

GOVT 2306. 403 ~ COURSE SYLLABUS
Professor Karen Stewart
Monday-Wednesday 3:00-4:20 Room 368

Course Name	American State & Local Government	Semester & Year	Fall, 2007
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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.
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Required Texts & Material	<i>Practicing Texas Politics</i> , 13th ed. Brown, Langenegger, Garcia, Lewis, Biles. ISBN: 0-618-64292-7
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Learning Outcomes	<p>Upon successful completion of this course, students will be able to:</p> <ol style="list-style-type: none"> 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 megastates 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. <p>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.</p>
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Instructor's Name & Office #	*Karen Stewart Room 331	Phone Number FAX Number	*940-498-6295

Office Hours	*Immediately Following Class	E-Mail Address	*kcstewart@cccdd.edu
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Grading Policy & Procedures	<p>* <u>Grading Policy</u></p> <p>There will be a deduction of 15% per day for any assignment not submitted by the due date.</p> <table> <tr> <td>QUIZ #1</td> <td>50</td> <td>(Outcome 1,2,3,4,5)</td> </tr> <tr> <td>QUIZ #2</td> <td>50</td> <td>(Outcome 5,6,7,8)</td> </tr> <tr> <td>PAPERS 3X50</td> <td>150</td> <td>(Outcome 11,3,7,)</td> </tr> <tr> <td>TEXAS CULTURES</td> <td>40</td> <td>(Outcome 1,2,3)</td> </tr> <tr> <td>TEXAS INTEREST GROUPS</td> <td>30</td> <td>(Outcome 6,7)</td> </tr> <tr> <td>REV CHAPTER TERMS 5X10</td> <td>50</td> <td>(Outcome 1 -10)</td> </tr> <tr> <td>VOTING COMPARISONS</td> <td>30</td> <td>(Outcome 4,6,8)</td> </tr> <tr> <td>FINAL EXAM</td> <td>100</td> <td>(Outcome 1 -10)</td> </tr> </table> <table> <tr> <td></td> <td style="text-align: center;">Total</td> <td>500 Points</td> </tr> </table> <table> <tr> <td>500-450</td> <td>“A”</td> </tr> <tr> <td>449-399</td> <td>“B”</td> </tr> <tr> <td>398-348</td> <td>“C”</td> </tr> <tr> <td>347-297</td> <td>“D”</td> </tr> <tr> <td>296-Below</td> <td>“F”</td> </tr> </table>	QUIZ #1	50	(Outcome 1,2,3,4,5)	QUIZ #2	50	(Outcome 5,6,7,8)	PAPERS 3X50	150	(Outcome 11,3,7,)	TEXAS CULTURES	40	(Outcome 1,2,3)	TEXAS INTEREST GROUPS	30	(Outcome 6,7)	REV CHAPTER TERMS 5X10	50	(Outcome 1 -10)	VOTING COMPARISONS	30	(Outcome 4,6,8)	FINAL EXAM	100	(Outcome 1 -10)		Total	500 Points	500-450	“A”	449-399	“B”	398-348	“C”	347-297	“D”	296-Below	“F”
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Attendance Policy	* Students are expected to attend each class session. There will be some daily assignments not listed on the Syllabus that will be conducted during various class meetings. Some of these assignments will be worth grade points, and there will not be an opportunity to redo these assignments.
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ADA Statement	<p>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. <u>The ACCESS Program</u> 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. On the Corinth Campus contact Robin Truhe at rtruhe@nctc.edu, 940-498-6207 or stop by room 170. On the Gainesville Campus contact Mary Martinson at mmartinson@nctc.edu, 940-668-7731 ext. 4377, or stop by ASC 111.</p> <p><u>TRIO Programs</u> are federally funded programs which offer services designed to assist students in achieving their academic goals. Students may be eligible for TRIO if they are first generation status—neither parent has a 4 year degree, low income levels, and/or has a documented disability. TRIO is located in Room 170 on the Corinth Campus and Room 114 on the Gainesville Campus.</p> <p>The <u>Student Success Center</u> helps all NCTC students achieve their academic goals. Students can attend free interactive workshops and tutoring to improve their academic performance. Come visit us in Rooms 160 and 170 in Corinth and 114 in Gainesville</p>
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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.
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Scholastic Integrity	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 .
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<i>Withdrawal Date</i>	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 17, 2007

THE INSTRUCTOR RESERVES THE RIGHT TO AMEND THE CALENDAR

TENTATIVE SEMESTER CALENDAR

AUG 27	COURSE OVERVIEW-SYLLABUS CHAPTER 1-THE LAND, THE PEOPLE THE TEXAS CREED
29TH	PAPER #1- 13 DAYS THAT SHAPED THE TEXAS CREED
SEPT 5	CONTINUED POLITICAL BEHAVIORAL PATTERNS IN TX POLITICS GEOGRAPHY AND LANDSCAPES OF TEXAS
10TH	FINSIH MOVIE
12TH	CHAPTER 2 THE AMERICAN FEDERAL STRUCTURE TX CONSTITUTION /TEXAS BILL OF RIGHTS IN ACTION
17TH	PAPER #1 DUE TEXAS CULTURES ASSIGNMENT COMPARISON OF TX SYSTEM TO FEDERAL SYSTEM
19TH	TEXAS CULTURES ASSIGNMENTS-WORK CHAPTER REVIEW TERMS CHAPTER 2 <u>TERMS #1</u> WORK ON THESE OUTISDE OF CLASS
24TH	TEXAS CULTURES PRESENTATIONS CHAPTER 2 TERMS DUE
26TH	TEXAS CULTURE PRESENTATIONS
OCT 1ST	CURRENT IMMIGRATION ISSUES SCHOOL PRAYER IN TEXAS "SEPARATION OF CHURCH AND STATE"
3RD	CHAPTER 3 LOCAL POLITICS IN CONTEXT MUNICIPAL GOVERNMENTS COUNTIES AND SPECIAL DISTRICTS
8TH	COURTHOUSES AND LANDMARKS OF TEXAS ASSIGNMENT VOTING COMPARISONS METROPOLITAN AREAS ISSUES AND POPULATION
10TH	VOTING COMPARISONS DUE REVIEW FOR QUIZ #1
15TH	CHAPTER 4 PARTY STRUCTURE POLITICAL DEMOCRACY QUIZ #1
17TH	WOMEN IN POLITICS PAPER #2 IMPORTANT WOMEN IN TEXAS POLITICAL CAMPAIGNS RACIAL ETHNIC POLITICS
22	PAPER #2 DUE CHAPTER 5 THE POLITICS OF ELECTIONS
24TH	PRIMARY ELECTIONS SPECIAL ELECTIONS EQUALITY ISSUES IN TEXAS TITLE IX PAPER #3 "GLORY ROAD

29TH FINISH MOVIE
CHAPTER 6 THE POLITICS OF INTEREST GROUPS
INTEREST GROUPS IN POLITICAL PROCESS

31ST PINPOINTING POLITICAL POWER
CHAPTER 5 REVIEW **TERMS #2**
EQUALITY ISSUES IN

5TH PAPER #3 DUE
INTEREST GROUP ACTIVITIES
PINPOINTING POLITICAL POWER
TECHNIQUES OF INTEREST GROUPS

7TH SLOW DOWN/CATCH UP
TEXAS INTEREST GROUPS ASSIGNMENT
CHAPTER 5 TERMS DUE

12 CHAPTER 7- THE TEXAS LEGISLATURE
MOVIE" TEXAS LEGISLATURE"
CHAPTER 6 REVIEW **TERMS #3**

14 CAUCUS SYSTEM, PROCEDURE, PRESIDING OFFICERS
CHAPTER 8 THE EXECUTIVE /POWERS OF GOVERNOR
CHAPTER 9- ROLE OF STATE AGENCIES

19 CHAPTER REVIEW 8 & 9 **TERMS #4**
CHAPTER 9 EDUCATION HEALTH AND HUMAN SERVICES

26TH STATE EMPLOYEES
CHAPTER 10- LAWS, COURTS AND JUSTICE
TERMS #4 DUE

28 CHAPTER 10- CONTINUE
JUVENILE JUSTICE, JURIES, CORRECTION REHAB
TEXAS PRISON SYSTEM

DEC 3 CHAPTER 11 FINANCE AND FISCAL POLICY
PROBLEMS AND REFORMS PUBLIC POLICY
CHAPTER REVIEW 10, 11 **TERMS #5**

5TH TERMS DUE
BUDGETING AND MANAGEMENT/ WHERE DOES THE \$ GO??
REVIEW FOR FINALS

10TH FINAL EXAM