

## University of Houston-Downtown

**Course Prefix, Number, and Title:** UHD 1307 Freshman Seminar–Government/Political Science

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

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

**Prerequisites:** None

**Course Description:** Within the context of the discipline and the special topic, these courses introduce students to 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. Strategies for academic success are practiced within the context of the special topic.

**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