



GOVT 2306.001 Texas State Government

Course Syllabus: Spring 2019

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

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Office Hours	Monday	Tuesday	Wednesday	Thursday	Friday
	Online via Remind	Online via Remind	Online via Remind	Online via Remind	Online via Remind

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. Changes may be announced by Remind, Blackboard, or in class.

Course Description: 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 / STATE OF TEXAS DIGITAL TEXT W/CONNECT Edition: 3

This is an online textbook. If you purchase a physical textbook, you must also purchase the Connect code to complete assignments.

Publisher: McGraw/Hill Higher Education.

ISBN Number: 978-1-259-75344-2 (Be sure it has CONNECT code—you cannot complete this course without the connect code)

In the effort to save students money, your course materials are delivered through Exclusive Access. You have already paid for your course materials with your tuition and fees. Above is the required course materials.

To access your course materials, click on the Course Materials Access link within the Start Here folder on Blackboard.

For additional information on Inclusive Access, please access the textbook information provided on the portal (student tab, click on Academics then Textbooks.)

Recommended Reading(s):

Dallas Morning News, Wall Street Journal, Houston Chronicle, National Public Radio. Students are highly encouraged to read newspapers online and start listening to political commentary.

Student Learning Outcomes:

1. Students will analyze and articulate the theoretical principles that guide political life in Texas.
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 Texan political processes and institutions.

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:

I have divided the semester into four units; each unit is broken down according to chapter and due date. Begin each week by opening the appropriate module on Blackboard. Then proceed through each lesson in order (top to bottom). You must complete readings through LearnSmart SmartBook BEFORE 8am the day we first cover the material. You cannot regain those points at a later date, even with an excused absence so students are encouraged to read ahead by 1-2 chapters.

Evaluation/Grading Policy:

Final grades are on total point value, and final letter grades are given based upon a standard scale. I do not round up grades as students are given plenty of extra credit opportunities to round up their own grade through extra credit.

Each chapter includes a number of McGraw-Hill CONNECT assignments. These are included in your weekly folders. In order to complete these sections, you must have purchased a code pass with your textbook.

Unless noted, quizzes and exams will consist of multiple choice and true/false questions. Students will be tested on assigned readings from the text. Pop quizzes can be given at any time (unscheduled) as the professor deems is needed. Previous arrangements must be made when it is necessary to miss a quiz/exam. In the case of an emergency where prior notification is unavailable, students must provide proof of an excused extenuating circumstance in order to make up the test.

The final grade for the class will follow a standard grade scale based on the weighted percentages noted above.

- A = 90-100
- B = 80-89.99
- C = 70-79.99
- D = 60-69.99
- F = Below 60

****Please note: I do not round up. There is plenty of extra credit in this course to “round up” your own grade based on merit****

Tests/Exams:

****See full schedule of activities at end of syllabus****

Each half of the course contains a midterm and final exam. The questions may be multiple choice, matching, fill-in-the-blank, true/false or short answer. Students will have two hours to complete each test. Students need to have a thorough understanding of the material before taking the exam.

Assignments:

All assignments have been loaded into each week's folders. **Late work is not accepted with official deadlines being the last day of the week. Work may be assigned daily as a suggested guide. The official due date is the last day of the week (usually a Friday or Saturday).** Students should give themselves enough time before the final due date time to complete all assignment activities. Some weeks have more assignments than others. Students are responsible for managing their time accordingly.

Students need to have reliable internet access as assignments will not be restarted because of technical error or a last minute outage. Use your time wisely and plan in advance. It is also recommended that students not wait until the very last moment to take a test as this can cause a great deal of traffic on the server and could slow things down or lead to technical malfunctions.

Student Responsibilities/Expectations:

Since the lecture-discussion method will be employed in this class, regular attendance is highly encouraged. Students who have not attended class by the 12th class day will be removed from the course.

From time to time, students may be offered extra credit. These optional assignments will be announced via Blackboard.

Students are expected to complete all assignments by the due date and time stated. Weekly assignments are due by 8am the day they are assigned. Saturday due dates are due at 11:59pm. No late work will be accepted for credit and no make-up work will be permitted except for medical emergencies, official college activities, or personal emergency situations. A medical emergency is defined as sickness requiring hospitalization or isolation. All medical emergencies must be verified by a doctor's note. An official college activity is any activity that the college has mandated for students. A personal emergency is limited to death of a relative or unforeseeable and immediate hardship. All excuses for make-up work must be verified by the instructor. It is the student's responsibility to contact the instructor to schedule make-up work due to a medical or personal emergency. The instructor may permit or deny make-up work.

The instructor will keep records of attendance. If the attendance policy is broken, the instructor will examine the reasons for the student's absences, the student's work in the class, and determine whether it is in the student's best interest to remain in the class. If the student breaks the attendance policy, the instructor may begin withdrawal procedures (up to the college's withdrawal deadline) or may fail the student for the course (after the college's withdrawal deadline has passed). This professor's general policy is to let a student earn a F in the course rather than manually drop them. Students with last minute hurried attempts to save their grade at the end of the semester are generally unsuccessful as this course has definitive reading deadlines.

Students are expected to check daily the campus email account and the course Blackboard for any course changes, announcements, and assignments. Failure to check regularly the campus email and the course Blackboard may result in missed work and academic penalties. To access the course website on Blackboard, follow these steps:

1. Log on to the NTCC My Eagle Portal at mycampus.ntcc.edu.
2. Your portal Login name is your first name initial + your last name + last 3 digits of your social security number. The Password is your date of birth in an 8 digit format mmddyyyy.
3. Under the “Launch Pad” click on the Blackboard Icon.
4. After logging in, under the My Courses list, select the link associated with this class.
5. Blackboard Mail is found on the left-hand side of the course home page.

Plagiarism:

Plagiarism is defined as using or imitating another’s words, ideas, or work in general without proper citation of that source. Plagiarism is easy to commit and also easy to catch. Although students generally plagiarize due to academic laziness or naïveté, plagiarism is always inexcusable. Instances of plagiarism will be dealt with on an individual basis. The instructor may penalize the student for the specific assignment by assigning a grade of zero, or he may fail the student for the entire course. The discipline regarding plagiarism is up to the discretion of the instructor.

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.

Schedule of Activities:

Posted on Blackboard in dated folders. Dates are subject to change. Keep abreast of Remind for assistance.