

PSCI 2315. Sections 001,003,004
US Political Behavior and Policy
Fall 2020

Monday	10:00AM - 10:50AM	BLB 035
Wednesday	10:00AM - 10:50AM	Env 160
Friday	10:00AM - 10:50AM	Gateway 034

Instructor: Dr. Andrea Silva
Email: Andrea.Silva@unt.edu

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. We seldom discuss the readings in class, but the readings compliment the lectures and provide important background for understanding the material.

Course Policies

Attendance

Attendance is not required or mandatory and will have no bearing on a student's final grade.

Attendance will only be taken for the purposes of contact tracing. A video of class will be uploaded to Canvas for asynchronous viewing after every class meeting. **If students choose to attend class, they are required to wear a mask for the safety of their classmates.** Students who do not have a mask on in class to assist in the safety and well-being of their fellow classmates will be asked to leave.

COVID-19 impact on attendance

While attendance is expected as outlined above, it is important for all of us to be mindful of the health and safety of everyone in our community, especially given concerns about COVID-19. Please contact the professor if you are unable to attend class because you are ill, or due to a related COVID-19 issue. It is important that students communicate with the professor as soon as possible if they cannot come to class so we can discuss ways to assist the student. As the professor, it is my job to help students succeed. As

Office Hours: Tuesdays 11am-1pm via zoom.
Please see Canvas to register for a meeting

such, I need all the information available as soon as possible to help you make the best choices.

If you are experiencing cough, shortness of breath or difficulty breathing, fever, or any of the other possible symptoms of COVID-19 (<https://www.cdc.gov/coronavirus/2019-ncov/symptoms-testing/symptoms.html>) please seek medical attention from the Student Health and Wellness Center (940-565-2333 or askSHWC@unt.edu) or your health care provider. While attendance is an important part of succeeding in this class, your own health, and those of others in the community, is more important.

Requirements

Readings for a given date should be done before the beginning of that class.

Students are required to submit ALL assignments to receive a final grade, even if they are worth no points towards the final grade.

Your first assignment is to read, sign, and upload a copy of the Academic Integrity Form on Page 8 of this syllabus to the class Canvas page by Friday September 4th.

Assignments

- Soomo Digital Workbook Exercises (20%)
- Media Bias Paper (20%)
- Midterm 1 (15%)
- Midterm 2 (20%): (Cumulative)
- Final Exam (25%): (Cumulative)

The instructions and rubric for the Media Bias Paper are available on Canvas.

Required Texts

- Ginsburg et al. *We the People* 12th edition (WTP)

- Course Readings on Canvas (**CR**)
- Eshbaugh-Soha, Matthew. 2305 Online Soomo Digital Workbook: Process and Policies, 1st edition. (**WB**)
 - Can be purchased via Canvas or with a registration card from the bookstore. Free 3-week trial

Please note there are copies of the textbook in Willis Library. The first readings from the textbook will be assigned the third week of school and a pdf copy of the first assigned chapter will be available on Canvas. I encourage students look for previous versions. However, please ensure the chapter titles are the same. A copy of the Table of Contents is available on Canvas.

Final Course Grade Scale & Percentages

A=90+
 B=80-89
 C=70-79
 D=50 -68
 F=0-49

Formatting and Submitting Assignments

Assignments are due at the start of class and are considered late after the first 10 minutes of class. Written assignments should be submitted in Times New Roman 12-point font, with 1-inch margins, be double-spaced, and paginated. All written assignments should be uploaded as a txt, rtf, doc or docx file to Canvas.

Do not add 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. Fieldwork Paper)
- Course number (PSCI 2315) and section number (005)

Late/Missing Assignments

All course assignments and extra credit should be submitted at the date and time assigned. Late assignments will lose one full letter grade for every 24 hours after the due date. Extra Credit will not be accepted after the due under any circumstances.

Extra Credit

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

Canvas and Email

Check the course page on Canvas frequently (at least 3x per week). 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.

Class Participation

The Professor reserves the right to call on students.

- **Consideration and Respect:** Discussion is encouraged in class and an integral part of the learning experience. Please be respectful of other ideas and opinions in section, as these are an important component in understanding your own opinions better. Personal attacks and pejorative remarks are not tolerated.

Electronic Devices

Please silence all electronic devices before class begins and refrain from using them during class. **Laptops, tablets, or any type of electronic note taking is prohibited, please use a notebook and writing utensil.**

The Professor reserves the right to dock points from a students' final grade or ask a student to leave the classroom for ringing cell phones, texting, or distracting the instructor or the class in general.

The instructor prohibits recording, photographing, or video of any lecture, communication, discussion etc. without written consent from instructor.

Advocating a Grade Change

Students should submit a written grievance, including the reasons for their dissatisfaction with the grade, what grade they believe is merited and why, using evidence from the assignment prompt, grading rubric and submitted assignment as justification. Effort is not an acceptable justification for a grade change. This written grievance should be submitted at least 4 business days before meeting with the professor. If you choose to appeal your grade, the professor reserves the right to decrease an existing grade, this second decision is final. *All grades are final 7 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

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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). **There is zero tolerance for any type of academic dishonesty. Students violating this policy will receive an “F” in the course and be reported to the Office for Academic Integrity**

Important Dates

Fri. Sept 4	Submit Academic Integrity Form
Mon. Sept 7	No Class (Labor Day)
Fri. Sept 25	Midterm 1
Fri. Oct. 30	Midterm 2
Wed, Nov. 22	Media Bias Paper due
Wed. Nov. 25-27	Thanksgiving Break
Sat. Dec. 5	Midterm 3

DATE	Topics and Readings	Assignment
Week 1	Intro to Course	
Aug. 24	<ul style="list-style-type: none">• Introduction to Course• What is political science?• How does politics affect your daily life?• Take <u>Political Typology Quiz</u><ul style="list-style-type: none">○ https://www.pewresearch.org/politics/quiz/political-typology/?groupID=CMbxf	
Aug. 26		
Aug. 28		Take a screenshot of the last page of the political typology quiz and upload to by 9/4

	Extra Credit Opportunity:	
	Write reaction to your political ideology result. Were you expecting this result? Why or why not? Where do you think your ideologies come from? Why? Due 8/30 (300 words, 2 points towards midterm 1, upload to CR only)	
Week 2	Political Science, Founders’ Perspective	
Aug. 31	<ul style="list-style-type: none">• The Federalists, Nos. 10 (CR)• People’s History Chapter 4 (CR)	Proof of Completed Political Typology Quiz due 9/4 Academic Integrity Form due 9/4
Sept. 2		
Sept. 4		
	Extra Credit Opportunity:	
	Write a reaction to these two different understandings of the founding of the U.S. Can they be reconciled? If so, how? If not, why? Due 9/6 (300 words, 2 points towards midterm 1, upload to CR only)	
Week 3	Political Culture	
Sept. 7	Labor Day (no classes; university closed)	
Sept. 9	<ul style="list-style-type: none">• WTP 1: American Political Culture• Beyond Tocqueville, Myrdal, and Hartz: The Multiple Traditions in America (CR)	
Sept. 11		
	Extra Credit Opportunity:	
	After reading “Beyond Tocqueville, Myrdal, and Hartz: The Multiple Traditions in America,” Identify and explain which of these three traditions you disagree with the most. Why do you think this tradition does not describe American political culture? Due 9/13 (300 words, 2 points towards midterm 1, upload to CR only)	
Week 4	Public Opinion	
Sept. 14	<ul style="list-style-type: none">• WTP 6: Public Opinion• Zaller <i>Nature and Origins of Mass Opinion</i> Chapter 3 (CR)	WB Ch. 1 Public Opinion Due 9/13
Sept. 16		
Sept. 18		
	Extra Credit Opportunity:	
	In your own words, summarize Zaller’s theory of the nature and origins of mass opinion Due 9/20(300 words 2 points towards midterm 1, upload to CR only)	
Week 5	Political Participation	
Sept. 21	<ul style="list-style-type: none">• WTP 8: Political Participation and Voting• Tocqueville Revisited: Participation in America in the Twenty-first Century Dalton (CR)• Poor People’s Movements (CR) Midterm 1 Friday 9/25 via Respondus or Sage Testing Center 330 (9am to 5pm)	WB Ch. 2 Political Participation due 9/27
Sept. 23		
Sept. 25		
Week 6	Interest Groups	
Sep. 28	<ul style="list-style-type: none">• WTP 11: Groups and Interests	WB Ch. 3 Interest Groups due 10/4
Sep. 30		
Oct. 2		
	Extra Credit Opportunity:	

	Do interest groups help or hurt the legislative process, how? Give 1 example from lecture or the textbook and explain two ways this helps or hurts the legislative process Due 10/4 (300 words, 2 points towards midterm 2, upload to CR only)	
Week 7	Political Parties	
Oct. 5	<ul style="list-style-type: none">WTP 9: Political PartiesLipset “What are Parties For?” (CR)Reread Federalist #10 (CR)	WB Ch. 4 Political Parties due 10/11
Oct. 7		
Oct. 9		
	Extra Credit Opportunity:	
	How the founders and Lipset feel about parties? Whose definition do you disagree with most? Give 2 examples why. Due 10/11 (300 words, 2 points towards midterm 2, upload to CR only)	
Week 8	Elections, Campaigns, and Voting	
Oct. 12	<ul style="list-style-type: none">WTP 10: Campaigns and ElectionsEconomic theory of voting (CR)	WB Ch. 5 Elections and Campaigns due 10/18
Oct. 14		
Oct. 16		
	Extra Credit Opportunity:	
	Explain Downs' economic theory of voting. Explain at least 3 possible critiques of this theory Due 10/18 (300 words, 2 points towards midterm 2, upload to CR only)	
Week 9	Elections, Campaigns, and Voting/Media and Politics	
Oct. 19	<ul style="list-style-type: none">WTP 7: The MediaMayhew: The Electoral Connection (CR)	WB Ch. 6 The Mass Media due 10/25
Oct. 21		
Oct. 23		
	Extra Credit Opportunity:	
	Describe Mayhew's electoral connection using your own experience with an elected government representative as an example. Do you agree with Mayhew's explanation of the relationship between constituents and candidates? Why or why not? Due 10/25 (300 words, 2 points towards midterm 2, upload to CR only)	
Week 10	Domestic Policy	
Oct. 26	<ul style="list-style-type: none">WTP 17: Social Policy<ul style="list-style-type: none">The Welfare StateOpening Opportunity Midterm 2 Friday 10/30 via Respondus or Sage Testing Center 330 (9am to 5pm)	WB Ch. 7 Domestic Policy due 11/1
Oct. 28		
Oct. 30		
Week 11	Domestic Policy	
Nov. 2	<ul style="list-style-type: none">WTP 17: Social Policy<ul style="list-style-type: none">Who Gets what from Social PolicySocial Policy and Your Future	
Nov. 4		
Nov.6		
Week 12	Foreign Policy	
Nov.9	<ul style="list-style-type: none">WTP 18 Foreign Policy and Democracy<ul style="list-style-type: none">The Goals for Foreign PolicyWho makes American Foreign Policy	WB Ch. 8 Foreign Policy Due 11/15
Nov. 13		
Week 13	Foreign Policy cont.	

Nov. 16	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> WTP 18 Foreign Policy and Democracy <ul style="list-style-type: none"> The Instruments of Modern American Foreign Policy Foreign Policy and Your Future 	
Nov. 18		
Nov. 20		
Week 14	Texas Politics	
Nov. 23	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> The Political Culture, People, Economy, and public policy of Texas (CR) 	
Nov. 26-27		
	Thanksgiving Break Nov. 26-27	
Week 15	Money and Politics	
Nov. 30	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> Barnes, Robert, and Dan Eggen 2010. Washington Post (CR) Barnes, Robert 2014 Washington Post (CR) 	
Dec. 2		
Dec. 4	No Class	
	Finals Week	
	Final Exam: December 5 th Online 48 Hours (8 am to 8 am) via Respondus or Sage Testing Center 330 (December 5th 9am to 5pm)	

****The instructor reserves the right to change this syllabus with notice****

Media Bias Written Assignment

Instructions:

Write a well-written essay with an introduction and conclusion on media bias, and an argument that reflects on the student's own biases on their news consumption. This essay should be no shorter than 1000 words and no longer than 1100 words in length (word count does not include reference section) and should be written in the student's own words (i.e. no direct quotes, plagiarizing). This paper should follow the formatting guidelines located on the syllabus and will be graded according to the rubric available on Canvas.

Section 1:

Watch this short video on media biases: <https://vimeo.com/180771524> and use the following prompts to write the first section of the essay in your own words.

1. What is your one main news source? [If social media, where specifically or whom do you follow? If you watch TV news, what program?].
2. Why do you go to this source?
3. Do you trust this source? Why or why not?
4. Name two news options you have for news consumption that have a bias you do not agree with.
5. How have you participated in "incestuous amplification," and what are two ways you can work against this?

Section 2:

- Read the 3 news articles found in the link below about American unemployment during the COVID-19 Crisis: <https://www.allsides.com/story/32-million-more-americans-file-jobless-benefits>
- Identify two liberal biases in the liberal (left) news source.
 - Explain why they are biases and fact-check their validity using the centrist news source or other credible news sources.
 - Include links to the news sources you use in the Reference Section.
 - Identify two conservative biases in the conservative (right) news source.
 - Explain why they are biases and fact-check their validity using the centrist news source or other

credible news sources.

- Include links to the news sources you use in the Reference Section.

The Media Bias paper should be uploaded to Canvas Nov 22nd before the beginning of class.

Assignment #1: University of North Texas Academic Integrity Form (Fall 2020)

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/ 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: _____

Upload to Canvas by Sept. 4

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. 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 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>.