Instructor information: Melissa McKay, Ph.D.
Office: Frisco Hall Park A #125C
Virtual Office Hours–Tuesday 6:00-7:00pm and by appointment
Email: melissa.mckay@unt.edu
(I will only email you on your university account)

Teaching Assistants: The Teaching Assistants are here to answer basic course questions, help clarify course content, and generally help you navigate our course in the best way possible. They are your first lines of communication with questions about assigned readings or syllabus questions (due dates, requirements, how to navigate Canvas, etc...). They are NOT tutors or extra credit vending machines so please be mindful of what you ask of them.

To make things easier for us all, I've assigned the TA’s to groups of students, please note which TA has been assigned to you. Please only reach out to your assigned TA. Their office hours and contact information are found in Canvas.

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<tr>
<th>Your last name starts with</th>
<th>Your TA is:</th>
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<tr>
<td>A-G</td>
<td>Shelby Jackson</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>H-P</td>
<td>Antonio Molinar</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Q-Z</td>
<td>Sung Min Yun</td>
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</table>

Class Information: Meeting times: completely asynchronously online – no class meeting times
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 Objectives: Students who complete this course will be able to:

1. Explain the development and measurement of individual values, attitudes, and opinions about politics.
2. Interpret the role of individuals in the political process;
3. Explain the roles of linkage institutions (parties, interest groups, and media) in connecting individuals to institutions of government.
4. Demonstrate the relationship between electoral rules/institutions and outcomes
5. Explain the connection between the political process and the policies generated by that process

Class Overview: This class will be delivered completely online, we will not meet at a predetermined time as a class, you, the student, are fully responsible for your progress and assignment completion. Access to this class is found at https://unt.instructure.com - all course assignments, reading, resources, and communications will be found in this LMS system.

Class Communications: For a question about the course content, please email your TA first. 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. I have a handful of other classes, so my in-office hours vary throughout the week. If you send a note on Friday-Sunday, please expect that I will not write you back until Monday.

Required Materials:
  - This is an ONLINE book and workbook combination. You can purchase this directly through the link in our Canvas classroom –OR– purchase a code from the UNT bookstore.
- A Packback student account ($15)
- Access to a popular and reliable podcast app (Apple Podcasts, Spotify, Google Play, etc.)
- Consistent and reliable access to the internet
- A laptop, desktop, or other reliable computer – our entire class is based on digital materials and you’ll need a reliable computer. Please reach out to me if you are having a hard time securing the use of a computer, this class may not be for you.
- Lockdown Browser will need to be installed on whichever computer you intend to take exams (please work with UNT Help Desk if you have any technical issues installing or using Lockdown).

Technical Support Resources: 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. Here 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)
Email: helpdesk@unt.edu
Telephone Availability:
- Sunday: noon-midnight
- Monday-Thursday: 8am-midnight
- Friday: 8am-8pm
- Saturday: 9am-5pm

Laptop Checkout: 8am-7pm

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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.

For additional support, visit Canvas Technical Help
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

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**Face Covering Requirement**

While our class is fully online and we will not have class tie together, I’d like to remind you that face coverings are required in all UNT facilities. Students are expected to wear face coverings during this class. If you are unable to wear a face covering due to a disability, please contact the Office of Disability Access to request an accommodation. UNT face covering requirements are subject to change due to community health guidelines. Any changes will be communicated via the instructor.

**COVID-19 & Attendance**

Tracking attendance for online classes such as this is an unreasonable expectation and I do not have an attendance requirement. However you are responsible for your own learning pace which includes reading the assigned chapters, completing the assigned homework and discussions, and accessing all of the resources your instructor or TA’s provide for you. Neither your instructor or your TA’s will be responsible for your course progress or success. It is imperative that you do not allow yourself to fall behind in the weekly breakdown of this class.

If you find yourself behind in your assigned work, please make sure to reach out to me immediately to allow me to help you work on a plan to get caught up. I cannot help if I don’t know you need it.

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.

**Class Instruction Policy:** **Remote Instruction**

This class is fully remote and completely online. You will find all of the resources needed for this class in our Canvas Learning Management System (Canvas LMS) at https://unt.instructure.com and signing in with your UNT SSO credentials.

The semester is organized by week and labeled accordingly. Each week you can expect:

- Assigned reading of at least one chapter in the Soomo webtext
- Assignments embedded in each webtext chapter, such as “Get the Gist” questions
- Workbook chapters
- Outside resources linked by instructor including podcasts, videos, etc....
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)
- Individual Counseling (https://studentaffairs.unt.edu/counseling-and-testing-services/services/individual-counseling)

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/)
Grading Policies:

While you should strive to complete each week’s assigned readings and homework as they are assigned accordingly in Canvas, I will accept certain homework assignments from Weeks 1-8 for full credit through the midpoint of the semester, and certain assignments for Weeks 9-15 until April 24 for full credit.

- All Get the Gist, Workbook, and Investigation Assignments for Weeks 1-8 are due by 11:59pm on March 6, 2021
- All Get the Gist, Workbook, and Investigation Assignments for Weeks 9-15 are due by 11:59pm on April 24, 2021
- Please note: all Packback discussions are due the week they are assigned, there will be NO accepted late submissions for Packback assignments

Final grades are numerically based on the number of points achieved on the following weighted assignment types:

**Exams: 15% each** (45% of total grade)
Three unit-specific exams will be online via Canvas, closed book/resources, consisting of a combination of questions, essays, and/or problems. Lockdown Browser is required for all online exams. The final exam is not cumulative. The exam format for each will be at the instructor’s discretion.

**Get the Gist Assignments – 10% of total grade**
Your online textbook has two types of chapters: (1) Central Ideas in American Government (CIAG) chapters and (2) Workbook chapters. The CIAG chapters have “study questions” or “Get the Gist” questions at the end of each page. You need to complete these questions for each chapter. You can reset and repeat the questions until you get them all correct, so you should aim to get a perfect score! Once the due date passes, though, don’t reset the questions because it will override your good score with a late score. *(Please note: If you attempt to game the system and enter gibberish or one-word responses to these questions, I will change your grade for the entire chapter to 0).*
Workbook Assignments - 10% of total grade
The other type of chapter in your online textbook is called a workbook chapter. Each workbook chapter consists of four essays that explore some facet of the topic of the module, and the essays are followed by questions (usually multiple choice, but sometimes a “poll” (where you can see the summary results of the class) or a short answer question). An “assignment” involves completing all of the questions for all four essays. The lowest two workbook grades will be dropped at the end of the semester and together they will make up 10% of your total grade.

Investigation Assignments – 15% of total grade
In the CIAG chapters, you will also find breakout assignments called “Investigations.” These assignments allow you to dig deep and apply what you know to different problems or issues. You only get one crack at investigation questions; you cannot repeat them to try to do better. The lowest three grades will be dropped, and the remaining will constitute 15% of your final grade.

Packback Questions -- 15% of total grade
Participation is a requirement for this course, and the Packback Questions platform will be used for online discussion about class topics. Packback Questions is an online community where you can be fearlessly curious and ask open-ended questions to build on top of what we are covering in class and relate topics to real-world applications. Your participation on Packback will count toward 15% of your overall course grade. In order to receive your points per week, you should submit the following per each deadline period:

- 1 open-ended Question per week with a minimum Curiosity Score of 60, each worth 33.33% of each assignment grade
- 2 Responses per week with a minimum Curiosity Score of 60, each worth 66.67% of each assignment grade

Please note: all Packback discussions are due the week they are assigned, there will be NO accepted late submissions for these assignments.

Writing Assignment – 5% of total grade
This signature assignment is required of all PSCI 2305 students each year. This is a writing assignment that requires students to select a policy that is important to them and write a letter to selected media outlet. This is a must-complete assignment that will be due no later than April 23 – but can be turned in prior. Complete writing and submission details are found in Canvas.

Letter grades are assigned based on standard grade scales:
A – 90-100%
B – 80-89%
C – 70-79%
D – 60-69%
F – 59 – under
Grading 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.
- If you have a question or issue with a graded assignment, please reach out to discuss it with your TA first.
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<thead>
<tr>
<th>Week #</th>
<th>Canvas Module</th>
<th>Readings</th>
<th>Assignments</th>
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<tbody>
<tr>
<td>1 Jan 11-17</td>
<td>Public Opinion</td>
<td>Chapter 1</td>
<td>• Chapter 1 Get the Gist</td>
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<td>Chapter 2</td>
<td>• Am I Blue ... Investigation</td>
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<td>• Exit Poll Investigation</td>
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<td>• Chapter 2 Workbook</td>
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<td>2 Jan 18-24</td>
<td>Voting and Political Participation</td>
<td>Chapter 3</td>
<td>• Chapter 3 Get the Gist</td>
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<td>Chapter 4</td>
<td>• We the Protesters Investigation</td>
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<td>• License to Vote Investigation</td>
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<td>• Chapter 4 Workbook</td>
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<td>• Packback Question #1</td>
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<td>3 Jan 25 – 31</td>
<td>The Media</td>
<td>Chapter 5</td>
<td>• Chapter 5 Get the Gist</td>
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<td>• Making the News Investigation</td>
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<td>• #Divide Investigation</td>
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<td>• Packback Question #2</td>
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<tr>
<td>4 Feb 1-7</td>
<td>The Media pt. 2</td>
<td>Chapter 6</td>
<td>• Chapter 6 Workbook</td>
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<td>Canvas Resources</td>
<td>• Packback Question #3</td>
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<td>5 Feb 8-14</td>
<td>Exam #1</td>
<td>Chapters 1-6</td>
<td>Unit Exam 1</td>
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<td>Canvas</td>
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<td>Packback Question #4</td>
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<td>6 Feb 15-21</td>
<td>Interest Groups</td>
<td>Chapter 7</td>
<td>• Chapter 7 Get the Gist</td>
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<td>Chapter 8</td>
<td>• Evil Lobbyists Investigation</td>
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<td>• The American Pizza Community Investigation</td>
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<td>• Chapter 8 Workbook</td>
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<td>7 Feb 22–28</td>
<td>Political Parties</td>
<td>Chapter 9</td>
<td>• Chapter 9 Get the Gist</td>
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<td>• Third Wheels Investigation</td>
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<td>• 2016 Party Platforms Investigation</td>
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<td>8 Mar 1-7</td>
<td>Political Parties pt.2</td>
<td>Chapter 10 Canvas Resources</td>
<td>• Chapter 10 Workbook</td>
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<td>• Packback Question #5</td>
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<td><strong>MIDTERM – ALL GET THE GIST, WORKBOOK, AND INVESTIGATION ASSIGNMENTS FOR WEEKS 1-7 DUE BY 11:59PM ON MARCH 6</strong></td>
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<td>9 Mar 8-14</td>
<td>Elections and Campaigns</td>
<td>Chapter 11</td>
<td>• Chapter 11 Get the Gist</td>
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<td>• The Year of the Woman Investigation</td>
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<td>• Getting into the Electoral College</td>
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<td>10 Mar 15-21</td>
<td>Elections and Campaigns pt.2</td>
<td>Chapter 12 Canvas Resources</td>
<td>• Chapter 12 Workbook</td>
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<td>• Packback Question #6</td>
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<td>11 Mar 22-28</td>
<td>Exam #2</td>
<td>Chapters 7-12</td>
<td><strong>Unit 2 Exam Available March 23-24</strong></td>
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<td>• Packback Question #7</td>
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<tr>
<td>12 Mar 29 – Apr 4</td>
<td>Public Policy</td>
<td>Chapter 13</td>
<td>• Chapter 13 Get the Gist</td>
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<td>• Health Care Quality Investigation</td>
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<td>• Chapter 13 Bombing for Peace Investigation</td>
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<td>• Packback Question #8</td>
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<tr>
<td>13 Apr 5-11</td>
<td>Domestic Policy</td>
<td>Chapter 14 Canvas Resources</td>
<td>• Chapter 14 Workbook</td>
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<td>• Packback Question #9</td>
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<td>14 Apr 12-18</td>
<td>Foreign Policy</td>
<td>Chapter 15 Canvas Resources</td>
<td>• Chapter 15 Workbook</td>
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<td>• Packback Question #10</td>
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<td>15 Apr 19-25</td>
<td>Contemporary Political Issues</td>
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<td>• Writing Assignment Due April 23</td>
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<td><strong>ALL GET THE GIST, WORKBOOK, AND INVESTIGATION ASSIGNMENTS FOR WEEKS 8–15 DUE BY 11:59PM ON APRIL 24</strong></td>
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<tr>
<td>16 Apr 27-28</td>
<td><strong>FINAL EXAM AVAILABLE APRIL 27-28</strong></td>
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