



GOVT 2306.001 Texas Government

Course Syllabus: Spring 2020

Face to Face Course

"Northeast Texas Community College exists to provide personal, dynamic learning experiences empowering students to succeed."

Instructor: Rex Allen

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Office Hours	Monday	Tuesday	Wednesday	Thursday	Friday	Online
	7:00 – 8:00 3:00 - 4:30	7:00 – 8:00 1:00 – 2:30	7:00 – 8:00 3:00 - 4:30	7:00 – 8:00 1:00 – 2:30		

This syllabus serves as the documentation for all course policies and requirements, assignments, and instructor/student responsibilities.

Information relative to the delivery of the content contained in this syllabus is subject to change. Should that happen, the student will be notified.

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.

Prerequisite(s): none

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.

Evaluation/Grading Policy:

1. **Grading Area One:** Three tests, including the final will be given. Together, the three 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 written 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 reports 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.

Grading Scale The grading scale is as follows:

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

Required Instructional Materials:

Mora, Sherry. The State of Texas: Government, Politics, and Policy. 3rd edition. Copyright 2017.

You have already purchased the ebook and access code in your tuition and fees. You will obtain your access code and register it on the first day you log into the course. You may opt out of this before the 12th class day if you so choose for a full refund.

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

Optional Instructional Materials:

Dallas Morning News, Wall Street Journal, other newspapers, political magazines, view FOX, CNN or other television news programs and the internet

Minimum Technology Requirements: laptop computer, Ipad and/or smart device

Required Computer Literacy Skills: Microsoft Office

Course Structure and Overview: This course structure is built on lecture, three exams, three presentation, three papers, and a semester participation grade. The course format invites students to enhance their critical thinking skills through reading, writing and in class interaction.

Communications: Emails will be answered within 24 hours. NTCC email is the official form of communication used by the college.

Institutional/Course Policy:

Course Objectives:

1. Students are strongly encouraged to read newspapers, periodicals, and professional literature on issues that illustrate the role of government in our daily lives.
2. Students will write three researched and documented reports and present three oral reports assigned for this course. A topic for each report will be given by the instructor.
3. Students will understand voting characteristics, economics, ideologies, and political events of state importance.

Lectures & Discussions: Lectures and/or discussions will be based on the chapters in the textbook and newspaper articles brought in by the students. Read the assigned chapters from textbook and bring in current political articles for each class session.

NTCC Academic Honesty/Ethics Statement:

NTCC upholds the highest standards of academic integrity. The college expects all students to engage in their academic pursuits in an honest manner that is beyond reproach using their intellect and resources designated as allowable by the course instructor. Students are responsible for addressing questions about allowable resources with the course instructor. Academic dishonesty such as cheating, plagiarism, and collusion is unacceptable and may result in disciplinary action. This course will follow the NTCC Academic Honesty and Academic Ethics policies stated in the Student Handbook. Refer to the student handbook for more information on these subjects.

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 the Academic Advisor/Coordinator of Special Populations located in Student Services and can be reached at 903-434-8264. For more information and to obtain a copy of the Request for Accommodations, please refer to the special population's page on the NTCC website.

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.

Tentative Course Timeline

Calendar:

Week 1	Introduction and Syllabus Agreement
Week 2	Bills
Week 3	Chapters 1 & 2 and Presentations
Week 4	Chapters 3 & 4 and Presentations
Week 5	Chapters 5 and Presentations
Week 6	February 25 – 1st Paper Due February 27 – Test 1
Week 7	Chapters 6 & 7 and Presentations
Week 8	Chapters 8 & 9 and Presentations
Week 9	Chapters 10 and Presentations
Week 10	March 31 – Test 2 April 2 – 2nd Paper Due
March 16 - 20:	SPRING BREAK

Week 11	Chapters 11 and Presentations
Thursday, April 9:	Last day to Withdraw with a “W”
Week 12	Chapters 12 and Presentations
Week 13	Chapters 13 and Presentations
Week 14	Chapters 14 and Presentations
Week 15	3rd Paper Due – May 7th and Presentations
Week 16	FINAL EXAM WEEK
MAY 12 at 8:00am	FINAL EXAM

Final Exam Tuesday, May 12, 2020 at 8:00am in the classroom

SPRING GRADUATION – 9:00 & 11:00 – SATURDAY, MAY 16, 2020