

American Government 2305 Summer II 2008

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Office: Room 331 Corinth Campus
Hours: By Appointment**

Course Information 2305.322 07/7T COMPLETE ONLINE CLASS 3 Credit Lecture Hours

Course Description

Survey of the political system of the United States including: the United States Constitution, the three Branches of government, political theory, political parties, interest groups and the media. This course is required for graduation and teacher certification.

Course Format

Class consists of lectures, discussions, projects, written papers, class presentations, as well as movies and interactive projects.

Required Texts and Material

The Challenge of Democracy, 9th ed. Kenneth Janda, Jeffry Gerry & Jerry Goldman. Houghton Mifflin.

Attendance Policy & Withdrawals

Students are expected to log onto class daily and check the schedule for assignments. Students are responsible for officially withdrawing themselves from the course; failure to do will result in a performance grade of "F". This course may be repeated only **once** after receiving a grade, including "W".

Assignments will be deducted 25% for every day late. Assignments are due according to listed due dates.

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 and Bowie ACCESS Department is located in ASC 108 (next door to the bookstore) on the Gainesville Campus.

For assistance, stop by or call our office: Robin Truhe at (940) 498-6207 on the Corinth Campus. Mary Martinson at (940) 668-4216 on the Gainesville Campus. Mary Martinson will meet with students on the Bowie campus by appointment. More student information is available online at:

http://www.nctc.edu/Student_Services/Access/Access_program.html.

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.

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**.

Plagiarism of papers will result in the failure of the paper itself, and referral to the Dean of Students for disciplinary actions.

FERPA (Family Education Rights and Privacy Act)

North Central Texas College is in full compliance with the Family Education Rights and Privacy Act. Under this act the instructor cannot speak to any parent of a student that contacts the instructor by e-mail or telephone. In order for the instructor to discuss student matters with a parental unit, a signed waiver must be on file in the admissions office.

Learning Outcomes

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

1. Identify differences between freedom, order, & equality.
2. Differentiate between political ideologies & democratic models.
3. Identify concepts/documents of America's Political History.
4. Explain key features of the Constitution: Republicanism, Federalism, Separation of Powers, and Checks & Balances.
5. Differentiate between our Presidential system and the Parliamentary system.
6. Explain concepts, ideology and structures of federalism.
7. Identify concepts of public opinion, values & socialization.
8. Differentiate between the various forms of mass media & bias.
9. Explain methods of participation, history and forms of voting.
10. Differentiate between the nature of our American Two Party System and the nature of a Multi-Party System.
11. Explain process of nominations, campaigns and elections.
12. Explain role of Interest Groups & how they affect government.
13. Differentiate between the powers and responsibilities of all three branches of government & identify leaders in each branch.
14. Identify role and scope of bureaucracy in our federal government.
15. Differentiate between Civil Liberties and Civil Rights.
16. Differentiate between Economic, Domestic and Foreign Policy.
17. 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 America today; Terrorism, Abortion, Health Care, Immigration, Education, Social Services & Federal Debt. As well as Gun Control issues and Immigration issues in the United States.

Method of Evaluation

Points	500-450	"A"
	449-399	"B"
	398-348	"C"
	347-297	"D"
	296- Below	"F"

Terms X 5	10 Points Each	50 Points
Midterm		100 Points
Letter to Congressman		25 Points
Supreme Court Justices Assignment		100 Points
Pictography Assignment		50 Points
Government Comparison		25 Points
Current Events Folio		50 Points
Final Exam		100 Points

Total Possible Points: 500 Points

There will also be an opportunity to earn 20 extra credit points by viewing and answering questions from movies that will be listed as an extra credit assignment. These movies will be based on the material we will cover throughout this class

Tentative Course Calendar

Week 1

July 14	Class Overview, Syllabus Chapter Text Chapter 1& 2 (Outcomes 1,4)
15	Chapter 3 Constitution: Terms #1
16 TH	Chapter 4 Federalism Chapter 5 Public Opinion (Outcome 6)
17 TH	Chapter 6 Media (Outcome 8) Chapter 7 Voting Current Events Folio (Outcome 2,3,7,8,14)
18 th	Chapter 8 Political Parties (Outcome 11,12) Chapter 9 Nominations and Elections (Outcome 11,12,13)

Week 2

21	Chapter 10 Interest Groups (Outcome 9) Terms #2
22 nd	Chapter 11 Congress (Outcome 13-15) Chapter 12 The President
23 rd	Chapter 13 The Bureaucracy Midterm Chapter 1-9 (Outcomes:1,2,3,4,5,6,7,8,9,10,11,12)
24	Supreme Court Justice Assignment (Outcome 17)
25 ^t	Chapter 14 The Judiciary and the Courts

Week 3

28	Chapter 15-16 /Civil Liberties/Rights (Outcome 15)
29	Chapter 17- All Social Welfare Chapters
30	Terms #3
31	Letter to Congress
August 1	Chapter 18- Economic Policy

Week 4

4th	Terms #4
5 th	Chapter 19 Domestic Policy
6	Pictography Assignment
7	Chapter 20- Global Policy/ Foreign Policy (Outcome 16) Terms #5
8	Folio Due- Review
August 11 th	Last Day of Class Final Exams (Outcomes 13,14,15,16)