

# NORTH CENTRAL TEXAS COLLEGE

## COURSE SYLLABUS

<i>Course Title:</i>	<b>Federal Government</b>				
<i>Course Prefix &amp; Number:</i>	<b>GOVT2305</b>	<i>Section Number:</i>	848	<i>Semester/Year:</i>	FA 19
<i>Semester Credit Hours:</i>	3	<i>Lecture Hours:</i>	3	<i>Lab Hours:</i>	0
<i>Course Description (NCTC Catalog):</i> Origin and development of the U.S. Constitution, structure and powers of the national government including the legislative, executive, and judicial branches, federalism, political participation, the national election process, public policy, civil liberties, and civil rights.					
<i>Course Prerequisite(s):</i> None					
<i>Required Course Materials:</i> Patterson, Thomas E. <i>We the People: An Introduction to American Government</i> . 13 <sup>th</sup> edition. McGraw Hill.					

### INSTRUCTOR INFORMATION

<i>Name of Instructor:</i>	Benjamin Vail
<i>Campus/Office Location:</i>	NCTC - Corinth
<i>Telephone Number:</i>	Message me via canvas, or email, as a preferred contact
<i>E-mail Address:</i>	bvail@nctc.edu

### OFFICE HOURS

<i>Monday – Thursday</i>	<i>20 minutes following class, or by appointment</i>		<i>Friday</i>	<i>By appointment</i>
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### STUDENT LEARNING OUTCOMES (From Academic Course Guide Manual/Workforce Education Course Manual/NCTC Catalog)

<i>At the successful completion of this course the student will be able to:</i>	
	Explain the origin and development of constitutional democracy in the United States.
	Demonstrate an understanding of our federal system.
	Describe separation of powers and checks and balances in both theory and practice.
	Demonstrate knowledge of the legislative, executive, and judicial branches of the federal government.
	Evaluate the role of public opinion, interest groups, and political parties in the political system.
	Analyze the election process.
	Describe the rights and responsibilities of citizens.
	Analyze issues and policies in U.S. Politics.

## **COURSE POLICIES**

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1. All work must be your own. I take academic dishonesty very seriously.
  2. Be respectful of your fellow classmates. During class refrain from using your headphones, playing video games, making phone calls, carrying on side conversations, etc.
  3. Please do your best to arrive on time, and plan on staying the entire time. You are more disruptive than you think coming in late and leaving early.
  4. Food and drink must not be disruptive to others (strong smells, loud packaging, etc.)
  5. Above all, apply the golden rule: do unto others, as you would have them do unto you.
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## **ATTENDANCE POLICY**

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Ben Vail's Absence Policy: Attendance is mandatory. If you are sick, or have to care for a sick family member, don't come to class. You should send me an email to let me know, stay home, and feel better.

NCTC Attendance Policy: Regular and punctual attendance is expected of all students in all classes for which they have registered. All absences are considered to be unauthorized unless the student is absent due to illness or emergencies as determined by the instructor. It is the student responsibility to provide documentation as to the emergency for approval and judgement by the faculty member. Approved college sponsored activities are the only absences for which a student should not be held liable and only when provided by a college official ahead of the absence. Valid reasons for absence, however, do not relieve the student of the responsibility for making up required work. Students will not be allowed to make up an examination missed due to absence unless they have reasons acceptable to the instructor. A student who is compelled to be absent when a test is given should petition the instructor, in advance if possible, for permission to postpone the exam. Student will be dropped from a class by the Registrar upon recommendation of the instructor who feels the student has been justifiably absent or tardy a sufficient number of times to preclude meeting the course's objectives. Persistent, unjustified absences from classes or laboratories will be considered sufficient cause for College officials to drop a student from the rolls of the College. From Board Policy FC (LOCAL)

Last day to withdraw from a course with a "W" is November 1, 2019.

## **Students with Differences in Ability or Expression**

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All students should feel free to approach me at any time with an explanation of a difference they may have with regards to their learning needs; and whether and how they would like a certain accommodation to be made. I am happy to make any reasonable accomodation that will help a student thrive in my class. I understand that not all differences are visible. Moreover,

The Office for Students with Disabilities (OSD) provides support services for students with disabilities, students enrolled in technical areas of study, and students who are classified as special populations (i.e. single parents).

Support services for students with disabilities might include appropriate and reasonable accommodations, or they may be in the form of personal counseling, academic counseling, career counseling, etc. Furthermore, OSD Counselors work with students to encourage self-advocacy and promote empowerment. The Counselors also provides resource information, disability-related information, and adaptive technology for students who qualify.

For support, please contact the counselors at (940) 498-6207 or (940) 668-4321. Alternatively, students may stop by Room 170 in Corinth or Room 110 in Gainesville.

**CORE CURRICULUM FOUNDATIONAL COMPONENT AREA** (For classes in the Core)

<input type="checkbox"/>	Communication	X	Government/Political Science
<input type="checkbox"/>	Mathematics	<input type="checkbox"/>	Social and Behavioral Sciences
<input type="checkbox"/>	Life and Physical Science	<input type="checkbox"/>	Component Area Option
<input type="checkbox"/>	Language, Philosophy & Culture	<input type="checkbox"/>	American History
<input type="checkbox"/>	Creative Arts		

**REQUIRED CORE OBJECTIVES** (For classes in the Core)

X	Critical Thinking	<input type="checkbox"/>	Teamwork
X	Communication	x	Personal Responsibility
<input type="checkbox"/>	Empirical and Quantitative	x	Social Responsibility

**COURSE TYPE**

<input type="checkbox"/>	Academic General Education Course (from ACGM but not in NCTC Core)
X	Academic NCTC Core Curriculum Course
<input type="checkbox"/>	WECM Course

**STUDENT HANDBOOK**

Students are expected to follow all rules and regulations found in the student handbook and published online.

**ACADEMIC DISHONESTY**

If I suspect a student of cheating, I will report that student. The student will have the opportunity to plead their case, and to appeal any decision I have made regarding academic dishonesty. The student has the right to have representation present during such pleas and/or any appeal process. I reserve the right to assign extra work, to adjust the score of a plagiarized assignment, or not accept work that is plagiarized, or to readjust the final grade in the class in the event of plagiarism.

Scholastic dishonesty shall include, but is not limited to cheating, plagiarism, academic falsification, intellectual property dishonesty, academic dishonesty facilitation and collusion. Faculty members may document and bring charges against a student who is engaged in or is suspected to be engaged in academic dishonesty. See Student Handbook, "Student Rights & Responsibilities: Student Conduct": <http://nctc.smartcatalogiq.com/2017-2018/Catalog/North-Central-Texas-College-Student-Handbook/Section-II/Student-Rights-and-Responsibilities-Student-Conduct>

**QUESTIONS, CONCERNS, or COMPLAINTS**

Name of Chair/Coordinator:	Crystal R.M. Wright
Office Location:	Gainesville Campus, Room 824
Telephone Number:	940-668-7731, ext. 4320
E-mail Address:	cwright@nctc.edu
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Name of Instructional Dean:	Dr. Bruce King
Office Location:	1500 North Corinth St, Corinth, TX 76208-5408
Telephone Number:	940-498-6464
E-mail Address:	bking@nctc.edu

**GRADING CRITERIA**

<i># of Graded Course Elements</i>	<i>Graded Course Elements</i>	<i>Percentage or Point Values</i>
1	Attendance	30%
2	Term Paper	40%
3	Midterm Exam	15%
4	Final Exam	15%
5	Extra Credit	Up to 5%

**COURSE SUBJECT OUTLINE (Major Assignments, Due Dates, and Grading Criteria)****Unit 1 – We the People**

1. August 25-31	Introduction, Political Culture	Chapter 1	
2. September 1-7	Mass Opinion, The Media	Chapter 6, 10	<i>Labor Day 09/02 (no class)</i>

**Unit 2 – Founding**

3. Sept. 8-14	Constitutionalism	Chapter 2	<i>Paper Topic Due</i>
4. Sept. 15-21	Federalism	Chapter 3	
5. Sept. 22-28	Civil Liberties	Chapter 4	
6. Sept. 29-Oct.5	Civil Rights	Chapter 5	<b>Midterm Exam</b>

**Unit 3 – Institutions**

7. Oct. 6-12	The Legislature	Chapter 11	
8. Oct. 13-19	The Presidency	Chapter 12	
9. Oct. 20-26	The Judiciary	Chapter 14	<i>Annotated Bibliography Due</i>

**Unit 4 – Public Participation**

10. Oct. 27-Nov.2	Voting and Political Parties	Chapter 7, 8	
11. Nov. 3-9	Interest Groups	Chapter 9	<i>Rough Draft Due</i>

**Unit 5 – Public Policy**

12. Nov. 10-16	Economic Policy	Chapter 15	
13. Nov. 17-23	Domestic Policy	Chapter 16	<i>Term Paper Due</i>
14. Nov. 24-30	Foreign Policy	Chapter 17	<i>Thanksgiving 27-30 (no class)</i>

**Wrapping up**

15. Dec.1-7	Catch Up Week		
16. Dec. 8-14	Final Exam Week		<b>Final Exam</b>