

University of Houston-Downtown

Course Prefix, Number, and Title: UHD 2307 University Seminar–Government/Political Science

Component Area Option/Foundational Component Area: Government/Political Science

Credits/Lecture/Lab Hours: 3/3/0

Prerequisites: ENG 1301; sophomore standing or departmental approval

Course Description: Within the context of the discipline and the special topic, these courses introduce students to higher-level critical thinking through the analysis of governmental institutions, political behavior, civic engagement, and their political and philosophical foundations. These courses focus on the Constitution of the United States and the constitutions of the states with special emphasis on that of Texas. Written and oral communication within the context of the topic's related discipline are emphasized. These courses also provide opportunities for transfer students to link to their intended majors early in their academic careers at UHD. Strategies for academic success are practiced within the context of the special topic and discipline.

Learning Outcomes: Students will be able to:

- Describe the origin, content, and development of the U.S. Constitution and compare to the Texas state constitution
- Describe:
 - The roles and responsibilities of the legislative, executive, and judicial branches of government
 - The separation of powers between the three branches
 - The privileges and responsibilities citizens have within civil society
- Analyze the American political processes (including such things as the role of public opinion, interest groups, political parties, and the electoral process and/or the impact of political policy), both past and present, on subgroups of the U.S. population, and compare to Texas state political processes
- Evaluate the impact and outcomes of past and present federal policy on U.S. citizens, subgroups of the U.S. population, and/or citizens of other countries
- Use argument and evidence to communicate an analysis of political phenomena and/or policy, orally and in writing
- Research and define academic and career goals within the discipline and develop learning strategies to support academic success and attainment of academic and career goals