Government and Politics Course Descriptions

GOVT 2305 (GOVT 2305) Constitutional Foundations and Political Behavior in the U.S. and Texas (3 semester hours) This course examines the evolution and current state of political behavior and public policy making in the U.S. and Texas. Topics discussed will include the constitutions, federalism, intergovernmental relations, voting, elections, political parties, public opinion, and interest groups. (Fulfills one-half of the legislative requirement of 6 hours of American government.) (3-0) S

GOVT 2306 (GOVT 2306) Political Institutions in the U.S. and Texas (3 semester hours) This course explores the primary institutions of U.S. and Texas government. It examines the bureaucracy as well as the executive, legislative, and judicial branches of government at the state and federal level. (Fulfills one-half of the legislative requirement of 6 hours of American government.) (3-0) S

GOVT 2396 Selected Topics in Government and Politics (3 semester hours) Topic will vary from semester to semester. May be repeated for credit (9 hours maximum). (3-0) R

GOVT 2V95 Individual Instruction in Government and Politics (1-6 semester hours) Individual study under a faculty member's direction. May be repeated for credit. Consent of instructor required. ([1-6]-0) R

GOVT 3301 Political Theory (3 semester hours) An examination of perennial issues in political thought through a study of the work and research methods of selected theorists in the history of political thought. (3-0) T

GOVT 3303 Civil Liberties (3 semester hours) An examination of the development of constitutional law in the area of civil liberties. (3-0) T

GOVT 3306 Political Economy (3 semester hours) Investigates various conceptual perspectives for understanding the relationship between economic processes and political institutions. Focuses particular attention on the normative and policy debates separating conservative, liberal, and radical schools of thought. (3-0) T

GOVT 3310 Public Administration (3 semester hours) Overview of management responsibilities, functions, and activities in government agencies within the framework of political values and organizational dynamics. (Same as PA 3310). (3-0) Y

GOVT 3320 Law and Criminal Justice (3 semester hours) Examines court decisions in the criminal justice area with particular reference to due process and other constitutional provisions. (3-0) T

GOVT 3322 Constitutional Law (3 semester hours) Students will examine the methods used in legal research, the evolution of the Constitution of the United States, and the role of the Supreme Court of the United States in the development of the American constitutional system. (3-0) T

GOVT 3323 American Federalism (3 semester hours) An examination of how local, state, and national governments share power in such important areas as education, environmental regulation, public finance, welfare, housing and community development, and criminal justice. There will also be discussions of recent innovations, such as judicial supervision and deregulation. (3-0) Y

GOVT 3325 American Public Policy (3 semester hours) This course examines the making of public policy in the U.S. political system. Students will examine the various public policy models and case studies related to specific policy areas. All students are required to write a policy related term paper to fulfill the University's writing requirement.(3-0) Y

GOVT 3326 Politics and Business (3 semester hours) An investigation of the role played by business in American politics. Particular attention will be focused on the regulatory process and the changing relationship between business and government in it. (-0) R

GOVT 3327 United States Foreign Policy (3 semester hours) Examines the way in which the policy-making process structures the premises, concepts, and objectives of U.S. policy and the U.S. role in international politics. (3-0) R

GOVT 3328 International Relations (3 semester hours) This course explores the power relationships among national actors and organizations. Topics may include origins of the state system, international security, globalization, north-south relations, ecological security, and the implications of world demographic patterns. (3-0) R

GOVT 3330 The Model U.N. (3 semester hours) This course will introduce students to the purposes, structure, principal arms, and specialized agencies of the United Nations. It will develop students' skills in negotiation and diplomacy and increase their understanding of regional and other issues before the General Assembly and the Security Council. The course will serve as preparation for participation in an intercollegiate Model United Nations simulation in the spring. (3-0) T
GOVT 3333 Political Behavior (3 semester hours) An overview of political behavior and the research methodologies that are used in this area of political inquiry. Topics include voting, public opinion, campaigns, and interest groups. (3-0) T

GOVT 3340 Film and Politics (3 semester hours) This course examines the role of one form of media in shaping political discourse. It examines the role of documentaries, drama, and comedy in shaping, exposing, and reflecting public political sentiments of the day. (Same as SOC 3340.) (3-0) T

GOVT 3350 Comparative Politics (3 semester hours) A comparative analysis of political life in different cultural and national settings. A consideration of different theoretical approaches to comparative politics. (3-0) T

GOVT 3353 Law and Gender (3 semester hours) Examines how laws and legal institutions reflect and reproduce cultural notions of gender. Focuses on how legal equality and sex discrimination have been defined and challenged. Topics include rape law, reproductive issues, marriage and divorce, pornography, workplace regulations, and, generally, how gender and race ideologies interact in legal decision making. (3-0) R

GOVT 3354 Gender, Society, and Politics (3 semester hours) Addresses the influence of gender on the distribution of public goods and the way gender, interacting with race and class, shapes social, political, and economic institutions. Introduces students to traditional notions of rights and citizenship as conceptual underpinnings for contemporary political and legal debates (on welfare, reproductive rights, childcare, job segregation, women in the military, prostitution). (Same as GST 3303 and SOC 3354.) (3-0)

GOVT 3355 Gender, Governance, and Leadership (3 semester hours) This course relates feminist theory and empirical studies to gender and gender power in political organizations and institutions. It examines masculinism as well as feminism as political ideologies. Similarities and differences in male and female leadership styles, expectations of government, and governance and public policy are explored. (3-0) T

GOVT 3356 Gender, Globalization, and Democratization (3 semester hours) This course examines how globalization is changing gender relations in the global political economy. It examines how political spaces are opened and closed to women, the role of the international human rights movement, and the process of democratization as it relates to gender in systematic ways. (3-0) T

GOVT 3357 Gender and Political Economy (3 semester hours) This course introduces students to gender issues in political economy from a feminist perspective. It explores gender analytics and feminist approaches to macroeconomics; women's status and position in the U.S. economy; different perspectives on the household and how each impacts the way we view human capital; migration, democratization, and women's role in each; and globalization, gender regimes, and social change, highlighting women-friendly alternatives to analyzing political economies and globalization. (3-0) T

GOVT 3362 The American Political Institutions (3 semester hours) This course examines the constitutional foundations and historical development of the congress, the presidency, the executive, and the courts. Attention will be paid to both the interactions of these institutions, research methodologies employed in examining these institutions, and the internal workings of each. (3-0) R

GOVT 3364 Campaigns and Elections (3 semester hours) An examination of the electoral process and the changing role that political parties have played in the development of American political institutions and public policy. (3-0) R

GOVT 4329 Global Politics (3 semester hours) This course will introduce students to the study of global politics. It will explore the teachings from comparative politics and international relations in examining changing global relationships and power structures, and the research methodologies used in this analysis. (3-0) T

GOVT 4330 The Bible and Politics (3 semester hours) An investigation of the Bible as a political text. Includes discussion of the political context and themes of the Bible and analysis of political theories based upon biblical perspectives. (3-0) R.

GOVT 4331 Mexican Politics (3 semester hours) This course explores the changing face of the Mexican political economy. Topics will include the evolution and decline of the PRI, the revolt in Chiapas, NAFTA, Mexico's role in Latin America, and the changing nature of its relations with the U.S. (3-0) T

GOVT 4332 Latin American Politics (3 semester hours) After a brief review of the region's history from conquest and independence up to the 20th century, the course will include discussions of current issues confronting the region. These issues may include U.S./Latin American relations including NAFTA, demographic changes, religion, guerilla groups, revolution, and the transition from authoritarianism to democracy. (3-0) T

GOVT 4333 Sex and Politics (3 semester hours) This course examines the role of gender and sexuality in shaping our society. Topics include the biology, psychology and sociology of gender and sexuality in shaping the current debates about reproduction of equality. (Same as SOC 4333.) (3-0) T
GOVT 4334 Gay and Lesbian Politics (3 semester hours) This course examines the rise of the Gay Movement in the United States. It examines the origins of the movement, the shift towards militancy and the current issues facing gays and lesbians in the United States. Specific topics include Stonewall, gays in the military, AIDS, and the Gay Rights struggle in litigation. (Same as SOC 4334.) (3-0) R

GOVT 4335 Immigrants, Immigration, and American Society (3 semester hours) An examination of immigrants and immigration policy in relation to the U.S. labor market, industry, and economy, as well as American politics and political culture. Also examined are the processes of occupational and settlement adaptation, becoming legal, and attaining citizenship. (Same as SOC 4335.) (3-0) R

GOVT 4338 Minority Politics (3 semester hours) Issues and politics affecting minority groups in the United States, with particular focus on blacks, Hispanics, women, and gays. (Same as SOC 4338.) (3-0) R

GOVT 4341 Politics of the Judicial Process (3 semester hours) The study of judicial decision making, the political impact of court decisions, and the role of lawyers and judges at the local, regional, and national levels. (3-0) R

GOVT 4342 Legislative Decision Making (3 semester hours) This course examines the politics of the Texas Legislature in detail. It is offered only during legislative sessions and uses the session as a backdrop to examine policy making and politics in this branch of state government. (3-0) T

GOVT 4343 Congress and Public Policy (3 semester hours) This course explores the history and development of both the place of Congress in the Constitutional order and the internal structures and behaviors of the legislative process. Topics include congressional-presidential relations, elections, representation, committees, parties and leadership, collective action and coalition building, and Congress's capacity to deliberate and make public policy in "the public interest." (3-0) T

GOVT 4345 Negotiation and Conflict Resolution (3 semester hours) This course will introduce students to the theory and practice of negotiations in the public sector. Students will learn to analyze the parties, issues, and strategies in negotiations and will take part in many negotiation simulations to develop their skills in issues identification and problem resolution. The course will begin with the study of two-party negotiations and progress to multi-party, multi-issue negotiations. (Same as PA 4345.) (3-0) T

GOVT 4346 War and Peace (3 semester hours) This course examines the processes of conflict resolution and peacemaking in the modern world by analyzing emerging trends and patterns in global conflict, and the prospects for peace in an evolving world order. The course will consider the roles of the individual, social movements and institutions, culture and values, and state, regional and international institutions in making war and peace. In addition, it will examine the causes and prevention of war, ethnic conflict, terrorism, and security issues. (3-0) T

GOVT 4350 Political Sociology (3 semester hours) The analysis of political behavior, political institution formation and change, and the state, from a sociological perspective; voting behavior, political attitude formation, and the interaction of the state with other social institutions. (Same as SOC 4350.) (3-0) R

GOVT 4354 Contemporary Political Thought (3 semester hours) Investigates the moral and political controversies shaping contemporary political thought. Considers such issues as legitimacy, justice, distribution, and representation. (3-0) R

GOVT 4355 National and International Security (3 semester hours) Investigates problems associated with national and international security in the post-cold war world. Includes analysis of the use of military force, nuclear arms, terrorism, international treaties, and the economic dimensions to national security. (3-0) R

GOVT 4363 Affirmative Action Debate (3 semester hours) Examines the historical, social, political, and legal dimensions of debate over affirmative action in education and the workplace. Topics include the black-white test score gap, the evolution of legal doctrine, the efficacy of affirmative action, and political efforts to curb affirmative action. (Same as SOC 4363.) (3-0) T

GOVT 4364 Civil Rights Law and Society (3 semester hours) Examines the development of civil rights law, and how social ideologies are reflected and reproduced in race and sex discrimination law. Explores how power is exercised through law, and how legal change is pursued as a strategy for social reform. Topics include antislavery and the judicial process, the Reconstruction Amendments, the role of the Supreme Court in U.S. society, school segregation cases and hate speech. (Same as SOC 4364.) (3-0) Y

GOVT 4365 Law and Medicine (3 semester hours) Examines the relationship between law and medical ethics. Emphasis is placed on court cases involving reproductive privacy, wrongful life, informed consent, the right to treatment, and the right to refuse treatment. (3-0) T
GOVT 4396 Selected Topics in Government and Politics (3 semester hours) Subject will vary from semester to semester. May be repeated for credit (9 hours maximum). (3-0) R

GOVT 4V97 Independent Study in Government and Politics (1-6 semester hours) Independent study under a faculty member's direction. May be repeated for credit (6 hours maximum). Consent of instructor required. ([1-6]-0) S

GOVT 4V98 Internship (1-6 semester hours) May repeat for credit up to a total of six semester credit hours. Consent of instructor required. ([1-6]-0) S

GOVT 4V99 Senior Honors in Government and Politics (1-6 semester hours) For students conducting independent research for honors theses or projects. May be repeated for credit, but no more than six hours may be taken by a student under this number. ([1-6]-0) S