Welcome to UNT: As members of the UNT community, we have all made a commitment to be part of an institution that respects and values the identities of the students and employees with whom we interact. UNT does not tolerate identity-based discrimination, harassment, and retaliation. UNT’s full Non-Discrimination Policy can be found in the UNT Policies section of the syllabus.

Instructor Information: Melissa McKay, Ph.D.
Office: Hall Park A #125
Student Office Hours: Tuesday 6-8pm via Zoom and by appointment as needed
Email: melissa.mckay@unt.edu
(I will only email you on your university account)

Class Information: Meeting times: Tuesday 11:00am – 1:50pm
Meeting place: Hall Park A #132
Online classroom: https://unt.instructure.com

Course Description: This course explores the connection between the will of the people and the policies implemented by government by focusing on individual political values and attitudes, the mechanisms that connect individual beliefs to government action (parties, interest groups, the media, and elections), and the outcomes of government policy.

This is a course about action. In the political science world, we call it “political behavior”: how the behavior (actions) of individuals and groups come together to form the political landscape. It’s exciting, but it can sometimes be complex.

Course Structure: This class will be completed in a flipped format: students are expected to read and complete the assigned materials prior to our class meeting times, and most graded assignments and engagement activities will take place together in the classroom. This course relies heavily on the individual taking responsibility for their own learning and being accountable to oneself and their classmates.

Class Communications: You can send me a note via Canvas, or email me directly at the address provided above. Please allow me around 24 hours to get back to you, but if it’s been longer and you haven’t heard back, don’t be shy about sending me a reminder. If you
Required Materials: *American Government – 3e*
https://openstax.org/details/books/american-government-3e
- This is an open-source text book that is free for all students to use
- Assigned reading is linked directly from our Canvas LMS
- The textbooks is also available as a PDF file
- Students can purchase a printed version if preferred


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- Access to a popular and reliable podcast app (Apple Podcasts, Spotify, Google Play, etc....)
- Consistent and reliable access to the internet
- Smart device (smart phone, tablet, laptop, etc.) needed for each class meeting
- iClicker student account: https://www.iclicker.com/students/apps-and-remotes/apps
  - If you do not have a smart device or laptop or do not feel comfortable using one in class, we have laptops available to check out on campus

- A laptop, desktop, or other reliable computer – our entire class is based on digital materials and you’ll need a reliable computer.
  - If you do not have one, you can check out a laptop on campus for daily use, or your home high school may also have laptops to loan to students.
  - Please reach out to me if you are having a hard time securing the use of a computer.

Technical Support
Part of working with digital content involves dealing with the inconveniences and frustration that can arise when technology breaks down or does not perform as expected. Here at UNT we have a Student Help Desk that you can contact for help with Canvas or other technology issues. Please do not rely on me for technical support –trust me, I am not the person for that.

UIT Help Desk: UIT Student Help Desk site
(http://www.unt.edu/helpdesk/index.htm)
Email: helpdesk@unt.edu
Telephone Availability:
- Sunday: noon-midnight
- Monday-Thursday: 8am-midnight
- Friday: 8am-8pm
- Saturday: 9am-5pm

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”

• Proofread and fact-check your sources.

• Keep in mind that online posts can be permanent, so think first before you type.

See these Engagement Guidelines for more information.

University and Class Policies:

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.

ADA Accommodation Statement
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 at 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.

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 deanofstudents.unt.edu/conduct.

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 oeo@unt.edu or at (940) 565 2759.

Federal Regulation: Important Notice for F-1 Students taking Distance Education Courses
To read detailed Immigration and Customs Enforcement regulations for F-1 students taking online courses, please go to the Electronic Code of Federal Regulations website (http://www.ecfr.gov/). The specific portion concerning distance education courses is located at Title 8 CFR 214.2 Paragraph (f)(6)(i)(G).

COVID-19 & Attendance
UNT encourages everyone to wear a face covering when indoors, regardless of vaccination status, to protect yourself and others from COVID infection, as recommended by current CDC guidelines. Face covering guidelines could change based on community health conditions.

*Dr. McKay reserves the right to change the terms and materials contained in this document at her discretion*
Attendance at every class meeting is expected. I am required to take attendance at the beginning of every class for COVID contact tracing purposes.

While attendance is expected as outlined above, it is important for all of us to be mindful of the health and safety of everyone in our community, especially given concerns about COVID-19. Please contact me if you are unable to attend class because you are ill, or unable to attend class due to COVID-19 including symptoms, potential exposure, pending or positive test results, or if you have been given specific instructions to isolate or quarantine from a health care provider or a local authority. The strictest confidence will be placed on your privacy and I will never reveal any personal information to any other student or non-essential personnel. It is important that you communicate with me prior to being absent so I can make a decision about accommodating your request to be excused from class.

If you are experiencing any symptoms of COVID-19 please seek medical attention from the Student Health and Wellness Center (940-565-2333 or askSHWC@unt.edu) or your health care provider PRIOR to coming to campus.

UNT also requires you to contact the UNT COVID Hotline at 844-366-5892 or COVID@unt.edu for guidance on actions to take due to symptoms, pending or positive test results, or potential exposure. While attendance is an important part of succeeding in this class, your own health, and those of others in the community, is more important.

Students who have been asked to quarantine or have tested positive for COVID-19 but are asymptomatic should attend their class over Zoom. If attending class on Zoom, the student must notify the instructor over email at least 1 hour before the start of class, preferably sooner. The instructor will provide you with a Zoom link. Students may not attend class on Zoom for any other reason. Any student who attends on Zoom for any other reason will be marked absent. Please see the course’s attendance policy for details on non-COVID absences.

Students who have tested positive for COVID-19 or are symptomatic are not expected to attend class in any capacity. Please contact COVID@unt.edu for further guidance and contact your instructor to arrange make-up work.

**Academic 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)
- Counseling and Testing Services (https://studentaffairs.unt.edu/counseling-and-testing-services)
- UNT Care Team (https://studentaffairs.unt.edu/care)
Chosen Names
A chosen name is a name that a person goes by that may or may not match their legal name. If you have a chosen name that is different from your legal name and would like that to be used in class, please let the instructor know. Below is a list of resources for updating your chosen name at UNT.

- UNT Records
- UNT ID Card
- UNT Email Address
- Legal Name

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

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)
- Financial Aid (https://financialaid.unt.edu/)
- Student Legal Services (https://studentaffairs.unt.edu/student-legal-services)
- Career Center (https://studentaffairs.unt.edu/career-center)
- Multicultural Center (https://edo.unt.edu/multicultural-center)
- Counseling and Testing Services (https://studentaffairs.unt.edu/counseling-and-testing-services)
- Pride Alliance (https://edo.unt.edu/pridealliance)

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

Grading Policies: Final grades are numerically based on the following weighted assignment types:

Unit Quizzes: 30% of total grade. In lieu of periodic exams, Unit Quizzes will be administered in class the week following the completion of a unit. These quizzes
will be available via Canvas or via physical copy for those who prefer to handwrite (pending COVID restrictions).

**Final Essay: 10% of total grade.** Instead of a final exam, students are assigned to write an essay that focuses on one of the units from the semester, linking our course materials and discussions to current events. Students are free to choose their topic, the contemporary issue or event, and how the two are linked. Complete instructions will be found on Canvas.

**Dr. McKay’s Totally Mandatory Book Club: 15% of total grade.** Much like Oprah Winfrey, I think reading is an underrated and under-emphasized skill that needs to be sharpened and strengthened even in higher ed. This semester we will all read “Charlie Wilson’s War” by George Crile and meet periodically throughout the semester to talk about the storyline and different elements from the book.

**Homework/Embedded Assignments: 15% of total grade.** Various assignments are embedded into each assigned learning module. The Core Assessment writing assignment is included in this assignment group.

**Discussion Forum Posts: 15% of total grade.** Being able to articulate thoughts and perspectives, as well as capable of applying concepts to real world events is a vital skill. We’ll develop and focus on this skill by using discussion posts throughout the semester. Students will be provided a prompt and explicit instructions for each graded post. At the minimum, students will be expected to post a well-thought out response to the prompts as well as two (2) responses to classmates.

**In-class Activities -15% of total grade.** During in-class discussions, students will be expected to participate in simulations, polls, discussions, and other interactive engagement activities. These activities will be monitored, collected, and reported through mobile apps or other interactive tools such as iClicker. Some grades will be participatory while others could be to reinforce understanding and will be graded as correct/incorrect.

**Letter grades are assigned based on standard grade scales:**
- A – 90-100%
- B – 80-89%
- C – 70-79%
- D – 60-69%
- F – 59 - under

**Important Notes:**
- Final grades will be based on the weighted outcomes of the assignments above. I use standard mathematical rounding if necessary.
- Please do not request extra credit. If there is an activity that I feel would be relevant I will offer it to the entire class. I cannot and definitely will not provide extra credit opportunities for individual students.
- If you feel like your grades are slipping or you are falling behind, please reach out to me immediately. Too many students wait until their semester progress is a lost cause, but if we catch it early enough we can most likely work together on a plan of action.
<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th>Week</th>
<th>Date</th>
<th>Topics Covered</th>
<th>At-home work (do before we meet)</th>
<th>In-class work</th>
<th>Homework Due</th>
</tr>
</thead>
<tbody>
<tr>
<td>1</td>
<td>Aug 24</td>
<td>Introduction, Expectations</td>
<td>No pre-reading due</td>
<td>Preview semester and set expectations</td>
<td>None</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>2</td>
<td>Aug 31</td>
<td>Public Policies</td>
<td>Read and complete “Public Policies” module Recap Quiz</td>
<td>In class discussions and activities</td>
<td>Start Reading Crile</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>3</td>
<td>Sep 7</td>
<td>Public Policies, continued</td>
<td>Read Rather: “Empathy” pg. 91 Read Rather “Immigration” pg. 105 Read Rather “Public Education” pg. 193</td>
<td>In class discussions and activities</td>
<td>Discussion Post #1</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>4</td>
<td>Sep 14</td>
<td>Interest Groups and Lobbying</td>
<td>Read and complete “Interest Groups and Lobbying” module Recap Quiz</td>
<td>Unit Quiz 1: Public Policies In class discussions and activities</td>
<td>Discussion Post #2 Continue Reading Crile</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>5</td>
<td>Sep 21</td>
<td>Interest Groups and Lobbying</td>
<td>Canvas resources Read Crile Chapters 1-6</td>
<td>Continue discussion and in-class activities Book Club #1</td>
<td>Complete Book Club assignments Continue Reading Crile</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>6</td>
<td>Sep 28</td>
<td>Political Parties</td>
<td>Read and complete “Political Parties” module Recap Quiz</td>
<td>Unit Quiz #2 – Interest Groups In class discussions and activities</td>
<td>Discussion Post #3 Continue Reading Crile</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>7</td>
<td>Oct 5</td>
<td>Political Parties Continued &amp; Book Club</td>
<td>Canvas resources Read Crile Chapters 7-13</td>
<td>Wrap up discussion and activities Book Club #2</td>
<td>Complete Book Club assignments Discussion Post #4</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>8</td>
<td>Oct 12</td>
<td>Campaigns, Voting, and Elections</td>
<td>Read and complete “Campaigns” module Recap Quiz</td>
<td>Unit Quiz #3: Political Parties</td>
<td>Continue Reading Crile</td>
</tr>
</tbody>
</table>

1 Dr. McKay reserves the right to alter, amend, update, or otherwise change this schedule at her discretion. Any and all changes will be announced to the class and reviewed accordingly.
<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th>Week</th>
<th>Date</th>
<th>Topic</th>
<th>Canvas resources</th>
<th>Wrap up discussions and activities</th>
<th>Complete Book Club assignments</th>
<th>Discussion Post #5</th>
</tr>
</thead>
<tbody>
<tr>
<td>9</td>
<td>Oct 19</td>
<td><strong>Campaigns, Voting, and Elections &amp; Book Club</strong></td>
<td>Read Crile Chapters 14-21</td>
<td>Book Club #3</td>
<td></td>
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<tr>
<td>10</td>
<td>Oct 26</td>
<td><strong>Political Participation</strong></td>
<td>“Voting and Elections” module Recap Quiz Read Rather “The Vote” pg. 21</td>
<td>Book Club #3</td>
<td>Discussion Post #6</td>
<td>Continue Reading Crile</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>11</td>
<td>Nov 2</td>
<td><strong>Public Opinion &amp; Book Club</strong></td>
<td>“Political Participation” Read Rather “What is Patriotism?” pg. 7 Read Crile Chapters 22-27</td>
<td>Book Club #4</td>
<td>Complete Book Club assignments</td>
<td>Discussion Post #7</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>12</td>
<td>Nov 9</td>
<td><strong>The Media</strong></td>
<td>“The Media” module Recap Quiz Read Rather “The Press” pg. 53</td>
<td>Book Club #4</td>
<td></td>
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<tr>
<td>13</td>
<td>Nov 16</td>
<td><strong>The Media continued</strong></td>
<td>Canvas resources</td>
<td>Book Club #4</td>
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<tr>
<td>14</td>
<td>Nov 23</td>
<td></td>
<td></td>
<td></td>
<td><strong>Thanksgiving Week – no class</strong></td>
<td></td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>15</td>
<td>Nov 30</td>
<td><strong>Wrap up Book Club</strong></td>
<td>Read Crile Chapters 28- Epilogue</td>
<td>Unit Quiz #6: The Media</td>
<td>• Complete Book Club assignments</td>
<td></td>
</tr>
</tbody>
</table>

**Finals Dec 7**

**Final Essay due 11:59pm Tuesday 12/7**