



# GOVT 2305 088 Federal Government

## Course Syllabus: Summer I 2017

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

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Office Hours	Monday	Tuesday	Wednesday	Thursday	Friday	Online
	By appt.	By appt.	By appt.	By appt.	By appt.	By appt.

*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 U.S. Constitution, structure and powers of the national government including the legislative, executive, and judicial branches, federalism, political participation, the national election process, public policy, civil liberties and civil rights.

**Required Textbook(s):** Patterson / *We The People Printed Text W/Connect* or  
Patterson / *We The People Digital Text W/Connect*

**Publisher:** McGraw/Hill Higher Education.

**ISBN Number:** 978-1-260-04999-2 or 978-1-259-73833-3 (Be sure it has CONNECT code)

### 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:

Upon successful completion of this course, students will:

1. Explain the origin and development of constitutional democracy in the United States.
2. Demonstrate knowledge of the federal system.
3. Describe separation of powers and checks and balances in both theory and practice.
4. Demonstrate knowledge of the legislative, executive, and judicial branches of the federal government.
5. Evaluate the role of public opinion, interest groups, and political parties in the political system.
6. Analyze the election process.
7. Describe the rights and responsibilities of citizens
8. Analyze issues and policies in U.S. politics.

## 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 three units; each unit is broken down according to Chapters/Days. Begin each lesson by opening the appropriate module on Blackboard. Then **proceed through each lesson in order (top to bottom).**

## Evaluation/Grading Policy:

There is no weighted course grade in this class. Each assignment, test, quiz, etc. will have varying point values. Your performance is determined the average score of all your points proportionally. Students are responsible for checking their course grades frequently to ensure they are accurate.

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. Your grade for this section will be a composite of your performance for all these assignments plus your pre-tests and post-tests.

Students will be tested on assigned readings from the text. 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.

One short paper will be assigned over the course of the semester. The assigned topic will be posted by the instructor on Blackboard. Students that do not submit a written report on the due date without notifying the instructor beforehand will receive a zero grade.

Over the course of the semester, students are required to engage in discussion board posts. The boards offer an opportunity to engage with classmates and strengthen critical thinking skills. Each discussion board week, you are required to write three substantial posts. The final post must be made by the due date in order to receive points. Late posts will not receive points. A substantive post consists of analytical questions, intelligent comments, illustrations of pertinent personal experiences, etc. Simple written agreement concerning an issue or repetition of ideas does not count as a substantive post. Discussion board posts must also abide by the following rules:

1. The first substantive post must be your original response to the forum topic, questions, and article (Minimum of 250 words.)
2. The second and third substantive post must be responses to other students' posts (at least 100 words in length).
3. In order to receive full credit, all posts must be respectful in tone, thorough, substantive, and written according to the rules of proper English grammar and spelling. No texting language. Failure to abide by these rules will result in academic penalties.

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

C = 70-79

D = 60-69

F = Below 60

### **Tests/Exams:**

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

Each Unit will culminate with an online test. 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. While you may use your textbook you will simply not have enough time to look for all the answers.

Students need to have reliable internet access as a test will not be restarted because of technical error. 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.

### **Assignments:**

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

All assignments have been loaded into each day's folders. Late work is not accepted. Students should give themselves enough time before the final due date time to complete all assignment activities. Some days have more assignments than others. Students are responsible for managing their time accordingly.

### **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 12<sup>th</sup> 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. Typically, extra credit will be added to exam grades.

Students are expected to complete all assignments by the due date and time stated. All assignments and exams are due by 11:59 pm on their scheduled date. 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.

Since this course is an online course, the attendance policy is the following: a student must log in at least once a week (7 day period) for the duration of the course. If a student does not sign in for a week (7 day period), the instructor may begin drop procedures for a student. 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).

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](http://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 arrange an appointment with a College counselor to obtain a Request for Accommodations form. For more information, please refer to the NTCC Catalog or Student Handbook.

**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:**

**\*\*\*Although penalty free extensions are given through the end of the week, you must complete at least one assignment by Census Day or you will be dropped from the class. Furthermore, I do not give extensions past the end of week deadline. Manage your time wisely and work ahead in case there is an emergency\*\*\***

<u>Summer I</u>	<u>Summer II</u>	<u>Please note which summer session you are enrolled in.</u>
June 5	July 10	(START HERE FOLDER) American Government Pre-Test Download Syllabus Syllabus Quiz  Chapter 1. Political Thinking and Political Culture: Becoming a Responsible Citizen Chapter 1 Pre-Test Ch. 1 Key Concepts Ch. 1 Key Terms Chapter 1 Post-Test
June 6	July 11	Chapter 2. Constitutional Democracy: Promoting Liberty and Self-government Chapter 2 Pre-Test Ch. 2 Key Terms Ch. 2 Key Concepts Chapter 2 Post-Test
June 7	July 12	Chapter 3. Federalism: Forging a Nation Chapter 3 Pre-Test

		Ch. 3 Key Concepts Ch. 3 Key Terms Chapter 3 Post-Test
June 8	July 13	Chapter 4. Civil Liberties: Protecting Individual Rights Chapter 4 Pre-Test Ch. 4 Inevitable Discovery Exception Ch. 4 Key Terms Chapter 4 Post-Test
June 9	July 14	Chapter 5. Equal Rights: Struggling Toward Fairness Hide Details Chapter 5 Pre-Test Ch. 5 Key Concepts Ch. 5 Key Terms Chapter 5 Web Activity Chapter 5 Post-Test  Discussion Board #1
June 10	July 15	Exam, Chapters 1-5
		<b>***ALL WEEK ONE LATE WORK MUST BE COMPLETED BY THIS DATE TO BE CONSIDERED FOR CREDIT.***</b>
June 12	July 17	Discussion Board #2 Discussion Board #3
June 13	July 18	Chapter 6. Public Opinion and Political Socialization: Shaping the People's Voice Chapter 6 Pre-Test Ch. 6 Key Concepts Ch. 6 Key Terms Chapter 6 Post-Test
June 14	July 19	Chapter 7. Political Participation: Activating the Popular Will Chapter 7 Pre-Test Ch. 7 Key Concepts Ch. 7 Key Terms Chapter 7 Post-Test  Chapter 8. Political Parties, Candidates, and Campaigns: Defining the Voter's Choice Chapter 8 Pre-Test Ch. 8 Key Concepts Ch. 8 Key Terms Chapter 8 Post-Test
June 15	July 20	Chapter 9. Interest Groups: Organizing for Influence Chapter 9 Pre-Test Ch. 9 Key Concepts

		<p>Ch. 9 Key Terms Chapter 9 Post-Test</p> <p>Chapter 10. The News Media: Communicating Political Images Chapter 10 Pre-Test Ch. 10 Key Concepts Ch. 10 Key Terms Chapter 10 Web Activity Chapter 10 Post-Test</p>
June 16	July 21	<p>Chapter 11. Congress: Balancing National Goals and Local Interests Chapter 11 Pre-Test Ch. 11 Key Concepts Ch. 11 Key Terms Chapter 11 Post-Test</p>
June 17	July 22	Exam, Chapters 6-11
		<b>***ALL WEEK ONE LATE WORK MUST BE COMPLETED BY THIS DATE TO BE CONSIDERED FOR CREDIT.***</b>
June 19	July 24	<p>Discussion Board #4</p> <p>Chapter 12. The Presidency: Leading the Nation Chapter 12 Pre-Test Ch. 12 Key Concept Ch. 12 Key Terms Chapter 12 Web Activity Chapter 12 Post-Test</p>
June 20	July 25	<p>Chapter 13. The Federal Bureaucracy: Administering the Government Chapter 13 Pre-Test Ch. 13 Key Concepts Ch. 13 Key Terms Chapter 13 Post-Test</p>
June 21	July 26	<p>Chapter 14. The Federal Judicial System: Applying the Law Chapter 14 Pre-Test Ch. 14 Key Concepts Ch. 14 Key Terms Chapter 14 Post-Test</p>
June 22	July 27	<p>Chapter 15. Economic and Environmental Policy: Contributing to Prosperity Chapter 15 Pre-Test Ch. 15 Key Concepts Ch. 15 Key Terms Chapter 15 Post-Test</p>

June 23	July 28	Chapter 16. Welfare and Education Policy: Providing for Personal Security and Need Chapter 16 Pre-Test Ch. 16 Key Concepts Chapter 16 Post-Test
June 24	July 29	Chapter 17. Foreign Policy: Protecting the American Way Chapter 17 Pre-Test Ch. 17 Key Concepts Ch. 17 Key Terms Chapter 17 Post-Test
		<b>***ALL WEEK ONE LATE WORK MUST BE COMPLETED BY THIS DATE TO BE CONSIDERED FOR CREDIT.***</b>
June 26-30	July 31- August 4	Reflections Paper (must go chapter by chapter, unit by unit)
July 3-6 (Thursday)	August 6- 10 (Thursday)	Exam, Chapters 12-17 American Government Post Test