PSCI 2305 Section 407 - US Political Behavior and Policy (Fall 2025 SDC)

✎ Edit

American & Texas Government: Behavior
INET PSCI 2305.407 (13140) SDC
Fall 2025 (16wk; August 18-December 12)

Instructor: Prof. Andrew J. Enterline
Dept. of Political Science
Email: Canvas Email System Only

Course Description

This course provides the student with an introduction to American and Texas politics. The course focuses primarily on political behavior, including voting, interest groups, political parties, elections, the media, as well as domestic and foreign policies.

Syllabus Revisions

I reserve the right to revise this syllabus during the semester. I will alert you to these revisions (save for the picayune).

Internet Access

This course is INET and requires that the student access the course materials through the internet. Thus, the student must have reliable access to the internet, and it is the student's responsibility to provide this access through public or private sources. It is also the student's responsibility to plan for alternative sources of internet access in the event that the primary source fails. For example, if your primary source is your home network, then an alternate might be a publicly available source (e.g., UNT campus, public library, a coffee shop). Save for extenuating circumstances (e.g., a storm causes a system-wide internet failure), it is the student's responsibility to locate internet in order to complete your assignments. Appeals for extensions on deadlines given the failure of your primary internet source will not be successful.

Teaching Assistants

The following Dept. of Political Science graduate students are assigned as a Teaching Assistants

(TAs) for the course:

- **Leah Fraser (A-Ma); and**
- **Veronica Green (Mb-Z)**

The assignment of TAs is by student last name. Communication with your assigned TA regarding the course is <u>through the Canvas Email system only</u>.

Communication

During the semester we use Canvas Email exclusively to communicate, so you need to use Canvas and be alerted to messages in it. Briefly, if you are logged into Canvas, the "Inbox" for the Canvas Email is located on the left-hand, vertical toolbar. Click on "Inbox", click on the button "compose new message", and then select me (Enterline) or your assigned TA in the drop down menu in the "To" field. <u>You should verify that your alerts in Canvas are enabled, so that you are alerted to any emails, announcements, changes to the Canvas shell for our course, etc</u>.

General Course Format

The online format of the course affords a significant degree of flexibility for the student and the course structure is designed with this goal in mind. The following components graded during the course:

1. <u>Soomo Webtext & PSCI Workbook</u> (and exercises embedded therein);
2. <u>Two Exams</u> (1 Midterm & 1 Final [the latter non-cumulative in content]); and
3. <u>Policy Issue & Solution</u> writing assignment.

There will be no formal lectures (synchronous or asynchronous) in the course. The student's work in the course is anchored to the Soomo webtext and PSCI Workbook and exercises therein. Upon completion, the webtext grades are automatically logged into Canvas Grades. The two exams are completed on the designated days by the student online via Canvas Quizzes. The Policy Issue & Solution is completed via file upload to Canvas.

Soomo/PSCI Webtexts (45% of Final Course Grade)

The required materials for the course are as follows:

U.S. and Texas Politics with 2305 Workbook 15e

Jocelyn Evans & Kristy Michaud / The Texas Politics Project

Net Price: $93.75

978-1-954890-93-0

Soomo provides <u>a free trial period</u> that enables students to access the first three chapters of the webtext. To access the free trial, when a student goes to register for the webtext, they will be prompted to enter a passkey, purchase a passkey or start their ***free 3 week (or first 3 chapters)***

trial. This free trial allows you to complete assigned webtexts as the semester begins. <u>However, once the free trial expires, you must purchase the webtext license to complete the exercises and log your grades in Canvas Grade</u>s. You can purchase access at the UNT bookstore or via Soomo directly through the course link embedded in Canvas.

The Webtext exercises are useful because they require the student to move through the material gradually. Additionally, the material covered in the exercises comprises the bulk of the questions on the two exams. So, gradual absorption of the course material serves to prepare the student for each exam. Each webtext exercise is worth 100 points and is due at 11:59 pm on the assigned date (see the course calendar, below; or the date posted in Canvas Assignments). The first set of Webtext Exercises (chs. 1-11) are due on October 17 by 11:59 pm. Thereafter, the first set of exercises will be unavailable for completion. The second set of exercises are due on December 10 by 11:59 pm. Thereafter, the second set of exercises will be unavailable for completion.

Please Note: It is important that you complete the webtext exercises once you begin a chapter. Do not log out of the system mid-exercise, wander away for periods of time, etc., or you may not be able to complete the exercise and receive only partial credit. If you encounter difficulties with the Webtext, please consult with the Soomo Help and features therein.

Please Note: It is the student's responsibility to alert their TA of missing or erroneous webtext grades within 48 hrs. of their due date in Canvas Assignments. Put differently, the student cannot return after the 48 hr window and argue that a given webtext was completed and Canvas failed to log the grade accordingly. Pursuing this strategy is a non-starter.

Midterm & Final Exams (20% Each [40% Total] of Final Course Grade)

There will be two exams in this course:

- <u>Midterm Exam</u> due on **Friday, October 17 by 11:59 pm & covering Webtext chs. 1-11**; and
- <u>Final Exam</u> (does not include material from the Midterm Exam) due on **Wednesday, December 10 by 11:59 pm & covering Webtext chs. 12-20.**

Each exam requires that the student answer multiple-choice questions drawn from the required webtext readings. Each exam will be taken by the student online via Canvas on the appointed date and completed at the student's discretion between 6am--11:59pm on said date. A lockdown browser <u>will not</u> be employed for the exams. Each exam is an individual exercise, so you are to do your own work with your own brain. Put differently, do not collaborate with any human or any machine.

Please Note: In order to maintain the integrity of the exams, no early exams will be administered under any circumstances. <u>The only exceptions are military deployment or scheduled surgery</u>. Travel or vacation are not acceptable reasons for early administration of

exams.

Policy Issue & Solution (15% of Final Course Grade)

This exercise is due by 11:59 on Wednesday, October 1.

<u>Instructions</u>:

You are a domestic policy advisor for the President of the United States. The president requests that you identify policy issue that is central to the health of American democracy. Additionally, the president requests that you devise a solution for this issue; that is, one that s/he can propose to Congress and the American people. Importantly, this issue and any related solution should be designed to <u>improve</u> American democracy. In order to comply with the president's request, you are to do the following for your writing assignment:

In an MS-Word document (i.e., .docx), execute the following:

1. Write your full name, UNT student number, PSCI 2305.402, and date in the upper left corner of the first page;
2. Place a sub-heading, "Policy Issue" and below this sub-heading identify your policy issue and explain how and why it is the paramount issue for improving American democracy, doing so in **75-100 words (no more, no less)**;
3. Place a sub-heading, "Policy Solution," and below this answer/discuss in **250-300** total words **(no more, no less)** for the following:
   A. What is your proposed solution to this policy issue?
   B. How/why will your solution improve American democracy?
   C. How likely is it that your solution will be passed as legislation by Congress? If so, why? If not, why not?
4. Upload your finished document to the appropriate Canvas Assignment link by the specified due date.

<u>Grading Criteria</u>:

1. There is no preference regarding the substance of your policy issue or solution;
2. Your work is serious and contemplative;
3. Your work is original to your mind (i.e., you do not plagiarize; you do not use AI [ChatGPT]; and you do not use your own material from another course);
4. Your work fulfills the aforementioned assignment instructions; and
5. Your work reflects clear reasoning, composition, grammar, spelling, diction, etc.

Your assigned TA will be grading your assignment. You are free to communicate with your assigned TA about this assignment. <u>Given the labor and care required for grading the submissions, no late submissions will be allowed after the due date</u>.

Use of Artificial Intelligence (AI) (e.g., ChatGPT) in Your Coursework

According to the UNT Academic Integrity Policy (**UNT Policy 6.003** ⬧ **(https://policy.unt.edu/sites/default/files/06.003%20Student%20Academic%20Integrity.pdf)**), any form of "unauthorized assistance" constitutes cheating. As a result, use of any artificial intelligence is not authorized for assignments in this course. Please refrain from using any AI system to complete any of your coursework. If UNT Turnitin.com (built into Canvas) detects AI usage in your coursework, I reserve the right to query you in person regarding your writing before awarding a grade for a given assignment. If you are unable to convince me that the content is not AI-generated, then you will not receive credit for the assignment in question.

Missed Exams, Webtext Exercises, Etc.

Permission to complete missed exams, webtext exercises, and the policy-letter will be provided only in the case of a documented excuse acceptable to the UNT Dean of Students and evaluated as such. In such cases, please email your assigned TA via Canvas Email.

Posting Grades in Canvas

Grades will be reported via Canvas Grades. We do our best to keep the grade book up to date. Please let your assigned TA know if you detect any issues or problems in the grade book. It is your responsibility to police the grades in Canvas Grades. A missing or erroneous grade must be reported to your assigned TA within 48 hrs. of the due date for the given assignment. If you fail to complete an assignment---i.e., Soomo Webtext, Exam, or Policy Issue & Solution---Canvas will report a missing value and does not include a zero in your course grade average until I insert a zero, which I will do following the Midterm and Final Exams.

Your Final Course Grade (Numeric)

Canvas will weight your Assignments (i.e., Midterm Exam, Final Exam, Soomo Webtext) in Grades. The final column in Canvas Grades, labeled "Total", should reflect this weighting and your progress as the semester progresses.

Please Note: If you fail to complete an assignment (e.g., the Midterm Exam) the missing grade will not be included in the Canvas Total calculations until the instructor inserts a zero for the missing assignment. So, be mindful of this when contemplating the value reported in Canvas Total.

Your Final Course Grade (Letter)

At the semester's conclusion the "Final Course Letter Grade" is the grade that will be uploaded to the UNT Registrar's EIS grade system. This letter grade will never be lower than the standard corresponding numeric value that I compute for the course and that is show in Canvas (e.g., you earned a numeric value of 95, but I awarded you a letter grade of "C"). However, this letter grade may be greater than the standard corresponding numeric value (e.g., you earned a numeric value of 79--- in the high "C" range in terms of a letter grade---but I awarded you a letter grade of "B").

UNT Policies

Please familiarize yourself with the University's policies here: **UNT Policies (https://unt.instructure.com/courses/75226/pages/unt-policies)**

Course Summary:

Date	Details	Due
Fri Aug 22, 2025	📝 **Chapter 1: Public Opinion (https://unt.instructure.com/courses/133704/assignments/2769478)**	due by 11:59pm
	📝 **Chapter 2: Texas: Political Culture (https://unt.instructure.com/courses/133704/assignments/2769479)**	due by 11:59pm
Fri Aug 29, 2025	📝 **Chapter 3: Workbook: Public Opinion (https://unt.instructure.com/courses/133704/assignments/2769480)**	due by 11:59pm
Fri Sep 5, 2025	📝 **Chapter 4: Voting and Political Participation (https://unt.instructure.com/courses/133704/assignments/2769481)**	due by 11:59pm

Date	Details	Due
Fri Sep 12, 2025	📝 **Chapter 5: Texas: Elections, Voting, and Campaigns** (https://unt.instructure.com/courses/133704/assignments/2769482)	due by 11:59pm
Fri Sep 19, 2025	📝 **Chapter 6: Workbook: Political Participation** (https://unt.instructure.com/courses/133704/assignments/2769483)	due by 11:59pm
Fri Sep 26, 2025	📝 **Chapter 7: The Media** (https://unt.instructure.com/courses/133704/assignments/2769484)	due by 11:59pm
	📝 **Chapter 8: Workbook: The Mass Media** (https://unt.instructure.com/courses/133704/assignments/2769485)	due by 11:59pm
Wed Oct 1, 2025	📝 **Policy Issue & Solution** (https://unt.instructure.com/courses/133704/assignments/2769550)	due by 11:59pm
Fri Oct 3, 2025	📝 **Chapter 9: Interest Groups** (https://unt.instructure.com/courses/133704/assignments/2769486)	due by 11:59pm
Fri Oct 10, 2025	📝 **Chapter 10: Texas: Interest Groups** (https://unt.instructure.com/courses/133704/assignments/2769487)	due by 11:59pm
Fri Oct 17, 2025	📝 **Chapter 11: Workbook: Interest Groups** (https://unt.instructure.com/courses/133704/assignments/2769488)	due by 11:59pm
	🚀 **Midterm Exam** (https://unt.instructure.com/courses/133704/assignments/2769545)	due by 11:59pm

Date	Details	Due
Fri Oct 24, 2025	📝 **Chapter 12: Political Parties** (https://unt.instructure.com/courses/133704/assignments/2769489)	due by 11:59pm
Fri Oct 31, 2025	📝 **Chapter 13: Texas: Political Parties** (https://unt.instructure.com/courses/133704/assignments/2769490)	due by 11:59pm
	📝 **Chapter 14: Workbook: Political Parties** (https://unt.instructure.com/courses/133704/assignments/2769491)	due by 11:59pm
Fri Nov 7, 2025	📝 **Chapter 15: Elections and Campaigns** (https://unt.instructure.com/courses/133704/assignments/2769492)	due by 11:59pm
Fri Nov 14, 2025	📝 **Chapter 16: Workbook: Elections and Campaigns** (https://unt.instructure.com/courses/133704/assignments/2769493)	due by 11:59pm
Fri Nov 21, 2025	📝 **Chapter 17: Public Policy** (https://unt.instructure.com/courses/133704/assignments/2769494)	due by 11:59pm
	📝 **Chapter 18: Texas: Public Policy** (https://unt.instructure.com/courses/133704/assignments/2769495)	due by 11:59pm
Wed Dec 3, 2025	📝 **Chapter 19: Workbook: Domestic Policy** (https://unt.instructure.com/courses/133704/assignments/2769496)	due by 11:59pm
	📝 **Chapter 20: Workbook: Foreign Policy** (https://unt.instructure.com/courses/133704/assignments/2769497)	due by 11:59pm

Date	Details	Due
Wed Dec 10, 2025	🚀 **Final Exam** **(https://unt.instructure.com/courses/133704/assignments/2769546)**	due by 11:59pm