



GOVT 2305 Federal Government

Course Syllabus: Spring 2017

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

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Office Hours	Monday	Tuesday	Wednesday	Thursday	Friday
	1:30-2pm (.5)	1:30-5pm (3.5 hrs)	1:30-4:30 (3 hrs)	1:30-4:30pm (3hrs)	None.

The information contained in this syllabus is subject to change without notice. Announcements for schedule changes will be announced in class or through Remind.

Course Description: 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, Thomas E. and Halter, Gary M. The American Democracy. Texas Edition. 11th edition. 2013.

Publisher: McGraw/Hill Higher Education.

ISBN Number: 978-0-07-742418-3

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 the United States of America.
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 American political processes and institutions.

Course Objectives:

1. Students will be able to articulate opposing viewpoints in national politics with objectivity, giving no indication of personal belief in essay writings.
2. Students will be able to identify personal biases and the influence/spin of media, political parties, lobbyists, and other interested stakeholders in written essays and editorials.
3. Student will apply recall of political principles and theories to personal political life and modern political events.

Lectures & Discussions:

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

Evaluation/Grading Policy:

Students will be tested on assigned readings from the text as well as additional materials assigned in class. 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 a weighted scale.

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

Weighted scale is based on the following categories:

- 50% Quizzes and Assignments
- 25% Final Project
- 25% Exams

Tests/Exams:

Two exams will be given (midterm and final). The questions primarily multiple choice and true/false. No notes are permitted on exams. Students are permitted unlimited supervised retakes of the exam during Testing Center hours **for one week after the original exam is given**, but must be present at the time of the original test date in order to take advantage of the retake.

Each chapter will have its own open-book quiz posted on Blackboard. Quizzes can be taken an unlimited number of times up until the due date.

Previous arrangements must be made when it is necessary to miss an exam. In the case of an emergency where prior notification is unavailable, students must provide proof of an excused absence in order to make up the test.

Assignments:

All assignments will be posted to Blackboard.

Assignments are subject to online electronic plagiarism checkers as well as old fashioned "Google checking". Papers that attempt to cite but do so incorrectly will be given a zero and returned for resubmission. Papers that do not attempt to cite at all will receive a zero with no opportunity for resubmission. The resubmission opportunity will be noted in the grading comments on Blackboard.

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.

Students must be present in order to get credit for some in-class assignments. Failure to attend on mandatory attendance days will result in a loss of available points for the activity. 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).

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 assignments grades and are weighted accordingly.

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.

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.

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 BUILDING SECRETARY WILL BRING A MESSAGE TO THE CLASSROOM. THE 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 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

February 16	11:59pm 8-9:30am	Blackboard In-Class	Unit 1 Folder (Ch. 1-4) and Unit Folder 2 Unit 2 Folder (Ch. 5-8) Midterm Exam
March 9	11:59pm 8-9:30am	Blackboard In-Class	Unit 3 Folder (Ch. 9-13) and Unit 4 Folder (Ch. 14-17) Final Exam
March 16	11:59pm	Blackboard	(SPRING BREAK)