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| |  | | --- | | NORTH CENTRAL TEXAS COLLEGE  COURSE SYLLABUS | |

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| *Course Title:* | **Federal Government** | | | | | |
| *Course Prefix & Number:* | | **GOVT2305** | *Section Number:* |  | *Semester/Year:* |  |
| *Semester Credit Hours:* | | 3 | *Lecture Hours:* | 3 | *Lab Hours:* | 0 |
| *Course Description (NCTC Catalog):*  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. | | | | | | |
| *Course Prerequisite(s): None* | | | | | | |
| *Required Course Materials:*  Patterson, Thomas E. *We the People.* 13th edition. McGraw Hill. (E-book with Connect Plus Access)  ISBN 978-1264031919  3 Scantrons 882-E | | | | | | |

**INSTRUCTOR INFORMATION**

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| *Name of Instructor:* | Christine Millard |
| *Campus/Office Location:* | Flower Mound |
| *Telephone Number:* |  |
| *E-mail Address:* | cmillard@nctc.edu |

**OFFICE HOURS**

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| --- | --- | --- | --- | --- |
| *Monday* | *Tuesday* | *Wednesday* | *Thursday* | *Friday* |
| **11-12** |  | **11-12** |  |  |

**STUDENT LEARNING OUTCOMES** (From Academic Course Guide Manual/Workforce Education Course Manual/NCTC Catalog)

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| *At the successful completion of this course the student will be able to:* | |
|  | Explain the origin and development of constitutional democracy in the United States. |
|  | Demonstrate knowledge of the 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 SUBJECT OUTLINE** (Major Assignments, Due Dates, and Grading Criteria)

3 Exams (450): The Midterm Exam will include 50 Multiple Choice Answers and 5 Short Answer Questions.

Book Smarts (160): Each week you will complete the Book Smarts on McGraw-Hill Connect which are assigned. They will be due the Friday nights of the week they are lectured over in class.

Chapter Quizzes (160): Each week you will complete the Chapter Quiz on McGraw-Hill Connect which are assigned. They will be due the Friday nights of the week they are lectured over in class.

Participation (70): This is based on attendance and discussions in class. Students are required to show up, but to also play an active role within the class. Readings should be done before the class to facilitate discussions. Current events will be discussed in class.

2 Writing Assignment (160): Writing Assignments: You will have two writing assignments that will be uploaded to canvas by their due date. This should be at least 4 pages, Times New Roman, 12pt font. Double Spaced. **Citations should be in MLA format**. The paper should be uploaded to canvas at the end of the day on the day it is due. A paper without a work cited page and in-text citations will receive a zero.

**Grading Scale:**

**A=1000-900**

**B=899-800**

**C=799-700**

**D=699-600**

**F=599-0**

**ATTENDANCE POLICY**

**Attendance Policy:**

1.Each person is expected to come to every class on time and participate in all class activities.

1. You have the responsibility to complete all assigned work.
2. Religious Holy Days: please refer to the current Collin Student Handbook.
3. Students who fall behind and are failing are responsible for officially withdrawing themselves from the course. Failure to do so will likely result in a performance grade of “F.”
4. All papers and assignments should be turned in on time. **None will be accepted late or by email.**

**Attendance:**Students can miss **two** classes for any reason. Scheduled vacations, planned absences, illness and doctor’s appointments are not excused and count towards the one allowed absence. See the student handbook for more information.

**Technology:**

1)In Class Cell Phone Use and Texting Policy: Use of electronic equipment such as cell phones IS DISTRACTING to your classmates and the professor. Therefore, cell phone use and texting will not be permitted while class is in session, except under extraordinary circumstances and with the explicit prior permission the professor. NO TEXT MESSAGING DURING CLASS! It is required that all cell phones are put away in backpacks, purses, and or pockets; they shall NOT be placed on student desks. If they are out of sight, they will be out of mind, and we can have a distraction free class! The professor reserves the right to request you to leave the classroom if you fail to comply with the no cell phone/texting policy (and she will!). Please refer to Section 7-2-2-s in the Collin Student Handbook.

2) No IPODS, MP-3 players, blue tooth or other earphone listening devices. Earphones should be removed BEFORE YOU ENTER THE CLASSROOM!

3) Use of laptop computers and/or tablets can be beneficial and useful in class. However, these devices must be used appropriately for note-taking. The professor welcomes laptops and tablets when used appropriately for class purposes. If you may be distracted, or tempted to email friends, check Facebook, Instagram, surf the net or study for another class, it is recommended you leave your laptop or tablet in your backpack or at home. The professor reserves the right to ask you to leave the classroom if you use your laptop or tablet for uses other than class purposes.. The professor may ask you to email him a copy of the notes you are taking on your device to demonstrate that you are using it appropriately.

1. During exams ALL electronic and wireless devices should be TURNED OFF and PUT AWAY.

**Distracting Behaviors:**

During class students should be taking notes, asking questions and participating in the class discussion. Sleeping with your head down on the desk, staring off into space, carrying on a side conversation with a classmates, reading a textbook or going over notes for another class, reading the newspaper or a magazine…none of these are acceptable behaviors in class. If you are too tired to come to class; stay home, sleep and get the notes from a trusted classmate. If you need to study for another class, skip this class, do your studying elsewhere and get the notes from a trusted classmate. The professor reserves the right to ask you to leave the classroom if you engage in these or other distracting behaviors; and depending on the severity and/or recurrence of these behaviors may file a Student Incident Report.

**Reading the textbook** is extremely important and you cannot be successful in this course if you don’t do and keep up with the required reading assignments. Procrastinating and “cramming” the night before an exam has been shown to be an unsuccessful strategy. What this means is that you need to read the textbook in a timely fashion— BEFORE the chapter is covered in class—and you need to take notes and participate in all class activities.

Please remember that according to **FERPA** (the Federal Educational Rights Privacy Act of 1974, aka, the Buckley Amendment); the professor cannot discuss your grades with anyone other than **you**unless you grant him written permission each time to do so. This law also means that the professor can only discuss your grades via email through your cougarmail address which is considered to meet the privacy standards of FERPA.

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**DISABILITY SERVICES** (Office for Students with Disabilities)

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)\_\_\_\_\_\_\_

 Communication

 Mathematics

 Life and Physical Science

 Language, Philosophy & Culture

 Creative Arts

X Government/Political Science

 Social and Behavioral Sciences

 Component Area Option

 American History

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

X Critical Thinking

X Communication

 Empirical and Quantitative

 Teamwork

X Personal Responsibility

X Social Responsibility

**COURSE TYPE**

 Academic General Education Course (from ACGM but not in NCTC Core)

**X** Academic NCTC Core Curriculum Course

**** WECM Course

**STUDENT HANDBOOK**

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

**ACADEMIC DISHONESTY**

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 ([FLB(LOCAL)]”.

**QUESTIONS, CONCERNS, or COMPLAINTS**

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| 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 |
| 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 |

**Tentative Course Calendar**

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| Week | Topic | Assignments & Readings |
| 20-Jan | Syllabus, Intro |  |
| 27-Jan | Constitution | Chapter 2 |
| 3-Feb | Federalism | Chapter 3 |
| 10-Feb | Public Opinion and Media | Chapter 6 and 10 |
| 17-Feb | Political Participation | Chapter 7 |
| 24-Feb | Political Parties | Chapter 8 Exam 1(Feb 26) |
| 2-Mar | Interest Groups | Chapter 9 |
| 9-Mar | Legislature | Chapter 11 Assignment 1 Due (March 13) |
| 16-Mar |  | Spring Break |
| 23-Mar | Executive | Chapter 12 and 13 |
| 30-Mar | Judiciary | Chapter 14 |
| 6-Apr | Policy | Exam 2 (April 6) Chapter 15 |
| 13-Apr | Policy | Chapter 16 |
| 20-Apr | Policy | Chapter 17 |
| 27-Apr | Civil Liberites | Chapter 4 |
| 4-May | Civil Rights | Chapter 5 Assignment 2 Due (May 8) |
| 11-May |  | See Final Exam Schedule |