# PSCI 2315

# U.S. Political Behavior and Public Policy

## Instructor Information

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Sage Hall 320, 940-565-3305

Office Hours: T,TH 12:45-2:00, and by appointment.

### Course Description and Objectives

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. *If* democratic society is capable of being justly governed, understanding the connection between the will of the people and the policies implemented by government is a matter of greatest importance.

Objectives

* Thinking Inside the Box.
* Identifying NPC’s and how to avoid or defeat them.
* Use formal concepts of political science to identify conspiracies to arbitrarily rule unsuspecting citizens.
* Formulate and execute collaborative revolutionary strategies.
* Detect and defeat collaborative revolutionary strategies.
* Examine Primary Texts.
* Understanding why stale academic issues are actually of real importance for your life.
* Introduction to the virtual impossibility of “critical thinking.”
* Increase understanding both the process and outcome of public policy.

## Required Materials

* Recommended: *We the People 14ed.*, by Thomas Patterson (McGraw Hill)
  + You may also purchase the 15th or 13th Edition

## Grading Calculations

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| --- | --- |
| Chapter Exams (5) | 60% |
| In Class Assignments | 20% |
| Final Exam | 20% |
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Exams will take place every 2-3 weeks, and announced at least a week in advance.

Chapter Exams: In class exams based on textbook readings and in-class lectures.

Final Exam: Comprehensive multiple choice exam. Final exam day and time for all of your UNT Classes are listed on the [UNT Academic Calendar](http://catalog.unt.edu/content.php?catoid=26&navoid=2783).

A = 90%-100%

B = 80%-89%

C = 70%-79%

D = 60%-69%

F = 50%-59%

(Based on the weighted percentages listed above.)

## How to Succeed in this Course

### **Communication:** Communication Expectations:

1. This is a face-to-class so the best way to communicate with me is face-to-face. I am usually free after class and have flexible office hours.

2. Email: I have 300 UNT students this semester. I will try to answer emails within 48 hours Monday-Friday. Your grade will not suffer if I do not respond quickly enough. If you have a question about your grades in the course, talk with me rather than sending email.

3. Do not ask about bonus points, extra assignments, or “something you can do” etc. to raise your grade. The only possible bonus points for the semester are “soup questions.” (And if you ask me what a “soup question” is, I will deduct points from your grade.)

**Attendance is NOT part of the grade in this course when not engaged in class activities.** In the event you are unable to attend class, you will be able to identify missing information from the exam review sheets that will be available at least one week before all exams.

Missing class during group assignments will be fatal to that portion of your grade.

[**Academic Integrity Policy (PDF)**](https://policy.unt.edu/sites/default/files/06.049_Standard%20Syllabus%20Policy%20Statements_supplement.pdf)

## Artificial Intelligence

Prohibited Use: In this course, I want you to engage deeply with the materials and develop your own critical thinking and writing skills. For this reason, the use of Generative AI (GenAI) tools like [insert tool(s) here, e.g., Claude, ChatGPT, and Gemini] is not permitted. While these tools can be helpful in some contexts, they do not align with our goal of fostering the development of your independent thinking. Using GenAI to complete any part of an assignment, exam, or coursework will be considered a violation of academic integrity, as it prevents the development of your own skills, and will be addressed according to the Student Academic Integrity policy (https://policy.unt.edu/policy/06-003).

## Course Disruptions

Students will be notified by Eagle Alert if there is a campus closing that will impact a class and describe that the calendar is subject to change, citing the [Campus Closures Policy](https://policy.unt.edu/policy/15-006) (<https://policy.unt.edu/policy/15-006>).

## ADA accommodation statement:

The University of North Texas makes reasonable accommodations for students with disabilities. To request accommodations, you must first register with the Office of Disability Access (ODA) by completing an application for services and providing documentation to verify your eligibility each semester. Once your eligibility is confirmed, you may request your letter of accommodation. ODA will then email your faculty a letter of reasonable accommodation, initiating a private discussion about your specific needs in the course.

You can request accommodations at any time, but it’s important to provide ODA notice to your faculty as early as possible in the semester to avoid delays in implementation. Keep in mind that you must obtain a new letter of accommodation for each semester and meet with each faculty member before accommodations can be implemented in each class. You are strongly encouraged to meet with faculty regarding your accommodations during office hours or by appointment. Faculty have the authority to ask you to discuss your letter during their designated office hours to protect your privacy. For more information and to access resources that can support your needs, refer to the Office of Disability Access website (https://studentaffairs.unt.edu/office-disability-access).