

Course Syllabus

Course Information

<i>Course Number/Section</i>	GOVT 3333-001
<i>Course Title</i>	Political Behavior
<i>Term</i>	Spring 2007
<i>Days & Times</i>	Tuesday & Thursday 11:30-12:45

Professor Contact Information

<i>Professor</i>	Carole J. Wilson
<i>Office Phone</i>	972.883.4957
<i>Email Address</i>	cjwilson@utdallas.edu
<i>Office Location</i>	GR 3.230
<i>Office Hours</i>	Tuesday 1:30-3:30

I encourage all students to contact me or the TA if you have any problems in person, by phone, email, or WebCT. If you use WebCT mail, it will not automatically forward replies to your email inbox unless you set your preferences to do so. If you contact me or the TA by email, we will only respond to email originating from your UTD account (per University regulations). If you are unable to meet during my office hours, please email me to setup an alternative meeting time.

Teaching Assistant Contact Information

<i>Teaching Assistant</i>	Ozgur Dursun
<i>Phone</i>	214.562.4868
<i>Email Address</i>	oxd061000@utdallas.edu
<i>Office Location</i>	GR 3.220
<i>Office Hours</i>	Thursday 1:30-2:30

Course Pre-requisites, Co-requisites, and/or Other Restrictions

It is assumed that students taking this course have had an introductory American Government course.

Course Description

Perhaps the most important political act in a democratic polity is the act of voting. This course focuses on the reasons why people make the choices that they do when voting. We will explore the major theoretical models of voting behavior in a comparative perspective and discuss political participation more generally.

Student Learning Objectives/Outcomes

On completing this course, students will be able to:

1. describe the major theories of voting behavior and other forms of political participation;
2. discuss the implications of theory and behavior for political representation and policy making;
3. recognize current developments in the context of these theories;
4. express the micro logic behind democracy.

Required Textbooks and Materials

Required Texts

John Zaller. 1992. *Nature and Origins of Mass Opinion*. Cambridge University Press. ISBN: 0521407869

William Flanigan and Nancy Zingale. 2005. *Political Behavior of the American Electorate*. 11th Edition. CQ Press. ISBN: 1933116676

Mark D. Brewer and Jeffrey M. Stonecash. 2006. *Split: Class and Cultural Divides in American Politics*. CQ Press. ISBN: 0872892980

Gary C. Jacobson and Samuel Kernell. 1981. *Strategy and Choice in Congressional Elections*. Free online download at: <http://weber.ucsd.edu/~skernell/strategy.html>

Assignments & Academic Calendar

Readings: Students are responsible for reading assignments each class. Assignments are to be read before the date beside which they are listed.

☺ F&Z: Flanigan & Zingale ■ B&S: Brewer & Stonecash ● J&K: Jacobson & Kernell

	Readings	Topic	
9-Jan Tues		Introduction	
11-Jan Thurs	☺ F&Z Ch 1	Political Culture	
16-Jan Tues	☺ F&Z Ch 2	Suffrage & Turnout	
18-Jan Thurs	☺ F&Z Ch 3	Partisanship	
23-Jan Tues	☺ F&Z Ch 3	Partisanship	<i>Last Day to drop w/o a "W"</i>
25-Jan Thurs	☺ F&Z Ch 4	Partisanship	
30-Jan Tues	☺ F&Z Ch 5	Social Cleavages	
1-Feb Thurs	☺ F&Z Ch 5	Social Cleavages	
6-Feb Tues			Exam 1
8-Feb Thurs	■ B&S Ch 1	Divisions in Am Politics	
13-Feb Tues	■ B&S Ch 2&3	Class Division	
15-Feb Thurs	■ B&S Ch 4&5	Class Divisions	Paper 1
20-Feb Tues	■ B&S Ch 6	Cultural Divisions	
22-Feb Thurs	■ B&S Ch 7&8	Cultural Divisions	
27-Feb Tues	☺ F&Z Ch 6	Public Opinion & Ideology	
1-Mar Thurs	☺ F&Z Ch 7	Media	
6-Mar Tues			<i>Spring Break</i>
8-Mar Thurs			<i>Spring Break</i>
13-Mar Tues	☺ F&Z Ch 7	Media	
15-Mar Thurs			Exam 2
20-Mar Tues	* Zaller Ch 1-3	Information & Opinion	
22-Mar Thurs	* Zaller Ch 4-6	Public Opinion	<i>Last day to withdraw</i>
27-Mar Tues	* Zaller Ch 7&8	Opinion Change	
29-Mar Thurs	* Zaller Ch 9&10	Information and Choice	Paper 2
3-Apr Tues	* Zaller Ch 11&12	Elites and Opinions	
5-Apr Thurs	☺ F&Z Ch 8	Elections	
10-Apr Tues	● J&K Ch 1&2	Congressional Elections	
12-Apr Thurs	● J&K Ch 6	Congressional Elections	
17-Apr Tues			Exam 3
19-Apr Thurs			
24-Apr Tues			Final Exam 11am please note time

Exams

- 1) There will be three midterm exams and one optional cumulative final in this class. Exams will cover material from the readings and from the lectures. Each of the exams will constitute 25% of your **exam grade**.
- 2) There will be **no make-up exams**. Exams are scheduled well in advance so that you can plan around these dates. If you miss one of the midterm exams, you must take the final (it is no longer optional). The missed 25% of your grade will be allocated over the other exams so that each exam is worth 33.3% of your **exam grade**. If you miss more than one exam, you will receive a zero for the additional missed exam.
- 3) If you have taken all three mid-terms, and are satisfied with your course grade, *do not* take the final. If, however, you are not satisfied with your grade, you may take the cumulative final. Remember, the final can either raise or lower your course grade. The final is scheduled for Tuesday, April 24th at 11am.
- 4) Once you sit for any exam, you will receive a grade for that exam.
- 5) Bring picture identification to each exam.

Papers

- 1) There will be two short optional papers assigned in this class. These papers will not require outside research. Each paper will constitute 10% of your final grade.
- 2) Paper topics will be given one week before the due dates.
- 3) Instructions for writing and turning in the paper assignments are provided at the end of this syllabus.
- 4) Academic dishonesty policies will apply to all work in this course including optional papers. You should read the University policy regarding plagiarism. If you have any questions about plagiarism or concerns about your paper, discuss them with me before you turn in the paper.

Grading Policy

Grades in this course are based on the exams and any papers you choose to write. The formula used to calculate your final grade will be:

$$\text{Final Grade} = \left[\frac{\text{sum of exam grades}}{\text{number of exams taken}} \right] * \left[1 - \frac{\text{number of papers written}}{10} \right] + \left[\frac{\text{sum of paper grades}}{\text{number of papers written}} \right] * \left[\frac{\text{number of papers written}}{10} \right]$$

If you take all four exams, and write both papers, your final grade would be:

$$\text{Final Grade} = \left[\frac{\text{sum of exam grades}}{4} \right] * .80 + \left[\frac{\text{sum of paper grades}}{2} \right] * .20$$

If you take only three exams, and write no papers, your final grade would be:

$$\text{Final Grade} = \left[\frac{\text{sum of exam grades}}{3} \right]$$

The most assignments you can receive credit for is 4 exams and 2 papers. The minimum necessary to complete the course is 3 exams.

Grading Scale

100=A+	87-89=B+	77-79=C+	67-69=D+	
93-99=A	83-86=B	73-76=C	63-66=D	Below 60=F
90-92=A-	80-82=B-	70-72=C-	60-62=D-	

Course Policies

Extra Credit

There is no extra credit available in this course.

Late Work

Assignments turned in late will not be accepted.

Class Attendance

There is no attendance policy for this course. However, if students expect to do well in the course, regular attendance is necessary. Under no circumstances will I provide notes for students missing class.

Classroom Citizenship

Because participation is important, I want the classroom to be a place where students are comfortable expressing opinions and discussing material. I insist that students are polite in all fora.

These descriptions and timelines are subject to change at the discretion of the Professor.

Student Conduct & Discipline

The University of Texas System and The University of Texas at Dallas have rules and regulations for the orderly and efficient conduct of their business. It is the responsibility of each student and each student organization to be knowledgeable about the rules and regulations which govern student conduct and activities. General information on student conduct and discipline is contained in the UTD publication, *A to Z Guide*, which is provided to all registered students each academic year.

The University of Texas at Dallas administers student discipline within the procedures of recognized and established due process. Procedures are defined and described in the *Rules and Regulations, Board of Regents, The University of Texas System, Part 1, Chapter VI, Section 3*, and in Title V, Rules on Student Services and Activities of the university's *Handbook of Operating Procedures*. Copies of these rules and regulations are available to students in the Office of the Dean of Students, where staff members are available to assist students in interpreting the rules and regulations (SU 1.602, 972/883-6391).

A student at the university neither loses the rights nor escapes the responsibilities of citizenship. He or she is expected to obey federal, state, and local laws as well as the Regents' Rules, university regulations, and administrative rules. Students are subject to discipline for violating the standards of conduct whether such conduct takes place on or off campus, or whether civil or criminal penalties are also imposed for such conduct.

Academic Integrity

The faculty expects from its students a high level of responsibility and academic honesty. Because the value of an academic degree depends upon the absolute integrity of the work done by the student for that degree, it is imperative that a student demonstrate a high standard of individual honor in his or her scholastic work.

Scholastic dishonesty includes, but is not limited to, statements, acts or omissions related to applications for enrollment or the award of a degree, and/or the submission as one's own work or material that is not one's own. As a general rule, scholastic dishonesty involves one of the following acts: cheating, plagiarism, collusion and/or falsifying academic records. Students suspected of academic dishonesty are subject to disciplinary proceedings.

Plagiarism, especially from the web, from portions of papers for other classes, and from any other source is unacceptable and will be dealt with under the university's policy on plagiarism (see general catalog for details). This course will use the resources of turnitin.com, which searches the web for possible plagiarism and is over 90% effective.

Email Use

The University of Texas at Dallas recognizes the value and efficiency of communication between faculty/staff and students through electronic mail. At the same time, email raises some issues concerning security and the identity of each individual in an email exchange. The university encourages all official student email correspondence be sent only to a student's U.T. Dallas email address and that faculty and staff consider email from students official only if it originates from a UTD student account. This allows the university to maintain a high degree of confidence in the identity of all individual corresponding and the security of the transmitted information. UTD furnishes each student with a free email account that is to be used in all communication with university personnel. The Department of Information Resources at U.T. Dallas provides a method for students to have their U.T. Dallas mail forwarded to other accounts.

Withdrawal from Class

The administration of this institution has set deadlines for withdrawal of any college-level courses. These dates and times are published in that semester's course catalog. Administration procedures must be followed. It is the student's responsibility to handle withdrawal requirements from any class. In other words, I cannot drop or withdraw any student. You must do the proper paperwork to ensure that you will not receive a final grade of "F" in a course if you choose not to attend the class once you are enrolled.

Student Grievance Procedures

Procedures for student grievances are found in Title V, Rules on Student Services and Activities, of the university's *Handbook of Operating Procedures*.

In attempting to resolve any student grievance regarding grades, evaluations, or other fulfillments of academic responsibility, it is the obligation of the student first to make a serious effort to resolve the matter with the instructor, supervisor, administrator, or committee with whom the grievance originates (hereafter called "the respondent"). Individual faculty members retain primary responsibility for assigning grades and evaluations. If the matter cannot be resolved at that level, the grievance must be submitted in writing to the respondent with a copy of the respondent's School Dean. If the matter is not resolved by the written response provided by the respondent, the student may submit a written appeal to the School Dean. If the grievance is not resolved by the School Dean's decision, the student may make a written appeal to the Dean of Graduate or Undergraduate Education, and the dean will appoint and convene an Academic Appeals Panel. The decision of the Academic Appeals Panel is final. The results of the academic appeals process will be distributed to all involved parties.

Copies of these rules and regulations are available to students in the Office of the Dean of Students, where staff members are available to assist students in interpreting the rules and regulations.

Incomplete Grade Policy

As per university policy, incomplete grades will be granted only for work unavoidably missed at the semester's end and only if 70% of the course work has been completed. An incomplete grade must be resolved within eight (8) weeks from the first day of the subsequent long semester. If the

required work to complete the course and to remove the incomplete grade is not submitted by the specified deadline, the incomplete grade is changed automatically to a grade of **F**.

Disability Services

The goal of Disability Services is to provide students with disabilities educational opportunities equal to those of their non-disabled peers. Disability Services is located in room 1.610 in the Student Union. Office hours are Monday and Thursday, 8:30 a.m. to 6:30 p.m.; Tuesday and Wednesday, 8:30 a.m. to 7:30 p.m.; and Friday, 8:30 a.m. to 5:30 p.m.

The contact information for the Office of Disability Services is:
The University of Texas at Dallas, SU 22
PO Box 830688
Richardson, Texas 75083-0688
(972) 883-2098 (voice or TTY)

Essentially, the law requires that colleges and universities make those reasonable adjustments necessary to eliminate discrimination on the basis of disability. For example, it may be necessary to remove classroom prohibitions against tape recorders or animals (in the case of dog guides) for students who are blind. Occasionally an assignment requirement may be substituted (for example, a research paper versus an oral presentation for a student who is hearing impaired). Classes enrolled students with mobility impairments may have to be rescheduled in accessible facilities. The college or university may need to provide special services such as registration, note-taking, or mobility assistance.

It is the student's responsibility to notify his or her professors of the need for such an accommodation. Disability Services provides students with letters to present to faculty members to verify that the student has a disability and needs accommodations. Individuals requiring special accommodation should contact the professor after class or during office hours.

Religious Holy Days

The University of Texas at Dallas will excuse a student from class or other required activities for the travel to and observance of a religious holy day for a religion whose places of worship are exempt from property tax under Section 11.20, Tax Code, Texas Code Annotated.

The student is encouraged to notify the instructor or activity sponsor as soon as possible regarding the absence, preferably in advance of the assignment. The student, so excused, will be allowed to take the exam or complete the assignment within a reasonable time after the absence: a period equal to the length of the absence, up to a maximum of one week. A student who notifies the instructor and completes any missed exam or assignment may not be penalized for the absence. A student who fails to complete the exam or assignment within the prescribed period may receive a failing grade for that exam or assignment.

If a student or an instructor disagrees about the nature of the absence [i.e., for the purpose of observing a religious holy day] or if there is similar disagreement about whether the student has been given a reasonable time to complete any missed assignments or examinations, either the student or the instructor may request a ruling from the chief executive officer of the institution, or his or her designee. The chief executive officer or designee must take into account the legislative intent of TEC 51.911(b), and the student and instructor will abide by the decision of the chief executive officer or designee.

Paper Instructions:

You will write an essay of 900-1100 words that answers the assigned question. Your essay will provide a thesis in the opening paragraph that states your argument. Subsequent paragraphs will support your thesis. The paper will be well written and grammatically correct. Papers should be double spaced and in 12pt font. Please use one of the following fonts: Arial, Courier, Garamond, or Times New Roman.

You will submit your papers electronically, by noon on the due date in the syllabus, to <http://www.turnitin.com>. Allow yourself extra time for submission of your paper in case you encounter “technical difficulties”. You also need to hand in a paper copy (stapled) to the TA on the due date (by class time).

Prior to submitting the paper, you will register at turnitin.com for this course. The class ID is **1778687** and the enrollment password is **behavior**. Your paper will include **(1) your name** and **(2) the word count** at the **top of the first page**.

If you have used other people’s words and or ideas, you must cite this. If you are unsure of proper citation format, please consult one of the many style guides available in the library or on the web.

If you need help using turnitin.com, click on login on the homepage, and then you can access user manuals at the bottom of the login page.

Your essay will not require any outside research.

Some of the questions I will ask myself when grading your essay:

- Can the conclusion of this paper be convincingly drawn from the thesis and the argument made in the body of the paper?
- Does the introduction of this paper give you a clear idea of the argument to follow?
- Does each paragraph of this paper logically progress from the former ones?
- How smoothly does this paper integrate examples into its own argument?
- Does it clearly illustrate connections between the evidence it cites and the ideas they support, or does it merely assume them?
- Are there any general grammatical or mechanical problems with the essay?
- Does the writer have any stylistic peculiarities (for example, a tendency to overuse certain words, passive constructions, or excessively lengthy sentences) that would need to be fixed?
- Could the readability, clarity, or style of this paper be improved?

The academic dishonesty policies will apply to all work in this course including optional papers. You should read the University policy regarding plagiarism. If you have any questions about plagiarism or concerns about your paper, discuss them with me before you turn in the paper.

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