

NORTH CENTRAL TEXAS COLLEGE

COURSE SYLLABUS

Course Title:	Texas Government				
Course Prefix & Number:	GOVT2306	Section Number:	504	Semester/Year:	SP2020
Semester Credit Hours:	3	Lecture Hours:	3	Lab Hours:	0
Course Description (NCTC Catalog): Origin and Development of the Texas constitution, structure and powers of state and local government, federalism and inter-governmental relations, political participation, the election process, public policy and the political culture of Texas.					
Course Prerequisite(s): None					
Required Course Materials: Mora, Sherri. <u>The State of Texas</u> . 4 th edition. McGraw Hill Publishing. ISBN 978-1264031993					

INSTRUCTOR INFORMATION

Name of Instructor:	Professor Benjamin Vail
Campus/Office Location:	1525 West California Street - 824, Gainesville, TX 76240 (mail only)
Telephone Number:	940-668-7731 (no voicemail)
E-mail Address:	bvail@nctc.edu

OFFICE HOURS

Fifteen minutes before or after class, and online as noted below, and by appointment.

Monday	Tuesday	Wednesday	Thursday	Friday
8-10pm: sec 401	8-10pm: sec 844	8-10pm: sec 601		

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

At the successful completion of this course the student will be able to:	
	Explain the origin and development of the Texas Constitution.
	Demonstrate an understanding of state and local political systems and their relationship with the federal government.
	Describe separation of powers and checks and balances in both theory and practice in Texas.
	Demonstrate knowledge of the legislative, executive, and judicial branches of Texas government.
	Evaluate the role of public opinion, interest groups, and political parties in Texas.
	Analyze the state and local election process.
	Identify the rights and responsibilities of citizens.
	Analyze issues, policies, and political culture of Texas.

GRADING CRITERIA

# of Graded Course Elements	Graded Course Elements	Percentage or Point Values
1	Attendance and Participation	20% - 200 points
2	Text Book Assignments	10% - 100 points
3	Exams: two midterms and final - administered online	30% - 300 points
4	Term Paper	40% - 400 points
5	Extra Credit - up to half a letter grade	5% - 50 points

COURSE SUBJECT OUTLINE (Major Assignments, Due Dates, and Grading Criteria)

Week of:	Unit	Subject	Reading	Assignments
01/20 - 01/24	1, 2	Introduction / Texas Political Culture	Chapter 1	
01/27 - 01/31	3	Ideology and Texas Political Parties	Chapter 11	
02/03 - 02/07	4	Texas' Constitutions	Chapter 2	Paper Topic Due
02/10 - 02/14		First Midterm Examination		Exam 1
02/17 - 02/21	5	The Texas Legislature	Chapter 3	
02/24 - 02/28	6	The Texas Executive	Chapter 4	Annotated Bibliography Due
03/02 - 03/06	7	The Texas Judiciary	Chapter 5	
03/09 - 03/13		Second Midterm Examination		Exam 2
03/16 - 03/20		Spring Break		
03/23 - 03/27	8	Local Government	Chapter 7	Rough Draft Due
03/30 - 04/03	9	Public Policy	Chapter 13	
04/06 - 04/10	10	Texas Public Finance	Chapter 14	
04/13 - 04/17	11	Education in Texas		Term Paper Due
04/20 - 04/24	12	Energy and Environment in Texas		
04/27 - 05/01	13	Gender Politics in Texas		
05/04 - 05/08		Catch up week		
5/11 - 5/16		Final Examination – view Final Exam Schedule		Final Exam
5/16		Term ends – all grades must be submitted		

COURSE POLICIES

1. All work must be your own. I take academic integrity 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. The password to the syllabus exam is excelsior.
5. Food and drink must not be disruptive to others (strong smells, loud packaging, etc.)
6. Above all, apply the golden rule: do unto others, as you would have them do unto you.

ATTENDANCE POLICY

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.

Official 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 (North Central Texas College 2019-2020 Catalog Vol. 83, p.98, "Attendance Regulation"): <https://www.nctc.edu/catalog/all-catalogs/catalog-2019-2020.pdf>

Last day to withdraw from a course with a "W" is April 3.

Students with Differences in Ability or Expression (Office for Students with Disabilities)

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

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

- 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

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. Moreover,

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, Section II, "Student Rights & Responsibilities: Student Conduct" especially as regards to page 29-31 "Academic Dishonesty": <https://www.nctc.edu/documents/academics/student-handbook.pdf>

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
Name of Instructional Dean:	Dr. Bruce King
Office Location:	1500 North Corinth St, Corinth, TX 76208-5408
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