

GOVT 2305 - COURSE SYLLABUS

Course Name	American National Government (Online)	Semester & Year	Summer I (2010)
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Catalog Description	A 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.
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Required Texts & Material	<i>American Government, Election ed.</i> Kenneth Dautrich & David Yalof. Wadsworth Cengage Learning. ISBN-13: 978-0-534-76645-0
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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) 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) Differentiate between Civil Liberties and Civil Rights. 8) Differentiate between the powers and responsibilities of all three branches of government & identify leaders in each branch. 9) Identify role and scope of bureaucracy in our federal government. 10) Identify concepts of public opinion, values & socialization. 11) Explain role of Interest Groups & how they affect government. 12) Differentiate between the various forms of mass media & bias. 13) Differentiate between the nature of our American Two Party System and the nature of a Multi-Party System. 14) Explain methods of participation, history and forms of voting. 15) Explain process of nominations, campaigns and elections. 16) Differentiate between Economic, Domestic and Foreign Policy. 17) 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 America today; Terrorism, Abortion, Health Care, Immigration, Education, Social Services & Federal Debt.</p>
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Instructor’s Name & Office #	Richard Huckaby Room #331 Corinth Campus	Phone Number -	940-498-6295
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Office Hours	By appointment	E-Mail Address	rhuckaby@nctc.edu
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Grading Policy & Procedures**Examinations**

There will be a total of seven (7) exams. Exams will be a combination of objective multiple choice and True/False questions (primarily multiple choice). Each exam will cover only material covered in online class activities, reading assignments, and exercises covered or assigned since the last exam. Each exam will be graded on the basis of 100 points. Your instructor, at his discretion, may change the format of the exam.

All testing is online. Objective exams will be interactive timed exams. Students will be given a window of time to open the exam, but once open -- the exam will be timed. Once the exam is started you must finish -- you cannot start, stop, and restart the exam.

Graded Assignments

There will be Two (2) written graded assignments. They may involve the use of the Internet, the textbook (*American Government, Election ed*) and/or other resources. Graded assignments are a course requirement and not a student option. The average of all graded assignments will be substituted for the lowest score of an exam taken even if the graded assignment average is lower.

Assignments and Related Learning Outcomes

ASSIGNMENTS	CHAPTERS	LEARNING OUTCOMES
Exam #1	1-2-3	#1,2,3,4,5,6
Exam #2	4-5	#7
Exam #3	6-7	#8
Exam #4	8-9	#8,9
Exam #5	10-11-12	#10,11,12
Exam #6	13-14-15	#13,14,15
Exam #7	16-17-18	#16
Graded Assignment #1	GA#1	#4,6,17
Graded Assignment #2	GA#2	#8,17

Grading Policy

Your exam average with the Graded Assignment Average substituted for the lowest grade for an exam taken will constitute 90% of your final course grade. The last exam (Exam #7) and exams not taken are not eligible for substitution.

The remaining 10% of the overall course grade is based on active participation in Discussion Board activities. Students will lose 5 points out of 100 for each unexcused absence from an assigned Discussion Board assignment.

Grading Policy & Procedures (con't)	Grading Scale			
	100	-	90	= A
	89	-	80	= B
	79	-	70	= C
	69	-	60	= D
	59	-	0	= F

Tentative Calendar		Government 2305.311 - American National Government (Online) Summer I (2010) (Subject to Change w/o Notice)			
Module	Schedule Date	Class Activity Description	Online Activity		
			*Read	Homework	Examinations
Orientation	6/7/10	Course Introduction & Orientation			Practice Exam (6/7)
I	6/8 6/13 Tue - Sun	Chapter 1 - Perspectives on American Government Chapter 2 - The Founding and the Constitution Chapter 3 - Federalism	AG-01 AG-02 AG-03	GA#1 (Due 6/23)	Exam #1 (6/13)
II	6/14 6/17 Mon - Thu	Chapter 4 - Civil Liberties Chapter 5 - Civil Rights, Equality and Social Movements	AG-04 AG-05		Exam #2 (6/17)
III	6/18 6/20 Fri - Sun	Chapter 6 - Congress Chapter 7 - The Presidency	AG-06 AG-07		Exam # 3 (6/20)
IV	6/21 6/24 Mon - Thu	Chapter 8 - The Federal Bureaucracy Chapter 9 - The Judiciary	AG-08 AG-09		Exam # 4 (6/24)
V	6/25 6/29 Fri - Tue	Chapter 10 - Public Opinion Chapter 11 - Interest Groups Chapter 12 - The Media and Politics	AG-10 AG-11 AG-12	GA#2 (Due 6/30)	Exam #5 (6/29)
VI	6/30 7/4 Wed - Sun	Chapter 13 - Political Parties Chapter 14 - Voting and Participation Chapter 15 - Campaigns and Elections	AG-13 AG-14 AG-15		Exam #6 (7/4)
VII	7/5 7/8 Mon - Thu	Chapter 16 - American Economic Policy Chapter 17 - American Social Policy Chapter 18 - American Foreign Policy	AG-16 AG-17 AG-18		Exam #7 (7/8)
7/9 Final Grade Posted					

*Note: AG = American Government, Election Edition (Textbook), e.g., AG-01 means American Government - Chapter 1.

Discussion Boards	<p>There are 18 discussion boards (one for each chapter). Every student is expected to actively participate in all Discussion Board assignments.</p> <p>Active participation is posting to the appropriate chapter discussion board forum and responding to questions and/or comments. You meet the participation requirement when you post your original comments to the designated discussion board and make at least one comment on another student's post. A single entry receives half credit.</p> <p>The deadline for making your original post is midnight on the second day of the Module for all chapters assigned in that Module. Your second post is due not later than midnight on the last day of the Module for all chapters assigned in that Module (see schedule). Posting to all chapters assigned for the Module is required. Posting to the discussion board within the prescribed times is particularly important because it is intended to be a student exchange. There is no credit for posting after the assigned deadlines.</p> <p>All posts should address the assigned topic and students should respect the opinion of others even though different from their own. Improper postings by a student are grounds for removal from the course.</p>
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<i>Withdrawal from the Course</i>	<p>If the student decides not to continue the course, it is the responsibility of the student to officially withdraw from the course through the Registrar's Office in order to receive a W grade instead of an F. If you are considering dropping a course because of lack of success, it is a good idea to consult your instructor before dropping the course.</p> <p>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 and receive a "W" is Monday, July 5, 2010.</p>
<i>Scholastic Integrity</i>	<p>Cheating on exams or the other graded assignments is not tolerated. The instructor has the authority to give a student an "F" for the specific assignment or for the course when there is evidence beyond a reasonable doubt that cheating occurred. Scholastic dishonesty shall include, but not be limited to cheating on a test, plagiarism, and collusion. Plagiarism is defined as any of the following:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none">• 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. <p><i>See Section 2, NCTC Catalog "Student Rights & Responsibilities: Student Conduct" page 175, paragraph 20.</i></p>
<i>EEOC Statement</i>	<p>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.</p>
<i>ADA Statement and the ACCESS and NETWORKS Programs</i>	<p>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.</p>

<p><i>ADA Statement and the ACCESS and NETWORKS Programs (continued)</i></p>	<p>Students with documented disabilities, such as mobility impairment, hearing or visual impairment, learning, and/or psychological disorders are eligible for services.</p> <p>ACCESS and NETWORKS 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 <u>Corinth Campus</u>, contact: Wayne Smith, Access Coordinator, at (kwsmith@nctc.edu), 940-498-6207 or Penny Cogbill, Departmental Assistant, at pcogbill@nctc.edu, 940-498-6212 or William Leija, Departmental Assistant, at wleija@nctc.edu, 940-498-6224 in Suite 170. For the <u>Gainesville, Bowie, or Graham Campuses</u>, contact Yvonne Sandmann, ACCESS Specialist, at (ysandmann@nctc.edu, (940) 668-7731 ext. 4321) in Room 110 on the Gainesville Campus.</p> <p>NETWORKS is a childcare reimbursement program that may assist technical students with partial childcare reimbursement for those that apply and qualify. Contact Yvonne Sandmann, ACCESS Specialist, for more information.</p>
<p><i>Additional Resources</i></p>	<p>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. 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. Contact Tracey Fleniken, Student Success Coordinator, at tfleniken@nctc.edu, 940-668-4209 in room 114 on the Gainesville Campus for more information.</p> <p>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 112 on the Gainesville Campus, and Room 124 on the Bowie Campus. Contact Jessica DeRoche, TRIO Coordinator, at jderoche@nctc.edu, 940-498-6212 on the Corinth Campus for more information.</p>

<i>Additional Resources (con't)</i>	Students can also access the Department of Student Success' website by going to www.nctc.edu and clicking on the Student Services link and Student Success or "Tutoring and Other ACADEMIC SUPPORT SERVICES", or by going directly to: http://www.nctc.edu/Student_Services/Access/AcademicandStudentSupportServices.htm
<i>Syllabus</i>	The procedures described in this syllabus are subject to change at the discretion of the instructor. This syllabus supersedes and replaces all previous editions for the Summer I (2010) online course.