



College of Liberal Arts and Social Sciences
Department of Political Science
PSCI 2305
US Political Behavior and Policy

Summer Session II 2019

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***The TA's and the instructor will typically reply to your emailed questions within 12 hours. Quicker replies are usually available from Ruderman in the mornings; Basnet in the afternoons; Amirisefat in the evenings.

In addition, the **Learning Center** will be offering tutoring services for this class. Their Lead Tutors will be facilitating in-person and online appointments, as well as being available for Walk-In hours from 12-2pm in the Sage Common Area every Thursday.

Students can schedule appointments any time at appointments.unt.edu and can learn more about our services at learningcenter.unt.edu/tutoring.

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. Your instructor and teaching assistants are here to help you understand the material. Even though this is an online class, there will be opportunities

for you to ask questions and engage in discussion; I urge you to take advantage of those opportunities.

Pre-requisites

There are no prerequisites for this course.

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 Materials

There is one required text for this course:

Central Ideas in American Government + 1050 Workbook, published by Soomo Publishing
(please note: this is an ONLINE (digital) book + ONLINE workbook)

You can purchase a code for this text from the OFFICIAL CAMPUS bookstore or you can purchase it directly from the publisher by clicking on the textbook link in our course Canvas site. If you are waiting for financial aid, please access the text through Canvas and choose the free trial of the text (three chapters). If you do not acquire access to the course materials in a timely fashion your grade may be irreparably harmed.

Technical Support

Neither the instructor nor the teaching assistants are technical support resources. If you experience any kind of technical problem, please contact:

Student Helpdesk:

UIT Helpdesk
Sage Hall 130
940-565-2324
helpdesk@unt.edu

If you are having difficulty with the Soomo product, please contact the publisher directly at <http://soomolearning.com/support>

Please note: If you experience a loss of internet connection, WIFI signal, or your browser freezes up on you during an assignment or exam, you must contact the UNT resources first, then send us

an email with the problem you experienced and how you're addressing it. Technical difficulties do not guarantee that time on assignments or exams will be extended.

Technical Requirements

Since this is an online course, you are required to have regular access to the course materials and texts through a web interface. In addition, you *will* be asked to use Lockdown Browser for exams, and you *may* also be asked to use the webcam feature.

Technical Skill Requirements

While this is an online course, the necessary technical requirements are minimal. You will need to navigate our Canvas webpage, follow the link to our online textbook, complete multiple choice and short answer questions in the online textbook, follow links to videos and some external websites, upload/download Word and pdf documents, and post to/comment on discussion boards (in Canvas).

In addition, you will need Adobe Flash on your computer, and you will need the ability to take screen shots (screen captures) of websites or your work that can be saved and uploaded to the course Canvas site.

Netiquette

The online environment can invite thoughtless and unkind behavior. Please keep in mind that this is a community of scholars, even though we are geographically dispersed. When interacting with your fellow students, instructors, and teaching assistants, you should be polite. When in doubt, pause for five minutes before you hit "submit." Consider whether you would say something to a person's face before saying it to them in an electronic format. Also remember that electronic communication does not convey *tone* well; a well-intentioned comment may be perceived as harsh or offensive. Whether you are the communicator or the recipient, please keep that in mind.

All of this is particularly important in a class on politics. We will, inevitably, touch on topics that are touchy under the best of circumstances.

Course Requirements

Get the Gist Assignments (6)	20%
Workbook Assignments (7)	20%
Investigation Assignments (10)	10%
Discussion Board Posts (5)	10%
Short Essays (2)	20%
Exams (2 or 3)	20%
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Total	100%

Grading

Your final grade will be based on the following scale:

A	90-100%
B	80-89%
C	70-79%
D	60-69%
F	Below 60%

I use standard mathematical rounding, but I will make no other adjustment of grades. Please remember that your final grade is the culmination of work that you have done over the course of the semester. It is not the product of bargaining at the end of the term. Moreover, I cannot make an exception for one student without making it for all students, and that is never practical.

With respect to homework, late work will be accepted up to one day late with a 50% penalty. After one day, it will not be accepted. There will be no late work accepted on discussion posts. It does not matter why the work is late; this policy is uniform. If you DO have an issue such as a family emergency or illness, your grade will not necessarily suffer; at least one grade is dropped for each type of homework, so having a penalized grade or even a missing grade is not the end of the world. Extreme situations will be given consideration if appropriate.

Course Expectations

A university course is a joint endeavor between instructor and students. We all have an important part to play.

As the instructor in this course, I am responsible for

- providing course materials that will give you the opportunity to achieve our course objectives and providing you with the tools to learn,
- providing timely feedback on your work and explaining concerns you may have with grading, and
- being fair in my implementation of rules and policies in the course.

As a student in this course, you are responsible for

- reading and completing all requirements of the course in a timely manner,
- working to remain attentive and engaged in the course and interact with your fellow students,
- and, assisting in maintaining a positive learning environment for everyone.

Course Components

Get the Gist Assignments: Your online textbook has two types of chapters: Central Ideas in American Government (CIAG) chapters and 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.) There are 7 Get the Gist Assignments. The lowest grade gets dropped, so the highest 6 grades will constitute 20% of your final grade.

Investigation Assignments: 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 approximately two investigation assignments in each CIAG chapter for a total of 15 investigations. The highest 10 grades will constitute 10% of your final grade.

Workbook Assignments: 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). You can reset and repeat the questions until you get them all correct, so you should aim to get a perfect score on the multiple choice questions! An "assignment" involves completing all of the questions for all four essays. There are 8 workbook assignments. The lowest grade gets dropped, so the highest 7 will constitute 20% of your final grade.

Discussion Board Posts: You will be posting in a discussion board with the same group of people all semester (based on your last name). You will be prompted (and required) to post 6 times during the semester. An acceptable post will respond specifically to the prompt, will be written in at least five full sentences, and will be respectful. In addition, you must respond to at least one post from one of your group-mates. Your response must engage the original post on a substantive level (no "I agree" or "good point"), consist of at least three full sentences, and be respectful. No Late work is accepted. The lowest grade is dropped, so your top 5 grades will constitute 10% of your final grade.

Short Essays: There are three short essays. Each assignment involves writing a short (250 – 350 word) essay. Other specific instructions will be spelled out on Canvas. The due dates and topics are listed at the bottom of this syllabus and the topics have already been posted to Canvas. I encourage you to look at the due dates in your other classes and plan accordingly. The lowest essay score will be dropped so the highest 2 short essays will constitute 20% of your final grade. Therefore, if you complete the first two essays and are happy with your grade in the course you are not required to complete the final essay.

Unit Exams: There are two unit exams in this course and a final exam. They will be multiple choice. The final exam is cumulative. The lowest exam grade will be dropped and the top two exam scores will constitute 20% of your final grade. Therefore, if you are happy with your grade in the course after the second exam you are not required to take the final exam.

Policies

Americans with Disabilities Act Statement: The University of North Texas makes reasonable academic accommodation for students with disabilities. Students seeking reasonable accommodation must first register with the Office of Disability Access (ODA) to verify their eligibility. If a disability is verified, the ODA will provide you with a reasonable accommodation letter to be delivered to faculty to begin a private discussion regarding your specific needs in a course. You may request reasonable accommodations at any time, however, ODA notices of reasonable 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 reasonable accommodation for every semester and must meet with each faculty member prior to implementation in each class. Students are strongly encouraged to deliver letters of reasonable accommodation during faculty office hours or by appointment. Faculty members have the authority to ask students to discuss such letters during their designated office hours to protect the privacy of the student. For additional information, refer to the Office of Disability Access website at <http://www.unt.edu/oda>. You may also contact ODA by phone at (940) 565-4323.

Academic Misconduct: Academic Integrity is defined in the UNT Policy on Student Standards for Academic Integrity. Any suspected case of Academic Dishonesty will be handled in accordance with the University Policy and procedures. Possible academic penalties range from a verbal or written admonition to a grade of “F” in the course. Further sanctions may apply to incidents involving major violations. For policy and procedures: <http://facultysuccess.unt.edu/academic-integrity>.

Emergency Notification & Procedures: UNT uses a system called Eagle Alert to quickly notify you with critical information in an event of emergency (i.e., severe weather, campus closing, and health and public safety emergencies like chemical spills, fires, or violence). The system sends voice messages (and text messages upon permission) to the phones of all active faculty staff, and students. Please make certain to update your phone numbers at my.unt.edu. Some helpful emergency preparedness actions include: 1) ensuring you know the evacuation routes and severe weather shelter areas, determining how you will contact family and friends if phones are temporarily unavailable, and identifying where you will go if you need to evacuate the Denton area suddenly. In the event of a university closure, your instructor will communicate with you through Canvas regarding assignments, exams, field trips, and other items that may be impacted by the closure.

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 www.unt.edu/csrr. In short, please be considerate of others.

Sexual Discrimination, Harassment, & Assault: The University has procedures in place that aim to be aware of the needs of those who make an institutional report of sexual assault, domestic violence, dating violence, and stalking. Procedures include informing individuals about their right to file criminal charges as well as the availability of counseling, health, mental health, victim advocacy, legal assistance, visa and immigration assistance and other services on and/or off campus, as well as additional remedies to prevent contact between a complainant and a respondent, such as housing, academic, transportation and working accommodations, if reasonably available. The University will make such accommodations, if the victim requests them and if they are reasonably available, regardless of whether the complainant chooses to report the crime to the UNTPD or local law enforcement.

Anyone can report prohibited conduct by notifying the Dean of Students Office (940.565.2648), the Title IX Coordinator (940.565.2759) or the UNT Police Department (940.565.3000). The online reporting form is found at <http://report.unt.edu>.

Important Notice for F-1 Students taking Distance Education Courses

Federal Regulation

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 at <http://ecfr.gpoaccess.gov>. The specific portion concerning distance education courses is located at "Title 8 CFR 214.2 Paragraph (f)(6)(i)(G)" and can be found buried within this document: <http://frwebgate.access.gpo.gov/cgi-bin/get-cfr.cgi?TITLE=8&PART=214&SECTION=2&TYPE=TEXT>

The paragraph reads:

(G) For F-1 students enrolled in classes for credit or classroom hours, no more than the equivalent of one class or three credits per session, term, semester, trimester, or quarter may be counted toward the full course of study requirement if the class is taken on-line or through distance education and does not require the student's physical attendance for classes, examination or other purposes integral to completion of the class. An on-line or distance education course is a course that is offered principally through the use of television, audio, or computer transmission including open broadcast, closed circuit, cable, microwave, or satellite, audio conferencing, or computer conferencing. If the F-1 student's course of study is in a language study program, no on-line or distance education classes may be considered to count toward a student's full course of study requirement.

University of North Texas Compliance

To comply with immigration regulations, an F-1 visa holder within the United States may need to engage in an on-campus experiential component for this course. This component (which must be approved in advance by the instructor) can include activities such as taking an on-campus exam, participating in an on-campus lecture or lab activity, or other on-campus experience integral to the completion of this course.

If such an on-campus activity is required, it is the student's responsibility to do the following:

- (1) Submit a written request to the instructor for an on-campus experiential component within one week of the start of the course.
- (2) Ensure that the activity on campus takes place and the instructor documents it in writing with

a notice sent to the International Student and Scholar Services Office. ISSS has a form available that you may use for this purpose.

Because the decision may have serious immigration consequences, if an F-1 student is unsure about his or her need to participate in an on-campus experiential component for this course, s/he should contact the UNT International Student and Scholar Services Office (telephone 940-565-2195 or email internationaladvising@unt.edu) to get clarification before the one-week deadline.

Course Calendar

In the calendar that follows below, please be aware that all due dates are 11:59 p.m. on due date listed unless otherwise specified.

Although such changes are unlikely, note that the course calendar is subject to change at the instructor's discretion.

<u>Canvas Module</u>	<u>Due Dates</u>	<u>Readings</u>	<u>Assignments</u>
1: Public Opinion	7/11	Chapter 1 Chapter 2	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Chapter 1 Get the Gist • Am I Blue ... Investigation • Exit Poll Investigation • Discussion Board Forum 1 • Chapter 2 Workbook
2: Media	7/14	Chapter 3 Chapter 4	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Chapter 3 Get the Gist • Making the News Part 1 Investigation • #Divide • Chapter 4 Workbook • Discussion Board Forum 2
3: Political Participation	7/18	Chapter 5 Chapter 6	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Chapter 5 Get the Gist • We the Protesters Investigation • What Does It Take ... Investigation • Discussion Board Forum 3 • Chapter 6 Workbook
4: EXAM	7/20		EXAM I between 6 a.m. and 11:59p.m.

5: Short Reflection 1	7/21		Short Reflection 1 Due
6: Parties	7/25	Chapter 7 Chapter 8	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Chapter 7 Get the Gist • Third Wheels Investigation • 2016 Party Platforms Investigation • Chapter 8 Workbook • Discussion Board Forum 4
7: Interest Groups	7/28	Chapter 9 Chapter 10	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Chapter 9 Get the Gist • Evil Lobbyists Investigation <i>or</i> • American Pizza Community Investigation • Chapter 10 Workbook • Discussion Board Forum 5
8: Elections	8/1	Chapter 11 Chapter 12	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Chapter 11 Get the Gist • Brandon Brown Running for Congress Investigation • Getting Into the Electoral College Investigation • Chapter 12 Workbook
			<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Discussion Board Forum 6
9: Short Reflection 2	8/3		Short Reflection 2 Due
10: Public Policy	8/4	Chapters 13,14,15	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Chapter 13 Get the Gist • Bombing for Peace Investigation • Health Care Quality Investigation • Chapter 14 Workbook • Chapter 15 Workbook
11: Unit Exam 2	8/7	Unit Exam 2	Unit Exam available between 6 a.m. and 11:59 p.m.
12: Final Exam and Short Reflection 3	8/9	Final Exam	FINAL EXAM (if applicable) between 6 a.m. and 11:59 p.m. Short Reflection 3 Due (if applicable)

