



# Government 2306 Texas Government

## Course Syllabus: Spring 2017

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

**Ronnie J. Holloway**

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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 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):**

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 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 American political processes and institutions.

**Lectures & Discussions:**

In order to facilitate learning, each lecture is accompanied with the use of 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 covering the chapter, the instructor will go through the chapter and point out the highlights in each chapter. 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. Three Major Exams (3) and a take home test that will each count 12.5% of final grade.  
(Completion of course evaluation will add one points to final grade average)
2. Outside research paper over House Speaker Sam Rayburn will count 25% of final grade- In your last paragraph; you must identify the one major piece of legislation Rayburn produced for rural citizens of Texas and the United States.
3. Attendance/participation will count 25% of the final grade.

### **Tests/Exams:**

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

Three major exams: Major Exam I- Covers chapters 18-21 and class notes. March 22

Major Exam II- Covers chapters 22-24and class notes April 17

Major Test III- Take Home Test chapters 25-26 - April 24

Final Exam- Covers chapters 25-26 class notes- May 8-11

Major Paper Due- On or before March 1

### **Assignments:**

Major paper over House Speaker Sam Rayburn including a Bibliography and discussion of his most important contribution to the rural areas of Texas and the United States.

### **Other Course Requirements:**

#### **Texas Government Calendar**

January 18– Teacher welcome and introduction- students given syllabus covering classroom expectations and grading policies- students given demonstration on how to use Web Blackboard -check roll making sure students are in correct class – Questions over the State of Texas (size, population, #of counties, economic resources, state bird, state song, etc.)

**Sam Rayburn Paper Due on March 1**

January 23- Take class notes and discussion over Chapter 18 – Introduction to Texas Government – Political Cultures-Ethnic Diversities and cultures

January 25- Continue Chapter 18 notes and discussion- cultural and economic diversities in the state- settlements-water and air questions- immigration

January 30 - Go over Chapter 18 highlights in the book

February 1 - Take classroom notes over Chapter 19- State Constitutions- Dual and Cooperative Federalism- Federal powers- state powers.

February 6- Continue State Constitutions –Chapter 19 – statutory law – Mexican, Texas, etc

February 8- Continue class notes Chapter 19-state constitutions- Limited government.

February 13- Go over Chapter 19 points in textbook – Texas State Agency and Governor

February 15 - Take notes over Chapter 20-Interest Groups in Texas-stop (ppp. 20)

February 20- Continue notes over Interest Groups Chapter 20 (ppp. 21) – Power of interest groups – Interest Group Techniques- Chapter Review in Textbook

February 22- Continue chapter review in book Chapter 20

February 27- Start notes Chapter 21- Political parties and elections in Texas

March 1 - Continue notes Chapter 21 (slide 19) - **Major Paper Due: Sam Rayburn**

March 6 - Continue Chapter 21 (slide 42)-stop slide #65

March 8 - Continue Chapter 21 (slide 66) and start chapter review in book Chapter 21

**March 13 through March 16 --- Spring Break**

March 20 - Review Questions on Blackboard and Major Test Review

March 22 - **FIRST MAJOR EXAM Chapter 18 – 21**

March 27- Internet view: Tour of the Texas State Capital- Cover Texas State Constitution and Amendments from actual document from Internet- Class notes over Chapter 22

March 29 - Continue class notes over Chapter 22

April 3 - Cover Chapter review in book- Chapter 22

April 5 - Start Chapter 23 notes - Governor

April 10 - Continue Chapter 23 review in Textbook

April 12 – Class notes over Chapter 24- The Court System in Texas- Start Review from Textbook

April 17 - **SECOND MAJOR EXAM**

April 19-Work on Take Home Test in class (Cooperative learning in groups)

April 24 -Start Chapter 25 and 26 (**Take Home Test Due**)

April 26-Finish chapter 25-26

May 1 - Review Final Exam

May 4- Review Final Exam

## **May 8 through May 11- Finals**

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

type student attendance policies, dress code (hats), courtesy, etc. here

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:**

Cell phones and all electronic devices should be turned off when entering the class. You may use a computer or tape machine with the professor's permission.

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