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. (she/her)
Office: Hall Park A #125
Email: melissa.mckay@unt.edu
(I will only email students on university accounts)

Student Office Hours:
Virtual: Monday 6:00pm - 7:30pm via Zoom (link in Canvas)
In-person: Monday 12:00pm – 1:00pm, by appointment made via Canvas calendar function
By appointment as available throughout the week

Class Information
Meeting times: Tuesday and Thursday 10:30-11:50am
Meeting place: Hall Park A #132
Online classroom: https://unt.instructure.com

Course Structure
This is an in-person class presented in a mixed format including assigned reading, lectures, online resources, in-class activities, homework assignments, and exams. You are expected to have read the assigned chapter that corresponds to the schedule on the most up to date syllabus schedule, which will be found on Canvas.

Class Communications
Please email me via the Canvas Inbox functionality with any class-related issue and allow me at least 24 hours to get back to you. If you send a note on Friday-Sunday, please expect that I will not write you back until Monday.
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

Required Class Materials
1. Central Ideas in American Government (CIAG) 12e – Soomo publishing
   ISBN - 978-1-949164-94-7
   • It is best to purchase this book through the link in our Canvas LMS
   • Assigned reading is linked directly from our Canvas LMS
2. Access to a popular and reliable podcast app (Apple Podcasts, Spotify, Google Play, etc.)
3. Lockdown Browser must be installed on whichever laptop/device exams will be completed
4. Consistent and reliable access to the internet outside of class in order to be able to complete the reading and embedded assignments. (see below if this becomes an issue)
5. Smart device (smart phone, tablet, laptop, etc.) needed for each class meeting
6. iClicker student account: https://www.iclicker.com/students/apps-and-remotes/apps
7. A laptop, desktop, or other reliable computer – our entire class is based on digital materials and you’ll need a reliable computer.
   a. 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.

Assignments and Assessments
Final grades are numerically based on the following weighted assignment types:

Exams: 35% of total grade. Exams are scheduled throughout the semester to assess comprehension of materials covered in the course. Exams are not cumulative. Exams will be given online via Canvas in-class, unless a printed version is requested. All exams completed online will require Lockdown Browser installed and remain active throughout the entirety of the exam.
Make up exams: There will be no make-up exams offered, regardless of reason for missing class on the day of an exam. Instead, students will have the option to take a final exam at the end of the semester to replace a missed exam. The final exam may also be taken by students who want to try to replace a low exam score.

Get the Gist Chapter Questions – 10% of total grade. 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.) There are 7 Get the Gist Assignments. The top 6 will constitute 10% of your final grade.

Investigation Assignments – 15% of total grade: In the CIAG chapters, you will also find some breakout assignments called “investigations.” These assignments allow you to dig deep and apply what you know to tougher problems. You only get one crack at investigation questions; you cannot repeat them to try to do better. There are two investigation assignments in each CIAG chapter for a total of 14 investigations. The top 12 will constitute 15% of your final grade.

In-class Activities -10% of total grade. During in-class discussions, students will be expected to participate in simulations, polls, discussions, and other interactive engagement activities. Some of these activities will be assignments completed together or in groups/pairs in class, while other 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.

It is the responsibility of the student to download and login to iClicker for each class meeting, failure to do so will result in not earning attendance or in-class activity points for that day.

This is an interactive class and it requires commitment and engagement from everyone involved. Your in-class participation will be noted and contribute to your overall grade. Attendance will be recorded by utilizing the iClicker app, and synched with Canvas attendance tool, and although attendance will not directly contribute to your overall grade, it will be recorded.

Engagement and participation is also included in this assignment group. Students begin the semester with 100 percent for participation grade. Points will be deducted if a student repeatedly fails to meet expectations for participation in this class. Once deducted from the grade, there is no make-up opportunity to replenish the points lost. A rubric of points that can be deducted is included in the Canvas assignment page associated with this grade.

Discussions and (other) Homework Assignments: 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.
A large portion of the questions included in each of the exams will come from questions submitted by students, which account for a portion of this grade as well. Other tasks that are embedded within the modules that are to be completed outside the classroom also fall into this category.

Other various assignments intended to be completed outside of the classroom are embedded into each assigned learning module and clearly labeled as such, as well as identified in the Canvas syllabus and the semester schedule. The Core Departmental Assessment writing assignment is included in this assignment group.

North Texas Now! Integrated Project – 15% of total grade. All of the North Texas Now dual credit courses are integrated around a themed project. This class will have assignments that tie directly into the project, as well as support concepts and skills from other classes. Crossover assignments and the final project contributes to a 15% of this class. There are two assignments in PSCI that are related to the NTN project: the policy paper and the op-ed core writing assignment. Details for both are found in Canvas.

Recap of assignments and assessments:
- Exams and exam question submissions (4 each) – 35% total
- Get the Gist Questions – 10%
- Investigation Assignments – 15%
- In-class activities – 10%
- Discussions and Other Homework Assignments – 15%
- NTN! Integration and Project – 15%

Letter grades are assigned based on standard grade scales:
Final grades will be based on the weighted outcomes of the assignments above. I use standard mathematical rounding where proper.

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<tr>
<th>Grade</th>
<th>Range</th>
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<tr>
<td>A</td>
<td>90 - 100%</td>
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<td>B</td>
<td>80 - 89%</td>
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<td>C</td>
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<td>D</td>
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<td>F</td>
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Notes about grading
1. All assignments will be due by 11:59pm on Fridays. If you miss class that week or with a university excused absence, contact me to work out an extension – do not assume an extension is inherent.
2. Homework assignments will be accepted up to seven (7) days late for up to 50% credit. After seven days, no credit will be given to late work.
3. 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 email me to ask for individual extra credit, I will not respond. Don’t take that personally, just know that I don’t entertain individual extra credit requests.
4. If you have any questions about the way an assignment was graded, if there is an issue with a potential error in grading, or any other question regarding a recorded grade on an assignment or exam, you have 14 days to raise the question or dispute a grade in writing via Canvas “Inbox” communications. After 14 days, I will not return to an older, closed
assignment to re-grade or reconsider. (please do not passively ask me before or after class).

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.

Class Policies

Attendance
Attendance at every class meeting is expected. In addition to your engagement grade, I am required to take attendance at the beginning of every class for COVID contact tracing purposes.

A few notes about attendance:
- I will take attendance via the iClicker app, the responsibility is on you to make sure you have the app downloaded and have logged in to each class meeting.
- If you are absent, assigned work is still due unless you have made arrangements with me prior.
- You do not need to let me know if you won’t be in class and please do not email me asking what you missed. Check the LMS, refer to the syllabus, and ask a classmate for any missed notes or other insight into what you missed. It is your responsibility to stay on top of your progress.
- Schedule conflicts with high school events are not considered university excused absences. Life forces us to make choices and prioritize issues, and this is no different. I trust that you will decide your priority at any given time, and will not judge you for your choice.

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” or SMS language
• 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.

FERPA and discussing your progress with anyone outside UNT
Federal law prohibits me from discussing your progress, grades, attendance – anything about your participation in my class – with anyone not involved in your education at UNT. I am restricted from confirming you are in any of my classes. In most cases, I will not acknowledge and email sent by a family member, guardian, or any other person.

Plagiarism and Cheating
To offer clarity to the UNT policy described below:
• If I uncover any kind of cheating, plagiarism, or other type of academic dishonesty the assignment or exam will automatically receive a zero with no opportunity for resubmission
• It is my discretion to file an academic dishonesty report with the university for the first violation, and I definitely will file a report if there is a second occurrence

Access to reliable internet connection and technology
While it can generally be assumed that both your high school and UNT campus provide a consistent and reliable connection to the internet, I do not assume that every student has this at home. Nor do I assume everyone has access to their own laptop or dedicated computer to do homework and reading. If you fall into one of these categories, even temporarily, please let me know immediately in the manner that you feel most comfortable. We have access to resources and services that may help bridge that gap where needed.

Food insecurity
We think about Frisco being a fairly affluent area, but statistics show with unemployment rates and inflation rising, housing and food are becoming more difficult to procure.

UNT at Frisco has a food pantry available to all students, no questions asked. It is stocked with non-perishable items donated by the community as well as stocked by UNT staff and faculty wherever possible. The food pantry also has personal hygiene items as well.

University 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 eeo@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.

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.

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.

Students who have been asked to quarantine or have tested positive for COVID-19 but are asymptomatic should attend their our class over Zoom. If attending class on Zoom, the student must notify the instructor over email at least 2 hours 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.

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

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/)
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<th>Week #</th>
<th>Topic</th>
<th>Readings</th>
<th>Assignments</th>
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<tbody>
<tr>
<td>1</td>
<td>Introduction, expectations</td>
<td>Start Here Module</td>
<td>No assignments due this week</td>
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<tr>
<td></td>
<td>Introduction to policies</td>
<td>Chapter 1 &amp; Canvas resources</td>
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<td>2</td>
<td>Domestic Policies</td>
<td>Chapter 1 &amp; Canvas resources</td>
<td>• Chapter 1 Get the Gist</td>
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<td>• Health Care Quality Investigation</td>
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<td>• Domestic Policy Discussion Post</td>
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<td>3</td>
<td>Foreign Policy &amp; Exam 1</td>
<td>Canvas and class resources</td>
<td>• Bombing for Peace Investigation</td>
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<td>• Exam 1 questions due Feb 1</td>
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<td>• Exam 1 – Feb 3 (make sure to bring a laptop with Lockdown Browser installed)</td>
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<td>Interest Groups</td>
<td>Chapter 2 &amp; Canvas resources</td>
<td>• Chapter 2 Get the Gist</td>
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<td>• The American Pizza Community Investigation</td>
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<td>• Evil Lobbyists Investigation</td>
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<td>• In-class activity</td>
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<td>5</td>
<td>Lobbying</td>
<td>Chapter 2 &amp; Canvas resources</td>
<td>• Policy Paper topic submission due Friday Feb 1</td>
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<td>• In-class activity</td>
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<td>• Lobbyist Discussion Post</td>
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<td>Political Parties</td>
<td>Chapter 3 &amp; Canvas resources</td>
<td>• Chapter 3 Get the Gist</td>
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<td>• Party Platforms Investigation</td>
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<td>• Third-wheels investigation</td>
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<td>• Third Parties Discussion Post</td>
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<td>• In-class activity</td>
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<td>Ideologies &amp; Exam 2</td>
<td>Chapter 3 &amp; Canvas resources</td>
<td>• Exam 2 questions due March 1</td>
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<td>• Exam 2 – Thursday March 3 (make sure to bring a laptop with Lockdown Browser installed)</td>
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<td>• Ideologies Discussion post</td>
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<td>8</td>
<td>FISD Spring Break Asynchronous work</td>
<td>Policy Paper Draft</td>
<td>• Policy Paper Draft Due Friday March 11</td>
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<td>9</td>
<td>UNT Spring Break – no assignments</td>
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<td>10</td>
<td>Elections and Campaigns</td>
<td>Chapter 4 &amp; Canvas resources</td>
<td>• Chapter 4 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 Investigation</td>
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<td>Week #</td>
<td>Topic</td>
<td>Readings</td>
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<td>11</td>
<td>Mar 28 – Apr 3</td>
<td>Campaign Financing &amp; Public Opinion</td>
<td>• Chapter 5 Get the Gist&lt;/br&gt;• Campaign Financing Discussion Post&lt;/br&gt;• Am I Blue, Purple, or Red? Investigation&lt;/br&gt;• Exit Poll Controversies Investigation&lt;/br&gt;• Policy Paper due Friday April 1&lt;/br&gt;• Exam 3 questions due</td>
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<tr>
<td>12</td>
<td>Apr 4 - 10</td>
<td>Exam 3 &amp; Voting Laws</td>
<td>• Exam 3 – Tuesday April 5 (make sure to bring a laptop with Lockdown Browser installed)&lt;/br&gt;• Voting Laws Discussion Post</td>
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<td>13</td>
<td>Apr 11-17</td>
<td>Voting and Political Participation</td>
<td>• Chapter 6 Get the Gist&lt;/br&gt;• We the Protesters Investigation&lt;/br&gt;• License to Vote Investigation&lt;/br&gt;• Voting Participation Post</td>
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<tr>
<td>14</td>
<td>Apr 18 - 24</td>
<td>Political Participation and Mass Media</td>
<td>• Chapter 7 Get the Gist&lt;/br&gt;• #Divide Investigation&lt;/br&gt;• Making the News Investigation&lt;/br&gt;• Mass Media Discussion Post</td>
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<td>15</td>
<td>April 25 – May 1</td>
<td>Media Literacy and Exam 4</td>
<td>• Exam 4 Question submission&lt;/br&gt;• Exam 4 – Thursday April 28 (make sure to bring a laptop with Lockdown Browser installed)</td>
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<td>16</td>
<td>May 2 - 6</td>
<td>Reading week, no new materials covered</td>
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<tr>
<td>Finals</td>
<td>Optional Final Exam</td>
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