



NORTH CENTRAL TEXAS COLLEGE

Course Syllabus

State & Local Government

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Required Text

"Texas Government: Policy & Politics" Tenth Edition

Neal Tannahill

Pearson Longman Publishing

ISBN 978-0-205-62144-6

Suggested Text

Catalog Description

Student Learning Outcomes

Upon successful completion of this course, students will be able to:

- 1) Differentiate between Democracy & elitism, and identify how the Constitution of Texas relates to these concepts.
- 2) Identify the regions of Texas and the major cities within each region.
- 3) Identify key political individuals in Texas Political History.
- 4) Compare and contrast the major characteristics of Texas Constitution with other states and the U.S. Constitution.
- 5) Explain the structure and powers of the county, the city and Special Districts in Texas.
- 6) Identify and explain the processes of Texas Elections and differentiate among Texas' Political Parties.

- 7) Identify the leaders and explain the power and structure of bureaucracy and board commission system of Texas.
- 8) Explain the Texas tax system and identify Texas' priorities as reflected in the state budget.
- 9) Identify the courts in the Texas Judicial System and their respective jurisdictions.
- 10) Differentiate between the powers and responsibilities of all three branches of government & identify leaders in each branch.
- 11) Research and compose an essay assignment/argument using proper grammar/English and basic computer skills.

Throughout this course students will be exposed to current issues facing Texas today; Education, Property Taxes, General Taxes, Water Regulations, Health Care, Immigration & Social Services.

Course Schedule

View the schedule of critical dates in the Announcements section of the ANGEL Course.

Course Requirements

Grading Policy

Course Grades will be determined by:

- 1.) Participation in online discussion forums in five blocks of instruction with one to three discussion areas in each block. Each of the five blocks will be worth fifty points. Grade will be determined by quality of contributions to the discussion and evidence of understanding of the concepts being discussed. Fifty points per discussion forum for a total of 250 points.
- 2.) Four short topic papers, one per each block of instruction. Papers shall be 500 words, double-spaced and uploaded to the designated drop-box. Fifty points per paper with grade based on quality of writing, integration of material and demonstrated understanding of the assigned topic. Total 200 points.
- 3.) A mid-term exam consisting of fifty multiple choice questions. Total fifty points.
- 4.) A two-part final exam consisting of two fifty question multiple choice tests. Total 100 points.

Total points possible for the course is 600. Grade is based on the highest score achieved by any student as 100%.

Scores of 90-100% = A

80-89% = B

70-79% = C

60-69% = D

Attendance Policy

Participation online in discussion forums is required, but is asynchronous in nature and therefore can be accomplished in a manner that meets your personal time management style. Several day windows will be provided for all assignments to allow maximum flexibility however written assignments must be completed no later than the end date for submissions. Discussion forums are NOT one-time writing assignments. They are classrooms with discussion between students and instructor to explain and expand course material. Do not simply answer the seed questions. Participate and discuss.

Academic Integrity

At North Central Texas College, plagiarism is defined as any of the following:

- Turning in someone else's ideas, opinions, theories, or work as your own;
- Copying words, ideas, or images from someone else without giving credit;
- Failing to put a quotation in quotation marks;
- Giving incorrect information about the source of a quotation or image;
- Changing words but copying the sentence structure of a source without giving credit;
- Copying so many words, ideas, or images from a source that it makes up the majority of your work, whether you give credit or not.

Students will receive an F on the first documented instance of plagiarism and a warning from NCTC. A second instance of plagiarism will result in the student's suspension from all classes for the remainder of the semester.

ADA Statement

North Central Texas College does not discriminate on the basis of disability for admission or access to its programs. The College is committed to providing equal access to its students with disabilities by providing appropriate accommodations; a variety of services and resources are made available through the ACCESS Department. Students are responsible for notifying the ACCESS Department of their need for assistance. Students with documented disabilities, such as mobility impairment, hearing or visual impairment, learning, and/or psychological disorders are eligible for services.

ACCESS Program:

The ACCESS Program provides accommodations for students who have a documented disability. A disability is anything that can interfere with learning, such as a learning disability, psychological challenge or physical illness or injury. Accommodations may include extra time on tests, tests in a non-distracting environment, note taker in class, etc. On the Corinth Campus, contact: Robin Truhe (rtruhe@nctc.edu, 940-498-6207) or Penny Cogbill (pcogbill@nctc.edu, 940-498-6212) or Nicole Walton (nwalton@nctc.edu, 940-498-6224 in Suite 170. On the Gainesville and Bowie Campuses, contact Yvonne Sandmann (ysandmann@nctc.edu, (940)

668-7731 ext. 4321) in Room 112.

TRIO Program:

TRIO Programs are federally funded programs which offer services designed to assist students in achieving their academic goals. Services include educational workshops, academic advising, tutoring, personal counseling, career counseling, cultural enrichment, and financial aid information. Students may be eligible for TRIO if they are currently enrolled at North Central Texas College, have academic need, and meet at least ONE of THREE criteria which include: 1) first generation status—neither parent has graduated from college 2) income level is within federal low income guidelines, and/or 3) has a documented disability. TRIO is located in Room 170 on the Corinth Campus, Room 114 on the Gainesville Campus, and Room 124 on the Bowie Campus.

Student Success Center:

The Student Success Center is designed to help all students at NCTC develop tools to achieve their academic goals. Students can attend free interactive workshops about Time Management, Study Skills, Test Anxiety, Choosing a Major, Learning Style Strategies, Career Exploration, and much more. This program also links students to FREE tutoring, including a Writing Center, a Math Lab, and free online tutoring through [SmartThinking](#). All students are invited to visit the Student Success Center located in Rooms 160, 170, 183, 188 in Corinth, Rooms 111 and 114 in Gainesville, and Room 124 in Bowie.

Students can also access the Department of Student Success' website by going to www.nctc.edu and clicking on the red button in the middle of the page labeled "Tutoring and Other ACADEMIC SUPPORT SERVICES", or by going directly to http://www.nctc.edu/Student_Services/Access/AcademicandStudentSupport_Services.htm

EEOC Statement

North Central Texas College does not discriminate on the basis of race, color, national origin, gender, religion, age, or disability in the employment or the provision of services.

WebPage

Visit the North Central Texas College [webpage](#) for information on registration, financial aid, counseling/advising, and cost of tuition and fees. You will also find information on the catalog and semester schedules as well as courses of study. You can keep up with what is happening on campus by checking the calendar of events and the sports news. The [webpage](#) has

information on the library as well as links to other areas of interest.
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