GOVT 2306 Texas Government
Course Syllabus: Summer I 2019

"Northeast Texas Community College exists to provide responsible, exemplary learning opportunities."

Rex Allen
Office: Humanities Office 122
Phone: 903-434-8235
Email: rallen@ntcc.edu

Office Hours	Monday	Tuesday	Wednesday	Thursday	Friday	Online
	7:00-8:00 AM	7:00-8:00 AM	7:00-8:00 AM	7:00-8:00 AM		

The information contained in this syllabus is subject to change without notice. Students are expected to be aware of any additional course policies presented by the instructor during the course.

Course Description: 3 credit hours.
Lecture/Lab/Clinical: Three hours of class each week.
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.

Required Textbook(s):
Mora, Sherry. The State of Texas: Government, Politics, and Policy. 3rd edition. Copyright 2017.

Publisher: McGraw/Hill Higher Education. **ISBN Number:** 978-0-07-742418-3

Recommended Reading(s): Dallas Morning News, Wall Street Journal, other newspapers, political magazines, view FOX, CNN or other television news programs and the internet

Student Learning Outcomes:

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.

Course Objectives:
1. Students will analyze and articulate the theoretical principles that guide political life.
2. Students will critically evaluate the content, causes, and effects of politically significant information gained through the news media.
3. Student will demonstrate an understanding of basic political processes and institutions.

Lectures & Discussions:

Lectures and/or discussions will be based on the chapters in the textbook and newspaper articles brought in by the students.

Evaluation/Grading Policy:

1. Grading Area One: Two tests, including the final will be given. Together, the two tests will comprise 50% of the final grade. Unless otherwise advised, tests will consist of multiple choice and true/false questions. Students will be tested on assigned readings from the text, other assigned reading, any discussions that take place in the classroom, and videos that the class watches. Previous arrangements must be made when it is necessary to miss a test.
2. Grading Area Two: Three written reports and three oral reports are assigned for this course. A topic for each report will be given by the instructor. Each report must be typed, double-spaced, using 12 point font and one-inch margins, and be, at minimum, two full pages in length. Research citations for the reports will be required by the instructor. Students must submit no less than two research sources for the paper. Due dates for the papers will be given by the instructor. Students that do not submit a written report on the due date without notifying the instructor beforehand will receive a "0" grade. Grades on the three oral reports and three written reports will constitute 25% of the final grade.
3. Grading Area Three: Students are strongly encouraged to read newspapers, periodicals, and professional literature on issues that illustrate the role of government in our daily lives. Students will report in class on their reading from newspapers, periodicals, and professional literature publications. Further, students will be together in small groups to work on a class project. The group oral presentations, the group project, and the student's participation in class discussions will constitute 25% of the final grade.

Tests/Exams:

Grading Scale The grading scale is as follows:

A = 90-100
B = 80-89
C = 70-79
D = 60-69
F = Below 60

Tests/Exams:

Dates announced in class

Assignments:

Read assigned chapters from textbook
Bring in current political articles

Student Responsibilities/Expectations:

Class Attendance

Since the lecture-discussion method will be employed in this class, regular attendance is highly encouraged. Students who discontinue attending class will be given an "F" unless they officially withdraw from the course.

Cell Phones

ALL CELL PHONES ARE TO BE **TURNED OFF** UPON ENTERING THE CLASSROOM. NO EXCEPTIONS. TEXTING IS NOT ACCEPTABLE. VIOLATIONS MAY RESULT IN YOUR PHONE BEING TAKEN BY THE INSTRUCTOR. IN CASE OF EMERGENCY THE HUMANITIES BUILDING SECRETARY WILL BRING A MESSAGE TO THE CLASSROOM. THE HUMANITITES SECRETARY'S PHONE NUMBER IS 903-434-8255.

NTCC Academic Honesty Statement:

"Students are expected to complete course work in an honest manner, using their intellects and resources designated as allowable by the course instructor. Students are responsible for addressing questions about allowable resources with the course instructor. NTCC upholds the highest standards of academic integrity. This course will follow the NTCC Academic Honesty policy stated in the Student Handbook."

Academic Ethics

The college expects all students to engage in academic pursuits in a manner that is beyond reproach. Students are expected to maintain complete honesty and integrity in their academic pursuit. Academic dishonesty such as cheating, plagiarism, and collusion is unacceptable and may result in disciplinary action. Refer to the student handbook for more information on this subject.

ADA Statement:

It is the policy of NTCC to provide reasonable accommodations for qualified individuals who are students with disabilities. This College will adhere to all applicable federal, state, and local laws, regulations, and guidelines with respect to providing reasonable accommodations as required to afford equal educational opportunity. It is the student's responsibility to request accommodations. An appointment can be made with Shannin Garrett, Academic Advisor/Coordinator of Special Populations located in the College Connection. She can be reached at 903-434-8218. For more information and to obtain a copy of the Request for Accommodations, please refer to the NTCC website - Special Populations.

Family Educational Rights And Privacy Act (Ferpa):

The Family Educational Rights and Privacy Act (FERPA) is a federal law that protects the privacy of student education records. The law applies to all schools that receive funds under an applicable program of the U.S. Department of Education. FERPA gives parents certain rights with respect to their children's educational records. These rights transfer to the student when he or she attends a school beyond the high school level. Students to whom the rights have transferred are considered "eligible students." In essence, a parent has no legal right to obtain information concerning the child's college records without the written consent of the student. In compliance with FERPA, information classified as "directory information" may be released to the general public without the written consent of the student unless the student makes a request in writing. Directory information is defined as: the student's name, permanent address and/or local address, telephone listing, dates of attendance, most recent previous education institution attended, other information including major, field of study, degrees, awards received, and participation in officially recognized activities/sports.