PSCI 1040.001, *American Government: Laws and Institutions*

Summer 5 W – 1, 2011, GAB 104

MTWR 10:00 am – 11:50 am

Host: Eddie L. Meaders, J.D., M.A.

Office: Wooten Hall 141

Office Phone: (940) 565 – 2310

Political Science Department Office: Wooten Hall 125

Political Science Department Phone: (940) 565 - 2276

E-mail: meaders@unt.edu

Office Hours:

M & R: 1:00 pm – 3:00 pm

Feel free to drop by. No appointment is needed during office hours. If the posted hours are no good, let me know and we’ll set something else up.

Teaching Assistant: Lynsey Parsons

Office: WH 169

Office Phone: (940) 891-6804

Political Science Department Office: Wooten Hall 125

Political Science Department Phone: (940) 565 - 2276

E-mail: LynseyParsons@my.unt.edu

Office Hours: T, R: 8:30 – 10:00 am

Supplemental Instructor: Ben Vail

E-mail: BenjaminVail@my.unt.edu

Required Texts:

Ginsberg, Benjamin, Lowi, Weir, et al. *We the People: an Introduction to American Politics,* 9th Texas Edition. **(BUY IT! READ IT!)**

This is an introductory American government course designed to examine the theoretical and constitutional foundations of U.S. and Texas political systems and their respective institutional structures. By the end of the semester, students will be able to identify, analyze, and evaluate the national institutions of government-Congress, the Presidency, the Bureaucracy, the Judiciary, and related state level institutions. Students will also be able to identify and explain basic principles of civil rights and civil liberties. Student learning objectives include:

* 1. Demonstrate, identify, and explain constitutionalism.
  2. Comprehend the principles of Federalism.
  3. Synthesize the roles of the executive, legislative, and judicial branches of government.
  4. Demonstrate an awareness and recognition of the scope of democratic theory.
  5. Differentiate between civil rights and civil liberties.

This course satisfies state mandated requirements for a course emphasizing the U.S. and Texas constitutions.

Class Procedure: This class will be conducted in a lecture/discussion format. Students are encouraged to actively participate in class discussions. **READ AND PREPARE FOR THEM IN ADVANCE!** Your views, opinions, and questions are valued no matter how insignificant or controversial you may feel them to be. Politics being controversial, I ask that you keep your comments on point as they pertain to the lecture material. Still, I like to know what you think about things. Please do not feel inhibited by the size of the class in expressing your views. Warm bodies only fill up space and are not very exciting unless they say something.

Assessment components:

* Online Assignments: Each chapter corresponds with the topic under discussion in class. Assignments will be due at the start of class. You get two attempts at taking each assignment. A**ll assignments must be electronically submitted by the start of class on the due date. At that time, all access to the assignment terminates in Blackboard Learn.** If there is a grading question about your assignment, please bring this to the attention of the instructor **NO LATER THAN** 24 hours after the grade is posted in Blackboard. Failure do so constitutes your waiver of the right to appeal the grade assigned.
* Examinations: There will be THREE (3) of them. Exams, which are closed book/notes, will consist of multiple choice and true-false questions. The exams are non-cumulative in the sense that they focus on the specific topics and reading assignments delineated by each section as well as various classroom team activities. Exam questions will **NOT** be taken from workbook readings**!** If there is a grading question about your exam, please bring this to the attention of the instructor **NO LATER THAN** 24 hours after the grade is posted in Blackboard. Failure do so constitutes your waiver of the right to appeal the grade assigned.

Attendance: **ATTEND CLASS** on the designated days! Lack of attendance may cause your peer reviews from your fellow team members to be lower.

***Specifically for TAMS students: If you are absent for any reason, you are required to file an absence report with the TAMS Academic Office. In addition, as your professor, I will send periodic attendance reports to the TAMS Academic Office.***

Disabled Students: 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.

Final Exam: The final is scheduled for Friday, July 5th from 10:00am – 12:00 pm. It will not be comprehensive! Please do not ask to take the final early.

Grades: A necessary evil. Your grade will be determined based on your scores on the following activities:

Exams: 70%

Blackboard Chapter Exercises: 30%

Academic Integrity, Plagiarism and Cheating :

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POLICY ON CHEATING AND PLAGIARISM

Perish the thought and do not give in to temptation and the easy way. 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. In the case of graduate departmental exams, the minimum penalty shall be failure of all fields of the exam. 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 on graduate departmental exams, theses, or dissertations shall automatically be referred to the departmental Graduate Studies Committee. 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.

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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 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 [www.unt.edu/csrr](http://www.unt.edu/csrr).

Miscellaneous Poop:

**PLEASE TURN CELL PHONES OFF DURING CLASS! RINGING, BEEPING, CHIRPING, AND OBNOXIOUS MELODIOUS TUNES CAUSE DISTRACTIONS. IF THIS HAPPENS, I MAY ANSWER YOUR PHONE FOR YOU, OR AT LEAST CONFISCATE IT FOR THE DURATION OF THE CLASS PERIOD!**

Schedule Changes: I reserve the right to change any of the exam times or assignments by providing you with at least a 48 hour notice of such changes. You are responsible for any changes that may occur during the course of the semester. Any changes will be announced at the beginning of each class and posted in Blackboard.

Coming Attractions

(More or Less)

Week 1: June 3-7 **(class meets on Friday June 7th!)**

Ch. 1, *American Political Culture*

* Learning Goal (LG) Quizzes 1, 2, 3, 4, 5; Get Involved (Putnam essay); Who Are Americans; DUE on the 5th!

Ch. 19, *the Political Culture of Texas*

* LG Quizzes 1, 3; Who are Texans; DUE on the 5th!

Ch. 2, *the Founding and the Constitution*

* LG Quizzes 1, 2,3,4,5, and the Video Exercise DUE on the 6th!

Ch. 20, *the Texas Constitution*

* LG Quizzes 1, 3, 4; Who are Texans; DUE on the 6th!

Week 2: June 10-13

Ch. 3, Federalism

* LG Quizzes 1, 2, 3; Who Are Americans; Get Involved; DUE on the 11th!

Ch. 26, Local Government in Texas

* LG Quizzes 1, 2, 3; Exercise 2; DUE on the 11th!

**Exam I on the 12th! (First hour of class)**

Ch. 12, Congress

* LG Quizzes 1, 2, 3, 4, 5; Simulation and Quiz; Get Involved; DUE on the 17th!

Ch. 23, the Texas Legislature

* LG Quizzes 1, 2, 3, 4, 5, 6; DUE on the 17th!

Week 3: June 17-20

More Congress and the Texas legislature

Ch. 13, the Presidency

* LG Quizzes 1, 2, 3, 4; Policy Debate Readings and Exercise; Simulation; DUE on the 20th!

Ch. 24, the Texas Executive branch

* LG Quizzes 1, 2, 3; Exploring Texas Politics; Video Exercise; DUE on the 24th!

Week 4: June 24-June 27

Ch. 14, the Bureaucracy

* LG Quizzes 1, 2, 3, 4; Who are Americans; You Decide; DUE on the 25th!

**EXAM II on the 26th (First hour of class)**

Ch. 15, the Federal Courts

* LG Quizzes 1, 2, 3, 4; Who are Americans; Video Exercise; DUE on the 27th!

Ch. 25, the Texas Judiciary

* LG Quizzes 1, 2, 3, 4, 5, 6; Video Exercise DUE on the 1st!

Week 5: July 1, 2, 3, & 5

Ch. 4, Civil Liberties

* LG Quizzes 1, 2, 3, 4, 5, 6; Digital Citizens Exercise and Quiz; DUE on the 2nd!

Ch. 5, Civil Rights

* LG Quizzes 1, 2, 3; Simulation and Quiz; Get Involved; DUE on the 3rd!

**FINAL EXAM on the 5th; 10:00 AM – 12:00 PM, GAB 104**

University of North Texas

PSCI 1040.001, Summer 5W -1, 2013

Student Information Sheet

(Please Print)

Name:\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_

Phone:( )\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_

Hometown:\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_

E-Mail:\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_

Year in School:\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_

Transfer (if so, which school):\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_

Major:\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_

Minor:\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_

Hobbies and interesting things you like to do:

This certifies that I have read the syllabus and understand the requirements for the course, including the Policy on Cheating and Plagiarism. I agree to abide by academic honesty. As such, I verify that all work done in this class will be my own. I understand that violating the policy may result in an automatic “F” for the course and referral to the Dean of Students for disciplinary proceedings.

Signature:\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_

Printed Name:\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_

Date: \_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_