

PSCI 2305 Section 003 US Political Behavior and Policy Fall 2025

Tu Th 11:00AM - 12:20PM WH 332

Instructor: Professor Michael Elwell

Email: MichaelElwell@my.unt.edu

Office Hours by appointment:

Tuesdays 9-11am

"The flaw in the pluralist heaven is that the heavenly chorus sings with a strong upper-class accent."- E.E. Schattschneider 1960

Reserve office hours meeting here:

<https://calendly.com/michael-elwell-my>

Understanding the processes and policies in American politics is just as, if not more important than, identifying and understanding its institutions. American policies and processes are the result of our opinions and beliefs about what makes a good society. The results of these processes are legislation, regulations, and policies that reflect our beliefs. This course examines these processes and policies in depth. This course provides high value added as we seldom discuss the readings in class, but the readings compliment the lectures and provide important background for understanding the material.

Course Policies

Attendance

Attendance is mandatory.

Requirements

Readings for a given date should be done before the beginning of that class.

Students are required to submit ALL assignments to receive a final grade, even if they are worth no points towards the final grade.

Most assignments and all Extra Credit is due at 11:59pm, on the date listed, unless otherwise noted in the syllabus.

Your first assignment is to read, sign, and upload a copy of the Academic Integrity Form on Page 6 of this syllabus to the class Canvas page by August 30th.

Assignments

- Soomo Digital Workbook Exercises (25%)
- Quiz 1 (15%)
- Quiz 2 (25%): (Cumulative)
- Final Quiz (35%): (Cumulative)

Final Class Grades and individual assignments grades are not rounded up. Please make sure all assignments are done to the best of your ability and all extra credit is submitted on time to ensure your grade is not "on the border" of a higher grade.

Required Texts

- Course Readings on Canvas (**CR**)
- U.S. Politics with 2305 Workbook 15e
- Jocelyn Evans & Kristy Michaud
- ISBN-978-1-954890-89-3. (**WB**)
 - Can be purchased via Canvas with a Free 3-week trial

All course readings will be available via Canvas and located in the module for the week

Final Course Grade Scale & Percentages

A=90+

B=80-89

C=70-79

D=50 -68

F=0-49

Formatting and Submitting Assignments

Written assignments should be submitted in Times

New Roman 12-point font, with 1-inch margins, be double-spaced, and paginated. All written assignments should be uploaded as a txt, rtf, doc or docx file to Canvas.

Do not add a cover page. The upper right-hand corner of the first page in single space should include:

- Your full name
- Title of the assignment (e.g., Extra Credit Week 5)
- Course number (PSCI 2305) and section number (003)

Late/Missing Assignments

All course assignments and extra credit should be submitted at the date and time assigned. Late assignments will lose 6% of the total points for every 24 hours after the due date. *Extra Credit will not be accepted after the due under any circumstances.*

Extensions or make-ups will only be offered via an email from the Dean of Students office. Students must contact the Dean of Students and show proof of emergency, in which case the DOS will notify the professor.

Extra Credit

Extra credit opportunities are made available to the entire class at the discretion of the Professor. They are offered for attending class, events outside of class, or for completing extra writing assignments by the deadline. *Extra Credit will not be accepted after the deadline. Extra Credit for individual or groups of students will not be offered under any circumstances.*

Canvas and Email

Check the course page on Canvas frequently (at least 3x per week). Announcements and changes are communicated via Canvas. Written assignments and Extra Credit should be uploaded to Canvas. Students are responsible for checking UNT email/Canvas for announcements, assignments, due dates, and changes.

Class Participation

The Professor reserves the right to call on students.

- **Consideration and Respect:** Discussion is encouraged in class and an integral part of the learning experience. Please be respectful of other ideas and opinions in section, as these are an important component in understanding your own opinions better. Personal attacks and pejorative remarks are not tolerated.

Electronic Devices

Please silence all electronic devices and stow all phones before class begins, and refrain from phones during class.

The Professor reserves the right to dock points from a student's final grade or ask a student to leave the classroom for ringing cell phones, texting, or distracting the instructor or the class in general. The instructor prohibits recording, photographing, or video of any lecture, communication, discussion etc. without written consent from instructor.

Advocating a Grade Change

Students should submit a written grievance, including the reasons for their dissatisfaction with the grade, what grade they believe is merited and why, using evidence from the assignment prompt, grading rubric and submitted assignment as justification. Effort is not an acceptable justification for a grade change. This written grievance should be submitted at least 4 business days before meeting with the professor. If you choose to appeal your grade, the professor reserves the right to decrease an existing grade, this second decision is final. *All grades are final 5 days after posting.*

Make-Up Exams

Quizzes 1 & 2 can be made up on University Reading Day, make-ups will take place in the form of blue book essays and will be distributed on the day of the exam. Anyone may make-up these exams for 50% of the grade with no documentation. Documented excuses can be made up for 100% of the full credit. You will need to bring your own Bluebook for the makeup.

Dropped Assignments

Your 2 lowest Soomo workbook assignment grades will be dropped. No Quiz Grades will be dropped

Academic Integrity

UNT has a detailed and strict academic dishonesty policy. Please take the time to review the Student Standards of Academic Integrity

(https://policy.unt.edu/sites/default/files/untpolicy/pdf/7-Student_Affairs-Academic_Integrity.pdf).

There is zero tolerance for any type of academic dishonesty. Students violating this policy will receive an “F” in the course and be reported to the Office for Academic Integrity

The Department of Political Science considers using artificial intelligence software like Chat GPT to produce substantive content in writing assignments to be

cheating. The Department of Political Science allows faculty to use their own methods to determine the likelihood of unauthorized use of AI. This may include the use of Canvas AI detection software, additional uses of other AI detection software, meeting with students, and their own use of expertise in the field to determine whether or not the student likely committed a violation of departmental AI policy.

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Important Dates

Sat. Aug 30th	Upload Academic Integrity Form
Thurs. Sep 18	Quiz 1
Thurs. Oct 30	Quiz 2
November 25 and 27	Fall Break
November 7 th	Last day drop for W
Tues Dec 9	Final Quiz

DATE	Topics and Readings	Assignment
Week 1	Intro to Course	
Aug 19	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> Introduction to Course What is political science? 	Complete, screenshot and upload page 6 of the syllabus to Canvas by Aug 30th
Aug 21	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> Take Political Typology Quiz https://www.pewresearch.org/politics/quiz/political-typology/?group=8a1cd98888223e13a8abb3e4f20c096b 	
Week 2	Political Science, Founders’ Perspective	
Aug 26	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> The Federalists, Nos. 10 (CR) People’s History Chapter 4 (CR) 	Take a screenshot of last page of political typology quiz and upload to Canvas by Aug 30th
Aug 30		
Week 3	Political Culture	
Sep 2	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> Beyond Tocqueville, Myrdal, and Hartz: The Multiple Traditions in America (CR) 	
Sep 4		
Week 4	Public Opinion	
Sep 9	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> Zaller <i>Nature and Origins of Mass Opinion</i> Chapter 3 (CR) Class Canceled Sept 11 for APSA 	Soomo WB Ch. 1/2 Public Opinion Due 9/12
Sep 11		

Week 5	Political Participation	
Sep 16	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> Tocqueville Revisited: Participation in America in the Twenty-first Century Dalton (CR) Poor People's Movements (CR) 	Soomo WB Ch. 3/4 Political Participation due 9/17
Sep 18		
	Quiz 1 Thursday 9/18 at Sage Hall Testing Center Sage 331 7:30am-9:00pm	
Week 6	Interest Groups	
Sep 23	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> Interest groups: Who or what are they? (CR) Elements of a Successful Interest Group (CR) 	Soomo WB Ch. 5/6 Interest Groups due 9/26
Sep 25		
Week 7	Political Parties	
Sep 30	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> Lipset "What are Parties For?" (CR) Reread Federalist #10 (CR) 	Soomo WB Ch. 7/8 Political Parties due 10/3
Oct 2		
Week 8	Elections, Campaigns, and Voting	
Oct 7	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> Downs Economic Theory of Voting (CR) 	Soomo WB Ch. 9/10 Elections and Campaigns due 10/17
Oct 9		
Week 9	Elections, Campaigns, and Voting/Media and Politics	
Oct 14	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> Mayhew: The Electoral Connection (CR) 	
Oct 16		
Week 10	Domestic Policy	
Oct 21	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> WTP 17: Social Policy <ul style="list-style-type: none"> The Welfare State Opening Opportunity 	
Oct 23		
Week 11	Domestic Policy	
Oct 28	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> WTP 17: Social Policy (CR) <ul style="list-style-type: none"> Who Gets what from Social Policy Social Policy and Your Future 	Soomo WB Ch. 11/12 Public & Domestic Policy due 11/1
Oct 30		
	Quiz 2 Thursday 10/30 at Sage Hall Testing Center Sage 331 7:30am-9:00pm	
Week 12	Foreign Policy	
Nov 4	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> WTP 18 Foreign Policy and Democracy (CR) <ul style="list-style-type: none"> The Goals for Foreign Policy Who makes American Foreign Policy 	
Nov 6		
Week 13	Foreign Policy cont.	
Nov 11	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> WTP 18 Foreign Policy and Democracy (CR) <ul style="list-style-type: none"> The Instruments of Modern American Foreign Policy Foreign Policy and Your Future 	Soomo WB Ch. 13 Foreign Policy Due 11/14
Nov 13		
Week 14	Introduction to Minority Political Behavior	
Nov 18	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> Tajfel and Turner 1986 (CR) 	

Nov 20	• Rich 1994 (CR)	
Week 15	Fall Break	
Nov 25		
Nov 27		
Week 16	Introduction to Minority Political Behavior Cont.	
Dec 2	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Proctor 2022 (CR) • Currah 2011 (CR) 	
Dec 4		
Week 17	Finals Week	
Dec 9	Dec 9 Final Quiz Sage Hall Testing Center Sage 331 Dec 9 7:30am-9:00pm	

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****The instructor reserves the right to change this syllabus with notice****

Assignment #1: University of North Texas Academic Integrity Form (Fall2025)

Name: _____ UNT email: _____

Year in school: _____ Transfer? YES NO (if so, which school): _____

Major: _____

1) What is the first political experience you remember?

2) Why do you think some people are “turned off” by politics?

Please circle answers to the following questions.

3) How interested are YOU in politics?

Not at all interested Indifferent Somewhat interested Very interested

4) How frequently were political issues & politics discussed when you were growing up?

Never Sometimes Frequently

This certifies that I have read the syllabus and understand the requirements for the course. I also understand the Statement of ADA compliance, the Policy on Cheating and Plagiarism, and the Policy on Academic Integrity. I agree to abide by academic honesty outlined by the Center for Student Rights & Responsibilities www.unt.edu/csrr/ and have read the material about my rights and the sanctions that can be imposed if I violate the student code of conduct. I verify that all work done in this class will be my own, that I will cite or quote sources when I draw from other authors' material, and that I will present only accurate and truthful information to the professor and the teaching assistants. Furthermore, I understand that violating the policy will result in an automatic "F" for the course and referral to the Dean of Students for disciplinary proceedings and dismissal.

Signature: _____ Date: _____

Printed Name: _____ EUID: _____

Upload to Canvas by August 30th

Department Statement of ADA compliance

The University of North Texas 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 you with an accommodation letter to be delivered to faculty to begin a private discussion regarding your specific needs in a course. You may request accommodations at any time, however, ODA notices of accommodation should be provided as early as possible in the semester to avoid any delay in implementation.

Note that students must obtain a new letter of accommodation for *every* semester and must meet with *each* faculty member prior to implementation in each class. For additional information see the Office of Disability Accommodation website at <http://www.unt.edu/oda>. You may also contact them by phone at 940.565.4323.

University of North Texas -- Department of Political Science POLICY ON CHEATING AND PLAGIARISM

The UNT Code of Student Conduct and Discipline defines cheating and plagiarism as the use of unauthorized books, notes, or otherwise securing help in a test; copying others' tests, assignments, reports, or term papers; representing the work of another as one's own; collaborating without authority with another student during an examination or in preparing academic work; or otherwise practicing scholastic dishonesty.

Normally, the minimum penalty for cheating or plagiarism is a grade of "F" in the course. Determination of cheating or plagiarism shall be made by the instructor in the course, or by the field faculty in the case of departmental exams.

Cases of cheating or plagiarism in ordinary coursework may, at the discretion of the instructor, be referred to the Undergraduate Studies Committee in the case of undergraduate students, or the Graduate Studies Committee in the case of graduate students. These committees, acting as agents of the department Chair, shall impose further penalties, or recommend further penalties to the Dean of Students, if they determine that the case warrants it. In all cases, the Dean of Students shall be informed in writing of the case. Students may appeal any decision under this policy by following the procedures laid down in the UNT Code of Student Conduct and Discipline.

POLICY ON ACADEMIC INTEGRITY

The Political Science Department adheres to and enforces UNT's policy on academic integrity (cheating, plagiarism, forgery, fabrication, facilitating academic dishonesty and sabotage). Students in this class should review the policy (UNT Policy Manual Section 18.1.16), which may be located at

http://policy.unt.edu/sites/default/files/untpolicy/pdf/7-Student_Affairs-Academic_Integrity.pdf. Violations of academic integrity in this course will be addressed in compliance with the penalties and procedures laid out in this policy. Students may appeal any decision under this policy by following the procedures laid down in the UNT Policy Manual Section 18.1.16 "Student Standards of Academic Integrity."

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 Center for Student Rights and Responsibilities to consider whether the student's conduct violated the Code of Student Conduct. The university's expectations for student conduct apply to all instructional forums, including university and electronic classroom, labs, discussion groups, field trips, etc. The Code of Student Conduct can be found at <https://deanofstudents.unt.edu/conduct>.