

PSCI 2305.001, Fall 2023  
Mo, We, Fr: 10:00 am – 10:50 am  
MATT 311

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](mailto:meaders@unt.edu)

Walk in Office Hours: Monday & Wednesday 1:30 pm -3:30 pm

Tuesday Zooms: 9:00 am -11:00 am, <https://unt.zoom.us/j/85286745458>

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:

Ahmed Hamza

Office: Wooten Hall 140

Political Science Department Office: Wooten Hall 125

Political Science Department Phone: (940) 565 - 2276

E-mail: [ahmedhamza@my.unt.edu](mailto:ahmedhamza@my.unt.edu)

Office Hours: Monday and Friday 11:00 am – 12:00 pm

Zoom: [https://us05web.zoom.us/j/\\*\\*\\*\\*\\*982?pwd=eFFLTmZBemYwL1RzU0F3TFY0ZGk1dz09](https://us05web.zoom.us/j/*****982?pwd=eFFLTmZBemYwL1RzU0F3TFY0ZGk1dz09)

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 session schedule/updates, visit: <http://learningcenter.unt.edu/si>

Supplemental Instructor: Mahathi Sriji

e-mail: [mahathisriji@my.unt.edu](mailto:mahathisriji@my.unt.edu)

Review times: TBD

Required Texts:

- *We the People*, by Ginsberg, Lowi, Weir, and Tolbert (GLATT) 14<sup>th</sup> edition.

Publisher: Norton. ISBN 13: 8220128535617

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

- PSCI 2305 *Workbook: U.S. Political Behavior and Policy 6<sup>th</sup> edition* ISBN 13: 8220129226477

**Course Topics:** Government matters to you. Regardless of your age, citizenship, race, religion, or gender, you value something in this world (your family, your education, your job, your health, faith ... whatever!). Chances are very good 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 methods and process of political behavior and American politics.
- 1.2. Explain and recognize the importance of examining political behavior and ideology.
- 1.3. Explain key components of political behavior by examining the dynamics of public opinion, the media, interest groups, and the campaign and election process.
- 2.1. Explain the process of political socialization in American politics.
- 2.2. Explain the role of public opinion in a democratic society
- 2.3. Critique non-scientific and scientific methods of public opinion measurement.
- 3.1. Explain the process and dissemination of information by the media in American politics.
- 3.2. Analyze the process of media regulation.
- 3.3. Examine the relationship between the roles of the media in American democratic society.
- 4.1. Explain the dynamics of interest group formation in American politics.
- 4.2. Explain the influence groups and lobbyists have on governments.
- 5.1. Explain the role of political parties in American politics.
- 5.2. Analyze key components of political participation.
- 5.3. Analyze key components of elections and campaigns.

- 5.4. Examine the voting process and voter participation in American politics.
- 6.1. Analyze and critically assess the policymaking process in American politics and examine salient public policy issue areas.
- 6.2. Analyze the evolution and current role of the U.S. in the global arena in terms of both the economic and foreign policy domains.

**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 in 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:

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

If you are having trouble with your e-book or InQuizitive, contact W.W. Norton Tech Support at <https://wwnorton.com/tech-support>

**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!**

- **InQuizitive Assignments (10% of your grade):** These are online quizzes to make sure you are reading the assigned chapters in the textbook. **MIND THE DUE DATES AND TIMES! LATE WORK IS NOT ACCEPTED!**
- **Illumine eBook Core Concept Exercises (10% of your grade).** Check Your Understanding questions assist you in learning. Dynamic Data figures promote quantitative literacy. **MIND THE DUE DATES AND TIMES! LATE WORK IS NOT ACCEPTED!**
- **Web-text assignments (20% of your grade):** Online assignments from the PSCI 2305 digital web-text 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 6<sup>th</sup> at 10:00 am.** The earlier you get your assignments the better. Bad things happen when you put things off!

- **Examinations (60% 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 **Saturday, December 9<sup>th</sup>, 8:00 am – 10:00 am. MATT 311.** 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: Academic Integrity Standards and Consequences.** 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:** Perish the thought and do not give in to temptation and the easy way! The Political Science Department adheres to and enforces UNT's policy on academic integrity. Academic

Integrity is defined in the UNT Policy on Student Standards for Academic Integrity. Any suspected case of Academic Dishonesty will be handled in accordance with the University Policy and procedures. Possible academic penalties range from a verbal or written admonition to a grade of “F” in the course. Further sanctions may apply to incidents involving major violations. You will find the policy and procedures at: <http://facultysuccess.unt.edu/academic-integrity>. Review the policy!

**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.

**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.

**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](https://deanofstudents.unt.edu/conduct) (https://deanofstudents.unt.edu/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.

**Access to Information - Eagle Connect:** Students' access point for business and academic services at UNT is located at: [my.unt.edu](https://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](mailto: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/>) or email [spot@unt.edu](mailto: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](https://studentaffairs.unt.edu/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) (<https://studentaffairs.unt.edu/counseling-and-testing-services>)
- [UNT Care Team](https://studentaffairs.unt.edu/care) (<https://studentaffairs.unt.edu/care>)
- [UNT Psychiatric Services](https://studentaffairs.unt.edu/student-health-and-wellness-center/services/psychiatry) (<https://studentaffairs.unt.edu/student-health-and-wellness-center/services/psychiatry>)
- [Individual Counseling](https://studentaffairs.unt.edu/counseling-and-testing-services/services/individual-counseling) (<https://studentaffairs.unt.edu/counseling-and-testing-services/services/individual-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](mailto:SurvivorAdvocate@unt.edu) or by calling the Dean of Students Office at 940-5652648.

**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](#)
- [STUDENT EMAIL](#)
- [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.*

**Pronouns:** Pronouns (she/her, they/them, he/him, etc.) are a public way for people to address you, much like your name, and can be shared with a name when making an introduction, both virtually and in-person. Just as we ask and don't assume someone's name, we should also ask and not assume someone's pronouns. You can [add your pronouns to your Canvas account](#) so that they follow your name when posting to discussion boards, submitting assignments, etc.

Below is a list of additional resources regarding pronouns and their usage:

- [What are pronouns and why are they important?](#)
- [How do I use pronouns?](#)
- [How do I share my pronouns?](#)
- [How do I ask for another person's pronouns?](#)
- [How do I correct myself or others when the wrong pronoun is used?](#)

#### **Additional Student Support Services:**

- [Registrar](https://registrar.unt.edu/registration) (<https://registrar.unt.edu/registration>)
- [Financial Aid](https://financialaid.unt.edu/) (<https://financialaid.unt.edu/>)
- [Student Legal Services](https://studentaffairs.unt.edu/student-legal-services) (<https://studentaffairs.unt.edu/student-legal-services>)
- [Career Center](https://studentaffairs.unt.edu/career-center) (<https://studentaffairs.unt.edu/career-center>)
- [Multicultural Center](https://edo.unt.edu/multicultural-center) (<https://edo.unt.edu/multicultural-center>)???
- [Counseling and Testing Services](https://studentaffairs.unt.edu/counseling-and-testing-services) (<https://studentaffairs.unt.edu/counseling-and-testing-services>)
- [Pride Alliance](https://edo.unt.edu/pridealliance) (<https://edo.unt.edu/pridealliance>)???
- [UNT Food Pantry](https://deanofstudents.unt.edu/resources/food-pantry) (<https://deanofstudents.unt.edu/resources/food-pantry>)

#### **Academic Support Services:**

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

**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**

#### **Public Opinion (Ch. 6), Media (Ch. 7), Political Participation & Voting (Ch. 8)**

Week 1	August 21, 23, 25 Chapter 6, Public Opinion.
Week 2	August 28, 30, September 1 More public opinion
Week 3	September 6, 8 Chapter 7, Media
Week 4	September 11, 13, 15  More Media
Week 5	September 18, 20, 22 Chapter 8, Political Participation
Week 6	September 25, 27, 29 Political participation wrap-up

### **Unit 1 Important Dates**

September 29<sup>th</sup>: Unit 1 Exam.

How to use InQuizitive, How to Evaluate Sources, Quantitative Literacy, Quantitative Literacy Demo; ILLUMINE EBOOK Chapters 6-8; Inquisitive Assignments chapters 6-8; Webtext Assignments on public opinion, media, and political participation are all due at 10:00 am

### **Unit 2**

#### **Interest groups (Ch. 11), Political Parties (Ch. 9), Campaigns & Elections (Ch. 10)**

Week 7	October 2, 4, 6 Groups and Interests
Week 8	October 9, 11, 13 Groups and Interests,
Week 9	October 16, 18, 20 Political Parties

Week 10    October 23, 25, 27  
More parties; Campaigns & Elections.

Week 11    October 30, November 1, 3  
More on campaigns & elections

Week 12    November 6, 8, 10

### **Unit 2 Important Dates**

November 8<sup>th</sup>: Unit 2 Exam

ILLUMINE EBOOK Chapters 9-11; Inquisitive Assignments chapters 9-11; Webtext Assignments on interest groups, political parties, elections, and campaigns are all due at 10:00 am

### **Unit 3**

**Economic Policy (Ch. 16), Social Policy (Ch. 17),  
Foreign Policy (Ch. 18)**

November 10  
Economic policy

Week 13    November 13, 15, 17  
Economic Policy, Social policy

Week 14    November 20, 22, 24  
**Fall Break, No Class!**

Week 14    November 27, 29, and December 1  
Social policy, Foreign Policy

Week 15    December 4, 6  
Foreign Policy  
**Reading Day, no class on December 8<sup>th</sup>!**

### **Unit 3 Important Dates**

December 6: Inquisitive Assignments chapters 16-18; ILLUMINE EBOOK Chapters 16-18; Webtext Assignments on domestic policy and foreign policy are all due at 10:00 am

All late webtext assignments must be turned in by 10 am to get up to half credit.

December 9<sup>th</sup>: **Final Exam. SATURDAY, December 9<sup>th</sup>, 8:00 am – 10:00 am, MATT 311. The final only covers Chapters 16-18.**