1) **Catalog Description of the Course:** GOVT 2305 studies the 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. Prerequisites: Sophomore standing or consent of the instructor.

2) **Introduction and Rationale for the Course:** GOVT 2305 fulfills one-half (three hours) of the six hour requirement mandated by the Texas Legislature for all graduates of a public institution of higher education in the state of Texas.

3) **Instructional Materials**
   - **Required Materials**

4) **Student Learning Outcomes:**
   1. Explain the origin and development of constitutional democracy in the United States.
   2. Demonstrate knowledge of the federal system.
   3. Describe separation of powers and checks and balances in both theory and practice.
   4. Demonstrate knowledge of the legislative, executive, and judicial branches of the federal government.
   5. Evaluate the role of public opinion, interest groups, and political parties in the political system.
   6. Analyze the election process.
   7. Describe the rights and responsibilities of citizens.
   8. Analyze issues and policies in U.S. politics.

Student Learning Outcomes are measured by a mandatory Departmental Student Learning Outcomes Assessment located within the course on the Blackboard system. The assessment consists of multiple choice questions generated from the adopted textbook.

5) **Core Objectives**
   - **Critical Thinking Skills** - to include creative thinking, innovation, inquiry, and analysis, evaluation and synthesis of information
Communication Skills - to include effective development, interpretation and expression of ideas through written, oral and visual communication

Personal Responsibility - to include the ability to connect choices, actions and consequences to ethical decision-making

Social Responsibility: to include intercultural competence, knowledge of civic responsibility, and the ability to engage effectively in regional, national, and global communities

The Core Objectives are assessed by mandatory Departmental Core Objective Assessments located within the course on the Blackboard system. The assessments consist of “Signature Assignments” that are designed utilizing the Student Learning Outcomes and the standards of the college adopted rubrics for critical thinking skills, communication skills, personal responsibility, and social responsibility. The Core Objectives are evaluated according to the college adopted rubrics by the office of the Academic Dean and faculty. The Signature Assignments consist of two available options for assessment. Option “A” contains three separate pre-made writing assignments that assess the four core objectives. Option “B” allows for instructors to assign a single instructor-designed research project, paper, or reflective essay that assess the four core objectives.

6) Method of Instruction: The method of instruction for this course will consist of lectures, class discussion, and Powerpoint presentations

Method of Evaluation: Exams will consist of 60% of the student’s final grade, departmental assessments must comprise 25%, and other assignments (chapter quizzes, projects, research paper, etc.) may constitute the remaining 15% of the final grade.

1. Exams: Three Major exams will be given at the completion of each unit. Instructors may also choose to administer a cumulative final exam. The exams will constitute no less than 60% of the student’s final grade.

2. Student Learning Outcomes and Core Objective Assessments: The Student Learning Outcomes assessment will comprise 5% of the grade. A Critical Thinking and Communication assessment will comprise 10% of the grade. A Personal Responsibility assessment, and a Social Responsibility assessment will each comprise 5% of the course grade for a total of 25% for all Departmental assessments. The departmental core objective assessments are described in section 15 (Course Outline).

3. Quizzes/Activities/Projects: One paper will be required and will consist of will comprise 15% of the course grade.

7) Grading Criteria: Grade evaluation will conform to the established policy of Navarro College as stated in the College catalog: A=90-100%; B=80-89%; C=70-79%; D=60-69%; F=59% or below.

8) Attendance/Withdrawal Policy: Regular attendance in class is a student obligation, and absence from class is not recognized as a student privilege. Attendance in this online class is recorded weekly by completed assignments. Students who miss three weeks of assigned work will be dropped from the course by the Registrar.
9) **Special notes:**

- If you are receiving financial aid grants or loans, you must begin attendance in all classes. Do not drop or stop attending any class without consulting the Financial Aid Office. Changes in your enrollment level and/or failing grades may require you to repay financial aid funds.

- According to current Texas law, dropping a course may have serious academic consequences as well. Under most circumstances, a maximum of 6 courses may be dropped throughout the entire undergraduate degree program. Before you decide to withdraw from this or any other course, make sure you understand the consequences. For more information see the Office of the Registrar.

10) The focus of the Navarro College QEP is to increase student completion in developmental and credit-bearing mathematics courses necessary to meet degree requirements. This initiative is designed to support student learning in mathematics and assist students in meeting their educational goals.—*Together Everyone Achieves Math Mastery –TEA(M)*²

- **Tobacco Free Campuses:** The use of any tobacco products or other related devices (e.g., cigarettes, pipes, cigars, electronic cigarettes, vapor devices) is prohibited in college buildings and on college grounds, including parking areas and structures, sidewalks, walkways, and college owned buildings.

- **Academic dishonesty:** Anyone caught cheating on any assignment, exam, or paper will receive a 0 for the work assigned.

- **Late work/makeup exams:** Makeup work will only be allowed with prior notification of the absence with the instructor.

12) **EEOC Statement:** Navarro College shall comply with existing federal and state laws and regulations, including the Civil Rights Act of 1964 (P. L. 88-352) and Executive Order 11246 (Revised Order #4), where applicable, with respect to the availability of student loans, grants, scholarships, and job opportunities, with respect to the employment and promotion of teaching and non-teaching personnel, with respect to the student and faculty activities conducted on premises owned or occupied by the College. Navarro College shall not discriminate either in favor of or against any person on account of race, color, religion, creed, sex, age, national origin, ancestry, handicap, marital status or veterans status.

13) **Services for Students:**

- **Students with Disabilities:** Navarro College is committed to providing all students equal access to learning opportunities. The Disability Services Office (DSO) is the campus office that works with students who have disabilities to provide and/or arrange reasonable accommodations. Students who have, or think they may have, a disability (e.g. mental health, attentional, learning, vision, hearing, physical, or systemic) are invited to contact the DSO at 903-875-7377 or the appropriate Navarro College Disability Services Representative on your campus to arrange a
confidential discussion. Additional information is available at the DSO website: http://www.navarrocollege.edu/support-services/disability-services/

- If you have emergency medical information to share with me, or if you need special arrangements in case the building must be evacuated, please make an appointment with me as soon as possible. Please refer to the first page of the syllabus for my office location, hours, and contact information.

- **Tutorial services**: Tutoring services are available for a variety of course subjects at Navarro College. Contact the counseling department on your campus for information if you are having difficulty in a course.

- **Special populations students**: Navarro College provides, through the Carl Perkins Career Center, a variety of services for students who are single parents, displaced homemakers, persons with disabilities, students majoring in nontraditional occupations, and limited English-speaking students. Students falling into one or more of these categories should contact the Carl Perkins Career Center, located on the second floor of the One-Stop Center (Gooch Building) on the Corsicana campus, for details concerning these services. Please note that the center is funded through a federal grant and the level of service depends on funding available. Students must meet specific requirements as defined by the federal government.

14) **Subject to Change**: The course syllabus above and/or the Course Outline below may be changed as the term progresses at the discretion of the instructor.

15) **Course Outline**: All Assignments are due before midnight on the following dates.

- June 9 – Critical Thinking Essay Due
- June 15 – Exam One Due (Chapters 3, 4, 5, and 7)
- June 21 – Social Responsibility Essay Due
- June 27 – Exam Two Due (Chapters 8, 9, 10, and 11)
- June 30 – Personal Responsibility Essay Due
- July 5 – Term Paper Due
- July 6 – Student Learning Objective Exam Due
- July 7 – Exam 3 Due (Chapters 12, 14, and 15)