

PSCI 2306.006, Spring 2024  
W: 6:30 pm - 9:20 pm  
LIFE A106

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

Office: WH 141  
Political Science Department Office: Wooten Hall 125  
Political Science Department Phone: (940) 565 - 2276  
E-mail: [meaders@unt.edu](mailto:meaders@unt.edu)

**\*Note to Students:** Due to FERPA regulations, I cannot send academic information to non-UNT email addresses. Please contact me via your UNT email address only.

**Office Hours:**

**Walk In, WH 141**

Monday 1:00 pm - 3:00 pm  
Wednesday 1:00 pm - 3:00 pm

**Zoom Tuesdays**

1:00 pm - 3:00 pm

<https://unt.zoom.us/j/82677646606>

If the posted hours are no good, let me know and we will set something else up.

**Teaching Assistants:**

Afolabi Toyé  
Office: WH 152  
Political Science Department Office: Wooten Hall 125  
Political Science Department Phone: (940) 565 - 2276  
E-mail: [AfolabiToyé@my.unt.edu](mailto:AfolabiToyé@my.unt.edu)  
Office Hours:

**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:**

Email:

Review times: TBA

Required Texts:

#1, *We the People*, by Ginsberg, Lowi, Weir, and Tolbert (WTP) 14<sup>th</sup> edition. You can get the paper copy, but it must be the current edition. It will give you access to the e-book. Most students now get the eBook which costs substantially less than the hard copy.

Publisher: Norton

ISBN # 9781324034636

# 2, *Governing Texas*, 6<sup>th</sup> edition (GT) - eBook PAPERBACK by Champagne, Anthony.

Publisher: Norton

ISBN # 9781324039228

# 3, PSCI 2306 Workbook and Texas Politics

Publisher: Soomo

ISBN # 9781954890695

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

**Course Description:**

As you begin this course, you should keep two things in mind:

(1) 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 particularly 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.

(2) Rules matter. Institutional structure and the rules by which they operate shape the outcomes of the governmental process. This class will introduce you to the institutions of government, the logic behind their structure and operation, and the rules that constrain their behavior (with particular emphasis on the U.S. Constitution).

**Course Objectives:**

Students who master the content of this course will be able to:

1. Explain philosophical traditions that inform the U.S. and Texas constitutions (including classical liberalism, republicanism, federalism, separation of powers, and checks and balances)

2. Evaluate the democratic nature and effectiveness of the U.S. and Texas institutions of government (including their constitutions)
3. Evaluate the balance of power between the branches of government, state and national governments, and the people and the state
4. Evaluate constitutional and extra-constitutional powers of the three branches of government at both the Texas and national levels
5. Describe and explain the nature of individual rights and liberties and the limits of governmental power in the context of the Bill of Rights and Equal Protection Clause of the U.S. Constitution.

**Class Procedure:** This class will be conducted in a lecture/discussion format. You are encouraged to actively participate in class discussions. **READ THE ASSIGNED CHAPTERS PRIOR TO CLASS!** Your views, opinions, and questions are valued. Politics these days is controversial, but please keep class comments on point as they pertain to the lecture material. Still, I like to know what you think about things. 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 requirements of the course in a timely manner,
- working to remain attentive and engaged in the course and interact with your fellow students,
- regularly monitoring your grades on assignments,
- and, assisting in maintaining a positive learning environment for everyone.

**Online Assessment components:**

**IT IS YOUR RESPONSIBILITY TO MONITOR ASSIGNMENT STATUS (POSTINGS & DUE DATES) REGULARLY IN THE SYLLABUS AND CANVAS COURSE CALENDAR!**

You will have several weeks to get your assignments completed. Get your assignments completed early. Bad things happen when you put things off!

- **Illumine E-book reading quizzes (10% of your Grade): LATE WORK IS NOT ACCEPTED!**

- **InQuizitive (10% of your grade):** InQuizitive is an easy-to-use adaptive learning tool that personalizes your learning experience. It assists you in mastering and retaining key learning objectives for each assigned chapter. **LATE WORK IS NOT ACCEPTED!**
- **Online Workbook (20% of your grade):** Each workbook chapter is organized around the four learning objectives adopted by the Texas Higher Education Coordinating Board (critical thinking, communication, personal responsibility, and social responsibility). Each chapter includes four essays that expound upon course concepts and give students an opportunity to apply those concepts. These multiple-choice questions can also be answered repeatedly until you get them all correct. So, aim to get the highest score you can! 100% correct should be your goal. **Late work WILL BE ACCEPTED for up to half credit until May 8<sup>th</sup> at 6:30 p.m.**

In Class Assessment:

- **Examinations (60% of your grade):** There will be THREE (3) of them. Exams, which are 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 72 hours of the exam date so we can schedule a makeup. Failure to do this means you will not be allowed to take a makeup.
  - The final is scheduled for **Wednesday, May 8<sup>th</sup>, at 6:30 pm**, LIFE A106. **Please do not ask to take the final early.** The final only covers Unit 3 material.
- If there is a grading question about any assignment or exam, please bring this to the attention of the instructor **NO LATER THAN 72** 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!**

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 at the end of the term.** Please do not ask for individual extra credit. Moreover, I cannot make an exception for one student without making it for all students, and that is never practical or fair.

Attendance: **ATTEND CLASS!** Why pay for all this tuition if you are not going to come to class? I always take about a 15-minute break around 8:00 pm when I teach a night class. I will not be taking roll.

*Specifically, for TAMS students: If you are absent for any reason, you are required to file an absence report with the TAMS Academic Office. In addition, as your professor, I will send periodic attendance reports to the TAMS Academic Office.*

**Technical Support:** Your instructor is not wise in the ways of technical support resources. If you experience any kind of technical problem, please contact:

Student Helpdesk:  
UNT Helpdesk  
Sage Hall 330  
940-565-2324  
<https://aits.unt.edu/support>  
[helpdesk@unt.edu](mailto:helpdesk@unt.edu)

#### Spring 2024 Helpdesk Hours

Monday–Thursday: 8 a.m. - 9 p.m. (CST)  
Friday: 8 a.m. - 5 p.m. (CST)  
Saturday–Sunday: 11 a.m. - 3 p.m.

**Walk-in Hours:**  
Monday–Friday: 8 a.m.- 5 p.m.

For additional support, visit [Canvas Technical Help](#)

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 me 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. Remember, turn your assignments in early!**

**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, and sabotage. 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!

**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.

**Sexual Discrimination, Harassment, & Assault:** UNT has procedures in place that aim to be aware of the needs of those who make an institutional report of sexual assault, domestic violence, dating violence, and stalking. Procedures include informing individuals about their right to file criminal charges as well as the availability of counseling, health, mental health, victim advocacy, legal assistance, visa and immigration assistance and other services on and/or off campus, as well as additional remedies to prevent contact between a complainant and a respondent, such as housing, academic, transportation and working accommodations, if reasonably available. The University will make such accommodations, if the victim requests them and if they are reasonably available, regardless of whether the complainant chooses to report the crime to the UNT police department or local law enforcement.

Anyone can report prohibited conduct by notifying the [Dean of Students Office](#) (940.565.2648), the [Title IX Coordinator](#) (940.565.2759) or the UNT Police Department 940.565.3000. The online reporting form is found at <http://report.unt.edu>.

**Student Success:** If you are struggling with the class, feel free to discuss course issues either with the instructor or the TA’s during office hours. Additional resources may be found at:

- UNT Learning Center: <http://learningcenter.unt.edu/home> or <http://success.unt.edu>

**Disabled Students:** 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: <https://disability.unt.edu/> You may also contact them by phone at (940) 565 - 4323.

**Emergency Notification & Procedures:** UNT uses a system called Eagle Alert to quickly notify you with critical information in an event of emergency (i.e., severe weather, campus closing, and health and public safety emergencies like chemical spills, fires, or violence). The system sends voice messages (and text messages upon permission) to the phones of all active faculty staff, and

students. Please make certain to update your phone numbers at [www.my.unt.edu](http://www.my.unt.edu). Some helpful emergency preparedness actions include: 1) ensuring you know the evacuation routes and severe weather shelter areas, determining how you will contact family and friends if phones are temporarily unavailable, and identifying where you will go if you need to evacuate the Denton area suddenly. In the event of a university closure, your instructor will communicate with you through Canvas regarding assignments, exams, field trips, and other items that may be impacted by the closure.

### 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](#)

*\*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>)
- [Counseling and Testing Services](https://studentaffairs.unt.edu/counseling-and-testing-services) (<https://studentaffairs.unt.edu/counseling-and-testing-services>)
- [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/>)

**Final Exam:** The final is scheduled for **Wednesday, May 8<sup>th</sup>, 2024, from 6:30 pm - 8:30 pm**, LIFE A106. **Please do not ask to take the final early.** The final covers Unit 3 material only.

**Schedule Changes:** I reserve the right to change any of the exam times, quizzes, 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  
(More or less)

### Unit 1

All Assignments are Due on February 21<sup>st</sup> at **6:30 pm**

- Week 1: January 17: American & Texas Political Culture, Chapter 1 in both texts.
- Week 2: January 24: American & Texas Political Culture continued; the U.S. Constitution
- Week 3: January 31: the U.S. Constitution and the Texas Constitution, Chapter 2 in both texts.
- Week 4: February 7: Federalism, Chapter 3 in both texts.



Week 5 February 14: Federalism continued

Week 6 February 21: **Exam 1 (first hour)**

### Unit 2

**All Unit Assignments are Due on April 3<sup>rd</sup> at 6:30 pm**

February 21: Congress, WTP Chapter 12.

Week 7 February 28: Congress continued; the Texas Legislature, GT Chapter 7

Week 8 March 6: **The** Presidency & the Texas Executive branch, WTP Chapter 13, GT Chapter 8

Week 9 March 13: **Spring Break, No Class**

Week 10 March 20: The Presidency & the Texas Executive branch continued

Week 11 March 27: The Bureaucracy, WTP Chapter 14.

Week 12 April 3: **Exam 2 (First hour).**

### Unit 3

**All Unit Assignment are Due on May 8<sup>th</sup> at 6:30 p.m.**

April 3: Federal Courts, WTP Chapter 15.

Week 13 April 10: Federal courts continued; Texas Courts, GT Chapter 9.

Week 14 April 17: Texas Courts continued; Civil Liberties, WTP Chapter 4.

Week 15 April 24: Civil liberties continued; Civil Rights, WTP Chapter 5.

Week 16: May 1: Civil Rights continued

Week 17: **May 8: Final Exam, 6:30 pm - 8:30 pm, LIFE A106**