You have a teaching assistant assigned to you based upon the first letter of your last name. This teaching assistant is your first resource for questions related to the class. Any problems you have with administrative or procedural matters such as incorrect grades or problems with online quizzes should be discussed first with your assigned 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:


**GRADING**

<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th>Component</th>
<th>Plan A</th>
<th>Plan B</th>
</tr>
</thead>
<tbody>
<tr>
<td>Exam 1</td>
<td>30%</td>
<td>20%</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Exam 2</td>
<td>30%</td>
<td>20%</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Exam 3</td>
<td>30%</td>
<td>20%</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Final Exam</td>
<td>----</td>
<td>30%</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Online quizzes</td>
<td>10%</td>
<td>10%</td>
</tr>
</tbody>
</table>

**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 by the instructor.

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.

Quizzes
There will be 5 short online pop quizzes over the course of the semester. Each quiz will be announced in class and
will be available online from the end of that class meeting until 11:59pm the following day. Each quiz will be drawn directly
from the assigned course readings for that week and will consist of 5 questions. No makeup quizzes will be permitted without
a documented medical excuse that verifies that the student was medically unable to complete an online course assignment
during the time period. The lowest quiz grade will be dropped. In the event of a problem with an online quiz or a medical
excuse for a quiz, please contact your assigned teaching assistant.

T

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. There are no extra credit assignments. Please do not ask.
6. Come to me with problems/concerns early. Waiting for help until just before the final exam will likely be too late.
7. 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.
8. 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>
</tr>
</thead>
<tbody>
<tr>
<td>January 15-17</td>
<td>Introduction/American Democratic System</td>
<td>Text: Chapter 1</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>January 22-24</td>
<td>American Political Culture</td>
<td>Text: Chapter 4</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>January 29-31</td>
<td>Public Opinion</td>
<td>Text: Chapter 5</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>February 5-7</td>
<td>The Media</td>
<td>Text: Chapter 9</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>February 12</td>
<td>Texas Political Culture</td>
<td>Text: TX-1</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td><strong>February 14</strong></td>
<td>*** Exam 1 ***</td>
<td></td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>February 19-21</td>
<td>Interest Groups</td>
<td>Text: Chapter 7, TX-2</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>February 26-28</td>
<td>Political Parties</td>
<td>Text: Chapter 8</td>
</tr>
</tbody>
</table>
March 5-7  Political Participation  Text: Chapter 6

March 12-14  Spring Break – No class meeting

March 19-21  Presidential Elections  Text: Chapter 10

March 26-April 2  Congressional Elections  Text: Chapter 11

April 4  *** Exam 2 ***

April 9-11  Domestic Policy  Text: Chapter 18

April 16-18  Economic Policy  Text: Chapter 19

April 23-April 25  Foreign & Defense Policy  Text: Chapter 20

April 30  *** Exam 3 ***

May 2  Course Review & Wrap-up

*** Final Exam – Tuesday, May 7th 10:30 AM-12:30 PM **

Course drop information: see schedule at – http://essc.unt.edu/registrar/schedule/scheduleclass.html

Policies on academic dishonesty: http://www.vpaa.unt.edu/academic-integrity.htm

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. 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.

University of North Texas -- Department of Political Science
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 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.

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.