

PSCI 2306. Section 004: US and Texas Constitutions and Institutions

COURSE DESCRIPTION

Whose voices do American politicians and policymakers listen to and consider when they design policies? How do our rules and laws have an impact on whose interests are represented and how public policies are designed at the federal and state levels? This course will answer these questions by introducing you to the United States and Texas governments and institutions. We will explore topics including the nation's founding and constitutional framework, Congress, the presidency, the bureaucracy, the courts, civil liberties, and civil rights.

As with any political science course, this course is designed to encourage you to become a critical and active participant in American politics and your community. Specifically, by the end of this course, you will:

- Develop an in-depth understanding of the structure and function of American and Texan political institutions, including Congress, the presidency, the bureaucracy, and the courts;
- Develop an understanding of how the 3 branches of government and federal and state governments have separate and shared powers;
- Develop the ability to critically reflect on the degree to which the American political system lives up to its democratic ideals;
- Produce coherent, convincing written and oral arguments about important issues in American politics; and
- Develop the ability to discuss controversial issues and share your thoughts with others, including those you disagree with, in a thoughtful, respectful manner.

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PART 1: HOW DOES CLASS WORK? STRUCTURE AND REQUIREMENTS

COURSE LEARNING OBJECTIVES: WHAT WILL WE LEARN TO DO?

- Critical Thinking – you will demonstrate creative thinking, innovation, analysis, evaluation, and synthesis of information
- Communication – you will effectively develop, interpret, and express ideas through written, oral, and visual communication
- Personal Responsibility – you will be able to connect choices, actions, and consequences to ethical decision-making

- Social Responsibility – you will demonstrate increased intercultural competence, knowledge of civic responsibility, and the ability to engage effectively in regional, national, and global communities.

COURSE FORMAT

This class is designed as an in-person lecture, with some small group discussions built-in. Each day, you should come to class having read the assigned pages from the textbook before class. Those assignments are all listed by date in Part 2 (page 6). I ask you to read before class so that you have the opportunity to ask questions about what you read when we discuss each topic in class. You will also retain the material better if you see it before class and revisit it during class. Sometimes seeing the material presented in multiple different ways can also help you better understand the information.

Before class, I will also post the lecture slides for each day on Canvas. I strongly encourage you download those slides on to your device or print them out before class so that you can take notes in or on the lecture slide documents during class. Coming to class with the slides will help you take notes more effectively. If you have slides with you, you can annotations to material outlined on the slides, rather than trying to copy down all of the information that was already provided to you. Moreover, the slides alone (in this class, and most college classes) will never provide all of the information you need, so adding your own notes to the slides will help you make sure you capture all of the relevant material and stay engaged during class.

IMPORTANT DUE DATES AND EXAM DATES

Due Date	Assignment
August 28	Syllabus Quiz
September 2	Constitution (Ch. 1) Workbook Assignment
September 9	Federalism (Ch. 2) Workbook Assignment
September 16	Exam #1
September 30	The Legislative Branch (Ch. 3) Workbook Assignment
October 7	The Presidency (Ch. 4) Workbook Assignment
October 14	The Bureaucracy (Ch. 5) Workbook Assignment
October 28	Exam #2
November 4	The Courts (Ch. 6) Workbook Assignment
November 11	Civil Liberties (Ch. 7) Workbook Assignment
November 18	Civil Rights (Ch. 8) Workbook Assignment
December 2	Exam #3
December 9	Final Exam (Optional if you took all 3 previous exams)

REQUIRED COURSE MATERIALS AND READINGS

Textbook (Available in electronic and print versions)

Abernathy, Scott. 2025. *American Government: Stories of Nation. Fifth Edition*. Washington, DC: Sage. ISBN# 9781071929711.

- This textbook provides background on all of the information in the lectures. It will help you review and retain the information by seeing it presented multiple times in different ways.
- If it is cheaper, you may use previous editions of the textbook, but the page numbers for the readings will not line up exactly with the assignments listed in the syllabus; info on the most recent elections will also be out-of-date.

- I do not have a preference between the electronic and print version of the text. Use what works best for you.

Workbook (Online; Accessed on our Class Canvas site)

Eshbaugh-Soha, Matthew, ed. *PSCI 2306 Workbook*. Asheville, NC: Soomo Learning. ISBN: 978-1-954890-87-9.

- This is an online textbook that you access through Canvas or buy an access code for at the UNT Bookstore.
- The workbook contains required homework assignments that helps us meet our learning goals and make connections between what we learn in class and the real world.

COURSE REQUIREMENTS

Final course grades will be based on **4 exams, 8 workbook assignments, 1 syllabus quiz, and participation in activities that occur during class.**

Exams (In Class) Exam 1 Exam 2 Exam 3 Exam 4	50% of final grade Your lowest score from all 4 exams (including the final) will be dropped.
Workbook Assignments Workbook Assignment 1 Workbook Assignment 2 Workbook Assignment 3 Workbook Assignment 4 Workbook Assignment 5 Workbook Assignment 6 Workbook Assignment 7 Workbook Assignment 8	35% of final grade
In-Class Activities	10% of final grade <u>You may miss two in-class activities</u> and still receive full credit for participating in these activities. In other words, everyone gets 2 free passes to miss 2 in-class activities without it affecting your grade! If you miss an in-class activity for a university-excused absence, you can arrange to make it up.
Syllabus Quiz	5% of final grade

Canvas Exams (4)

The first three exams will be non-cumulative exams that are given in class and each one will cover roughly one-third of the course material. The fourth exam will be given during finals and it will be cumulative, covering material from the entire semester. Each exam will consist of 50 multiple choice and true/false questions. The exams will test your comprehension of the course materials and your understanding of the underlying concepts. You are expected to be familiar with the major themes and ideas that have been covered in ***all*** required class readings, lectures, activities, and discussions. The best way to prepare for the exams is to attend class, take good notes, and complete all of the readings and workbook assignments. Exams will be open notes.

Make up exams will not be given unless you have a **documented** university-excused absence. If you will miss an exam for a university-excused absence, you should arrange for a make-up exam **BEFORE** your excused absence. In other words, if you will miss an exam due to participation in UNT activities, religious holidays, or any of the other reasons that are considered excused absences, you should arrange to take the exam prior to your excused absence. If you do not have written documentation of your excused absence, you must take the exam as scheduled. **If you do have an excused absence and you need to take a make-up exam, you must do within one week of the original test date.** If you miss an exam for a non-documented, non-excused absence (e.g., you skipped class, overslept, got stuck in traffic, had car trouble, had the exam time wrong, etc.), you will not be able to make up the test. Please be aware that UNT does not consider work conflicts to be excused absences.

Online Workbook Assignments (8)

You are required to complete the **multiple-choice questions** associated with each of the eight assigned chapters in the PSCI 2306 Workbook. There are eight workbook chapters and each one is organized around topics and skills that Texas Higher Education Coordinating board requires you to learn: (1) critical thinking skills, (2) social responsibility, (3) communication skills, and (4) personal responsibility.

Each workbook assignment will be **due at 11:59 PM on the day** we finish each topic. For example, if we complete a topic on a Tuesday, the associated workbook assignment will be due at 11:59 PM on Tuesday night. Because I know things come up, I also offer a 48 hour late grace period for workbook assignment submissions. After 48 hours, no late assignments will be accepted (no exceptions). Those deadlines are in place to help ensure that you do not fall too far behind over the course of the semester.

If financial issues are preventing you from purchasing the workbook, you should come see me BEFORE THE FIRST WORKBOOK ASSIGNMENT IS DUE so that we can address those issues and plan for you to complete your homework on time. I am more than happy to help you figure out how to address these issues if they come up!

However, to be fair to everyone in the class, due dates will not be extended for financial reasons, so it is important to see me before the assignments are due so that we can come up with a solution to the issue without it negatively impacting your grade.

Please also be aware that the workbook provides a free trial, which can buy you some more time to get the money together to purchase the workbook. The free trial period lasts 3 weeks, but it will not allow you to complete all 8 assignments during that 3-week period. Thus, the free trial will give you some extra time to buy the workbook, but it will only allow you to complete the first couple of assignments before it runs out.

In-Class Activities

You will also earn credit for participating in brief, in-class small group activities throughout the semester. These activities are designed to spur discussion and help you critically reflect on the materials. To encourage attendance (which is one of the best predictors of success in this class), activities will not be announced before class. You can earn credit for participating in these activities by being in the classroom when the activity occurs (i.e., you will not be able to complete activities you missed because you arrived late to class or left class early).

To provide some flexibility for issues that may require you to miss class (e.g. work conflicts, illness, family situations, unanticipated emergencies, classic DFW area traffic disasters, etc), your two lowest activity scores will be dropped. Thus, you can miss 2 activities without those zeroes negatively impacting your grade.

Beyond your two “free passes,” activity grades can only be made up if you have a university-excused absence. In those cases, activities must be made up within one week to ensure that you do not fall too far behind the class to get caught up. To make up an activity you missed for an excused absence, you should provide Dr. English with documentation of your excused absence (e.g. a doctor’s not, a note from your coach, etc. explaining why you missed class) and arrange for a make-up either during office hours or by appointment.

If you miss an in-class activity for a non-documented, non-excused absence (e.g., you skipped class, overslept, got stuck in traffic, had car trouble, etc.), you will not be able to make up the assignment. Please make sure you attend class and do your best to arrive on time!

PART 2: WHAT'S THE PLAN?
COURSE SCHEDULE, HOMEWORK ASSIGNMENTS, AND DUE DATES

All reading assignments should be completed before class, on the day that they are listed.

Tuesday, August 19: Course Introduction

- Read the entire syllabus.
- Purchase the **required** *PSCI 2306 Workbook*. This is a digital textbook that you will access on Canvas. To get to the workbook, click on Assignments, and then navigate to any of the workbook chapters to purchase the workbook directly through Canvas or to enter the access code you received from the UNT Bookstore. You will need to purchase this workbook to complete required, graded homework assignments.
- Purchase the **required** *American Government* textbook. This is a traditional textbook that is available in both print and digital formats. The readings in this textbook will supplement the information provided in lectures. It may be particularly helpful if you have limited prior coursework in American government and American history.

PART I: AMERICAN FOUNDATIONS, POLITICAL CULTURE, AND THE CONSTITUTION

Thursday, August 21: Key Concepts and American Political Culture

- Before class read *American Government*, Chapter 1 (pages 1-10)
- Before class, take the Pew Research Center's Political Typology Quiz available at: <https://www.pewresearch.org/politics/quiz/political-typology/>

Tuesday, August 26: Declaration of Independence and the US Constitution

- Before class read the Declaration of Independence: <https://www.archives.gov/founding-docs/declaration-transcript>
- Before class read the Constitution of the United States: <https://www.archives.gov/founding-docs/constitution-transcript>
- Before class read *American Government*, Chapter 1 (10-26)

Thursday, August 28: US Constitution

- **Due Date: Syllabus Quiz Due Today at 11:59 PM**
- Before class read *American Government*, Chapter 2

Tuesday, September 2: Texas Constitution

- **Due today: PSCI 2306 Workbook, The Constitution (Ch. 1) Assignment**

Thursday, September 4: Federalism

- Before class read *American Government*, Chapter 3

Tuesday, September 9: Contemporary Federalism

- **Due Date: PSCI 2306 Workbook, Federalism (Chapter 2) due at 11:59 PM**

Thursday, September 11: Review for Exam 1

- No Reading

Tuesday, September 16: Exam 1 on American Foundations, Political Culture, and The Constitution

- Exam will ONLY be open on Canvas during our regular class meeting time. You will have 50 minutes to complete the test. Plan accordingly.

PART II: THE LEGISLATIVE AND EXECUTIVE BRANCHES**Thursday, September 18: Congressional Powers and Responsibilities and Congressional Organization**

- Before class read *American Government*, Chapter 12 (pages 287-297)

Tuesday, September 23: Congressional Organization and the Legislative Process

- Before class read *American Government*, Chapter 12 (297-305)

Thursday, September 25: Influencing the Legislative Process

- Before class read *American Government*, Chapter 11 (271-278)

Tuesday, September 30: Congressional Elections and Representation

- **Due Date: PSCI 2306 Workbook, The Legislative Process (Chapter 3) due at 11:59 PM**
- Before class read *American Government*, Chapter 10 (pages 244-251); Chapter 12 (pages 306-314)

Thursday, October 2: The Presidency

- Before class read *American Government*, Chapter 13

Tuesday, October 7: The Presidency

- **Due Date: PSCI 2306 Workbook, The Presidency (Chapter 4) due at 11:59 PM**

Thursday, October 9: The Bureaucracy

- Before class read *American Government*, Chapter 14

Tuesday, October 14: The Bureaucracy

- **Due Date: PSCI 2306 Workbook, The Bureaucracy (Chapter 5) due at 11:59 PM**

Thursday, October 16: Texas Legislative and Executive Branches

- No Reading

Tuesday, October 21: Review for Exam 2**Thursday, October 28: Exam 2 on the Legislative and Executive Branches**

- Exam will ONLY be open on Canvas during our regular class meeting time. You will have 50 minutes to complete the test. Plan accordingly.

PART 3: THE COURTS, CIVIL LIBERTIES, AND CIVIL RIGHTS**Thursday, October 30: The Courts**

- Before class read *American Government*, Chapter 15

Tuesday, November 4: The Courts

- **Due Date: PSCI 2306 Workbook, The Courts (Chapter 6) due at 11:59 PM**

Thursday, November 6: Civil Liberties

- Before class read *American Government*, Chapter 4

Tuesday, November 11: Civil Liberties

- **Due today: PSCI 2306 Workbook, Civil Liberties (Ch. 7) Assignment**

Thursday, November 13: Civil Rights

- Before class read *American Government*, Chapter 5

Tuesday, November 18: Civil Rights

- **Due today: PSCI 2306 Workbook, Civil Rights (Ch. 8) Assignment**

Thursday, November 20: Exam 3 Review**Tuesday, November 25: No Class (Thanksgiving)****Thursday, November 27: No Class (Thanksgiving)****Tuesday, December 2: Exam 3 on The Courts, Civil Rights, and Civil Liberties**

- Exam will ONLY be open on Canvas during our regular class meeting time. You will have 50 minutes to complete the test. Plan accordingly.

Thursday, December 4: Final Exam Review**Tuesday, December 9: Final Exam from 1:30-2:20 PM**

- Exam will ONLY be open on Canvas during our assigned final exam time. You will have 50 minutes to complete the test. Plan accordingly.

PART 3: DR. ENGLISH'S COURSE POLICIES AND TIPS FOR SUCCESS

Communications and Email

Throughout the semester, I will primarily communicate with the class using our Canvas site and email. I will keep the class updated on upcoming activities and provide other timely notifications using the “Announcements” feature on Canvas.

If you have substantive questions about the course or the material, American politics more broadly, or any concerns about the class or other situations that are bothering you, I strongly encourage you to come see me during my office hours (listed above) or make an appointment if you have a conflict with my office hours. I am happy to help! My office hours are designed to give me an opportunity to talk to students, so you will not be interrupting if you come see me. In fact, I like to use those hours to get to know students better.

Email is also an excellent way to reach me, but please note that it is often more effective to discuss substantive questions and concerns in-person during office hours. **If you contact me by email between Monday and Friday, I will do my best to respond within 24 hours.** When you send emails, please include the course number (PSCI 2306) in the subject line of your email along with a brief description of the class-related subject you would like to discuss. CLEAR has also developed a website (<https://clear.unt.edu/online-communication-tips>) with online communication tips that you may find helpful.

I will not discuss grades over email, so you will need to meet with me to discuss any issues with your grade. If you wish to dispute a grade, please be aware that a significant amount of time and effort are dedicated to grading student assignments. That being said, if you would like to dispute a grade, you must set up a meeting with me and provide, in writing, a clear explanation as to why a different grade is in order and what grade you believe is appropriate prior to our meeting. All grade dispute requests **must be submitted within one week** of the date that grades are made available to the class and grade disputes will not be considered past the one-week dispute period. Please be advised that I will not change grades simply because you believe they “want” or “need” a higher grade. Also, when I review work for grade disputes, I reserve the right to leave the grade unchanged, raise the grade, or lower the grade.

Attendance and Excused Absences

Attendance in this course will be monitored through the in-class activities I described above. To make the most efficient use of our time together, I will not take attendance every day. However, if you want to do well in class, you should plan to attend class every day. The exams in this class are heavily focused on the material presented in class lectures and activities. Thus, the best predictor of success in the class is attending class regularly, participating, and taking good notes while you are in class.

Exams must be taken during our regular class time and make ups will only be available if you have a UNT excused absence as defined below. If you are ill or unavailable for a scheduled exam, you need to contact me to determine whether you have an excused absence that will allow you to make up the exam. Please note that work conflicts are not included in UNT's list of excused absences.

In accordance with UNT's attendance policy, absences will be excused for religious holy days, active military service, participation in official university functions, illness or other extenuating circumstances, pregnancy and parenting under Title IX, and when the University is officially closed by the President. As the policy states, you are required to request and document their excused absences with me. If you have an excused absence, please provide me with notice and documentation for that absence as soon as possible. More information on UNT's attendance policy is available at:

http://policy.unt.edu/sites/default/files/untpolicy/15.2.5_StudentAttendance_May2016.pdf.

Exam Policy

You will take four exams in this course. All four exams will be given in-person, in-class according to the schedule listed in the syllabus. To provide you with an opportunity to improve and give you some flexibility, I will drop the lowest of each student's four exam grades when I calculate final course grades at the end of the semester. This means if you do well on your first three exams, you can skip the final exam because that grade would be dropped.

Students are allowed to bring 1 8.5 by 11-inch page of notes with them to the exam. Your notes can take up both sides of the paper. You will be asked to turn your notes page, with your name on it, when you turn in your test. No other notes are allowed and all notes must be completely and entirely your own. If the TA's notice students' notes pages show signs of collaboration, I reserve the right to make exams closed note instead.

Grading Scale

Grades will follow the standard scale listed below and will be posted on Canvas. As you can see from the chart below, grades will be rounded to the nearest tenth.

A	100-90.0%
B	89.9-80.0%
C	79.9-70.0%
D	69.9-60.0%
F	Below 60%

Incomplete and Late Work Policy

Please make note of **all of the due dates** and **plan accordingly**. **Workbook assignments will be accepted late for ½ credit for 48 hours after the original due date.** After that, assignments will not be accepted for credit unless the student has documented, extenuating circumstances and provides documentation within 24 hours of the missed deadline. These due dates are in place to make sure you stay on track throughout the semester.

Extra Credit

I do not provide individual opportunities for extra credit because I have never found a way to provide them that is fair to other members of the class. To be successful in this class, you should focus on completing the required assignments to the best of their ability.

If you do not do well on your assignments, I encourage you to see me for assistance as soon as possible. We will be happy to work with you to improve your grades, but it is your responsibility to seek out help if you need it.

Canvas

This course has a Canvas site, which is available at <https://canvas.unt.edu>. The Canvas site contains administrative information about the course, course assignments, student grades, and lecture slides (posted after class). I encourage you to check the it regularly.

Technical Assistance

Here at UNT we have a Student Help Desk that you can contact for help with Canvas or other technology issues.

UIT Help Desk: [UIT Student Help Desk site](http://www.unt.edu/helpdesk/index.htm) (<http://www.unt.edu/helpdesk/index.htm>)

Email: helpdesk@unt.edu

Phone: 940-565-2324

In Person: Sage Hall, Room 130

Walk-In Availability: 8am-9pm

Telephone Availability: Sunday: noon-midnight; Monday-Thursday: 8am-midnight; Friday: 8am-8pm; Saturday: 9am-5pm

Laptop Checkout: 8am-7pm

For additional support, visit [Canvas Technical Help](#)

PART 4: UNT POLICIES

Americans with Disabilities Act Statement and Disability Accommodations Process

UNT makes reasonable academic accommodation for students with disabilities. If you are seeking accommodation, you must first register with the Office of Disability Accommodation (ODA) to verify their eligibility. If a disability is verified, the ODA will provide you with an accommodation letter to be delivered to me to begin a private discussion regarding one's specific course needs.

You may request accommodations at any time; however, ODA notices of accommodation should be provided as early as possible in the semester to avoid any delay in implementation. Note that you must obtain a new letter of accommodation for every semester and must meet with each faculty member prior to implementation in each class. For additional information see the ODA website at disability.unt.edu.

Emergency Notification and Procedures

UNT uses a system called Eagle Alert to quickly notify you with critical information in the event of an emergency (i.e., severe weather, campus closing, and health and public safety emergencies like chemical spills, fires, or violence). In the event of a university closure, please refer to Canvas for contingency plans for covering course materials.

Prohibition of Discrimination, Harassment, and Retaliation

The University of North Texas (UNT) prohibits discrimination and harassment because of race, color, national origin, religion, sex, sexual orientation, gender identity, gender expression, age, disability, genetic information, veteran status, or any other characteristic protected under applicable federal or state law in its application and admission processes; educational programs and activities; employment policies, procedures, and processes; and university facilities. The University takes active measures to prevent such conduct and investigates and takes remedial action when appropriate.

Sexual Discrimination, Harassment, and Assault

UNT is committed to providing a safe learning environment free of all forms of sexual misconduct, including sexual harassment sexual assault, domestic violence, dating violence, and stalking. Federal laws (Title IX and the Violence Against Women Act) and UNT policies prohibit discrimination on the basis of sex, and therefore prohibit sexual misconduct. If you or someone you know is experiencing sexual harassment, relationship violence, stalking, and/or sexual assault, there are campus resources available to provide support and assistance. UNT's Survivor Advocates can assist a student who has been impacted by violence by filing protective orders, completing crime victim's compensation applications, contacting professors for absences related to an assault, working with housing to facilitate a room change where appropriate, and connecting you to other resources available both on and off campus. The Survivor Advocates can be reached at SurvivorAdvocate@unt.edu or by calling the Dean of Students Office at 940-565-2648. Additionally, alleged sexual misconduct can be non-confidentially reported to the Title IX Coordinator at oeo@unt.edu or at (940) 565-2759.

Mandatory Reporter (Sexual Assaults)

As a UNT faculty member, I am required to share information regarding sexual assault and retaliation and sexual harassment with the university. Therefore, I want to be transparent that while I will seek to keep information that you share with me about your life in classroom discussions, your written work, one-on-one meetings, and/or emails private, I am required to disclose information about sexual misconduct to UNT's Office of Equal Opportunity. For more information on reporting sexual misconduct at UNT, please see: <https://deanofstudents.unt.edu/sexual-misconduct/reporting-sexual-misconduct>.

Retention of Student Records

Student records pertaining to this course are maintained in a secure location by the instructor of record. All records such as exams, answer sheets (with keys), and written papers submitted during the duration of the course are kept for at least one calendar year after course completion. Course work completed via the Canvas online system, including grading information and comments, is also stored in a safe electronic environment for one year. You have the right to view their individual record; however, information about student's records will not be divulged to other individuals without proper written consent. You are encouraged to review the Public Information Policy and the Family Educational Rights and Privacy Act (FERPA) laws and the University's policy. See UNT Policy 10.10, Records Management and Retention for additional information.

ETHICS AND CONDUCT

Academic Misconduct: Cheating and Plagiarism

According to UNT Policy 06.003, Student Academic Integrity, academic dishonesty occurs when students engage in behaviors including, but not limited to cheating, fabrication, facilitating academic dishonesty, forgery, plagiarism, and sabotage. A finding of academic dishonesty may result in a range of academic penalties or sanctions ranging from admonition to expulsion from the University. <http://facultysuccess.unt.edu/academic-integrity>.

The Political Science Department adheres to and enforces UNT's policy on academic integrity (cheating, plagiarism, forgery, fabrication, facilitating academic dishonesty and sabotage). You should review the policy, which is located at: http://policy.unt.edu/sites/default/files/untpolicy/pdf/7-Student_Affairs-Academic_Integrity.pdf.

Violations of academic integrity in this course will be addressed in compliance with the penalties and procedures laid out in this policy. You may appeal any decision under this policy by following the procedures laid down in the UNT Policy Manual Section 18.1.16 "Student Standards of Academic Integrity."

You should note that according to the UNT policy, "cheating" includes, but is not limited to: "1) the use of any unauthorized assistance to take exams, tests, quizzes, or other assessments; 2) dependence upon the aid of sources beyond those authorized by the instructor in writing papers, preparing

reports, solving problems, or carrying out other assignments; 3) the acquisition, without permission of tests, notes, or other academic materials belonging to a faculty or staff member of the University; 4) dual submission of a paper or project, or re-submission of a paper or project to a different class without express permission from the instructor; 5) any other act designed to give a student an unfair advantage on an academic assignment.”

According to UNT policy, plagiarism is defined as the “use of another’s thoughts or words without proper attribution in any academic exercise *regardless of the student’s intent*” (emphasis mine). It includes, but is not limited to: “1) the knowing or negligent use by paraphrase or direct quotation of the published or unpublished work of another person without full and clear acknowledgement or citation; 2) the knowing or negligent unacknowledged use of materials prepared by another person or by an agency engaged in selling term papers or other academic materials.”

Rules of Engagement and Classroom Conduct

Rules of engagement refer to the way you are expected to interact with each other and with me in our classroom community. Here are some general guidelines:

- While the freedom to express yourself is a fundamental human right, any communication that utilizes cruel and derogatory language on the basis of race, color, national origin, religion, sex, sexual orientation, gender identity, gender expression, age, disability, genetic information, veteran status, or any other characteristic protected under applicable federal or state law will not be tolerated.
- Treat your instructor and classmates with respect in any communication online or face-to-face, even when their opinion differs from your own.
- Ask for and use the correct name and pronouns for your instructor and classmates.
- Speak from personal experiences. Use “I” statements to share thoughts and feelings. Try not to speak on behalf of groups or other individual’s experiences.
- Use your critical thinking skills to challenge other people’s ideas, instead of attacking individuals.
- Avoid using all caps while communicating digitally. This may be interpreted as “YELLING!”
- Be cautious when using humor or sarcasm in emails or discussion posts as tone can be difficult to interpret digitally.
- Avoid using “text-talk” unless explicitly permitted by your instructor.
- Proofread and fact-check your sources.
- Keep in mind that online posts can be permanent, so think first before you type.

See these [Engagement Guidelines](https://clear.unt.edu/online-communication-tips) (<https://clear.unt.edu/online-communication-tips>) for more information.

Acceptable Student Behavior

Student behavior that interferes with an instructor’s ability to conduct a class or other students’ opportunity to learn is unacceptable and disruptive and will not be tolerated in any instructional form at UNT. Students engaging in unacceptable and disruptive behavior will be directed to leave the classroom and the instructor may refer to the student to the Center for Student Rights and

Responsibilities to consider whether the student's conduct violated the Code of Student Conduct. The university's expectations for student conduct apply to all instructional forums including university and electronic classrooms, labs, and discussion groups, field trips, etc. The Code of Student Conduct can be found at <https://deanofstudents.unt.edu/conduct>.

As an instructor, I believe that students learn best when they are able to engage with each other (and the professor!) in a respectful and open-minded manner. So, please practice the Platinum Rule and treat others as they would like to be treated. Specifically, I ask that you avoid disruptive behaviors by:

- Silencing all disruptive electronic devices;
- Refraining from texting, tweeting, checking email, surfing the internet, or reading irrelevant materials during class;
- Having side conversations with others during class;
- Falling asleep.

Since the topics in this course will encourage lively and energetic discussions and debates, it is also important for you to show respect for others' opinions and points of view, even when you disagree.

ACADEMIC SUPPORT & STUDENT SERVICES

Student Support Services and Mental Health

UNT provides mental health resources to students to help ensure there are numerous outlets to turn to that wholeheartedly care for and are there for students in need, regardless of the nature of an issue or its severity. Listed below are several resources on campus that can support your academic success and mental well-being:

- Student Health and Wellness Center (<https://studentaffairs.unt.edu/student-health-and-wellness-center>)
- Counseling and Testing Services (<https://studentaffairs.unt.edu/counseling-and-testing-services>)
- UNT Care Team (<https://studentaffairs.unt.edu/care>)
- UNT Psychiatric Services (<https://studentaffairs.unt.edu/student-health-and-wellness-center/services/psychiatry>)
- Individual Counseling (<https://studentaffairs.unt.edu/counseling-and-testing-services/services/individual-counseling>)

Chosen Names

A chosen name is a name that a person goes by that may or may not match their legal name. If you

Additional Student Support Services

- Registrar (<https://registrar.unt.edu/registration>)
- Financial Aid (<https://financialaid.unt.edu/>)
- Student Legal Services (<https://studentaffairs.unt.edu/student-legal-services>)
- Career Center (<https://studentaffairs.unt.edu/career-center>)

- Multicultural Center (<https://edo.unt.edu/multicultural-center>)
- Counseling and Testing Services (<https://studentaffairs.unt.edu/counseling-and-testing-services>)
- Pride Alliance (<https://edo.unt.edu/pridealliance>)
- UNT Food Pantry (<https://deanofstudents.unt.edu/resources/food-pantry>)

Academic Support Services

- Academic Resource Center (<https://clear.unt.edu/canvas/student-resources>)
- Academic Success Center (<https://success.unt.edu/asc>)
- UNT Libraries (<https://library.unt.edu/>)
- Writing Lab (<http://writingcenter.unt.edu/>)