



# GOVT 2306 Texas Government

## Department Course Syllabus Summer I 2023

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

**Instructor:** *For instructor information, see course home page in Blackboard*  
**Office:**  
**Phone:**  
**Email:**

| Office Hours | Monday | Tuesday | Wednesday | Thursday | Friday | Online |
|--------------|--------|---------|-----------|----------|--------|--------|
|              |        |         |           |          |        |        |

***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:**

|     |                                                                     |
|-----|---------------------------------------------------------------------|
| 25% | MidTerm Exam                                                        |
| 25% | Final Exam                                                          |
| 25% | Communication Activities                                            |
| 25% | Attendance & Participation (10% SmartBook, 15% Class Participation) |

**Numerical grading scale:** A: 100%-90; B: 89-80; C: 79-70; D: 69-60; F: 59 or below

**Required Instructional Materials:**

Mora, Sherry. *The State of Texas: Government, Politics, and Policy*. 5<sup>th</sup> edition, with CONNECT

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

**ISBN Number:** 978-1-260-24303-1

**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:** You must have access to a computer to take this course. Your computer needs to have Windows XP SP3 or later or MAC OS X10.3 or higher. You will need Office 2003 or higher, and you will need broadband internet access. You can check your operating system by right clicking on the My Computer icon on the home screen. You can check your word processing program by going to Start and clicking on All Programs. You will find your Office program there. If you do not have access to a computer with the minimum computer requirements, I strongly suggest that you reconsider taking this online course.

**Required Computer Literacy Skills:** Ability to use Blackboard as well as Microsoft Office. Microsoft Office programs, including Word, are provided free to all enrolled students.

**Course Structure and Overview:*****MidTerm Exam:***

MidTerm examination will cover material from the first half of the course, chapter 1 thru 7.

***Final Exam:***

The final exam will focus on material covered in the second half of the course, chapters 8 thru 14, but will include some questions that are comprehensive in nature.

***SmartBook:***

SmartBook is an adaptive technology that assesses your understanding of chapter concepts as you read the textbook. For SmartBook, your grade will be based on the percentage of questions successfully completed. If you only complete half the questions, your grade will reflect that. If you answer all the questions, you can expect a perfect score.

***Communication Activities:***

Written and/or oral communication. Involves introductions, sharing of at least three relevant articles with the class, coming up with a bill proposal, and one or two short government essays. Details on the government essay can be found in the “government essay” folder.

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

**Alternate Operations During Campus Closure and/or Alternate Course Delivery Requirements**

In the event of an emergency or announced campus closure due to a natural disaster or pandemic, it may be necessary for Northeast Texas Community College to move to altered operations. During this time, Northeast Texas Community College may opt to continue delivery of instruction through methods that include, but are not limited to, online through the Blackboard Learning Management System, online conferencing, email messaging, and/or an alternate schedule. It is the responsibility of the student to monitor NTCC’s website (<http://www.ntcc.edu/>) for instructions about continuing courses remotely, Blackboard for each class for course-specific communication, and NTCC email for important general information.

Additionally, there may be instances where a course may not be able to be continued in the same delivery format as it originates (face-to-face, fully online, live remote, or hybrid). Should this be the case, every effort will be made to continue instruction in an alternative delivery format. Students will be informed of any changes of this nature through email messaging and/or the Blackboard course site.

**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 (\*note\* instructor reserves the right to make adjustments to this timeline at any point in the term):**

See class calendar