

# **PSCI 2305.001: US Political Behavior and Policy**

## **Monday through Thursday**

Instructor: Dr. Andrea Silva

Email: [Andrea.Silva@unt.edu](mailto:Andrea.Silva@unt.edu)

Office Hours: Tuesday, 11-12 pm via Zoom

Thursday 11-12 pm via Zoom

Book Office Hour Appointment with Dr. Silva:

[www.calendly.com/silvaofficehours](http://www.calendly.com/silvaofficehours)

Teaching Assistant: Brian Lookabaugh

Email: [BrianLookabaugh@my.unt.edu](mailto:BrianLookabaugh@my.unt.edu)

Office Hours: Tuesday, 10-11:30am via Zoom

Thursday, 10-11:30am via Zoom

and by appointment

Understanding the processes and policies in American politics is just as, if not more important than, identifying and understanding its institutions. American policies and processes are the result of our opinions and beliefs about what makes a good society. The results of these processes are legislation, regulations, and policies that reflect our beliefs. This course examines these processes and policies in depth. This course provides high value added as the readings compliment the lectures and provide important background for understanding the material. Consequently, viewing daily lectures and completing daily assigned readings are imperative for your success.

### ***A note about the Maymester***

This course is an ***extremely*** accelerated course. In essence, four months of coursework are condensed into just 11 days of instruction. As such, expect to have 3-hour lectures, readings, workbook assignments due on the same day, and tests posted and due within 24 hours. This class will require much of your attention throughout the day. Please make the necessary accommodations to your schedule for the next three weeks to give your full attention to this course. Employment responsibilities, other classes or school work, or family expectations will not be accepted as reasons for substandard work, missing assignments, grade changes, etc.

## **Course Policies**

### **Requirements**

- Readings for a given date should be done before or on the day of that class.
- Students are required to submit ALL assignments to receive a passing grade, even if they are worth no points towards the final grade.
- All assignments and Extra Credit will be due at 11:59pm on the due date

**Your first assignment is to print, read, sign, and upload a copy of the *University of North Texas Academic Integrity Form* on Page 6 of this syllabus to Canvas by Wednesday May 18<sup>th</sup>.**

### **Assignments**

- Midterm 1 (20%)
- Midterm 2 (25%): (Cumulative)
- Final Exam (25%): (Cumulative)
- Soomo Workbook Exercises (30%)

### **2 Required Texts**

- Course Readings available on Canvas (CR)

- Eshbaugh-Soha, Matthew. 2305 Online Soomo Workbook: Process and Policies, most recent edition. Can be purchased online or with a registration card from the bookstore. **(WB)**
  - ISBN: 978-1-949164-96-1
  - Title: *2305 Workbook: U.S. Political Behavior and Policy 5e*
  - Students can buy access the Soomo webtext by credit card. Soomo also offers a free 3-week trial period that allows students to access the first three chapters of the Soomo webtext.

#### Final Course Grade Scale & Percentages

A=90+  
B=80-89  
C=70-79  
D=56 -68  
F=0-55

Final Grades are only changed due to clerical errors and not “rounded up” under any circumstances. Any attempt to seek a grade improvement outside of a clerical error may result in the student being reported to the Dean of Students for violating the Code of Student Conduct

#### Canvas

**Check the course page on Canvas frequently (at least once a day).** Announcements and changes are communicated via Canvas. Written assignments and Extra Credit should be uploaded to Canvas. Students are responsible for checking UNT email/ Canvas for announcements, assignments, due dates, and changes.

#### Formatting and Submitting Assignments

Written assignments should be submitted in Times New Roman 12-point font, with 1-inch margins, be double-spaced, and paginated. Written assignments should be uploaded as a txt, rtf, doc or docx file to Canvas, unless otherwise noted. Do not include a cover page. The upper right-hand corner of the first page in single space should include:

- Your full name
- Title of the assignment (i.e., Discussion EC)
- Course number (PSCI 2305) and section number (001)

#### Late/Missing Assignments

All course assignments and extra credit should be submitted on the date and at the time assigned. Unless there is proof of a documented medical emergency, ***no extensions, make up exams/assignments, or incompletes will be given.***

On the rare occasion a late assignment is allowed, a 10% late penalty will be applied for every 24 hours an assignment is late.

#### Extra Credit

Extra credit opportunities are made available to the entire class at the discretion of the Professor. They are offered for attending events outside of class, or for completing extra writing assignments by the deadline. **Extra Credit will not be accepted after the due date or offered to individuals/groups of students under any circumstances.**

#### IT Assistance

As this is an online course, students are expected to trouble shoot their own IT problems. The professor and the TA are not an IT resource, we defer to the school experts at the UNT Student Helpdesk.

If you experience any kind of technical problem with UNT resources (e.g., Canvas, Respondus), please contact the UNT Student Helpdesk at 940-565-2324 or [helpdesk@unt.edu](mailto:helpdesk@unt.edu)

Please note UIT Helpdesk availability here: <https://it.unt.edu/helpdesk>

If you are having difficulty with the Soomo product, please contact the publisher directly at: <http://soomolearning.com/support>

#### Exams aka “Quizzes”

Exams must be taken using the Respondus Lockdown browser. Find a direct link to download respondus lockdown browser on your computer here: <https://www.respondus.com/lockdown/download.php?id=165715487>

Exams will consist of 35 Multiple Choice, 5 Fill-In, and 10 True/False questions. The time allotted to complete the test is 60 minutes. After 60 minutes, the test will close and all answers will be recorded. Each question will be shown one at a

time, ***backtracking is not available on this exam***. Fill-in questions will be graded by hand after the test closes to offer credit for misspelled or partially correct answers. Please wait to review exams over the weekend before asking about exam questions. Midterms 2 and 3 are cumulative

Students will have a 24-hour window to take the exam. Exams will open online at 12pm on Thursday and close at 12pm on Friday.

The Professor allows the use of open physical notes unless evidence of misuse/cheating presents itself. The use of any electronics (i.e., tablets, phones, computers other than the one used to the exam) is prohibited. Please ensure other electronics are out of reach during the exam. Please take off all headphones and refrain from speaking or talking to other people during the test. Using electronics, headphones or speaking to other people during the test will result in a zero on the test and being reported to the Office for Academic Integrity.

Assuming all students have taken the exam, correct answers will be available for viewing for 24 hours over the weekend

### **Advocating a Grade Change**

Students should submit a written grievance showing indisputable visual evidence that the original grade was either incorrectly calculated or incorrectly graded (e.g., correct answers marked incorrect)

Effort, personal hardship, class, school, work, or family expectations are not acceptable justifications for a grade change.

Student should submit a written grievance less than 48 hours after an assignment grade has posted. The professor has 2 business days to respond with a decision. This second decision is final. Unless a grievance has been submitted, ***all grades are final 2 days after posting***.

### **Special Accommodations**

Students requiring special accommodations should contact the instructor for a confidential discussion of their academic accommodations. To receive accommodation services, contact the Office of Disability Accommodation (ODA): 167 Sage Hall (940) 565-4323

Any student who has difficulty affording groceries or accessing sufficient food to eat every day, or who lacks a safe and stable place to live and believes this may affect their performance in the course, is urged to contact the Dean of Students for support. Furthermore, please notify the professor if you are comfortable in doing so. This will enable her to provide any resources that she may possess.

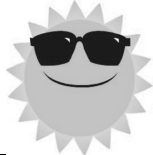
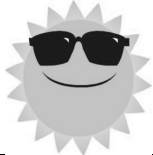
### **Academic Integrity**

UNT has a detailed and strict academic dishonesty policy. Please take the time to review the Student Standards of Academic Integrity ([https://policy.unt.edu/sites/default/files/untpolicy/pdf/7-Student\\_Affairs-Academic\\_Integrity.pdf](https://policy.unt.edu/sites/default/files/untpolicy/pdf/7-Student_Affairs-Academic_Integrity.pdf)). **There is zero tolerance for any type of academic dishonesty. Students violating this policy will receive an “F” in the course and/or be reported to the Office for Academic Integrity**

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### **Important Dates**

May 18 <sup>th</sup>	Upload Academic Integrity Form to Canvas
May 19 <sup>th</sup>	Midterm 1
May 26 <sup>th</sup>	Midterm 2
May 30 <sup>th</sup>	Memorial Day: No Class
June 2 <sup>nd</sup>	Midterm 3

DATE	Topics and Readings	Assignments
Mon May 16	<b>Intro to Course/The Founders' Perspective</b>	
	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>Take Political Typology Quiz:               <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li><a href="https://www.pewresearch.org/politics/quiz/political-typology/?group=ae2fe573de1ab74aa4537602ea104f1c">https://www.pewresearch.org/politics/quiz/political-typology/?group=ae2fe573de1ab74aa4537602ea104f1c</a></li> <li>Take screenshot of completion page and upload to Canvas</li> </ul> </li> <li>The Federalists, Nos. 10 (CR)</li> <li>People's History Chapter 4 (CR)</li> </ul>	
Tues May 17	<b>Political Culture</b>	
	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>Beyond Tocqueville, Myrdal, and Hartz: The Multiple Traditions in America (CR)</li> </ul>	Submit Political Typology Quiz Due 5/17
Wed May 18	<b>Public Opinion</b>	
	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>Zaller <i>Nature and Origins of Mass Opinion</i> Chapter 3 (CR)</li> </ul>	Ch 1. Public Opinion (WB) Due 5/18 Academic Integrity Form Due 5/18
Thurs May 19	<b>Political Participation</b>	
	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>Tocqueville Revisited: Participation in America in the Twenty-first Century Dalton (CR)</li> <li>Poor People's Movements (CR)</li> </ul> <p><b>Midterm 1: 5/19 via Lockdown Browser/Respondus on Canvas</b></p>	Ch 2. Political Participation (WB) Due 5/19
Mon May 23	<b>Interest Groups</b>	
	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>Interest groups: Who or what are they? (CR)</li> <li>Elements of a Successful Interest Group (CR)</li> </ul>	Ch 3. Interest Groups (WB) Due 5/23
Tues May 24	<b>Political Parties</b>	
	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>Lipset "What are Parties For?" (CR)</li> <li>Reread Federalist #10 (CR)</li> </ul>	Ch 4. Political Parties (WB) Due 5/24
Wed May 25	<b>Elections, Campaigns, and Voting</b>	
	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>Economic Theory of Voting (CR)</li> </ul>	Ch 5. Elections and Campaigns (WB) Due 5/25
Thurs May 26	<b>Elections, Campaigns, and Voting/Media and Politics</b>	
	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>Mayhew: The Electoral Connection (CR)</li> </ul> <p><b>Midterm 2: 5/26 via Lockdown Browser/Respondus on Canvas</b></p>	Ch 3. The Mass Media (WB) Due 5/26
Mon May 30	 <b>Memorial Day NO CLASS</b> 	
Tues May 31	<b>Domestic Policy</b>	

	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>WTP 17: Social Policy The Welfare State Opening Opportunity</li> </ul> <p style="text-align: center;"><b>Letter to the Editor EC Due May 31<sup>st</sup> 11:59pm via Canvas</b></p>	Ch 7. Domestic Policy (WB) Due 5/31
<b>Wed June 1</b>	<b>Foreign Policy</b>	
	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>WTP 18 Foreign Policy and Democracy <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>The Goals for Foreign Policy</li> <li>Who makes American Foreign Policy</li> </ul> </li> </ul>	Ch 8. Foreign Policy (WB) Due 6/1
<b>Thurs June 2</b>	<b>Foreign Policy cont.</b>	
	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>WTP 18 Foreign Policy and Democracy <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>The Instruments of Modern American Foreign Policy</li> <li>Foreign Policy and Your Future</li> </ul> </li> </ul> <p style="text-align: center;"><b>FINAL EXAM : 6/2 via Lockdown Browser/Respondus on Canvas</b></p>	

Instructor reserves the right to change the syllabus with notice

**EXTRA CREDIT OPPORTUNITY: Letter to the Editor (due May 31<sup>st</sup> 11:59pm)**

**Worth up to 5 extra points toward final grade**

This assignment requires you effectively demonstrate core competencies of critical thinking, communication, social responsibility, and personal responsibility within the context of civic engagement in the U.S. political process. You must

- Identify a current political issue that affects you and your community.
- Educate yourself about the issue by reading at least three articles from reputable news sources about the issue.
- Identify a media outlet used in your community (this could be a news blog, a newspaper, or a radio station).
- Verify that the media outlet accepts letters to their editorial staff and find the parameters for such submissions.
- Take a screenshot of the submission guidelines.
- Draft a letter (of a length that adheres to the submission guidelines for your particular media outlet, but typically about 150 words) to the editor in which you
  - identify yourself
  - identify the political issue about which you are concerned;
  - clearly state a position on that issue (what the government should do or not do); and
  - provide an explanation for your position that will persuade the readers to agree with you.
- You will submit:
  - a .doc, .docx, or .pdf version of your letter
  - a .doc, .docx, or .pdf document listing the three articles you read
  - a screenshot (.jpg, .png, .pdf) of submission guidelines for the media outlet you chose

Check the letters-to-the-editor guidelines from several newspapers for examples of what a letter-to-the-editor should look like. The following links provide details on submissions to some possible media outlets:

- Dallas Morning News: <https://www.dallasnews.com/opinion/2018/12/02/tips-for-letters-to-the-editor-and-op-ed-submissions/> (Links to an external site.)
- Fort Worth Star-Telegram: <https://www.star-telegram.com/opinion/letters-to-the-editor/submit-letter/> (Links to an external site.)

For more information about submitting an op-ed as well as links to many, many newspapers, visit The Op-Ed Project: <https://www.theopedproject.org/submission-information>

**Assignment #1: University of North Texas Academic Integrity Form (Maymester 2022)**

Name: \_\_\_\_\_ UNT email: \_\_\_\_\_

Year in school: \_\_\_\_\_ Transfer? YES NO (if so, which school): \_\_\_\_\_

Major: \_\_\_\_\_

**1) What is the first political experience you remember?**

**2) Why do you think some people are “turned off” by politics?**

*Please circle answers to the following questions.*

**3) How interested are YOU in politics?**

Not at all interested      Indifferent      Somewhat interested      Very interested

**4) How frequently were political issues & politics discussed when you were growing up?**

Never      Sometimes      Frequently

This certifies that I have read the syllabus and understand the requirements for the course. I also understand the Statement of ADA compliance, the Policy on Cheating and Plagiarism, and the Policy on Academic Integrity. I agree to abide by academic honesty outlined by the Center for Student Rights & Responsibilities [www.unt.edu/csrr/](http://www.unt.edu/csrr/) and have read the material about my rights and the sanctions that can be imposed if I violate the student code of conduct. I verify that all work done in this class will be my own, that I will cite or quote sources when I draw from other authors' material, and that I will present only accurate and truthful information to the professor and the teaching assistants. Furthermore, I understand that violating the policy will result in an automatic "F" for the course and referral to the Dean of Students for disciplinary proceedings and dismissal.

Signature: \_\_\_\_\_ Date: \_\_\_\_\_

Printed Name: \_\_\_\_\_ EUID: \_\_\_\_\_

**Please print, sign, and upload a copy of the form on this page to Canvas by May 18<sup>th</sup>  
(do not upload the entire syllabus, only this form)**

### **Department Statement of ADA compliance**

The University of North Texas makes reasonable academic accommodation for students with disabilities. Students seeking accommodation 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 faculty to begin a private discussion regarding your specific needs in a course. 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 students 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 Office of Disability Accommodation website at <http://www.unt.edu/oda>. You may also contact them by phone at 940.565.4323.

### **University of North Texas -- Department of Political Science POLICY ON CHEATING AND PLAGIARISM**

The UNT Code of Student Conduct and Discipline defines cheating and plagiarism as the use of unauthorized books, notes, or otherwise securing help in a test; copying others' tests, assignments, reports, or term papers; representing the work of another as one's own; collaborating without authority with another student during an examination or in preparing academic work; or otherwise practicing scholastic dishonesty.

Normally, the minimum penalty for cheating or plagiarism is a grade of "F" in the course.

Determination of cheating or plagiarism shall be made by the instructor in the course, or by the field faculty in the case of departmental exams.

Cases of cheating or plagiarism in ordinary coursework may, at the discretion of the instructor, be referred to the Undergraduate Studies Committee in the case of undergraduate students, or the Graduate Studies Committee in the case of graduate students. These committees, acting as agents of the department Chair, shall impose further penalties, or recommend further penalties to the Dean of Students, if they determine that the case warrants it. In all cases, the Dean of Students shall be informed in writing of the case. Students may appeal any decision under this policy by following the procedures laid down in the UNT Code of Student Conduct and Discipline.

### **POLICY ON 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). Students in this class should review the policy (UNT Policy Manual Section 18.1.16), which may be located at [http://policy.unt.edu/sites/default/files/untpolicy/pdf/7-Student Affairs-Academic Integrity.pdf](http://policy.unt.edu/sites/default/files/untpolicy/pdf/7-Student%20Affairs-Academic%20Integrity.pdf).

Violations of academic integrity in this course will be addressed in compliance with the penalties and procedures laid out in this policy. Students 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."

### ***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 forum at UNT. Students engaging in unacceptable behavior will be directed to leave the classroom

and the instructor may refer 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 classroom, labs, discussion groups, field trips, etc. The Code of Student Conduct can be found at <https://deanofstudents.unt.edu/conduct>.