NORTHEAST TEXAS COMMUNITY COLLEGE

GOVT 2305 -Federal Government

Course Syllabus: Fall 2026

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

Instructor: Rex Allen
Office:
Phone: 903-434-8255 (Humanities Office)
Email: rallen@ntcc.edu

Weekday	Office Hours
Monday	None
Tuesday	9:30 – 10:30 AM
Wednesday	None
Thursday	9:30 – 10:30 AM
Friday	None

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 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.

Prerequisite(s): None

Student Learning Outcomes:

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.

Evaluation/Grading Policy:

The breakdown of the course requirements is as follows:

%	Requirement
40%	Assignments
25%	Midterm Exam
25%	Final Exam
10%	Essay

Semester grades will be earned as follows

Percentage	Letter Grade
90% and above	A
80 %–89%	B
70 %–79%	C
60%–69 %	D
59.9% and below	F

Grades in this course are based on the student's ability to complete assigned work, demonstrate understanding of course concepts, and communicate ideas clearly in written and/or oral form. Students are expected to complete all required readings, module activities, assessments, exams, and communication assignments by the posted deadlines in Blackboard.

The course grade will be calculated according to the grading categories listed in the syllabus and Blackboard gradebook. These categories may include exams, quizzes or assessments, discussion posts, article presentations, written reflections, bill analysis or proposal assignments, essays, and other module activities connected to the Student Learning Outcomes for the course.

Late Work: Students are responsible for submitting all assignments by the posted deadlines in Blackboard. Because this course is organized by modules, late work can make it difficult to stay on track. Students should check due dates regularly and plan ahead. Late work may receive a grade penalty unless prior arrangements have been made with the instructor. Work submitted after the module closes may not be accepted unless there are documented circumstances or the instructor has approved an extension. Students who know they will have difficulty meeting a deadline should contact the instructor before the due date whenever possible.

Required Instructional Materials:

This course uses open educational resources (OER) and does not require the purchase of a traditional textbook. Our primary text is:

OpenStax. *American Government 4e.* Rice University.

Available free online at: https://openstax.org/details/books/american-government-4e

Optional Instructional Materials:

N/A

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:

This course is organized into modules in Blackboard. Each module includes assigned readings and may also include videos, podcasts, primary sources, lecture materials, assessments, written reflections, and other activities connected to the course Student Learning Outcomes. Students should follow the course schedule and Blackboard module folders carefully, as all required work and due dates will be posted there.

Midterm Exam

The midterm exam will cover material from the first half of the course. This includes the major concepts, readings, activities, and assessments from the early modules. Students should review the study materials, module content, key terms, and course concepts before taking the exam.

Final Exam

The final exam will focus primarily on material covered in the second half of the course, but it may also include comprehensive questions that connect back to earlier concepts. Students should be prepared to demonstrate their understanding of the major themes of the course, including constitutional principles, institutions of government, political participation, civil rights and liberties, public policy, and citizenship.

Online Coursework

Online coursework will be completed through Blackboard. This may include readings, videos, podcasts, quizzes, assessments, reflection posts, discussion activities, and other module assignments. Students are responsible for completing all assigned work by the posted deadlines. Because this course uses OER materials, students should rely on the readings and resources provided in Blackboard rather than purchasing outside course materials unless otherwise instructed.

Communication Activities

Communication activities are designed to help students engage with course material through written and/or oral expression. These assignments may include introductory posts, article presentations, discussion board reflections, classmate responses, bill analysis or proposal assignments, essays, and other activities that require students to explain, analyze, and apply government concepts. These assignments are intended to strengthen critical thinking, civic understanding, and the ability to connect course concepts to current events and real-world government issues.

Communications:

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

Institutional/Course Policy:

Students are responsible for following all institutional policies outlined by Northeast Texas Community College, including policies related to academic integrity, attendance, accessibility services, student conduct, technology use, and grade appeals. Course-specific expectations, deadlines, grading procedures, and assignment requirements are provided in this syllabus and in Blackboard. Students should review all course materials carefully and contact the instructor with any questions.

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.

Statement Regarding the Use of Artificial Intelligence (AI) Technology:

Employees and students shall be permitted to explore artificial intelligence (AI) and implement its use in and out of the classroom in accordance with policy and administrative regulations. The use of AI shall only be as a support tool to enhance student outcomes or as necessary to engage in research and shall never take the place of faculty, staff, and student decision-making. Any use of AI must comply with law, policy, and administrative regulations relating to student and employee privacy and data security. A student shall only use AI tools with faculty permission and shall be expected to produce original work and properly credit sources, including AI tools used in creating the work.

Example:
APA (7th edition)

OpenAI. (2026). ChatGPT (March 25 version) [Large language model]. https://chat.openai.com/

MLA (9th edition)

OpenAI. ChatGPT. 25 Mar. 2026, https://chat.openai.com/.

Employees or students who use AI tools to deceptively harm, bully, or harass others shall be disciplined in accordance with policy. [See DH, DIA series, FFD series, FFE, FLB, and the FM series] AI Use by Employees and

Students. Northeast Texas Community College 225500 TECHNOLOGY RESOURCES CRB ARTIFICIAL INTELLIGENCE (LOCAL) DATE ISSUED: 12/8/2025 1 of 1 UPDATE 50 CRB(LOCAL)-AJC Adopted: 12/16/2025

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 accommodation 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 accommodation as required to afford equal educational opportunity. It is the student's responsibility to request accommodation. 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 populations page on the NTCC website.

General Accessibility Statement

I am devoted to creating a learning environment that is inclusive and accessible by design. If there are any barriers to your success, involvement, and engagement in this class, please contact me so that together, we can explore creative solutions. I encourage students with disabilities to contact the Accessibility Services Office in Humanities 103C to arrange for services or by email at mpemberton@ntcc.edu or jperez@ntcc.edu. If you have already been granted accommodation, please contact me so that we can work together to develop a plan that works for you and your learning preferences or needs.

Ally

Northeast Texas Community College (NTCC) has a license for Ally, a digital accessibility tool designed to help make more accessible and inclusive learning content. Embedded directly in the Blackboard LMS, Ally provides alternative formats of digital course content to all students, regardless of disability status or official accommodations. For example, a student could download a syllabus (originally formatted as a Microsoft Word document) as an audio file, translated version, or digital publishing file to be read with an eReader program. Other alternative formats made available to students are OCR'd PDFs, Tagged PDFs, HTML, Braille Ready File format, Microsoft Immersive Reader, and BeeLine Reader. Students do not need to ask for permission or disclose to access the alternative formats, they are readily available for all who wish to use them.

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.