

# NORTH CENTRAL TEXAS COLLEGE

## COURSE SYLLABUS

### COURSE INFORMATION

Course Title:	Federal Government				
Course Prefix & Number:	GOVT2305	Section Number:	420	Semester/ Year:	SU2 2020
Semester Credit Hours:	3	Lecture Hours:	3	Lab Hours:	0
<p>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.</p>					
Course Prerequisite(s): None					
<p>Required Course Materials:            Patterson, Thomas E., <u>We the People</u>. 13<sup>th</sup> edition. McGraw Hill. (E-book with Connect Plus Access)  <i>ISBN 9781260442977</i></p>					

### 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: online - <https://nctclions.webex.com/meet/bvail>

Monday	Tuesday	Wednesday	Thursday	Friday
10:00am - 12:00pm	10:00am - 12:00pm	10:00am - 12:00pm	10:00am - 12:00pm	I will not take calls or answer emails after sunset on Friday
By Appointment	By Appointment	By Appointment	By Appointment	By Appointment

## GRADING CRITERIA

# of Graded Course Elements	Graded Course Elements	Percentage or Point Values
1	Exams - 5 midterms (5% each) + Final Exam (15%)	40%
2	Term Paper - Paper Topic, Annotated Bibliography, Rough Draft (5% each) + Final Draft (25%)	40%
3	Text Book	10%
4	Lecture Videos	10%
5	Extra Credit	Up to 10%

## ACADEMIC DISHONESTY / STUDENT HANDBOOK

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

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>

**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 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.

**CORE CURRICULUM FOUNDATIONS 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
X	Communication
<input type="checkbox"/>	Empirical and Quantitative
<input type="checkbox"/>	Teamwork
X	Personal Responsibility
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

**COURSE POLICIES**

1	All work must be your own. I take academic integrity very seriously.
2	All assignments must be completed by the due date, assignments will lose a letter grade (10%) each day they are late. After five days the maximum a student can earn for a late submission is 50%
3	The password to the syllabus exam is excelsior.
4	As this is class will be meeting online, be professional in all of your communications with your fellow classmates and with your professor, when we meet virtually in a conference, and in written communication with each other. Use your best “internet etiquette.” (mute your mic when you’re not talking, don’t have distracting things in the background, don’t flood the chat board with garbage, etc.) Be polite and respectful in online discussion boards, do not insult or attack your fellow classmates or your professor.

5	Above all, apply the golden rule: do unto others, as you would have them do unto you.
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## ATTENDANCE POLICY

Ben Vail's Absence Policy: Attendance and participation 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.

Ben Vail's Online Participation Policy: You are required to have access to the class page on Canvas, <https://nctc.instructure.com/courses/35887>, log in with your NCTC credentials via the OneLogin app, <https://nctc.onelogin.com/>. I will regularly post materials, and updates via the Canvas class page. If you are not logging in and not completing assignments I will assume that you have stopped "participating" in class, and I will drop you for non-attendance. The date of record for this class is July 20, 2020 and the last day to withdraw is August 5, 2020.

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 August 5, 2020.

**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.

**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
Telephone Number:	940-498-6464
E-mail Address:	bking@nctc.edu

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

<b>Unit</b>	<b>Topics: Lecture videos become available each week</b>	<b>Textbook Chapters*</b>	<b>Exams</b>	<b>Assignments</b>
Unit 1 - week of 07/12	Introduction Political Culture and Ideology	Textbook Chapters 1 and 2 due by 07/16	Exam 1 - 07/17	Paper Topic - 07/18
Unit 2 - week of 07/19	Mass Opinion Political Participation	Textbook Chapters 3 and 4 due by 07/23	Exam 2 - 07/24	Annotated Bibliography - 07/25
Unit 3 - week of 07/26	Political Parties Interest Groups Campaigns and Elections	Textbook Chapters 5 and 6 Due by 07/30	Exam 3 - 07/31	Rough Draft - 08/01
Unit 4 - week of 08/02	Public Policy Process Economic Policy	Textbook Chapters 11 and 12 due by 08/06	Exam 4 - 08/07	Final Draft - 08/08
Unit 5 - week of 08/09	Domestic Policy Foreign Policy	Textbook Chapters 13 and 14 due by 08/13	Exam 5 - 08/14	
Finals Week	Comprehensive Final Exam	...	Final Exam - 08/19	Final Grades, Attendance Rosters & Grade Rolls due at Noon 08/20

\*For the Textbook, you will have a list of assignments through the McGraw Hill Connect feature within Canvas. This will link you to the textbook chapters and assignments for that week.