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**NORTH CENTRAL TEXAS COLLEGE**  
**Course Syllabus**

**Govt 2306 American State and Local Government Sections  
370 and 371**

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Office Hours Monday and Wednesday 1:00-3:00; Tuesdays 4:00-5:30  
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**Required Text**

Brown, L.C., Langengegger, J.A., Garcia, S.R., Lewis, T.A., & Bile, R.E. (2008). *Practicing Texas Politics (13<sup>th</sup> Ed.)*. Boston: Houghton Mifflin.

ISBN: 13:9780618642922

**Suggested Text**

The Thirteen American Arguments by Howard Fineman

**Catalog Description**

A survey of the state and local political structures of Texas including: the geographical and political environment of Texas, the three branches of state government, the federal system, county and municipal governments, special districts, the Texas Constitution and a comparison of Texas' political system with other states. This course is required for graduation and teacher certification.

**Student Learning Outcomes**

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

Differentiate between Democracy & elitism, and identify how the Constitution of Texas relates to these concepts. (Assessed on Exams 1 and 4)

Identify the regions of Texas and the major cities within each region. (Assessed on Exam 1).

Identify key political individuals in Texas Political History. (Assessed on Exam 1).

Compare and contrast the major characteristics of Texas Constitution with other megastates and the U.S. Constitution. (Assessed on Exam 1).

Explain the structure and powers of the county, the city and Special Districts in Texas. (Assessed on Exam 2).

Identify and explain the processes of Texas Elections and differentiate among Texas' Political Parties. (Assessed on Exam 3).

Identify the leaders and explain the power and structure of bureaucracy and board commission system of Texas. (Assessed on Exam 4).

Explain the Texas tax system and identify Texas' priorities as reflected in the state budget. (Assessed on Exam 6).

Identify the courts in the Texas Judicial System and their respective jurisdictions. (Assessed on Exam 4).

Differentiate between the powers and responsibilities of all three branches of government & identify leaders in each branch. (Assessed on Exam 4).

Research and compose an essay assignment/argument using proper grammar/English and basic computer skills. (Through 3 different papers, using varied styles).

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

Govt 2306	PTS
1-SepOrientation/C1	10
8-SepD1/C2	10
15-SepD2/C3	10
22-SepE1	50
29-SepP1/C4	30
6-OctD3/C5	10
13-OctD4/C6	10
20-OctE2/C7	50
27-OctP2/C8	30
3-NovD5/C10	10
10-NovE3	50
17-NovP3/C9	50
24-NovD6/C11	10
1-DecP4	20
8-DecE4	50
	400

### Grading Policy

There is a **Required Activities Section** within my course that will teach you some basics of Angel. You will be expected to complete the orientation and take a short quiz. **There are no points assigned to this activity, but you will not be allowed to take the exams unless you have completed this assignment.** Go to <http://206.53.229.168> or [www.angel.nctc.edu](http://www.angel.nctc.edu) You will need to log into Angel, find your course on the left-hand side, go to lessons, Required Activities, Read the syllabus, the other folders under Lessons and complete the activities, including a quiz,

before you will be able to take the exams.

The exams will cover the Learning Outcomes and other information from Lectures and your text. Exams: There will be four exams worth 50 points each. The exams will be made up of 50 multiple choice questions worth 1 point each. Each exam is 50 minutes long. Exams are taken online through Angel. They are available (on Exam dates) Sunday at 12:00 pm until Monday midnight. I realize that I have some people that travel for a living or have access to a computer only on weekdays. I am also gone on weekends and cannot be around to help if there is a problem, so the days have changed.

There are four **formal written paper** for this course. They are to follow the **APA guidelines** for writing papers. I do take points for not using the APA style of writing, as well as NOT citing your work. I am still working on the subject for these papers, but will let you know during the second week of class.

You will also have 6 discussion board assignments. They are due at midnight on Mondays. They are each worth 10 points. This is where you make up points for a low exam grade. If you do not do the discussion boards you do not get the points. You are required to make 5 post for each discussion board assignment. You will post once with your thoughts on the subject and then reply to 4 other students. Do NOT just post with "I agree," state why you do agree or not agree.

**Total points for the course is 400**

A=.895 x 400; B= .795 x 400; C= .695 x 400; D= .595 x 400

### **Attendance Policy**

This class moves quickly. You must stay up, or it will be difficult for you to complete the class. I recommend that you come into the class (Angel) everyday to check emails and review the information and discussion boards.

### **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. The Corinth ACCESS Department is located in Room 120. The Gainesville ACCESS Department is located in ASC 108 (next door to the bookstore). For assistance, stop by one of these offices or call Beverly Neu Menassa at (940) 498-6207 on the Corinth Campus or Mary Martinson at (940) 668-4216 on the Gainesville Campus. In addition, students can access information [online](#).

### **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 web page 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 web has information on the library as well as links to other areas of interest. Check out our [web page](#).

Scholastic dishonesty shall include, but not be limited to cheating on a test, plagiarism, and collusion. See "Student Rights & Responsibilities: Student Conduct [FLB- (LOCAL)]" page 146-148 of NCTC Catalog.

Students wishing to withdraw must notify the Registrar's Office by completing a Petition for Course Drop. The last date to withdraw for this semester is November 14, 2008.

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