

PSCI 2316-001
Honors U.S. and Texas Constitutions and Institutions
Spring 2026

Class Meetings

Tuesdays and Thursdays from 11:00am to 12:20pm in Physical Education Building (Peb) 219.

Professor Contact

Name: Professor Leslie K. Finger

Pronouns: she/her

Email: leslie.finger@unt.edu

Zoom Meeting Room: <https://unt.zoom.us/j/5051071505>

Office Location: Wooten Hall 154

Office Hours: Fridays 10:30am-12:30pm in my office. **To attend office hours, sign up for a 15-minute slot** on [my Calendly page](https://calendly.com/leslie-finger/office-hours) (<https://calendly.com/leslie-finger/office-hours>) at least 12 hours ahead of time. I do not allow drop-ins. Write me directly to set up an appointment if you cannot make my office hours. In this case, we will likely meet on Zoom.

Course Website

Most materials and communication will occur through the [course website](https://unt.instructure.com/courses/139687) (<https://unt.instructure.com/courses/139687>).

Course Description

Active political participation requires that the people know the fundamental principles of their government, how political institutions operate, and the civil rights and liberties they are afforded by virtue of their citizenship. While many people feel far-removed from governmental policy and decision-making, it remains important that they understand how political institutions shape their everyday lives. How are the legislative, executive, and judicial branches of government organized? How do the powers of the legislative, executive and judiciary branches counteract and balance one another? How does the organization of governmental institutions affect political outcomes? What civil liberties and rights do United States citizens enjoy? How do these liberties and rights shape or constrain the actions of government? The purpose of this course is to explore these questions and gain a better understanding of how the U.S. government's foundations and organization continue to influence political life and outcomes. We will begin our investigation with the founding documents and Constitution of the United States. We will then focus on federalism, civil rights and liberties, the branches of government, and the bureaucracy as they pertain to the U.S. and Texas.

There are no prerequisites for this course. You must be an Honors College student to take this course.

Course Objectives

By the end of this course, students will be able to:

1. Understand basic concepts related to the U.S. and Texas constitutions and political institutions
2. Understand the structure and powers of the three branches of the U.S. and Texas governments.
3. Understand the division of power between the national and state governments (federalism).

4. Understand the issues related to civil liberties and civil rights.
5. Compare and critically evaluate the present-day United States government to other political systems and the United States government at its founding.
6. Research and argue for well-informed stances on U.S. policy and political issues.

Office Hours

I strongly recommend that you sign up for my office hours at least once during the semester, though it is not mandatory. This will be a chance for us to get to know each other and check in about how the class is going. I also can answer any questions you have. Of course, free to meet with me more than that for any course or life-related issues. Please sign up on my Calendly (see “Office Hours” above). If those times do not work, please email me directly at leslie.finger@unt.edu so we can find another time.

Class Materials

American Government 3e by OpenStax, ISBN: 978-1-951693-38-1. Available for free online at <https://openstax.org/details/books/american-government-3e>. This book will be referred to as “TB” for “textbook” in the readings list.

The American Anomaly, Fourth Edition, by Raymond A. Smith. ISBN: 9781138490673. Available at UNT Bookstore. You can buy much cheaper used versions for from websites like AbeBooks.com and elsewhere. This book will be referred to as “AA” in the readings list.

2306 Workbook: U.S. and Texas Government. ISBN: 978-1-954890-87-9. Available Price is \$28.75 at the UNT bookstore. There are three ways to buy the webtext. You can either buy it through Canvas with a credit or debit card, purchase it through the UNT bookstore, in which case you will enter a passkey the bookstore gives you or sign up for a three-week trial (at the end of which you will need to purchase access using one of the aforementioned methods).

All other readings are available as pdfs on Canvas or via a link provided in the syllabus.

Syllabus Revisions

I reserve the right to revise the syllabus as necessary. If this happens, it will be clearly communicated to you ahead of time.

Course Technology

Technology Requirements

During class, you will need to have a laptop or another device that will allow you to access the internet. Outside of class, because readings are online, you will need the following technology in order to complete the course requirements:

- Computer
- Reliable internet access
- A word processing program that allows you to open and save documents as word files
- [Canvas Technical Requirements \(<https://clear.unt.edu/supported-technologies/canvas/requirements>\)](https://clear.unt.edu/supported-technologies/canvas/requirements)

Computer Skills & Digital Literacy

You will need to have the following skills in order to be able to access and use the course material and communicate with me:

- The ability to use Canvas
- The ability to use email

- The ability to use word processing programs

Technical Assistance

Part of working in the online environment involves dealing with the inconveniences and frustration that can arise when technology breaks down or does not perform as expected. At UNT we have a Student Help Desk that you can contact for help with Canvas or other technology issues.

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

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>)

Assignments

Exams: There is a midterm and a final exam. The midterm will occur during class on Tuesday, Mar. 3 in Sage Hall Testing Center. The final will occur on Tuesday, May 5 from 10:00am to 12:00pm in Sage Hall Testing Center. The exams will be a mix of multiple-choice, short-answer and essay questions. More details will be provided later on.

Policy Project: Throughout the semester, you will become something of an expert on a policy issue of your choosing. You will have several short assignments throughout the semester that will prepare you for the capstone of this project, which is a **letter that you will write to a policymaker** detailing the policy issue and making an argument for what should be done about it. Your policy issue should be a domestic issue.

The Policy Project includes the following parts:

- **Topic and Sources Paper:** A short description of the policy issue (no more than a few sentences stating what the policy issue is) along with a list of at least 3 reputable sources that you plan to use (**due Feb. 6 at 10pm**). Provide your sources. Just providing a link is fine.
- **Policy paper 1**, a 1- or 2-page document where you will discuss how your policy issue relates to the institutions covered so far in class – the U.S. Constitution, federalism, Congress and the presidency (**due Feb. 27 at 10pm**). You should discuss how these institutions relate to your topic, providing concrete examples to show how your topic has played out in those venues. Use any relevant examples we have covered in class or examples from outside class if we did not explicitly cover anything related to your topic.
- **Policy paper 2**, a 1- or 2-page document where you will discuss how your policy issue relates to the institutions covered since Policy Paper 1 – federal bureaucracy, state and local government, Texas government, and the judiciary (**due Apr. 10 at 10pm**). You should discuss how these institutions relate to your topic, providing concrete examples to show how your topic has played out in those venues. Use any relevant examples we have covered in

class or examples from outside class if we did not explicitly cover anything related to your topic.

- A **presentation** of your policymaker letter, to occur in-class either on Dec. 3 or 5. You will be assigned a date and a presentation group and will also provide feedback on your peers' presentations.
- A **policymaker letter**, a letter of 4-5 pages where you describe and make an argument related to your policy issue (**due May 3 at 10pm**)

Course Requirements

<i>Assignments</i>	<i>Due Date/Test Administration</i>	<i>% of Final Grade</i>
In-Class Participation	Attendance & class participation Group work	15% - 10% - 5%
Plagiarism Recognition Assignment	Friday, Jan. 23 at 10pm	1%
Workbook	Various – chapter quiz always due before class	11%
Midterm	During class time on Tuesday, Mar. 3 in Sage Hall Testing Center	15%
Policy Project		38%
- Topic and Sources Paper	Friday, Feb. 6 at 10pm	- 1%
- Policy Paper 1	Friday, Feb. 27 at 10pm	- 10%
- Policy Paper 2	Friday, Apr. 10 at 10pm	- 10%
- Presentation and Feedback	In-class on Apr. 28 or 30 (to be assigned)	- 2%
- Policymaker Letter	Sunday, May 3 at 10pm	- 15%
Final Exam	Tuesday, May 5 from 10:00am to 12:00pm in Sage Hall Testing Center	20%
TOTAL		100%

Grading Scale

Here are the point values and the letter grade corresponding to them. If you are borderline, I will round to the nearest ones place. This means if you get an 89.5, that would round to a 90 and you would get an A, but if you get an 89.4, that would round to an 89 and you will get a B:

A = 90-100%

B = 80-89%

C = 70-79%

D = 60-69%

F = 0-59%

Course Policies

Communication Expectations

I will communicate with the class primarily through Canvas announcements, so please be sure that you are getting Canvas notifications.

To communicate with me directly, use regular email rather than the Canvas email messaging system. You can write me on my UNT email (leslie.finger@unt.edu). I will try to respond to all emails within a day or less. Don't hesitate to write me if you have a question about something.

When I communicate with you individually through email, I expect you to respond within 24 hours. I will offer you the same courtesy. It is inappropriate to ignore emails from your instructors, so please don't put me in the position of having to write you multiple times if I reach out about something.

If we meet on Zoom, I expect you to have your camera on (and I will as well). I find that this creates a more genuine interaction and helps me get to know you better.

Class Participation

Your active participation is crucial to the success of the course. This means being an active listener during lectures, and an active listener and participant during both whole-class discussions and small-group activities.

I expect you to come to class having done the reading.

Attendance Policy

Students are expected to attend the two weekly class sessions in person. While attendance in person is required, this is not the case if you feel sick. Staying home due to sickness will not impact your grade, **but you must communicate with me that you will be absent for this reason.** If you do not communicate with me, or are absent for any other reason, the absence will be considered "unexcused" and will count against your participation grade. That said, I allow students **to have one excused absence for UNT student group special occasions (e.g., conferences, participating in a performance, playing in a game for a UNT team, etc.)** In that case, I need some kind of proof that this is what the absence is for.

Of course, there will be exceptions made for family emergencies or other kinds of serious situations. Please communicate with me if that's the case.

Note that ***missing class will impact your grade.*** In general, your participation grade will only be in the 90's if you have no unexcused absences or very few (like 1) AND you are an active participant in class. **Students with more than 2 unexcused absences will not receive a grade higher than 89 for their class participation.** Note also that missing more than 5 classes put you at risk for a participation grade in the 70's or below.

Laptops and Other Devices

You will need to have a laptop or other device in class because there will be times when I need you to open something on your device. You should not be doing anything on the laptop other than looking at readings or writing down answers to group activities. **When I lecture, I ask that you take any notes by hand.** This is because I find it distracting when students are typing or texting during class. Research shows that writing notes by hand improves retention anyway. ☺

Wearing headphones, airpods, etc. in class is NOT permitted, unless you have an ODA accommodation for it. Texting, typing when not asked to, and other distraction will count against your participation grade, *even if you otherwise participate in discussions.*

Late Work

If you need an extension on an assignment, please reach out to me ahead of time. Generally, I will approve late work for university-approved absences and personal issues if you communicate the situation in advance. Otherwise, assignments should be on time and **late assignments without valid approved extensions will receive a zero.**

Of course, if you are having an unexpected emergency, that's another story. In that case, please communicate with me as soon as you can to explain the situation so we can work out accommodations.

If you are having computer or technology issues, you must call the Helpdesk before reaching out to me. The Helpdesk will issue a “remedy ticket number.” Always have the Helpdesk fill out a remedy ticket and provide that information to me if technological problems make it difficult to hand something in on time. I will only consider accepting late assignments due to technological issues if I can verify the legitimacy of the issue. See the section called “Technical Assistance” for the Helpdesk’s contact information.

Extra Credit:

There will be an extra credit opportunity related to the rate of class participation on the Student Perceptions of Teaching (SPOT) evaluation. If at least 75% of the class takes the SPOT evaluation, everybody will receive 2 points on their final paper grade.

Academic Integrity (aka plagiarism, AI, etc.)

All work turned in for this course must be your own original work. Such actions as plagiarizing by using a source without giving it appropriate credit, or using material written by somebody else or by generative AI/chatbots like ChatGPT and presenting it as your own, represent violations of academic integrity. This includes using a tool like Grammarly. See [UNT Policy 6.003](#). Use of any artificial intelligence is not authorized for completion of assignments in this course.

Academic integrity is defined in the UNT Policy on Student Standards for Academic Integrity: [UNT Policy 6.003](#). This policy indicates 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) and others (for a list see [UNT Policy 6.003](#))

If you are caught using AI or otherwise cheating, you will get a zero on the assignment. A second offense will result in being reported to the university.

That said, it is okay to discuss paper ideas with other students and even proofread each other’s papers. But all ideas and writing must be your own.

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UNT Policies

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 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 [ODA website \(<https://disability.unt.edu/>\)](#).

Prohibition of Discrimination, Harassment, and Retaliation (Policy 16.004)

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.

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. Students will receive an email from "UNT SPOT Course Evaluations via IASystem Notification" (no-reply@iasystem.org) with the survey link and information about when the survey closes. 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](http://spot.unt.edu/) (<http://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, including sexual harassment, sexual assault, domestic violence, dating violence, and stalking. Federal laws (Title IX and the Violence Against Women Act) and UNT policies prohibit discrimination on the basis of sex, and therefore prohibit 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. UNT's Survivor Advocates can assist a student who has been impacted by violence by filing protective orders, completing crime victim's compensation applications, contacting professors for absences related to an assault, working with housing to facilitate a room change where appropriate, and connecting students to other resources available both on and off campus. The Survivor Advocates can be reached at SurvivorAdvocate@unt.edu or by calling the Dean of Students Office at 940-565- 2648. Additionally, alleged sexual misconduct can be non-confidentially reported to the Title IX Coordinator at eo@unt.edu or at (940) 565 2759.

Academic Support & Student Services

Mental Health Support

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>)

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/>)

Topics and Readings

Tuesday, Jan. 13: Introduction

- No readings for today

Module 1: The Concept of Government

Thursday, Jan. 15

- TB Chapter 1, Introduction and Section 1.1 only
- AA Chapter 1: The American Nation, State, and Regime
 - **The first chapter of *American Anomaly* is available online, but please buy the book asap**

Module 2: The U.S. Constitution

Tuesday, Jan. 20: Context and Compromises

- Workbook Chapter 1: Sections 1.1-1.3 and 1.5
- For additional information (NOT REQUIRED), see TB Chapter 2: The Constitution and Its Origins (2.1-2.3 only)

Thursday, Jan. 22: Ratification and the Comparative Perspective

- Workbook Chapter 1: Sections 1.4, 1.6, and 1.7 (*including chapter quiz!*)
- AA Chapter 4: The Separation of Powers
- For additional information (NOT REQUIRED), see TB Chapter 2: The Constitution and Its Origins (2.4 only)

**Due Friday, Jan. 23 at 10pm: Plagiarism Recognition Assignment
(Upload a screenshot or pdf of your plagiarism certificate)**

Tuesday, Jan. 27: Constitutional Amendments

- TB Chapter 2: The Constitution and Its Origins (2.5 only)
- AA Chapter 2: The U.S. Constitution
- PDF on Canvas: Thomas F. Schaller. 2021. “50 years ago, the U.S. ratified the 26th Amendment; don’t expect it to ratify another — ever.” *The Baltimore Sun*.

Module 3: Federalism

Thursday, Jan. 29: The Evolution of Federalism

- Workbook Chapter 2: Sections 2.1, 2.2, and 2.4
- AA Chapter 3: Federalism
- Listen to “One Nation, Under Money.” *More Perfect Podcast*. Available at <https://www.wnycstudios.org/podcasts/radiolab/articles/radiolab-presents-more-perfect-one-nation-under-money>
- For additional information (NOT REQUIRED), see TB Chapter 3: American Federalism (3.1, up to page 71, and 3.2)

Tuesday, Feb. 3: Federalism Today

- Workbook Chapter 2: Sections 2.3, 2.5-2.7 (*including chapter quiz!*)
- For additional information (NOT REQUIRED), see TB Chapter 3: American Federalism (3.3, 3.4, and 3.5)

Module 4: The Legislative Branch

Thursday, Feb. 5: The Organization of Congress

- TB Chapter 11: Congress (11.1 only)
- Workbook Chapter 5: Sections 5.1 and 5.2 only
- Listen to the *Throughline* podcast “Pirates of the Senate,” available at <https://www.npr.org/2022/02/07/1078984159/pirates-of-the-senate>
- For additional information (NOT REQUIRED), see TB Chapter 11: Congress (11.4 and 11.5)

Due Friday, Feb. 6 at 10pm on Canvas: Topic and Sources Paper

Tuesday, Feb. 10: Elections and Representation

- Workbook Chapter 5: Sections 5.3 to 5.7 (*including chapter quiz!*)
- Watch: <https://www.nytimes.com/video/us/100000005921047/gerrymandering-history-future.html?smid=url-share>
- For additional information (NOT REQUIRED), see TB Chapter 11: Congress (11.2 and 11.3 up to “Representing Constituents” only. Stop at Figure 11.13)

Module 5: The Presidency

Thursday, Feb. 12: The Constitutional Basis of Presidential Power

- TB Chapter 12: The Presidency (12.1 only)
- Workbook Chapter 6: Section 6.3 only

Tuesday, Feb. 17: Presidential Elections

- TB Chapter 12: The Presidency (12.2 only)

Thursday, Feb. 19: Tools of Power

- Workbook Chapter 6: Sections 6.1, 6.2 and 6.4-6.7 (*including chapter quiz!*)
- Watch: <https://www.learner.org/series/democracy-in-america/the-modern-presidency-tools-of-power/>
- For additional information (NOT REQUIRED), see TB Chapter 12: The Presidency (12.3 – 12.5 only, but you can skip the section called “The First Lady: A Secret Weapon?”)

Tuesday, Feb. 24: The Comparative Perspective

- AA Chapter 5: The Executive Branch—The Presidency and the Bureaucracy

Thursday, Feb. 26: Midterm Review

- No reading for today

Due Friday, Feb. 27 at 10pm: Policy Paper 1

Tuesday, Mar. 3: Midterm (Sage Hall Testing Center)

Module 6: Bureaucracy

Thursday, Mar. 5: Patronage and the Evolution of the Bureaucracy

- TB Chapter 15: The Bureaucracy (15.1 – 15.3)
- Watch this short movie: <https://www.learner.org/series/democracy-in-america/bureaucracy-a-controversial-necessity/>

Tuesday, Mar. 10: SPRING BREAK! NO CLASS.

Thursday, Mar. 12: SPRING BREAK! NO CLASS.

Tuesday, Mar. 17: Bureaucracy Today

- TB Chapter 15: The Bureaucracy (15.4 only)

Module 7: State and Local Government

Thursday, Mar. 19:

- TB Chapter 14: State and Local Government (14.1 and 14.3 – 14.5)

Module 8: Texas Government

Tuesday, Mar. 24: Texas Executive Branch

- PDF on Canvas: *Uncovering Texas*, “The Executive Branch in Texas”

Thursday, Mar. 26: Texas Legislative Branch

- PDF on Canvas: *Governing Texas 6th Edition*, “The Legislature”
- I may add an additional podcast or reading

Module 9: The Judiciary

Tuesday, Mar. 31: The American Court System

- TB Chapter 13: The Courts (13.1 – 13.3 only)
- AA Chapter 7: The Judicial Branch—The Supreme Court and Federal Court

Thursday, Apr. 2: Judicial Selection in the States

- Workbook Chapter 7: Section 7.3 only
- For additional information (NOT REQUIRED): Carp, Stidham, and Manning, *The State Courts*, Chapter 4 (PDF on Canvas)

Tuesday, Apr. 7: The Supreme Court

- TB Chapter 13: The Courts (13.4 and 13.5 only)

Thursday, Apr. 9: NO CLASS – PROFESSOR FINGER AWAY AT A CONFERENCE

Module 10: Civil Liberties

Tuesday, Apr. 14: Securing Basic Freedoms

- TB Chapter 4: Civil Liberties (4.1 only)
- Workbook Chapter 3: Section 3.5
- For additional information (NOT REQUIRED), see TB Chapter 4: Civil Liberties (4.2 only)

Due Friday, Apr. 10 at 10pm: Policy Paper 2

Thursday, Apr. 16: The Rights of Suspects and the Right to Privacy

- Workbook Chapter 3: Sections 3.1-3.4, and 3.6-3.7 (*including chapter quiz!*)
- For additional information (NOT REQUIRED), see TB Chapter 4: Civil Liberties (4.3 and 4.4 only)

Module 11: Civil Rights

Tuesday, Apr. 21: The African American Struggle for Equality

- Workbook Chapter 4: Sections 4.1 and 4.2
- TB Chapter 5: Civil Rights (5.2 only)
- For additional information (NOT REQUIRED), see Jason DeParle. 2018. “When Government Drew the Color Line.” *The New York Review of Books*. (PDF on Canvas)
- For additional information (NOT REQUIRED), see TB Chapter 5: Civil Rights (5.1 only)

Thursday, Apr. 23: Civil Rights for Other Groups and the Comparative Perspective

- Workbook Chapter 4: Sections 4.3-4.7 (*including chapter quiz!*)
- AA Chapter 12: Domestic Policy (just 165 and pages 172-179)
- For additional information (NOT REQUIRED), see TB Chapter 5: Civil Rights (5.3 – 5.5)

Module 12: Conclusion

Tuesday, Apr. 28: Policy Project Presentations and Feedback

Thursday, Apr. 30: Policy Project Presentations and Feedback

Due Sunday, May 3 at 10pm: Policymaker Letter Due

Final Exam on Tuesday, May 5 from 10:00am to 12:00pm

1.9.26

in Sage Hall Testing Center