

	Course	GOVT 2301.003 Constitutional Foundations and Political Behavior in the U.S. and Texas
	Professor	Gregory S. Combs
	Term	Fall 2007
	Meetings	Mondays and Wednesdays, 2:30-3:45pm in SOM 2.714

Professor's Contact Information

Office Phone	972-883-2932
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Email Address	gcombs@utdallas.edu
Office Hours	Mon, Wed – 12-2pm (Available by Appointment)
Other Information	I don't read WebCT mail. Please contact me via the above email account with "GOVT 2301.003" in the subject line. Please use your UTD email account in communications to ensure reliability and confidentiality.

General Course Information

Pre-requisites, Co-requisites, & other restrictions	<p>There are no formal pre-requisites for this course. <i>However</i>, it is imperative that you be able to conduct yourself in this course as a responsible, thoughtful college student. This means your participation in class discussions, examinations, and research papers should be enlightened with detailed knowledge of the course readings and other appropriate material. If you are unwilling to commit an appropriate amount of time to prepare for each class session, your grades will suffer severely. If, on the other hand, you enjoy spirited and knowledgeable debates, intellectual stimulation, academic responsibility, and exercising your scholastic prowess then this course is for you.</p> <p>I recognize that we live in a technologically advanced era. As such, any "take-home" assignments or research papers must be typed and printed using appropriate word processing software such as Microsoft Word or OpenOffice.org. I will only accept hand-written assignments in the case of in-class essay examinations. For in-class essays, you must use a Blue Book. Off-Campus Books has Blue Books available for no charge. I suggest you pick up a stack of them, as you will find them necessary for many UTD courses.</p> <p>REGARDING THE USE OF LAPTOPS IN CLASS: I love taking class notes on my laptop as I can type faster than I write, plus it keeps me organized. I encourage you to take notes with whatever method you are most efficient. I do not mind if you join in study groups. Please note, however, that you must not publish any notes for this course online, without my permission; this includes WebCT. HOWEVER, the use of laptops in my class is solely at my discretion. If I, or one of your fellow colleagues, discover you using your laptop in class for any other means, you will immediately lose your privilege to bring your laptop to class. If you are found surfing, chatting, texting, browsing, emailing, gaming, or hacking rather than typing notes, you must immediately close your laptop</p>
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	<p>and never bring it to class again for the remainder of the semester. NO EXCEPTIONS. If you do not agree with this policy, I encourage you to drop this course now, so as to avoid any unpleasantness once the semester is underway.</p> <p>REGARDING CELL PHONES: Everyone has them, but once the class is in session, no one should hear them. If you must leave your phone on, ensure that it is silent. If the buzzing of a vibrating phone is audible, then it is not silent. If you are so bold as to actually answer your phone during class, you will be ejected and your grade will suffer accordingly. I understand there will be mistakes; therefore, you get one warning. After that, expect grade penalties of 5% per occurrence.</p>
<p>Course Description</p>	<p>The intent of this class is as an introduction to the constitutional structure and the political processes of the United States and Texas. We will seek a basic understanding of the people, institutions, movements, cultures, and opinions that shape the political landscape.</p> <p>Our first goal will be to understand how an ever-changing constitutional system contours American politics. We will seek answers to a number of questions: What were the origins of the U.S. and Texas constitutions? How do the historical beginnings of government continue to shape contemporary politics? How should power be divided and shared between the national government and the states? What are the functions of state government? How does the Texas Constitution resemble and differ from the U.S. Constitution? What has been the history of civil rights/liberties protection?</p> <p>The second goal of the course will be to understand those processes and institutions through which citizens behave politically. How do people come to form political beliefs? What kinds of groups do people create and join to promote their ideas and interests? How do these groups interact with governmental actors themselves? We shall explore the development and evolution of political parties, the growing dominance of interest groups, the importance of public opinion and the role of news media in shaping the information Americans have about their government and society.</p>
<p>Learning Outcomes</p>	<p>Upon completing this course students will be able to:</p> <ol style="list-style-type: none"> 1. Provide examples and apply important theoretical and scholarly approaches to explaining state and national institutional behavior, citizen involvement, and interaction between citizens and institutions of government; 2. Analyze and appreciate historical trends in the development of government institutions and their constitutional foundations; 3. Identify, describe, and analyze various mechanisms of citizen political involvement.
<p>Required Texts & Materials</p>	<p>William H. Flanigan and Nancy H. Zingale. <i>Political Behavior of the American Electorate</i> (2002). Buy the 10th or 11th edition. (F&Z) Benjamin Ginsberg, Theodore Lowi, and Margaret Weir. <i>We the People: An Introduction to American Politics</i> (Texas Edition) Sixth Edition (New York: W.W. Norton, 2007).</p>

	<p>(Note: The textbook has a website for the aid of students: http://www.wwnorton.com/wtp6/. Here, you will find outlines, vocabulary exercises, and self diagnostic multiple choice exam questions covering each chapter. This resource is highly recommended.)</p> <p>Alexis de Tocqueville. “<i>An Introduction to Democracy in America</i>” Located at: http://www.utd.edu/~gsc015100/tocqueville.pdf</p> <p>Gregory S. Thielemann. “Leadership, Power, and Emerging Partisanship in the Texas Legislature”. Located at: http://www.utd.edu/~gsc015100/thielemann.pdf</p>
Suggested Texts, Readings, & Materials	<p>Alexis de Tocqueville. <i>Democracy in America</i>.</p> <p>David Wootton, ed. <i>The Essential Federalist and Anti-Federalist Papers</i> (2003).</p> <p>Jack N. Rakove. <i>Original Meanings: Politics and the Ideas in the Making of the Constitution</i> (1996).</p>

Assignments & Academic Calendar

8/20	Introduction; Read: syllabus
8/22	Political Culture; <i>Ch. 1</i> (Ginsberg).
8/27	The Founding and the Constitution; Read: <i>Ch. 2</i> (Ginsberg).
8/29	Democracy in America; Read: Alexis de Tocqueville’s Introduction.
9/3	LABOR DAY; No Class.
9/5	Federalism; Read: <i>Ch. 3</i> .
9/10	Turn in Tocqueville Paper; Federalist Papers 10 & 51, <i>pg A20-24</i> (Ginsberg)
9/12	Civil Liberties and Rights; Read: <i>Ch. 4-5</i> (Ginsberg).
9/17	Public Opinion Theory, Practice; Read: <i>Ch. 6 (F&Z), Ch. 6</i> (Ginsberg).
9/19	Review for Exam; Discussion of study methods, and expectations in test taking.
9/24	First Exam (covering all material through 9/19)
9/26	The Media; Read: <i>Ch. 7</i> (Ginsberg).
10/1	Political Parties; Read: <i>Ch. 9</i> (Ginsberg).
10/3	Interest Groups; Read: <i>Ch. 11</i> (Ginsberg).
10/8	Political Participation; Read: <i>Ch. 8</i> (Ginsberg).
10/10	Participation as Voting: Suffrage and Turnout; Read: <i>Ch. 2 (F&Z)</i>
10/15	Voting Models: Behavioralism vs. Rational Choice ; Read <i>Ch. 3-5 (F&Z)</i>
10/17	Campaigns, Elections, and Critical Elections; Read: <i>Ch. 10</i> (Ginsberg).
10/22	Review for Exam
10/24	Second Exam (covering material from 9/24 through 10/22)
	NOW ENTERING TEXAS GOVERNMENT
10/29	Texas Political Culture and Economy; Read: <i>Ch. 19</i> (Ginsberg)
10/31	The Evolution of the Texas Constitution; Read: <i>pg 775-788</i> (Ginsberg).
11/5	The Modern Texas Constitution – Continued; Read: <i>pg 788-801</i> (Ginsberg).
11/7	Political Parties in Texas; Read: <i>Ch. 21</i> (Ginsberg).
11/12	Interest Groups, Lobbyists in Texas; Read: <i>Ch. 22</i> (Ginsberg).
11/14	The Texas Legislature; Read: <i>Ch.23</i> (Ginsberg)
11/19	The Texas Legislature – Continued; Read: Thielemann’s Article
11/21	No Class; Use this time to review for the exam.
11/26	Review for Exam
11/28	Third Exam (covering material from 10/29 through 11/26)

Course Policies

<p>Grading (credit) Criteria</p>	<p>Attendance and Participation: Active participation in class discussions is an important requirement for this course. Regular and <i>prompt</i> attendance is required. I expect each of you to read and be conversant for each day's required materials BEFORE the day of the course meeting. Be prepared to speak fluently on topics relevant to the day's discussion. Please remember the basic courtesies when disagreeing with others in the room. Speak clearly, concisely, and do not engage in shouting matches. At the same time, if you merely sit there and absorb without examining the issues critically, you are missing out. The college campus is truly one of the last places to voice your ideas in a public forum.</p> <p>I will not provide notes or outlines for any classes you miss. I will not repeat material for those who do not arrive promptly before class begins; tardiness, early departure, and absence bring substantial grade penalties. However, since you are responsible for everything discussed in class, regardless of your personal attendance, I recommend you obtain any missed notes from a trusted colleague. Your attendance, promptness, and participation make up 5% of your final grade in this course.</p> <p>Exams: There will be three in-class exams over the course of the semester, covering readings as well as in-class lectures. However, only your two highest grades on the exams will be included in your final grade, each accounting for 35%. That is to say, if you bomb the first exam, it will be nullified by your subsequent grades on the following two exams. As a consequence of such generosity, if you are absent during an exam, you will not get a "make-up"; rather, you will receive a zero on that exam with the expectation that your performance on the other exams will be sufficiently stellar. You must bring your student ID along with any required test-taking materials (blue books, pens, scantron sheets, etc.) on exam day. Possession of any electronic devices (phone, iPod, etc.) during exams is considered proof of cheating and subject to disciplinary action. Leave any such devices turned off in your sealed backpack underneath the desk.</p> <p>Topic Paper: This paper is a brief discussion on a topic. In this case, the topic is the introduction to de Tocqueville's Democracy in America. The intent of the topic paper is to encourage a detailed understanding of the topic, and to give you an opportunity to practice critical reading and writing. Your topic paper must be between three FULL pages and five pages long, not including cover pages or other "non-content" content. It should have a cover page, detailing your name, the topic, the course, and the date. It must be double-spaced, 1" margins, with 12-point Times New Roman font. New paragraphs should be indented half an inch, and should be justified (ask if you are unfamiliar with this). Do not include extra line-breaks between paragraphs or sections. Include <i>frequent</i> citations via abbreviated footnotes or in-context parenthesis (i.e. "Tocqueville, p.12") at the end of each concept. Unless it is an introductory or conclusion paragraph, it should have plenty of citations. Avoid passive voice, contractions, colloquialisms, personal stories, improper grammar, spelling mistakes, run-on sentences, run-on paragraphs, long block quotations, and most of all, no crying or whining. The research paper will make up 15% of your final grade.</p> <p>Pop Quizzes: Read the paper, listen to NPR, or watch the Daily Show <i>every day</i>. We will have surprise quizzes to test your knowledge of current events in government.</p> <p>Grade Allocation: 5 % -- Class Participation 70 % -- From 3 In-Class Examinations (only the two highest grades are kept) 15 % -- Topic Paper on the into to <i>Democracy in America</i> 10 % -- Pop quizzes on current events</p>
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	<p>Grading Scale: I will use the following scale to translate your grade percentages into the final letter grade for the course.</p> <table border="1"> <tr> <td></td> <td>B+: 87-89</td> <td>C+: 77-79</td> <td>D+: 67-69</td> <td></td> </tr> <tr> <td>A: 94-100</td> <td>B: 84-86</td> <td>C: 74-76</td> <td>D: 64-66</td> <td>F: 59-less</td> </tr> <tr> <td>A-: 90-93</td> <td>B-: 80-83</td> <td>C-: 70-73</td> <td>D-: 60-63</td> <td></td> </tr> </table>		B+: 87-89	C+: 77-79	D+: 67-69		A: 94-100	B: 84-86	C: 74-76	D: 64-66	F: 59-less	A-: 90-93	B-: 80-83	C-: 70-73	D-: 60-63	
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A-: 90-93	B-: 80-83	C-: 70-73	D-: 60-63													
Make-up Exams	As noted previously, there will be no make-up exams. Instead, a missed exam counts as a zero. However, this is not catastrophic, as I record only the two highest exam grades anyway.															
Extra Credit	I may announce any opportunities for extra credit during the course of the semester. I will only offer extra credit opportunities at my discretion. Any opportunities that may arise will account for no more than 5% of your final grade.															
Late Work	Any assignments submitted after the deadline will suffer one letter-grade drop per day late. That is to say, if you turn in your research paper a day late, the highest grade you can expect on it is a 'B'. The day after that, your maximum grade is a 'C'. Et cetera...															
Classroom Citizenship	Civility and mutual respect not only with me, as the instructor, but also with your fellow students is positively mandatory. If you cannot conduct yourself as a responsible, civil adult, you will be ejected from the class.															
Field Trip Policies Off-Campus Instruction & Course Activities	<i>Off-campus, out-of-state, and foreign instruction and activities are subject to state law and University policies and procedures regarding travel and risk-related activities. Information regarding these rules and regulations may be found at the website address http://www.utd.edu/BusinessAffairs/Travel_Risk_Activities.htm. Additional information is available from the office of the school dean. Below is a description of any travel and/or risk-related activity associated with this course.</i>															
Technical Support	If you experience any problems with your UTD account you may send an email to: assist@utdallas.edu or call the UTD Computer Helpdesk at 972-883-2911.															
Student Conduct and Discipline	<p>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 printed publication, <i>A to Z Guide</i>, which is provided to all registered students each academic year.</p> <p>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 <i>Rules and Regulations, Series 50000, Board of Regents, The University of Texas System</i>, and in Title V, Rules on Student Services and Activities of the university's <i>Handbook of Operating Procedures</i>. 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) and online at http://www.utd.edu/judicialaffairs/UTDJudicialAffairs-HOPV.html</p> <p>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.</p>															

<p>Academic Integrity</p>	<p>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.</p> <p>Scholastic Dishonesty, any student who commits an act of scholastic dishonesty is subject to discipline. Scholastic dishonesty includes but is not limited to cheating, plagiarism, collusion, the submission for credit of any work or materials that are attributable in whole or in part to another person, taking an examination for another person, any act designed to give unfair advantage to a student or the attempt to commit such acts.</p> <p>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.</p>
<p>Copyright Notice</p>	<p>The copyright law of the United States (Title 17, United States Code) governs the making of photocopies or other reproductions of copyrighted materials, including music and software. Copying, displaying, reproducing, or distributing copyrighted works may infringe the copyright owner's rights and such infringement is subject to appropriate disciplinary action as well as criminal penalties provided by federal law. Usage of such material is only appropriate when that usage constitutes "fair use" under the Copyright Act. As a UT Dallas student, you are required to follow the institution's copyright policy (Policy Memorandum 84-I.3-46). For more information about the fair use exemption, see http://www.utsystem.edu/ogc/intellectualproperty/copypol2.htm</p>
<p>Email Use</p>	<p>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.</p>
<p>Withdrawal from Class</p>	<p>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.</p>
<p>Student Grievance Procedures</p>	<p>Procedures for student grievances are found in Title V, Rules on Student Services and Activities, of the university's <i>Handbook of Operating Procedures</i>.</p> <p>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</p>

	<p>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.</p> <p>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.</p>
<p>Incomplete Grades</p>	<p>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 <u>F</u>.</p>
<p>Disability Services</p>	<p>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.</p> <p>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) disabilityservice@utdallas.edu</p> <p>If you anticipate issues related to the format or requirements of this course, please meet with the Coordinator of Disability Services. The Coordinator is available to discuss ways to ensure your full participation in the course. If you determine that formal, disability-related accommodations are necessary, it is very important that you be registered with Disability Services to notify them of your eligibility for reasonable accommodations. Disability Services can then plan how best to coordinate your accommodations.</p> <p>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.</p>
<p>Religious Holy Days</p>	<p>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.</p> <p>The student is encouraged to notify the instructor or activity sponsor as soon as</p>

	<p>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.</p> <p>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.</p>
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These descriptions and timelines are subject to change at the discretion of the Professor.