PSCI 1050: American and Texas Government
Spring 2012

Instructor:
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Office hours: TR 11-12:30 & by appt

Teaching Assistant
Mr. Mike Marshall
Email: MichaelMarshall@my.unt.edu
Office: 160 Wooten Hall
Office hours: WF 2:30-4:30 & by appt

Course webpage at: learn.unt.edu

The teaching assistant for this class is Mr. Mike Marshall. He is your first resource for any non-subject material questions in the class. Any problems you have with administrative or procedural matters such as late assignments, missing homework, incorrect grades, etc. should be discussed first with your T.A. If you have a complaint, contact me after you have spoken to the T.A. to clarify the problem and what you have done to solve it. If you have problems with a grade report, see your T.A. first. Please contact me if you have substantive questions about the course material in the course.

This course is designed to assist the student in understanding the design, function, and influences upon the American and Texas political systems. Students are expected to read the assigned course material prior to arriving for class. The following books are required for the course:


Textbook Purchasing Options:

Paper text with UNT eWorkbook access code, Price: $100.00- Available only at UNT bookstore

UNT eWorkbook stand-alone access code card, Price: $28.00- Available only at UNT bookstore

Online purchase of eBook and UNT eWorkbook, Price: $47.00- Available through Blackboard. Click “Start Here” on course page and select “Purchase access WITH eBook”.

Online purchase of eWorkbook access code, Price: $30.00- Available through Blackboard. Click “Start Here” on course page and select “Purchase access WITHOUT eBook”.

This course will make considerable use of the internet. The class webpage is located at ecampus.unt.edu. You will need to use your EUID to logon to Blackboard. Grades and information will be posted here.
GRADING

<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th>Component</th>
<th>Plan A</th>
<th>Plan B</th>
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<tbody>
<tr>
<td>Exam 1</td>
<td>30%</td>
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<tr>
<td>Exam 2</td>
<td>30%</td>
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<td>Exam 3</td>
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<tr>
<td>Final Exam</td>
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<td>30%</td>
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<tr>
<td>Class assignments</td>
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**Exams**

There will be three multiple choice/true-false exams during the semester. The exams will be based upon the assigned course readings and class lectures. Questions for the exams will be drawn from both assigned reading material as well as class lectures. The exams will be scantron format so you must bring a number two pencil in order to take the exam. Scantrons will be provided.

The final exam is an **optional**, cumulative exam. Students who take the exam and have not missed any of the in-term exams will have their grades calculated based upon grading plan B. Students who choose not to take the final exam will have their final grade based upon grading plan A.

**Students may miss 1 in-term exam for any reason.** The final exam will count as the makeup exam for students who miss an in-term exam. Students do not need to provide an excuse in order to miss an exam and take the final exam as a makeup exam. **No student, however, will be permitted under any circumstances to makeup more than 1 in-term exam.** Students who miss an exam will have their grade calculated according to grading plan A with the final exam grade substituted for the missed exam. Students missing a second exam who do not drop the class will receive a 0 for the second missed exam.

**Do not be late for the exams! A late student will not be permitted to take the exam once the first student has completed the exam and left the room.** You must show picture identification when turning in your exams. If you do not have a picture id with you, you will not be permitted to turn in your exam. At the time you turn in your exam, you will be given a receipt for your exam. Keep this receipt! You must provide the receipt if asked. Otherwise, you may receive a “0” on the exam.

**Assignments**

There are 5 assignments drawn from your workbook that will be due on several dates over the course of the semester on the dates listed below. These assignments will be completed online on Blackboard and will be made available to you under the Assignments tab. These assignments are due **NO LATER THAN 5 PM** on the date that they are due. Under no circumstances will late assignments be accepted. If you do not submit your assignment by 5 pm on the date that it is due, you will receive a 0 for that assignment. I will drop your lowest assignment grade in calculating your final course grade.

**COURSE RULES**

1. You are responsible for your own education. You are expected to be responsible for attending lectures and arranging for notes when you miss lecture. You are responsible for submitting assignments when they are due and for taking exams as noted on the syllabus.
2. Please be sure to turn off cell phones and beepers before coming to class. If they go off and disrupt class you will be asked to leave.
3. Be sure to check Blackboard often. I will provide important course information here, including schedule changes, that you will be responsible for being aware of.
4. All work in this course is expected to be your own. I take cheating extremely seriously and will refer incidents of cheating to the appropriate university authorities.
5. Students requesting accommodations based upon a disability should do so by the sixth day of the class and with documentation from appropriate authorities.
6. There are no extra credit assignments. Please do not ask.
7. Come to me with problems/concerns early. Waiting for help until just before the final exam will likely be too late.
8. This syllabus is not a contract. I reserve the right to alter the schedule listed in this syllabus. You are responsible for being aware of any announced changes.
9. I do not negotiate grades or arbitrarily bump up grades under any circumstances. I will only assign the grade that you earn in this class.

**CONTACTING ME**

I have scheduled office hours on Tuesday & Thursday. Unless I announce otherwise during class and barring an emergency, I am guaranteed to be in my office during those times. I am happy to meet with you at another time that better fits your schedule, just drop me an e-mail message or talk to me after class to setup an appointment. Far too often, students are hesitant to contact their professors before a problem occurs or even shy away from asking questions out of fear of “bothering” the professor – do not make that mistake! Your college education is an expensive endeavor; get all that you can out of this class by asking questions early and often. I am also happy to answer questions over e-mail and tend to check my e-mail frequently. If I receive a question from you I will try to respond as quickly as possible.

**COURSE SCHEDULE**

<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th>Date</th>
<th>Topic</th>
<th>Reading Assignment</th>
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<tbody>
<tr>
<td>January 17-19</td>
<td>Introduction/American Democratic System</td>
<td>Text: Chapter 1</td>
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<td>January 24-26</td>
<td>American Political Culture</td>
<td>Text: Chapter 4</td>
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<td>January 31-February 2</td>
<td>Public Opinion</td>
<td>Text: Chapter 5</td>
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<td><strong>Workbook: Chapter 1</strong></td>
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<td>***** Due February 2: Workbook Exercises: 1-4, 1-5 *****</td>
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<td>February 7-9</td>
<td>The Media</td>
<td>Text: Chapter 9</td>
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<td>Workbook: Chapter 3</td>
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<td>February 14</td>
<td>Texas Political Culture</td>
<td>Text: TX-1</td>
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<td>February 16</td>
<td>***** Exam 1 ***</td>
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<td>February 21-23</td>
<td>Interest Groups</td>
<td>Text: Chapter 7, TX-2</td>
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<td>Workbook: Chapter 5</td>
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<td>***** Due February 23: Workbook Exercises: 5-2, 5-5 *****</td>
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<td>February 28-March 1</td>
<td>Political Parties</td>
<td>Text: Chapter 8</td>
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<td>Workbook: Chapter 4</td>
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<td>***** Due March 1: Workbook Exercises: 4-1, 4-2 *****</td>
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<td>March 6-8</td>
<td>Political Participation</td>
<td>Text: Chapter 6</td>
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<td>Workbook: Chapter 2</td>
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<td>March 13-15</td>
<td>Presidential Elections</td>
<td>Text: Chapter 10</td>
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<td>March 20-22</td>
<td>Spring Break</td>
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March 27-April 3  Congressional Elections  Text: Chapter 11
  Workbook: Chapter 6

April 5  *** Exam 2 ***

April 10-12  Domestic Policy  Text: Chapter 18
  Workbook: Chapter 8

*** Due April 12: Workbook Exercises: 8-1, 8-5 ***

April 17-19  Economic Policy  Text: Chapter 19
  Workbook: Chapter 9

*** Due April 19: Workbook Exercises: 9-1, 9-4 ***

April 24-April 26  Foreign & Defense Policy  Text: Chapter 20
  Workbook: Chapter 10

May 1  *** Exam 3 ***

May 3  Course Review & Wrap-up

*** Final Exam – Tuesday, May 8th 8-10 AM ***

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.

Statement of ADA Compliance
The Political Science Department cooperates with the Office of Disability Accommodation to make reasonable accommodations for qualified students with disabilities. Please present your written accommodation request on or before the sixth class day (beginning by the second week of classes.)

Religious Holidays
In accordance with UNT Policy 15.2.5, students will be excused from class or other activities for the observance of religious holidays, for religions whose places of worship are exempt from property tax under Section 11.20 of the Tax Code. The student is encouraged to notify the instructor as soon as possible regarding the absence.

Course Evaluations
The Student Evaluation of Teaching Effectiveness (SETE) is a requirement for all organized classes at UNT. This short survey will be made available to you at the end of the semester, providing you a chance to comment on how this class is taught. I am very interested in the feedback I get from students, as I work to continually improve my teaching. I consider the SETE to be an important part of your participation in this class.