



# GOVT 2305 Federal Government

## Course Syllabus: Spring 2017

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

**Ronnie J. Holloway**

**Office:** Assigned Classroom- 15 min. before and after class

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Office Hours	Monday	Tuesday	Wednesday	Thursday	Friday	Online

*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.*

**Catalog Course Description (include prerequisites):** 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):**

The American Democracy (Texas Edition) 11<sup>th</sup> Edition  
Thomas E. Patterson and Gary M. Halter

**Publisher:** McGraw Hill Co.

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

**Recommended Reading(s):**

None

**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.

**Lectures & Discussions:**

In order to facilitate learning, each lecture is accompanied with power point presentations. These power point presentations help facilitate discussions. During the process of taking notes and discussing the relevant materials, the instructor will also bring in outside information and examples to help the class understand the concepts being taught. After the power point presentations, the instructor will go through the chapter and point out the highlights. This re-emphasizes the main points of the power point presentations and becomes a useful review. Review questions over each chapter are given to the students through the use of NTCC Blackboard to help in understanding and for major test reviews.

**Evaluation/Grading Policy:**

You will be able to track your average exactly throughout the course. The grading scale is as follows: A=90 or above; B=89-80; C=79-70; D=69-60; F=59 or below.

1. Major exams (4) will count 12.5% each for final grade.  
(Completion of course evaluation will add one point to final grade average)
2. Outside research paper over Chief Justice John Marshall in which you must identify his major Supreme Court cases involving judicial review. This paper will count 25% of your final grade.
3. Attendance/participation will count 25% of the final grade.

**Tests/Exams:**

The first two major exams will be short answer and multiple choice. The final will be all short answer.

Three major exams: Major Exam I- Covers chapters 1-5 and class notes. March 8  
Major Exam II- Covers chapters 6-10 and class notes April 17  
Take Home Test- Chapters 11-15. Due April 24  
Final Exam- Covers chapters 11-15 class notes May 8 - May 11  
Major Paper Due- On or before March 1

**Assignments:**

Major paper over Chief Justice John Marshall including a Bibliography and discussion of his court cases over judicial review involving government, politicians and individuals.

**Other Course Requirements:**

## Federal Government Calendar

January 18 – Teacher welcome and introduction- students told how to get computer registered at NTCC- students given syllabus covering classroom expectations and grading policies - student demonstration on how to use Web Blackboard - Q & A involving attendance and outside assignments covered.

January 23 - Discuss globalization and World economy - Take class notes over power point presentation and discussion over Chapter 1 (American Political Culture) seeking a more perfect union- types of equality and order

January 25 - Continue class notes over Chapter 1 and discussion – purpose of government –liberty, order and freedoms

January 30 - Conclude class notes over types of equality and Political ideologies – conservative vs. liberal- General Election date- end Chapter 1

February 1 – Terms and definitions for Chapter 1- go over Chapter 1 in book --- assignment read Chapter 2

February 6 - Finish Chapter 1- go over review Questions from Blackboard

February 8 - Go over early colonization (Chapter 2) American Revolution –Articles of Confederation Shay’s Rebellion –Start class notes Chapter 2

February 13 - Continue Class notes Chapter 2 over the U.S. Constitution –Cover U.S. Constitution - Articles I through VII and ratification.

February 15 - Continue notes Amendments 1-27 and Definitions Chapter 2

February 20 - Cover highlights in book Chapter 2- Blackboard Questions Odd

February 22 - Chapter 3 class notes (Federalism- Dual and Cooperative) - Legislation shifts and balances - Slides 1-33

February 27 - Continue Chapter 3-National Government Predominant- grants in aid – Definitions Chapter 3

March 1 - Cover Chapter 3 in book – Blackboard review--Start Chapter 4 review in book **(Major Paper- John Marshall- due today)**

March 6 - Continue Chapter 4 in book-Review for first major test (Chapters 1-5)

March 8 - **Major Test over Chapters 1-5 plus Declaration of Independence and U.S. Constitution in back of book**

**March 13-March 17 ----Spring Break**

March 20 - Start notes on Chapter 6 – Media

March 22 - Continue notes over Chapter 6- Media-Definitions on Chapter 6

March 27 - Chapter 6 review in book-Chapter 6 Blackboard review odd questions-

March 29 - Start Chapter 7 notes over Political participation to slide 20

April 3 - Continue Chapter 7 notes – Cover Chapter Definitions -Review Chapter 7 in book- Cover Blackboard Questions

April 5 - Chapter 8 notes and Start Definitions Chapter 8

April 10 - Definitions on Chapter 8- Blackboard Answers Chapter 9 -Start Chapter 9- Interest Groups Notes

April 12 - Continue Chapter 9 and Definitions over Chapter 9 and 10 -Review for major test Chapters 6 – 10

**April 17 - Second Major Test Chapters 6-10**

April 19 - Work on Take Home Test in class. Time is given for the students to work on Take Home Test.

April 24 – Start Chapter 11- Congress- (**Take Home Test Due Today**)

April 26 – Finish Chapter 11 notes and Review Chapter 11 in book-Start Chapter 12- The President

May 1 – Cover Chapter 14 notes – Post Test final

May 3 – Review for final and check post test numbers.

May 8 through May 11 - **Final Exam**

### **Student Responsibilities/Expectations:**

Attendance is a very important part of the class because of class notes and discussions missed during an absence. A grade is given for attendance and classroom participation. All students should remember one basic principle of conduct, your rights end where someone else's begin. You should always treat each other with respect and dignity. This includes your mode of dress, speech, and conduct in class.

### **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.

**Other Course Policies:**

When entering the classroom, all cell phones and electronic devices should be turned off . You may use a computer or tape machine with the professors permission.

Students having problems seeing the board may request a seat closer to the board.