15	The Legislative Process
	16	The Legislative Process
June (Week 4)	17	The Governor
	18	The Governor
	21	The Bureaucracy
	22	The Bureaucracy
June (Week 5)	23	The Judiciary
	24	The Judiciary
	25	Law and Due Process
	28	Taxing and Budgeting
July	29	Spending and Services
	30	Local Government
July	1	Review
	2	Final Exam

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 : 0</u> Credits Lec Lab

I. Catalog Description

Studies the states as subsystems of the American political system. Includes the basic functions, structures, and processes of state and local government with special reference to the Texas constitution. **Prerequisite: READ 0309 or by placement exam. (3:0).**

II. Course Objectives

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

- A. Understand 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. Explain 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. 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 for explanation)
C = Average	
D = Below Average	
F = Failing	

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

IV. Disability Statement (American 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)

V. 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.