Political Science (PSCI) 2306.008, Fall 2020 (Draft)
American Government: Laws and Institutions
REMOTE CLASS
Lectures here: https://unt.zoom.us/j/97138340219
MW 2:00-3:20 pm

Instructor:
Dr. John Ishiyama
Office: all office hours will be on ZOOM at https://unt.zoom.us/j/5952815816
Office Hours: Tuesdays and Wednesdays 11:00-12:30 p.m. and by appointment
E-mail: john.ishiyama@unt.edu

<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th>Assigned Students (If your last name falls in this range your initial point of contact is this Teaching Assistant):</th>
<th>Kyle Allen</th>
<th>Alex Goodwin</th>
<th>Cesar Villegas</th>
</tr>
</thead>
<tbody>
<tr>
<td>Office via zoom link</td>
<td>TBA</td>
<td>TBA</td>
<td><a href="https://us04web.zoom.us/j/7537101330">https://us04web.zoom.us/j/7537101330</a></td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Office Hours:</td>
<td>TBA</td>
<td>TBA</td>
<td>Wednesday 10:00am - 12:00pm</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>E-mail:</td>
<td><a href="mailto:KyleAllen@my.unt.edu">KyleAllen@my.unt.edu</a></td>
<td><a href="mailto:Alexander.Goodwin@my.unt.edu">Alexander.Goodwin@my.unt.edu</a></td>
<td><a href="mailto:CesarVillegas@my.unt.edu">CesarVillegas@my.unt.edu</a></td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Supplemental Instructor: Anastasia Hodge</td>
<td></td>
<td></td>
<td></td>
</tr>
</tbody>
</table>

YOUR FIRST POINT OF CONTACT WITH THE COURSE IS YOUR ASSIGNED GRADUATE TEACHING ASSISTANT- IF YOU HAVE QUESTIONS, FIRST CONTACT YOUR TA, BEFORE CONTACTING THE PROFESSOR

COVID-19 Advisory
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.

BEFORE WRITING THE PROFESSOR PLEASE READ http://m.wikihow.com/Email-a-Professor.

There is a Canvas site for this course where text and workbook assignments can be accessed.(https://unt.instructure.com/login/ldap) In addition copies of some other documents will be placed there as well (e.g. the syllabus).

**I. Course Goals:** This is an introductory American government course designed to examine the development of the institutional structures of the U.S. and Texas political systems. To be able to analyze the US political system, we will be adopting an explicitly Comparative Perspective, i.e. how does the US political system compare with the political system of other countries. There are two reasons for this. First, being able to understand the development and operation of the political systems of other countries, helps us understand why the American political system
developed in the way it did. Further, comparison offers potential alternatives to consider if one were interested in effecting improvement in the US system. The second is more practical: the instructor is primarily trained as a comparative political scientist, and has extensive experience studying other political systems, particularly in Europe, Russia, the former Soviet Union, and Africa. Thus, every effort will be made to understand the US political system in comparison with other political systems.

By the end of the semester, students will be able to identify, analyze, and evaluate the national institutions of government-Congress, the Presidency, the Bureaucracy, the Judiciary, and related state level institutions. Student learning objectives include:

1.1 Demonstrating the ability to identify and explain constitutionalism.
1.2 Comprehending the principles of Federalism.
1.3 Synthesizing the roles of the executive, legislative, and judicial branches of government.
2.1 Demonstrating an awareness and recognition of the scope of democratic theory.
2.2 Differentiating between civil rights and civil liberties.

This course satisfies state mandated requirements for a course emphasizing the U.S. and Texas constitutions.

II. Required Texts:

1) There is an open source (i.e.) free textbook we will be using for this class which you can find here

https://openstax.org/details/books/american-government-2e in schedule reading from this text are indicated by *American Government 2e*. There is a link embedded in Canvas

2) Further there is one book/workbook that is required for purchase that is available as a **webtext** on the Canvas site

Instructions to purchase workbook appear in Canvas—click on workbook link OR click on first assignment and it will prompt you with purchase instructions.

3) Also required is purchase of access to the Packback platform. Class participation will be assessed via “Packback”. The Packback Questions platform will be used for online discussion about class topics. Packback Questions is an online community where you will be asked to devise questions about how what we’re studying relates to life and the world around you.

Writing questions and answers on Packback will:
- Help you develop writing skills necessary for any career path
- Reinforce the imperative skill of justifying thoughts and claims with credible evidence—and then citing the evidence!
- Enhance critical thinking sought out by employers
- Deepen your understanding of the course content by gaining diverse insights and perspectives from your peers

Course goals for using Packback are for all students to actively learn, critically think, and move past regurgitation of the course content. The goal is for each student to gain interest & *informed* opinions on the subject matter.

Your participation on Packback will count towards **135 points** of your final grade (about 10%). There are nine (9) Packback assignments each will be worth 15 points each
In order to receive your points per week, you must post 1 Question and 2 Answers relevant to our class subject matter per week.

Before you start posting, be sure to read the Community Guidelines found in the tutorial on Packback. If your post doesn’t follow the Packback Community Guidelines, there is a chance it will be removed and you won’t receive points for that post.

There will be a 11:59 PM deadline for submissions in your community each assignment. This will not begin until week 2.

Note: it takes 24 hours for the Packback team to moderate a post and send a coaching email. If by any reason your post is moderated because it does NOT meet the Community Guidelines, you will need to edit and re-publish your post to receive credit for the week. This is why it is important that you complete your Packback questions and responses far before the deadline in case your post is moderated.

How to Register on Packback:
An email invitation will be sent to you from help@packback.co prompting you to finish registration. If you don’t receive an email (be sure to check your spam), you may register by following the instructions below:

1. Create an account by navigating to https://questions.packback.co and clicking “Sign up for an Account”
   Note: If you already have an account on Packback you can log in with your credentials.

2. Then enter our class community’s lookup key into the “Looking to join a community you don't see here?” section in Packback at the bottom of the homepage.
   Community Lookup Key: eb9a4a50-afe4-4e05-b6c7-20471d5297fc

3. Follow the instructions on your screen to finish your registration.

Packback may require a paid subscription. Refer to www.packback.co/product/pricing for more information.

How to Get Help from the Packback Team:
If you have any questions or concerns about Packback throughout the semester, please read their FAQ at help.packback.co. If you need more help, contact their customer support team directly at help@packback.co.

For a brief introduction to Packback Questions and why we are using it in class, watch this video: vimeo.com/packback/Welcome-to-Packback-Questions

III. Policy on attendance: I do not take regular attendance. Whether you choose to attend or not is entirely up to you. However, much of what appears on the exams will be taken directly from lectures attend on a regular basis, so please try to do so. However if you cannot make it to the class time, I will try to have all of the Zoom lectures recorded and these will be posted to the Canvas site.
IV. Course Requirements: There are several graded items for this course. THE FINAL GRADE IS BASED ON A CURVE THAT WILL BE CALCULATED AT THE END OF THE TERM.

All quizzes and exams will be administered through Canvas and timed

1) On September 2, there will be a syllabus quiz. Be prepared by reading carefully the syllabus. This is worth 30 points. This will be available on Canvas and you will have a 30 minute window to complete the quiz. **It is due at 11:59 pm.**

2) There will also be three major exams scheduled for this term. The first is scheduled for September 30 and is worth 200 points. The second is scheduled for October 28 and is worth 200 points. The third is the final examination (scheduled for December 7, 1:30 pm – 3:30 pm so you have to take it in this period of time and once you start you will have 60 minutes to complete) is worth 250 points and is a comprehensive examination. **Many of the questions will be derived from the Textbook questions and Workbook questions. Thus it is in your interest to read the textbook and the workbook carefully.** All exams will be held on Canvas and all will have a 50 minute time limit, unless alternative arrangements are made. The final examination will have a 60 minute time limit

3) In addition workbook assignments are worth a total of 320 points. These assignments are also designed to help you prepare for the examination. All workbook assignments are due on the due date, **no later than 11:59 pm.**

4) Nine Packback assignments will be worth a total of 135 points and are due at **11:59 pm on the due dates indicated in the schedule below.**

5) There is a “signature” writing assignment for this course that is worth 100 points. It involves writing a letter to a policy maker, and is assessed via a set of evaluation rubrics. You will find the assignment on Canvas and it will be made accessible after the first exam. This assignment is due **December 4 by 11:59 pm**

**Grades:** Your final percentage will be calculated based on 1235 total points as the denominator

**PLEASE NOTE:** THERE WILL BE NO EXTRA CREDIT OFFERED TO INDIVIDUALS FOR THIS COURSE. IT IS FUNDAMENTALLY UNFAIR TO OFFER EXTRA CREDIT TO INDIVIDUALS AND NOT TO THE ENTIRE CLASS. SO PLEASE DO NOT ASK FOR EXTRA CREDIT.

Anything in the lectures, class discussion, and assigned readings is fair game for exam questions. However, the majority of questions will be taken directly from the Textbook and Workbook.

The workbook provides you with additional resources for your learning experience. Each chapter corresponds with the topic under discussion in class. Assignments will be turned in on the Canvas site. If you complete the workbook assignment by the assigned due date **BY 11:59 PM** on the syllabus, you can earn up to 100% of the points. If you turn the workbook assignment late, after the due date, you can earn up to 50% of the points, up until TWO WEEKS AFTER THE DUE DATE.

If you have a question about how your assignment is graded or you think there is an error in the grade assignment, please contact the teaching assistant assigned to prior to the next class
meeting after the grade is posted. **FAILURE TO DO SO WAIVES YOUR ABILITY TO APPEAL THE ASSIGNMENT GRADE.**

### Additional notes

**YOUR FIRST POINT OF CONTACT WITH THE COURSE IS YOUR ASSIGNED TEACHING ASSISTANT- IF YOU HAVE QUESTIONS, FIRST CONTACT YOUR ASSIGNED TA.**

I will post the power point slides on the Canvas site. They will appear after the lecture. The lectures will also be recorded on zoom and will appear in Canvas

### V. Schedule of lecture topics and readings:

<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th>Week &amp; Dates</th>
<th>Topics &amp; Reading Assignments</th>
<th>Quizzes, Assignments, &amp; Examinations</th>
</tr>
</thead>
<tbody>
<tr>
<td><strong>Week 1</strong></td>
<td></td>
<td></td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>1. M 8/24</td>
<td><em>Topic 1: Introduction to the course</em></td>
<td>No readings</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>2. W 8/26</td>
<td></td>
<td></td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td><strong>Week 2</strong></td>
<td></td>
<td></td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>3. M 8/31</td>
<td><em>Topic 2: The Development of American Democracy</em></td>
<td></td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>4. W 9/2</td>
<td>Read: <em>American Government 2e.</em></td>
<td>Syllabus quiz, 9/2 on Canvas released 5:00 pm due 11:59pm</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td><strong>Week 3</strong></td>
<td><em>Chapter 2 “The Constitution and Its Origins”</em></td>
<td>Packback Assignment 1 due 9/7 by 11:59 pm</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>5. M 9/7</td>
<td>Workbook: chp 1 The Constitution</td>
<td>Workbook assignments from Chapter 1 due 9/7 by 11:59pm</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>6. W 9/12</td>
<td><em>Topic 3: Constitutionalism in Comparative Perspective: US, Texas, and other constitutions</em></td>
<td>Packback Assignment 2 due 9/16 by 11:59 pm</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td><strong>Week 4</strong></td>
<td><em>(pay particular attention to the powerpoint slides on Texas Constitution and comparative constitutions of Britain and Russia!)</em></td>
<td></td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>7. M 9/14</td>
<td></td>
<td></td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>8. W 9/16</td>
<td><em>(pay particular attention to the powerpoint slides on Texas Constitution and comparative constitutions of Britain and Russia!)</em></td>
<td>Packback Assignment 3 due 9/23 by 11:59 pm</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td><strong>Week 5</strong></td>
<td></td>
<td></td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td></td>
<td><em>Chapter 2 “American Federalism”</em></td>
<td></td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td></td>
<td>Workbook: chp 2. Federalism</td>
<td></td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td><strong>Week 6</strong></td>
<td></td>
<td></td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>11. M 9/28</td>
<td><em>Topic 5: Federalism in Comparative Perspective</em></td>
<td>NO ASSIGNMENTS DUE</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td></td>
<td><em>(pay particular attention to the powerpoint slides on comparative federalism!)</em></td>
<td></td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>12. W 9/30</td>
<td></td>
<td>EXAM 1, 10/3, During Class time on Canvas</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td><strong>Week 7</strong></td>
<td></td>
<td></td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>13. M 10/5</td>
<td></td>
<td></td>
</tr>
</tbody>
</table>
| Week 8 | 14. W 10/7 | **Topic 6: The Legislature**  
Read: *American Government 2e. Chapter 11 “Congress”*  
Workbook: chp 3. The Legislative Branch | Workbook assignments from Chapter 3 due 10/7 by 11:59pm |
| --- | --- | --- | --- |
| 15. M 10/12 | **Topic 7: The Legislature: Comparative Perspectives**  
Read: *American Government 2e. Chapter 14.3 (about state government)*  
*(pay particular attention to the powerpoint slides on comparative legislatures, especially Texas and Britain!)* | Packback Assignment 4 due 10/12 by 11:59pm |
| 16. W 10/14 | **Topic 8: The Executive**  
Read: *American Government 2e. Chapter 12 “The Presidency”*  
Workbook: chp 4. The Presidency | Workbook assignments from Chapter 4 due 10/19 by 11:59pm |
| Week 9 | 17. M 10/19 | **Topic 9: The Executive: Comparative Perspectives**  
*(pay particular attention to the powerpoint slides on comparative executives!)* | Packback Assignment 5 due 10/26 by 11:59pm |
| 18. W 10/21 | **Week 10** | Workbook assignments from Chapter 5 due 11/4 by 11:59pm |
| 19. M 10/26 | **Week 11** | EXAM 2, 10/28, in class on Canvas |
| 20. W 10/28 | **Week 12** | Packback Assignment 6 due 11/4 by 11:59pm |
Read: *American Government 2e. Chapter 15 “The Bureaucracy”*  
Workbook: chp 5. Bureaucracy | Workbook assignments from Chapter 5 due 11/4 by 11:59pm |
| 22. W 11/4 | **Week 13** | Packback Assignment 7 due 11/11 by 11:59pm |
Read: *American Government 2e. Chapter 13 “The Courts”*  
Workbook: chp 6. The Courts | Workbook assignments from Chapter 6 due 11/11 by 11:59pm |
| 24. W 11/11 | **Week 14** | Packback Assignment due 11/18 by 11:59pm |
| 25. M 11/16 | **Topic 12: Civil Liberties**  
Read: *American Government 2e. Chapter 4 “Civil Liberties”*  
Workbook: chp 7. Civil Liberties | Workbook assignments from Chapter 7 due 11/23 by 11:59pm |
| 26. W 11/18 | **Week 15** | Packback Assignment due 11/30 by 11:59pm |
| 27. M 11/23 | **Prefinal review** | Workbook assignments from Chapter 8 due 12/2 by 11:59pm |
| 28. W 11/25 | **Signature Writing Assignment due** | Writing Assignment due 11:59 pm 12/4 |
| 29. M 11/30 | **Finals Week** | FINAL EXAM: |
VI. Additional information

University of North Texas — Department of Political Science

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. For additional information see the next segment (Policy on Cheating and Plagiarism and https://policy.unt.edu/policy/06-003).

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. In the case of graduate departmental exams, the minimum penalty shall be failure of all fields of the exam. 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 on graduate departmental exams, theses, or dissertations shall automatically be referred to the departmental Graduate Studies Committee. 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.

ADA ACCOMMODATION STATEMENT

The University of North Texas makes reasonable academic accommodation for students with disabilities. Students seeking reasonable accommodation must first register with the Office of Disability Access (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 one’s specific course needs. Students 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 Access website at https://disability.unt.edu.
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 Blackboard/Canvas for contingency plans for covering course materials.

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. The Code of Student Conduct can be found at https://deanofstudents.unt.edu/conduct.

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: http://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 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 the 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 at www.spot.unt.edu or email spot@unt.edu.

SEXUAL ASSAULT PREVENTION
UNT is committed to providing a safe learning environment free of all forms of sexual misconduct. Federal laws and UNT policies prohibit discrimination on the basis of 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.