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|  | **Federal Government - 2305** **Course Syllabus:** Fall 2020 |
| “Northeast Texas Community College exists to provide responsible, exemplary learning opportunities.”**Patrick Smith** **Office:** N/A**Phone:** 903-856-8255**Email:** PSmith@ntcc.eduTwitter: @AmGovNTCC\_Smith |
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| **Office Hours** | **Monday** | **Tuesday** | **Wednesday** | **Thursday** | **Friday** | **Online** |
| By Appointment | By Appointment | By Appointment | By Appointment |  | By Appointment |

*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.*

**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.

**Class Description:** This course is intended to introduce you to the basic theory, structure, and practices of American government. This course will not transform you into a political scientist; however, it will familiarize you with the context about which political scientist – and more importantly politicians – speak and write.

The course is designed to aid and help develop your understanding of the differences among political beliefs. Forming your own political opinion is essential at a time when the labels “liberal” and “conservative,” “left” and “right” are hurled about on a daily basis. Such terms can be baffling, and cause an unpleasant situation to transpire in coffee shops, barber shops, etc. It is important that you develop your own political ideology – the ideas people have about what government should or should not do and what kind of government they should have.

The objective of this course is not designed to make learners Democrats, Republicans, Independents, liberals or conservatives. They are knowledgeable of, and critical thinking about American politics and government. Additionally, to educate that promotes self-confidence in your abilities to participate in your national government. Knowledge leads to confidence and most likely will ensure your participation. If you don’t participate then you have no legitimate rights to complain about the activities of your national government.

You should gain the knowledge of the structure and processes taken by your national government to enact legislation which ultimately will lead to policies and programs that affect social, political and economic behavior. You should learn to think critically about what your government is or is not doing for you and the rest of society and what society can do to shape outcomes.

**Required Instructional Materials:**

**Patterson, Thomas. We the People.13thedition, with CONNECT**

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

**ISBN Number:9781259912405**

**Recommended Reading(s):** Dallas Morning News, Wall Street Journal, other newspapers, political magazines, view FOX, CNN, Texas Observer, Politico or other television news programs and the internet.

Resource Material

http://www.politico.com

<http://www.drudgereport.com>

[www.realpolitics.com](http://www.realpolitics.com)

Twitter: @AmGovNTCC\_Smith

**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 toa 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

**Student Learning Outcomes:**

The general objective of this course is to introduce American National government issues and to teach basic tools of analysis. More specifically, the goals of the course are listed below:

1. Analyze American National government.
2. Analyze the constitutional basis for your federal government.

3. Analyze and understand the processes of American National politics and government, and the institutions of American National politics and government.
4. To help you develop good methods in thinking about national public policy issues. This involves specific attention to the process of orderly problem solving by:

a. Carefully defining the issue.
b. Mapping out the main alternative ways of achieving the stated objectives.
c. Carefully analyzing the alternative approaches, and using the appropriate analytical concepts and principles to decide which alternatives or combination of alternatives best "solves" the problem.
d. Checking the "solution" reached, both for flaws in reasoning and, where feasible, against experience in comparable situations.

5. To help you learn to evaluate and use both qualitative and quantitative evidence when conflicting viewpoints and approaches are encountered.

**Course Objectives:**

The purpose of the course is to acquaint the student with the American government. The student will be introduced to: (a) a framework for analyzing United States politics and government; (b) the constitutional basis for American government; (c) the processes of American politics and government; (d) the institutions of American politics and government; (e) policies of American government.

**Lessons, Lectures & Discussions:**

Topics of Discussion

Week of August 24 - 30 Intro & Expectations; Chapters 1 – 2 of the text.

Week of August 31 – September 3 Chapters 3 – 4 of the text.

Week of September 7 – 12 Chapters 5 – 6 of the text.

Week of September 14 – 19 Chapters 7 – 8 of the text.

**September 19, 2019 MID-TERM EXAM**

Week of September 21 – 26 Chapters 9, 10 and 11 of the text.

Week of September 28 – October 3 Chapters 12 – 13 of the text.

Week of October 5 – 10 Chapters 14 – 15 of the text. Research assignment is due in Blackboard by October 10.

Week of October 12 -16 Chapters 16 – 17 of the text.

**October 15, 2019 FINAL EXAM**

**Evaluation/Grading Policy:**

Quizzes (17x25 points each) 425 points

Research Assignment 200 points

Mid-Term Exam 100 points

Final Exam 100 points

Outside Reading and Discussion Assignments 350 points

Homework Assignments (17x25) 450 points

Total Points 1600 points

**1435 – 1600 points = A**

**1280 – 1434 points = B**

**1115 – 1279 points = C**

**960 – 1114 points = D**

**000 – 959 points = F**

**Late Assignment Penalties**

Past Due 5 Days: Deduct 50 points from assignment

More than 5 Days: Zero points for assignment

**Attendance**

You are urged to attend class each day. A significant portion of each examination is drawn from the classroom material. If you miss class, it is your responsibility to obtain the information missed and see that your assignments are submitted by due dates. If you decide to attend class you must attend the entire class period, unless other arrangements are made prior to class with the instructor. Students who simply arrive in class to hand in an assignment and then leave class will receive a zero on the assignment. Attendance is part of the participation grade.

Missing more than two class meetings will reduce your grade in the course by a full letter grade (i.e. A to B, B to C, C to D, and D to F).

**Assignments:**

**Course Requirements**

A. Class Discussion and Participation – Each student has the responsibility to prepare for each class by reading the assigned material and completing all assignments. All students should be prepared to participate in class discussions of the assigned material. You will be exposed to a variety of opinions that may differ from your own. Respect those opinions and use them to help you reflect on why people hold different views. Class attendance is a part of class participation (if you do not attend you cannot participate). Outside reading assignments are assigned with in class discussion taking place with regards to the assigned outside reading.

FYI: Attendance is noted without a required roll call.

B. Research Assignments – The assignment involves researching an assigned political topic and preparing a Policy Paper presentation. Details will be posted within the course Blackboard site.

C. Chapter Quizzes via Blackboard

D. Homework Assignments via Blackboard

E. Exams: Mid-Term and Final Exam

**Student Responsibilities/Expectations:**

**Class Attendance**

You are urged to attend class each day. A significant portion of each examination is drawn from the classroom material. If you miss class, it is your responsibility to obtain the information missed and see that your assignments are submitted by due dates. If you decide to attend class you must attend the entire class period, unless other arrangements are made prior to class with the instructor. Students who simply arrive in class to hand in an assignment and then leave class will receive a zero on the assignment. Attendance is part of the participation grade.

Since the lecture-discussion method will be employed in this class, regular attendance is highly encouraged. Students who discontinue attending class will be given an “F” unless they officially withdraw from the course.

Missing more than three class meetings will reduce your grade in the course by a full letter grade (i.e. A to B, B to C, C to D, and D to F).

**TWO KEYS**

1. **Completing the assigned readings, problems and turning in the assignments in a professional manner on time.**
2. **"Believing in yourself and never entertaining the thought of giving up or being unsuccessful."  The ability to stick with it, to persevere, to never quit will put you in a position to be successful.**

**Cell Phones**

All phones should be OFF/Vibrate while classroom instruction is taking place. If a phone rings while attending class an automatic 10 points will be deducted from the overall final grade total. If the same student phone rings twice during the term there will be a 50-point deduction from the overall final grade total. Each additional time will be a 100-point deduction from the overall final grade total. The same applies to text messaging. BOTTOM LINE – PHONES OFF. TEXTING IS NOT ACCEPTABLE.

**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 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 affording equal educational opportunity. It is the student’s responsibility to request accommodations. An appointment can be made with Katherine Belew, Academic Advisor/Coordinator of Special Populations located in the Student Services. She can be reached at 903-434-8218. For more information and to obtain a copy of the Request for Accommodations, please refer to the [NTCC website - Special Populations](http://www.ntcc.edu/index.php?module=Pagesetter&func=viewpub&tid=111&pid=1).

**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.” 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 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 educational institution attended, other information including major, the field of study, degrees, awards received, and participation in officially recognized activities/sports.

**KEY DATES**

Weekly Outside Reading and Discussion Assignments (Check Blackboard Class Site).

Quizzes and Homework Assignments

September 19, 2020 Mid–Term Exam

October 10, 2020 Research Assignment

October 15, 2020 Final Exam

**PET PEEVES**

Everyone has one or two pet peeves, and instructors are no exception. Author Marjorie Hansen Shaevitz lists these annoyances specific to dealing with students - avoid doing them, not just because it's the right thing to do but because you don't want to be that guy or girl. Pet Peeves include:

1) Not having read the assigned reading prior to class and, therefore, not being able to respond appropriately when called upon by an instructor.

2) Talking in class or being otherwise interruptive.

3) Playing games or surfing the Web on any electronic device.

4) A cell phone ringing.

5) Asking inappropriate or self-serving questions. Examples: "What do I need to know to get an A on this test?" or "Is this going to be on the exam?" Or even worse, earning poor grades and then saying, "I really need to have a good grade in this class; would you change it?"

**Tentative Course Timeline**

Instructor reserves the right to make adjustments to the course timeline at any point during the term.