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 that you have with administrative or procedural matters such as incorrect grades or problems with online tests 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, contact 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:


**Online Workbook:** Matthew Eshbaugh-Soha. *1050 Workbook: Process and Policies, 1st edition.* Can be purchased online or with a registration card from the bookstore.

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**GRADING**

<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th>Component</th>
<th>Plan A</th>
<th>Plan B</th>
</tr>
</thead>
<tbody>
<tr>
<td>Exam 1</td>
<td>25%</td>
<td>15%</td>
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<tr>
<td>Exam 2</td>
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<tr>
<td>Exam 3</td>
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<td>15%</td>
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<tr>
<td>Final Exam</td>
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<td>30%</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Workbook</td>
<td>25%</td>
<td>25%</td>
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</table>

**Exams**

There will be three multiple choice/true-false exams during the semester. The exams will be based upon the assigned course readings, online workbook, and class lectures. All exams will be delivered online. Students may take the exam at any point during the available exam window. Students may take the exam using their own computer or as a walk-in student at the Sage Hall Testing Center (C330 Sage Hall). **If you decided to take the exams using your own computer, you must install and use the Respondus Lockdown Browser to take the test. You will be unable to take the test using a regular browser.** The Respondus Lockdown Browser is available for download for free. Instructions are posted on the course Blackboard page.

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. All exams taken will count toward a student’s grade. **No exam scores will be dropped.**

**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.**
**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.

**Online Workbook**

The online workbook is an important source of material covered in class. In order to access the online workbook, you will either need to purchase a registration card from the bookstore or purchase the workbook directly from the publisher website. Once you have purchased access to the workbook, you will access it directly through the class Blackboard page by clicking on the “1050 workbook” link.

There are 8 workbook chapters assigned throughout the course. Your lowest 1 workbook chapter grade will be dropped. Your workbook assignment grades will be based upon the number of correct multiple choice questions that you answered and whether or not you completely answered the remaining questions in the workbook chapter. You may answer the multiple choice questions as many times as you wish until you get the best grade possible.

Each workbook chapter has a target deadline to help you to try and stay on schedule. You, however, may complete the workbook assignments for full credit after the target deadline. All workbook assignments, however, must be completed no later than 5pm on Thursday, May 7th.

**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. Come to me with problems/concerns early. Waiting for help until just before the final exam will likely be too late.
6. 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.
7. 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 19</td>
<td>Introduction</td>
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</tr>
<tr>
<td>January 21-26</td>
<td>American Political Culture</td>
<td>Text: Chapter 1</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>January 28-February 2</td>
<td>Public Opinion</td>
<td>Text: Chapter 2</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>February 4-9</td>
<td>The Media</td>
<td>Text: Chapter 7</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>February 11-16</td>
<td>Texas Political Culture</td>
<td>Text: Chapter 11</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>February 18</td>
<td>*** Exam 1 – Exam window open from 8am-5pm ***</td>
<td></td>
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</tbody>
</table>
February 23-25  Interest Groups  Text: Chapter 5, Chapter 14
*** February 25: Online Workbook Interest Groups Chapter Due ***

March 1-3  Political Parties  Text: Chapter 4, Chapter 13
*** March 3: Online Workbook Political Parties Chapter Due ***

March 8-10  Political Participation  Text: Chapter 3, Chapter 12
*** March 10: Online Workbook Political Participation Chapter Due ***

March 15-17  Spring Break – No class meetings

March 22-24  Elections  Text: Chapter 6, Chapter 15
*** March 24: Online Workbook Elections and Campaigns Chapter Due ***

March 29  *** Exam 2 – Exam window open from 8am-5pm ***

March 31-April 7 Economic & Environmental Policy  Text: Chapter 8, Chapter 17

April 12-19  Welfare & Education Policy  Text: Chapter 9, Chapter 16
*** April 19: Online Workbook Domestic Policy Chapter Due ***

April 21-28  Foreign & Defense Policy  Text: Chapter 10
*** April 28: Online Workbook Foreign Policy Chapter Due ***

May 3  *** Exam 3 – Exam window open from 8am-5pm ***

May 5  Optional Course Review & Wrap-up

*** Thursday, May 5, 5pm: Final Course Deadline for Completion of Workbook Assignments ***

*** Final Exam – Thursday, May 12th, exam window open from 8am-5pm***

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 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 of the second week of classes).

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](http://policy.unt.edu/sites/default/files/untpolicy/pdf/7-Student_Affairs-Academic_Integrity.pdf). Violations of academic integrity in this course will be 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).