

PSCI 2305.004, Fall 2025
Monday and Wednesday, 10:00 am – 11:20 am
ENV 125

Host: Eddie L. Meaders, J.D., M.A.

Office: Wooten Hall 141

Political Science Department Office: Wooten Hall 125

Political Science Department Phone: (940) 565 - 2276

E-mail: meaders@unt.edu

Walk in Office Hours: Monday: 1:30 pm – 3:30 pm

Wednesday 1:30 pm - 3:00 pm

Tuesday Zooms: 1:00 pm - 3:30 pm, <https://unt.zoom.us/j/81327629336>

Feel free to drop by. No appointment is needed during office hours. If the posted hours are not good, let me know and we'll set something else up.

Teaching Assistants:

Sezen Tunali

Office: Wooten Hall

Political Science Department Office: Wooten Hall 125

Political Science Department Phone: (940) 565 - 2276

E-mail: SezenTunali@my.unt.edu

Office Hours: Tuesdays from 12:00 pm - 2:00 pm; Wednesdays from 1:00 pm – 2:00 pm.

Supplemental instructor:

Supplemental Instructor: A Supplemental Instruction (SI) component is provided for all students who want to improve their understanding of the material taught in this course. SI sessions are led by a student who has been successful with the course material and has been trained to facilitate group sessions where students can meet to compare class notes, review and discuss important concepts, develop strategies for studying, and prepare for exams. Attendance at SI sessions is free and voluntary. On average, students who attend supplemental instruction once a week, earn a significantly higher course grade than those who do not attend. SI sessions begin the second week of class and continue throughout the semester. A session schedule will be announced in class. For information about the program and schedule:

[Supplemental Instruction](#)

Supplemental Instructor: Pedro Mota
e-mail: PedroSouzaDosSantosCoelhoMota@my.unt.edu
Review times: TBD

Required Texts:

Barbour, Christine, Gerald Wright. Keeping the Republic, Brief Eleventh Edition, (Electronic Product.) Sage, 2026. ISBN 13: 8220146529995

Your book is your friend. Buy a copy and read it! **Thorough reading of the assigned chapters are key for success on exams!**

UNT 2305 Workbook (Electronic Product) by Matthew Eshbaugh-Soha et al. – 8th edition, SOOMO

Course Topics: Government matters to you. Regardless of your age, citizenship, lack of citizenship, race, religion, or gender, you value something in this world (your family, your education, your job, your health, faith ... whatever!). Chances are that government policy affects those things you value in some way. You may be taking this class because it is required, but the material we cover has real-world implications for your life and mastering this material can give you the tools to protect the things you value.

This is an introductory American government course emphasizing two major areas. The first area involves an examination of various aspects of American style political process including public opinion, the role of the media in politics, political participation, political parties, interest groups, and campaigns & elections. The second area involves an examination of the policy making process and various public policies including economics, social welfare, healthcare, education, and national security/international relations.

Course Objectives:

- 1.1 Explain the importance of the democratic process and identify the challenges to our democracy today.
- 1.2 Describe the role that politics plays in determining how power and resources, including control of information, are distributed in society.
- 1.3 Compare how power is distributed between citizens and government in different economic and political systems.
- 1.4 Describe the enduring tension in the United States between self-interested human nature and public-spirited government and the way that has been shaped in a mediated world.
- 1.5 Analyze the role of immigration and the meaning of citizenship in American politics.

1.6 Describe values that most Americans share, and the political debates that drive partisan divisions in American politics.

1.7 Discuss the essential reasons for approaching politics from a perspective of critical thinking, analysis, and evaluation.

10.1 Define *public opinion* and *public opinion polling*.

10.2 Explain the role of public opinion in a democracy.

10.3 Evaluate how well American citizens measure up to notions of the ideal democratic citizen.

10.4 Identify key factors that influence our individual and collective political opinions.

10.5 Describe different techniques used to gauge public opinion.

10.6 Give examples of ways in which public opinion enhances or diminishes the relationship between citizens and government.

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13.1 Define *mass media* and *media convergence*.

13.2 Discuss changes over the past several decades in the ways in which Americans get their news and information.

13.3 Describe the ways in which media ownership and government regulation influence the news we get.

13.4 Explain the roles and responsibilities of journalists and the tools they use to shape and perpetuate political narratives.

13.5 Identify the strategies politicians use to counter the influence of the media and shape and perpetuate their own political narratives.

13.6 Summarize the relationship between citizens and the media

11.1 Define *political parties* and *interest groups* and explain the key difference between them.

11.2 Describe the role that parties play in making government policy.

11.3 Outline the evolution of the party system in the United States.

11.4 Identify four types of interest groups and the kinds of interests they represent.

11.5 Describe how interest groups use lobbying and campaign activities to get the public policy they want.

11.6 Identify specific resources that interest groups bring to bear when attempting to influence public policy.

11.7 Summarize the ways in which citizens interact with their government through membership in parties and interest groups

12.1 Describe the competing narratives Americans have about the value of elections.

12.2 Summarize the influences on who votes and who don't.

- 12.3 Describe factors that affect citizens' decisions on whether and how to vote.
- 12.4 Identify the organizational and strategic tactics employed in presidential campaigns.
- 12.5 Recognize the importance of elections for citizens.
- 14.1 Define public policy and recognize its importance in American politics.
- 14.2 Explain what policy is, who makes it, and how it is made.
- 14.3 Identify four government policy programs that attempt to improve citizens' lives.
- 14.4 Explain the difference between fiscal and monetary policy.
- 14.5 Identify the basic goals and types of foreign policy.
- 14.6 Describe ways in which policymaking reflects public opinion.

Class Procedure: This class will be conducted in a lecture/discussion format. Students are encouraged to actively participate in class discussions. **READ THE ASSIGNED CHAPTERS PRIOR TO CLASS!** Your views, opinions, and questions are valued no matter how insignificant or controversial you may feel them to be. Politics these days is controversial, please keep class comments on point as they pertain to the lecture material. Still, I like to know what you think about things. Please do not feel inhibited by the size of the class in expressing your views. Warm bodies only fill up space and are not very exciting unless you say something.

Course Expectations: A university course is a joint endeavor between instructor and students. We all have an important part to play.

As the instructor for this course, I am responsible for

- providing course materials that will give you the opportunity to achieve our course objectives and providing you with the tools to learn,
- providing timely feedback on your work and explaining concerns you may have with grading,
- and being fair in my implementation of rules and policies in the course.

As a student in this course, you are responsible for

- reading and completing all the requirements of the course in a timely manner,
- working to remain attentive and engaged in the course and interact with your fellow students,
- and assisting in maintaining a positive learning environment for everyone.

Technical Support: Neither the instructor nor the teaching assistants are technical experts. If you experience any kind of technical problem, please contact:

- [HelpDesk](#)

(<http://www.unt.edu/helpdesk/index.html>)

Email: helpdesk@unt.edu

Phone: 940-565-2324

Sage Hall, Room 330

Walk-In Hours: M – F: 8:00 am – 5:00 pm (CST)

Phone Hours:

- Monday-Thursday: 8:00 am – 9:00 pm
- Friday: 8:00 am – 5:00 pm
- Saturday – Sunday: 11:00 am – 3:00 pm

Canvas Support: [Canvas Technical Help](#)

(<https://community.canvaslms.com/docs/DOC-10554-4212710328>)

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

To report an issue with SAGE Vantage, get Tech Support Help, and view Resources, visit

- <https://sagevantage.softwareassist.com>
- Call 1 (800) 818-7243 ext. 7080

Please note: If you experience a loss of internet connection, WIFI signal, or your browser freezes up on you during an assignment or exam, you must contact the UNT resources first, then send us an email with the problem you experienced and how you're addressing it. In most cases, though, failing to complete an assignment or exam because of technical issues will not be reason enough to dismiss the grade or allow a retake.

Assessment components: IT IS YOUR RESPONSIBILITY TO MONITOR ASSIGNMENT STATUS (POSTINGS & DUE DATES) REGULARLY IN CANVAS!

- **Keeping the Republic Assignments (Sage Vantage) (20% of your grade):**
[SAGE Vantage](#) is an intuitive digital platform that blends *Keeping the Republic* content with auto-graded assignments, all carefully designed to initiate student engagement and drive critical thinking. **LATE WORK IS NOT ACCEPTED!**
- **Web-text PSCI 2305 Soomo Workbook assignments (25% of your grade):**
Online assignments from the PSCI 2305 Workbook accessible through Canvas. Online web-text material **will not** be covered in the exams.
 - **ALL WEB-TEXT ASSIGNMENTS MUST BE SUBMITTED BY THE DUE DATE AND TIME FOR FULL CREDIT. If you miss the assignment deadline, you can still get up to half credit for any**

work submitted no later than December 6th at 8:00 am. The earlier you get your assignments the better. Bad things happen when you put things off!

- **Examinations (55% of your grade):** There will be THREE (3) of them. Exams, which are in class, closed book/notes, consist of multiple choice and true-false questions. Exams are based on your textbook chapter readings and class lectures. Notify the instructor in advance if you cannot take the exam on the designated day. **If you miss an exam, contact the instructor within 3 days of the exam date so we can schedule a makeup. Failure to do this means you will not be allowed to take a makeup.**

If there is a grading question about any assignment, quiz, or exam, please bring this to the attention of the instructor **NO LATER THAN** 24 hours after the grade is posted in Canvas. Failure to do so means your right to appeal the grade assigned is waived! **Do not wait until the end of the term to question a score from earlier in the term.**

Grades: (earned and not given). Your grade will be determined based on your scores earned in the following activities:

A range=89.5-100, B range=79.5-89.4, C range=69.5-79.4, D range =59.5-69.4

Your final grade is the culmination of work that you have done over the course of the semester. **It is not the product of bargaining for academic mercy at the end of the term.** Moreover, I cannot make an exception for one student without making it for all students, and that is never practical or fair.

Final Exam: The final is scheduled for Monday, December 9th, 10:30 am – 12:30 pm, WH 122. Please do not ask to take the final early. The final is **NOT** comprehensive.

Attendance: Why do you spend tuition money on a class if you do not attend? You are expected to attend class meetings regularly.

Class Recording: none. Lecture slides will be posted when a chapter is completed.

UNT Academic Integrity Policy: 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, sabotage, and unauthorized use of AI in any assignment or exam. A finding of academic dishonesty may result in a range of academic penalties or sanctions ranging from admonition to expulsion from the University.

Political Science Department Policy on Cheating & Plagiarism:

This policy pertains to all assignments in this course that require writing. That includes – but is not limited to – papers and examinations. All written work you submit in this course must be your own, original work.

What does that mean?

- You give appropriate credit to each source and do so each time you use that source, irrespective of whether you paraphrase or quote that source. Failure to give appropriate credit means you present the work as your own.
- You do not use any material written by someone else or by generative AI – including, but not limited to chatbots such as ChatGPT – and present it as your own work.

Why?

- According to the UNT Academic Integrity Policy (UNT Policy 6.003), any form of “unauthorized assistance” constitutes cheating. As a result, use of any artificial intelligence is not authorized for completion of assignments or exams in this course, unless specifically authorized by the instructor.
- Academic integrity is defined in UNT Policy 6.003 and indicates that the following constitute violations of academic honesty: a student has another person/entity do the work of any substantive portion of a graded assignment for them, which includes purchasing work from a company, hiring a person or company to complete an assignment or exam, and/or using generative AI tools (such as ChatGPT).
- For additional information, consult UNT Policy 6.003.

What are the consequences?

- Violations will not be tolerated. Any suspected case of academic dishonesty will be handled in accordance with current University policy and procedures, as described at <https://vpaa.unt.edu/ss/integrity>.
 - If this is your first academic integrity violation, you can expect a failing grade on the assignment, and you will be reported to the university's Academic Integrity office.
 - Repeat violations will lead to stronger sanctions up to and including expulsion from UNT.
- These penalties will apply even if you did not knowingly intend to plagiarize or cheat. You must familiarize yourself with the rules of academic integrity and do your own original work – whether at UNT or later in your career – and ignorance is no excuse.

ADA Policy: UNT 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 a student with an accommodation letter to be delivered to faculty to begin a private discussion regarding one's specific course needs. Students may request accommodation 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 [ODA website](https://disability.unt.edu/) (<https://disability.unt.edu/>).

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.

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 Dean of Students 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. Visit UNT's [Code of Student Conduct](#) to learn more.

Rules of Engagement: rules of engagement refer to the way students are expected to interact with each other and with their instructors. 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.

Emergency Notification & Procedures: UNT uses a system called Eagle Alert to quickly notify students 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.

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. Students 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. Students 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.

Access to Information - Eagle Connect: Students’ access point for business and academic services at UNT is located at: my.unt.edu. All official communication from the University will be delivered to a student’s Eagle Connect account. For more information, please visit the website that explains Eagle Connect and how to forward e-mail [Eagle Connect](https://it.unt.edu/eagleconnect) (<https://it.unt.edu/eagleconnect>).

Student Evaluation Administration Dates: Student feedback is important and an essential part of participation in this course. The student evaluation of instruction is a requirement for all organized classes at UNT. The survey will be made available during weeks 13, 14 and 15 [insert administration dates] of the long semesters to provide students with an opportunity to evaluate how this course is taught. Students will receive an email from "UNT SPOT Course Evaluations via IASystem Notification"

(no-reply@iasystem.org) with the survey link. Students should look for email in their UNT email inbox. Simply click on the link and complete the survey. Once students complete the survey, they will receive a confirmation email that the survey has been submitted. For additional information, please visit the [SPOT website](http://spot.unt.edu/) (<http://spot.unt.edu/>) or email spot@unt.edu.

Student Support Services

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](#)
- [COUNSELING AND TESTING SERVICES](#)
- [CARE Team](#)
- [PSYCHIATRIC SERVICES](#)
- [STUDENT COUNSELING](#)

Survivor Advocacy: UNT is committed to providing a safe learning environment free of all forms of sexual misconduct. Federal laws and UNT policies prohibit discrimination based on sex as well as 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. The Survivor Advocates can be reached at SurvivorAdvocate@unt.edu or by calling the Dean of Students Office at 940-565-2648.

Chosen Names: A chosen name is a name that a person goes by that may or may not match their legal name. If you have a chosen name that is different from your legal name and would like that to be used in class, please let the instructor know. Below is a list of resources for updating your chosen name at UNT.

- [UNT Records](#)
- [UNT ID Card](#)
- [UNT Email Address](#)
- [Legal Name](#)

**UNT euids cannot be changed at this time. The collaborating offices are working on a process to make this option accessible to UNT community members.*

Additional Student Support Services:

- [REGISTRAR](#)
- [FINANCIAL AID & SCHOLARSHIPS](#)
- [Student Legal Services](#)
- [CAREER CENTER](#)
- [UNT Food Pantry presented by Kroger](#)

Academic Support Services:

- [Academic Success Center](#)
- [University Libraries](#)

Schedule Changes: I reserve the right to change any of the exam times or assignments by providing you with at least 48-hour notice of such changes. You are responsible for any changes that may occur during the semester. Any changes will be announced at the beginning of each class and posted in Canvas.

Coming Attractions

Unit 1

Power and Citizenship in American Politics (Ch. 1)

Public Opinion (Ch. 10)

Media, Power, and Political Communication (Ch. 13)

Week 1	August 18, 20 Power & Citizenship
Week 2	August 25, 27 Power & Citizenship
Week 3	September 1,3 Labor Day on the 1st; NO CLASS Public Opinion
Week 4	September 8, 10 Public Opinion
Week 5	September 15, 17 Media, Power, and Political Communication

- Week 6 September 22, 24
Media, Power, and Political Communication
- Week 7 September 29th: **Unit 1 Exam.** All Unit 1 Keeping the Republic
Assignments and Webtext, PSCI 2305 assignments are due at 10:00 am.

Unit 2
Parties and Interest Groups (Ch. 11)
Voting, Campaigns, and Elections (Ch. 12)

- Week 7 October 1
Parties & Interest Groups
- Week 8 October 6, 8
Parties & Interest Groups
- Week 9 October 13, 15
Parties & Interest Groups
- Week 10 October 20, 22
Voting, Campaigns & Elections
- Week 11 October 27, 29
Voting, Campaigns & Elections
- Week 12 November 3
Voting, Campaigns & Elections

November 5: **Unit 2 Exam.** All Unit 2 Keeping the Republic
Assignments and Webtext, PSCI 2305 assignments due at 10:00 am.

Unit 3
Domestic and Foreign Policy (Ch. 14)

- Week 13 November 10, 12
Domestic Policy
- Week 14 November 17, 19
Foreign Policy
- Week 14 November 24, 26
FALL BREAK, NO CLASS!
- Week 15 December 1, 3

Foreign Policy

Unit 3 Important Dates

December 6th: Final Exam. December 6th 8:00 am -10:30 am, ENV 125. All Unit 3 Keeping the Republic Assignments and Webtext, PSCI 2305 assignments due at 8:00 am.

All late Soomo Webtext (PSCI 2305 Workbook) assignments must be turned in by 8:00 am to get up to half credit.