

PSCI 3322 HN1: Constitutional Law

Dr. Douglas C. Dow

Spring 2026: MW: 2:30-3:45PM (CV Seminar Room – AD 2.238)

Office Hours: Email for appointment

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Course Description:

The United States Constitution creates, empowers, and occasionally limits the basic institutions of the federal government. The core questions of American constitutionalism concern the proper application of brief and often vague clauses of text to ever changing political, economic and military circumstances. This course provides an introduction to the law and politics of constitutional interpretation, as it pertains to the fundamental structures and processes of the American political system. Our primary focus will be upon the constitutional doctrines and critical precedents developed by the Supreme Court.

We begin with an examination of the practice of judicial review within our constitutional politics, and the process by which the federal judicial branch operates. Second, we will explore the shifting and evolving balance of powers between the three branches of the federal government, with special attention to the expansion of unilateral presidential powers and prerogative. Third, we review questions of federalism, state autonomy and the proper extent of congressional power within our constitutional democracy. We will conclude our course with an examination of the role of the Supreme Court in patrolling the channels of democratic representation, specifically in campaigns and elections.

Component Learning Objectives:

- 1) Students will develop an understanding of *stare decisis* and the doctrinal development of the Constitution, as the Supreme Court defines, advances, limits and sometimes avoids its own precedents.
- 2) Students will learn the technical skills to properly read and brief constitutional case law.
- 3) Students will be able to locate significant Supreme Court cases within their historical and political context, which will include the social impact key cases have had.
- 4) Students will learn how to critically evaluate the behavior of the Supreme Court and the reasoning of the justices.

Course Requirements:

Attendance and Participation: An important requirement for this honors seminar will be active participation in class discussion, debate and analysis. Regular attendance is expected, and I will be taking attendance for each class. **Unless qualified in class or via email, each student is expected to have completed the week's readings before Monday's class.** Be prepared to talk. Everyone will be expected to demonstrate civility and a respect for the thoughts, opinions and beliefs of others. Notes or summaries will not be provided for missed classes. Cell phones and all other electronic noise-makers should be turned off (not on vibrate) during class. Because of the frequency by which many students using laptops to take notes also succumb to the temptations to surf the Web, check email, IM, or otherwise disengage themselves from class discussions, **laptop use will not be permitted during class.**

Participation on Discussion Boards: For each week of the semester, I will open a discussion board, in order to facilitate conversation, analysis and questions. **Each student must post at least three substantive comments or questions for each week's discussion board.** These are minimum requirements, and it would be helpful if we can make our discussion boards places for vibrant and rigorous conversation. All of the requirements for in-person politeness will apply to our online conversations. Everyone will be expected to demonstrate civility and a respect for the thoughts, opinions and beliefs of others. **Participation in all its forms (in person and on discussion boards) will count for 15% of the final grade.**

Exams: There will be **four open book, open note, open conversation mini-exams.** The mini-exams are not cumulative; each will cover the material from each of the main subject areas covered by the course. The questions will be circulated on a Wednesday and due that Friday, forty-eight hours later. All exams will be email to Dr. Dow, as a Word document, double spaced, using 12-point font. **Each exam will be worth 10% of your final grade.**

Case Briefs: Students will be expected to draft formal briefs for each of the cases highlighted by an asterisk. I would like each student's brief to be typed and brought to class each day. **Five times during the semester, I will make a call for your case brief for that day. Three of these case briefs will be graded.** The cumulative grade for your three recorded briefs will be 30% of your final grade. Formally, each brief will count equally, but I will be looking for (and rewarding) improvement through the semester. Each student may select to either a) opt out twice from turning in a case brief, or b) opt out once, and submit a fourth brief, whereupon I will strike the lowest of the four brief grades.

Turnitin.com: We will be using **turnitin.com** to guard against plagiarism for each of the exams. Each student must submit her or his four essay exams (but not the case briefs) to **turnitin.com**. I have established an account for this class. For those who have never used this website before, on the homepage there is a brief tutorial on setting up your class account. You will need both your class ID # and class enrollment password. Be careful: the password is case-sensitive:

Class ID #: 51604365

Class Enrollment Key/Password: injunction

On the Docket: We will be keeping an eye on the docket for the Supreme Court's 2025-2026 Term. There are a number of cases the Court will decide before June which we will follow in detail. Each student will draft an "On the Docket" report on one of these cases. This report will be approximately five to seven pages in length. **Your "On the Docket" report will count for 15% of the final grade.**

West Virginia v B. P. J. (24-43)

Little v Hecox (24-38)

National Republican Senatorial Committee v Federal Elections Commission (24-621)

Louisiana v Callais (24-109)

Learning Resources, Inc. v Trump (24-1287)

Trump v Slaughter (25-332)

Trump v Barbara (25-365)

Chiles v Salazar (24-539)

Make-Ups: Make-up exams or deadline extensions will be given only in documentable emergency situations and at the discretion of the professor.

Syllabus Changes: The professor reserves the right to amend this syllabus during the semester. Any changes will be announced in class, and students will be responsible for getting and following the new information.

Grading Scale: All exams will be graded on a 100-point scale. The following conversion chart will be used to translate numbers into letter grades:

A: 94-100

B+: 87-89

B-: 80-83

A-: 90-93

B: 84-86

C+: 77-79

C: 74-76

D+: 67-69

D-: 60-63

C-: 70-73

D: 64-66

F: below 60

Generative AI: The use of any generative AI tools is not permitted for any assignment or activity which makes up part of your grade. That includes, but may not be limited to, all exams, discussion boards posts, quizzes, and in class discussions. Any unauthorized use of these tools will be considered plagiarism.

Comet Creed and University Policies

The Comet Creed was voted on by the UT Dallas student body in 2014. It is a standard that Comets choose to live by and encourage others to do the same: “As a Comet, I pledge honesty, integrity, and service in all that I do.”

The information contained in the following link constitutes the University’s policies and procedures segment of the course syllabus. Please go to <http://go.utdallas.edu/syllabus-policies> for these policies.

Course Texts

The following text is required and can be purchased at the on-campus book store or online. Please make sure that you are using the proper edition of the textbook assigned for the class. All other readings will be posted on eLearning.

David M. O’Brien and Gordon Silverstein. *Constitutional Law and Politics: Struggles for Power and Governmental Accountability*. Twelfth Edition (W.W. Norton, 2022) **required**

Reading Schedule:

Students should read, brief, and be prepared to discuss each of the cases, or other constitutional documents, listed on the syllabus. Cases with an asterisk indicate those for which students should prepare formal case briefs that may be collected.

Week One: Introduction to American Constitutionalism

Class Dates: Wednesday, January 21

Read: O'Brien and Silverstein: pp. 189-211, 1099-1102.

Syllabus

United States Constitution – Article III

How to Brief a Supreme Court Case – Dow (eLearning)

Watch: Dr. Dow Lecture (eLearning)

Week Two: Judicial Review in American Constitutional Politics

Class Dates: Monday, January 26

Wednesday, January 28

Read: O'Brien and Silverstein: 27-62; 795-799.

Watch: Dr. Dow Lecture (eLearning)

Cases: James Kent's Columbia Law School Lecture (1794)

Virginia and Kentucky Resolutions (1798)

Marbury v Madison 5 U.S. 137 (1803)

Thomas Jefferson on Departmentalism (1804, 1816) (eLearning)

Eakin v Raub (PA, 1825)

Andrew Jackson's Veto Message to Congress (1832) (eLearning)

Carolene Products Footnote 4 (1938) (eLearning)

The Southern Manifesto (1956) (eLearning)

Cooper v Aaron 358 U.S. 1 (1958) *

Week Three: Jurisdiction and the Scope of Relief from the Federal Courts

Class Dates: Monday, February 2

Wednesday, February 4

Read: O'Brien and Silverstein: pp. 108-133 (review); 133-140; 141-145; 168-182; 513-518, 537-541.

Watch: Dr. Dow Lecture (eLearning)

Cases: *Baker v Carr* 369 U.S. 186 (1962) *
Powell v McCormack 395 U.S. 486 (1969)
Goldwater v Carter 444 U.S. 996 (1979)
Nixon v United States 506 U.S. 224 (1993)
Trump v CASA, Inc. 606 U.S. 831 (2025) * (eLearning)

First Take-Home Exam Question Due: Friday, February 6 at 5:00PM CT

Week Four: The Rise of Presidential – Centered Government

Class Dates: Monday, February 9
Wednesday, February 11

Read: O'Brien and Silverstein: pp. 239-250 (review); 251-253; 264-273; 286-291 (review); 302-319.

Watch: Dr. Dow Lecture (eLearning)

Cases: Article II
The Prize Cases 67 U.S. 935 (1863) *
Ex Parte Milligan 71 U.S. 2 (1866)
Missouri v Holland 252 U.S. 416 (1920)
United States v Curtiss-Wright Corporation 299 U.S. 304 (1936) *
United States v Pink 315 U.S. 203 (1942)
Korematsu v United States 323 U.S. 214 (1944) *

Week Five: The U.S. as Global Power and its Impact on Executive Authority

Class Dates: Monday, February 16
Wednesday, February 18

Read: O'Brien and Silverstein: pp. 354-382, 491-499.

Watch: Dr. Dow Lecture (eLearning)

Cases: *Youngstown Sheet & Tube Co. v Sawyer* 343 U.S. 579 (1952) *
Gulf of Tonkin Resolution (1964)
Meeker Memo on the Legality of U.S. Participation in the Defense of Vietnam (1966)
New York Times Co. v United States 403 U.S. 670 (1971)
War Powers Resolution of 1973 (eLearning)
Richard Nixon's Veto of the War Powers Resolution (1973) (eLearning)
United States v Nixon 418 U.S. 683 (1974) *
Dames & Moore v Regan 453 U.S. 654 (1981) (eLearning)

Week Six: International Expressions of the 'Unitary Executive'

Class Dates: Monday, February 23
Wednesday, February 25

Read: O'Brien and Silverstein: pp. 253-263, 319-341, 476-483.

Watch: Dr. Dow Lecture (eLearning)

Cases: "The President's Constitutional Authority" – John Yoo (2001) (eLearning)
Authorization for Use of Military Force (September 18, 2001)
Authorization for Use of Military Force Against Iraq (October 16, 2002)
Rasul v Bush 542 U.S. 466 (2004)
Boumediene v Bush 553 U.S. 723 (2008) *
Zivotofsky v Kerry 576 U.S. 1059 (2015) *
Trump v Hawaii 585 U.S. 667 (2018)

Week Seven: Separation of Domestic Powers: Formalism and Functionalism

Class Dates: Monday, March 2
Wednesday, March 4

Read: O'Brien and Silverstein: pp. 382-403, 411-428, 445-451.

Watch: Dr. Dow Lecture (eLearning)

Cases: *Myers v United States* 272 U.S. 52 (1926)
Humphrey's Executor v United States 295 U.S. 602 (1935)
Schechter Poultry Corp. v United States 295 U.S. 495 (1935)
Morrison v Olson 487 U.S. 654 (1988)
Seila Law LLC v Consumer Financial Protection Bureau 591 U.S. 197 (2020) *
Biden v Nebraska 600 U.S. 477 (2023) (eLearning)
Loper Bright Enterprises v Raimondo 603 U.S. 369 (2024) * (eLearning)

Week Eight: Authority, Immunity, and Impeachment in the Era of Trump

Class Dates: Monday, March 9
Wednesday, March 11

Read: O'Brien and Silverstein: pp. 428-444; 484-490.

Watch: Dr. Dow Lecture (eLearning)

Cases: *Nixon v Fitzgerald* 457 U.S. 731 (1982) *
Clinton v Jones 520 U.S. 681 (1997)
Trump v Mazars 591 U.S. 854 (2020) (eLearning)
Articles of Impeachment (2019)
Articles of Impeachment (2021)
Trump v United States 603 U.S. 593 (2024) *

Second Take Home Exam Question Due: Friday, March 13, 5:00PM CT

Spring Break: Monday, March 16 – Sunday, March 22

Week Nine: Foundations of Congressional Authority and Dual Federalism

Class Dates: Monday, March 23
Wednesday, March 25

Read: O'Brien and Silverstein: pp. 542-596.

Watch: Dr. Dow Lecture (eLearning)

Cases: *McCulloch v Maryland* 17 U.S. 316 (1819) *
Gibbon v Ogden 22 U.S. 1 (1824)
United States v E.C. Knight Co. 156 U.S. 15 (1895)
Hammer v Dagenhart 247 U.S. 251 (1918)
National Labor Relations Board v Jones and Laughlin Steel Corp. 301 U.S. 1 (1937)

Week Ten: Contemporary Interstate Commerce Clause Challenges

Class Dates: Monday, March 30
Wednesday, April 1

Read: O'Brien and Silverstein: pp. 600-603; 612-624; 638-650; 669-685.

Watch: Dr. Dow Lecture (eLearning)

Cases: *Wickard v Filburn* 317 U.S. 111 (1942) *
Katzenbach v McClung 379 U.S. 294 (1964)
United States v Lopez 514 U.S. 549 (1995) *
United States v Morrison 529 U.S. 598 (2000)
Gonzales v Raich 545 U.S. 1 (2005)
National Federation of Independent Business v Sebelius (2012)

Week Eleven: Tenth Amendment and The Anti-Commandeering Doctrine

Class Dates: Monday, April 6
Wednesday, April 8

Read: O'Brien and Silverstein: pp. 596-600; 666-669, 686-696 (review); 719-732 (review); 733-760.

Watch: Dr. Dow Lecture (eLearning)

Cases: *United States v Darby Lumber Company* 312 U.S. 100 (1941)
National League of Cities v Usery 426 U.S. 833 (1976)
Garcia v San Antonio Metropolitan Transit Authority 469 U.S. 528 (1985) *
South Dakota v Dole 483 U.S. 203 (1987)
New York v United States 505 U.S. 114 (1992)
Printz v United States 521 U.S. 898 (1997) *
Murphy v National Collegiate Athletic Association 584 U.S. 453 (2018)
Haaland v Breecken 599 U.S. 255 (2023)

Week Twelve: Congressional Enforcement – Reconstruction Amendments

Class Dates: Monday, April 13
Wednesday, April 15

Read: O'Brien and Silverstein: pp. 626-635; 818-828 (review); 829-833, 840.

Watch: Dr. Dow Lecture (eLearning)

Cases: *Jones v Alfred H. Mayer Co.* 392 U.S. 409 (1968) (eLearning)
Katzenbach v Morgan 384 U.S. 641 (1966) (eLearning)
City of Boerne v Flores 521 U.S. 507 (1997) *
South Carolina v Katzenbach 383 U.S. 301 (1965)
Shelby Co., Alabama v Holder 570 U.S. 529 (2013) * (eLearning)

Third Take Home Exam Question Due: Friday, April 17, 5:00PM CT

Week Thirteen: Reapportioning, Redistricting and the Right to Vote

Class Dates: Monday, April 20
Wednesday, April 22

Read: O'Brien and Silverstein: pp. 848-862 (review); 863-864; 871-877; 902-907.

Watch: Dr. Dow Lecture (eLearning)

Cases: *Gomillion v Lightfoot* 364 U.S. 339 (1960)
Reynolds v Sims 377 U.S. 533 (1964) *
Harper v Virginia Board of Elections 383 U.S. 663 (1966) (eLearning)
Shaw v Reno 509 U.S. 630 (1993) *
Crawford v Marion County Election Board 553 U.S. 181 (2008) (eLearning)
Alexander v South Carolina State Conference of the NAACP 602 U.S. 1 (2024)

Week Fourteen: Political Gerrymanders and Questions of Popular Control

Class Dates: Monday, April 27
Wednesday, April 29

Read: O'Brien and Silverstein: pp. 840-847; 878-901.

Watch: Dr. Dow Lecture (eLearning)

Cases: *Vieth v Jubelirer* 541 U.S. 267 (2004) (eLearning)
AZ State Legislature v AZ Independent Redistricting Commission 576 U.S. 787 (2015)
Rucho v Common Cause 588 U.S. 684 (2019) *
Brnovich v Democratic National Committee 594 U.S. 647 (2021) *
Moore v Harper 600 U.S. 1 (2023) (eLearning)
Abbott v League of United Latin American Citizens (2025) (eLearning)

Week Fifteen: Money, Campaigns and Corporate Rights

Class Dates: Monday, May 4
Wednesday, May 6

Read: O'Brien and Silverstein: pp. 919-928 (review); 940-950; 966-977.

Watch: Dr. Dow Lecture (eLearning)

Cases: *Buckley v Valeo* 424 U.S. 1 (1976)
Citizens United v Federal Election Commission 558 U.S. 310 (2010) *
McCutcheon v Federal Election Commission 572 U.S. 185 (2014) (eLearning)

Fourth Take Home Exam Question Due: Friday, May 8, 5:00PM CT

UT Dallas Syllabus Policies and Procedures

Student Resources

Sharing Confidential Information

Students considering sharing personal information in email or in person should be aware that all University staff, faculty, teaching assistants/associates, and graduate/research assistants are required by UT Dallas policy to report information about sexual misconduct to the UT Dallas Title IX Coordinator. Per university policy, Sexual Misconduct Policy - [UTDBP3102](#), faculty have been informed that they must identify the student to the UT Dallas Title IX Coordinator. Students who wish to have confidential discussions of incidents related to sexual harassment or sexual misconduct should contact the Student Counseling Center (972-883-2575 or the 24/7 Crisis Hotline at 972-UTD-TALK or 972-883-8255), a health care provider in the Student Health Center (972-883-2747), a clergyperson (or other legally recognized religious advisor) of their choice, or an off-campus resource (e.g., rape crisis center, doctor, psychologist). Students who are sexually assaulted, harassed, or are victims of sexual misconduct, domestic violence, or stalking, are encouraged to directly report these incidents to the UT Dallas Police Department at 972-883-2222 or to the Title IX Coordinator at 972-883-4470. Additional information and resources may be found at <https://institutional-initiatives.utdallas.edu/title-ix/resources>.

Technical Support

If you experience any issues with your UT Dallas account, contact the UT Dallas [Office of Information Technology Help Desk](#) via e-mail at assist@utdallas.edu or via telephone at 972-883-2911.

UT Dallas provides eLearning technical support 24 hours a day, 7 days a week. The services include a toll-free telephone number for immediate assistance (1-866-588-3192), email request service at elarning@utdallas.edu, and an online chat service. Please use this link to access the UTD eLearning Helpdesk: <https://ets.utdallas.edu/elarning/helpdesk>.

Field Trip Policies, Off-Campus Instruction and Course Activities

Off-campus, out-of-state, foreign instruction/travel, and course-related field trip activities are subject to state law and university policies and procedures regarding travel and risk-related activities.

Detailed information regarding this policy, in accordance to *Texas Education Code*, Section 51.950, can be accessed through the UT Dallas Policy Navigator,

<https://policy.utdallas.edu/utdbp3023>, and at <https://legal.utdallas.edu/risk-insurance/travel-related-risk/>. Additional information is available from the office of the school dean.

Student Conduct and Discipline

The University of Texas System ([Regents' Rule 50101](#)) and UT 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 Student Complaints Resources in the online UT Dallas Undergraduate Catalog, <https://catalog.utdallas.edu/now/undergraduate/resources/student-complaints> and the Graduate Catalog, <https://catalog.utdallas.edu/now/graduate/resources/student-complaints>.

UT Dallas administers student discipline within the procedures of recognized and established due process. Procedures are defined and described in the Student Code of Conduct, UTDSP5003 (<https://policy.utdallas.edu/utdsp5003>). Copies of these rules and regulations are available to students in the Office of Community Standards and Conduct, where staff members are available to assist students in interpreting the rules and regulations (SSB 4.400, 972-883-6330) and online at <https://conduct.utdallas.edu>.

A student at the University neither loses their 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 its standards of conduct whether such conduct takes place on or off campus, or whether civil or criminal penalties are also imposed for such conduct.

Social Media Use

The [Student Code of Conduct](#) includes behaviors conducted via any digital platform. Students may not use any digital platform to seek or provide unauthorized assistance for any assignment done for academic credit. Students may not use any digital platform to impersonate or represent any person other than themselves. Please consult with your instructor regarding authorized assistance.

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 demonstrates a high standard of individual honor in his or her scholastic work. See <https://conduct.utdallas.edu/integrity>.

Academic Dishonesty: Academic dishonesty can occur in relation to any type of work submitted for academic credit or as a requirement for a class. It can include individual work or a group project. Academic dishonesty includes plagiarism, cheating, fabrication, and collaboration/collusion. In order to avoid academic dishonesty, it is important for students to

fully understand the expectations of their professors. This is best accomplished through asking clarifying questions if an individual does not completely understand the requirements of an assignment.

Additional information related to academic dishonesty and tips on how to avoid dishonesty may be found here: <https://conduct.utdallas.edu/dishonesty>.

Copyright Notice

It is the policy of UT Dallas to adhere to the requirements of the United States Copyright Law of 1976, as amended, (*Title 17, United States Code*), including ensuring that the restrictions that apply to the reproduction of software are adhered to and that the bounds of copying permissible under the fair use doctrine are not exceeded. Copying, displaying, reproducing, or distributing copyrighted material may infringe upon the copyright owner's rights. Unauthorized distribution of copyrighted material, including unauthorized peer-to-peer file sharing, may subject students to appropriate disciplinary action as well as civil and criminal penalties. Usage of such material is only appropriate when that usage constitutes "fair use" under the Copyright Act. For more information about the fair use exemption, see <https://guides.lib.utexas.edu/fairuse/home>. As a UT Dallas student, you are required to follow UT Dallas' copyright policy (UTDPP1043 at <https://policy.utdallas.edu/utdpp1043>) and the UT System's policy, UTS107 at <https://www.utsystem.edu/board-of-regents/policy-library/policies/uts107-use-copyrighted-materials>.

Email Use

UT 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. All official student email correspondence will be sent only to a student's UT Dallas email address and UT Dallas will only consider email requests originating from an official UT Dallas student email account. This allows the University to maintain a high degree of confidence in the identity of each individual corresponding via email and the security of the transmitted information. UT Dallas furnishes each student with a free email account that is to be used in all communication with university personnel. The Office of Information Technology provides a method for students to have their UT Dallas mail forwarded to other email accounts. To activate a student UT Dallas computer account and forward email to another account, go to <https://oit.utdallas.edu/netid/self-service>.

Class Attendance

The University's attendance policy requirement is that individual faculty set their course attendance requirements. Regular and punctual class attendance is expected regardless of course modality. Students who fail to attend class regularly are inviting scholastic difficulty. In some courses, instructors may have special attendance requirements; these should be made known to students during the first week of classes.

Class Participation

Regular class participation is expected regardless of course modality. Students who fail to participate in class regularly are inviting scholastic difficulty. A portion of the grade in the course is directly tied to class participation. It also includes students' engagement in group or other activities during class that solicit feedback on homework assignments, readings, and/or materials covered in the lectures and/or labs. Class participation is documented by faculty. Successful class participation is defined as consistently adhering to University requirements, as presented in the syllabus. Failure to comply with these University requirements is a violation of the [Student Code of Conduct - UTSP5003](#).

Credit/No Credit and Pass/Fail Grading Options

Students are encouraged to review the online catalogs regarding Credit/No Credit or Pass/Fail courses. Students should consult their academic advisors to understand what it means for their academic careers before completing the form prior to Census Day.

Undergraduate students: please review the [Credit/No Credit Classes](#) section in the Undergraduate Catalog.

Graduate students: please review the [Pass/Fail Grading](#) section in the Graduate Catalog.

Withdrawal from Class

The administration at UT Dallas has established deadlines for withdrawal from any course. These dates and times are published in the Comet Calendar (<http://www.utdallas.edu/calendar>) and in the Academic Calendar (<http://www.utdallas.edu/academiccalendar>). It is the student's responsibility to handle withdrawal requirements from any class. In other words, a professor or another instructor cannot drop or withdraw any student unless there is an administrative drop such as the following:

- Not meeting the prerequisites for a specific course
- Not satisfying the academic probationary requirements, resulting in suspension
- An Office of Community Standards and Conduct request
- Not making appropriate tuition and fee payments
- Enrollment is in violation of academic policy
- Not admitted for the term in which they registered

It is the student's responsibility to complete and submit the appropriate forms to the Registrar's Office and ensure that he or she will not receive a final grade of "F" in a course if he or she chooses not to attend the class after being enrolled.

Undergraduate students: please review the [Dropping and Withdrawing](#) section in the catalog.

Graduate students: please review the [Schedule Changes: Dropping, Adding and Withdrawing](#) from Courses section in the catalog.

Student Grievance Procedures

Procedures for student grievances are found in university policy UTDSP5005 (<https://policy.utdallas.edu/utdsp5005>). In attempting to resolve any student grievance regarding disputes over grades, application of degree plan, graduation/degree program requirements, and thesis/and dissertation committee, adviser actions and/or decisions, evaluations, and/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 originated.

Incomplete Grade Policy

As per university policy, incomplete grades may be given at the discretion of the instructor of record for a course, when a student has completed at least 70% of the required course material but cannot complete all requirements by the end of the semester. An incomplete course grade (grade of 'I') must be completed within the time period specified by the instructor, not to exceed eight (8) weeks from the first day of the subsequent long semester. Upon completion of the required work, the grade of 'I' may be converted into a letter grade (A through F). If the grade of Incomplete is not removed by the end of the specified period, it will automatically be changed to a grade of F. The incomplete grade policy is included in the online UT Dallas Undergraduate Catalog, <https://catalog.utdallas.edu/now/undergraduate/policies/academic#incomplete-grades> and the Graduate Catalog, <https://catalog.utdallas.edu/now/graduate/policies/grades#grade-of-i-incomplete>.

Accommodations for Students with Disabilities

The University of Texas at Dallas is committed to providing reasonable accommodations for all persons with disabilities. The syllabus is available in alternate formats upon request. If you are seeking classroom accommodations under the Americans with Disabilities Act (2008), you are required to register with the Office of Student AccessAbility (OSA), located in the Administration Building, Suite 2.224. Their phone number is 972-883-2098, email: studentaccess@utdallas.edu and the website is <https://studentaccess.utdallas.edu>. To receive academic accommodations for this class, please obtain the proper Office of Student AccessAbility letter of accommodation and meet with the Director of OSA at the beginning of the semester.

Religious Holy Days

UT Dallas will excuse a student from class or other required activities, including examinations and travel time for the observance of a religious holy day for a religion whose places of worship are exempt from property tax under Section 11.20, of the *Texas Tax Code*.

Students are encouraged to notify the instructor or activity sponsor as soon as possible regarding the absence, preferably in advance of the assignment.

Excused students will be allowed to take missed exams or complete assignments 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 President of UT Dallas or from the President's designee. The chief executive officer or designee must take into account the legislative intent of *Texas Education Code* 51.911(b), and the student and instructor will abide by the decision of the chief executive officer or designee.

This information is also included in the online UT Dallas Undergraduate Catalog, <https://catalog.utdallas.edu/now/undergraduate/policies/religious-holy-days>, and the Graduate Catalog, <https://catalog.utdallas.edu/now/graduate/policies/religious-holy-days>.

Making a False Alarm or Report Involving a Public or Private Institution of a Higher Education

Making a false threat at any Texas higher education institution is considered a **State Jail Felony**, not a Class A misdemeanor, according to a law passed by the Texas Legislature.

This legislation was enacted in response to several threats in past years at several universities across the U.S. that disrupted classes and prompted evacuation of campus property, even though the reports turned out to be a hoax.

This law relates to the offense of making or causing a false alarm or report involving a public or private institution of higher education. A person commits an offense under Section 42.06, *Texas Penal Code*, if he or she knowingly initiates, communicates or circulates a report of a present, past, or future bombing, fire, offense, or other emergency that he or she knows is false or baseless and that would ordinarily:

1. Cause action by an official or volunteer agency organized to deal with emergencies;
2. Place a person in fear of imminent serious bodily injury; or
3. Prevent or interrupt the occupation of a building, room, place of assembly, place to which the public has access, or aircraft, automobile, or other mode of conveyance.

An individual adjudged guilty of a state jail felony shall be punished by confinement in a state jail for any term of not more than two years or less than 180 days and, in addition to confinement, may be punished by a fine not to exceed \$10,000.

UT Dallas students should be aware that the State of Texas takes these threats seriously, and the legal consequences, which are severe, go beyond anything that the University's disciplinary committee can address.

This information is also included in the online UT Dallas Undergraduate Catalog, <https://catalog.utdallas.edu/now/undergraduate/policies/false-alarms> and in the Graduate Catalog, <https://catalog.utdallas.edu/now/graduate/policies/false-alarms>.

Interactive Campus Map – Locate Severe Weather Shelters, Elevators, and Bathrooms

The interactive campus map (<https://map.utdallas.edu>) allows users to search for severe weather shelter areas in each building. On the map, click on a building and select "Storm Shelters" from the "Find" drop-down menu. Remember, a severe weather shelter area is usually any interior room without windows, such as a restroom, hallway, conference room, or office. Try to find shelter on the lowest floor of the building and stay away from large auditoriums or gyms. Users can also use the same map to locate elevators and bathrooms.

Academic Support Resources

Resources to Help You Succeed

Instructors of record: Please use the following permanent address when referring to this section: <https://go.utdallas.edu/academic-support-resources>

All Students

For help with a research assignment, such as finding journal articles or using a database, try CHAT at [McDermott Library](#).

The [Center for Students in Recovery](#) helps students seeking recovery from substance and alcohol use, eating disorders, and other addictions and compulsive behaviors. They also help students affected by these issues or individuals exploring the impact of addictions or compulsive behaviors within their lives. Their mission is to provide a safe, supportive community to enable students to thrive both socially and academically while living in recovery. They are located in SSB 4.500, on the fourth floor of the Student Services Building. They can be contacted by calling 972-883-7320 or they can be reached by emailing them at recovery@utdallas.edu.

The [Comet Cupboard](#) is a UT Dallas food pantry initiative dedicated to helping students in need. The Comet Cupboard is located in MC 1.604, on the first floor of the McDermott Library, and can be contacted by calling 972-883-6613 or emailing cupboard@utdallas.edu

[Comet Cents](#) provides financial literacy to students with the peer-to-peer model. This money management center provides one-on-one appointments and workshops throughout the semester.

Comet Cents works to help students improve their financial situation with topics such budgeting, credit card debit, investing and other personal finance areas.

[Intercultural Programs](#) provides a host of transition programs for international students and intercultural competency trainings for all students. They are located in SSB 3.6, on the third floor of the Student Services Building. Their phone number is 972-883-4528.

The [Student Counseling Center](#) offers confidential services to students either for individual appointments or as part of groups. Initial appointments must be made in person in the Student Counseling Center, which is located in SSB 4.600, on the fourth floor of the Student Services Building. Their main number is 972-883-2575 and the 24/7 Crisis Hotline is 972-883-8255 (972-UTD-TALK).

The [Testing Center](#), run by the Education Technology Services, offers a 300-seat computer lab, providing UT Dallas students access to a comfortable and secure test environment for online/paper exams, quizzes, instructional testing, and assessments. The Testing Center is located in Room 11.175, the first floor of the Synergy Park North 2 (SP2) building and can be contacted by calling 972-883-2460 or by emailing infotestingcenter@utdallas.edu See <https://ets.utdallas.edu/testing-center>.

If you experience issues taking an exam in eLearning, please contact the UTD eLearning Helpdesk: <https://ets.utdallas.edu/elearning/helpdesk>.

Undergraduate Students

Graduation Help Desk

The [Graduation Help Desk](#) is a one-stop resource within the Office of Undergraduate Education designed to help undergraduate students overcome obstacles to a timely graduation. The Graduation Help Desk supports undergraduate students, faculty and staff to develop solutions to complex academic and non-academic issues. This resource is equipped to promote all undergraduate students' success by helping them at any point during their academic careers from their arrival at UT Dallas until their graduation. Contact the Graduation Help Desk at graduationhelpdesk@utdallas.edu.

Student Success Center

The [Student Success Center \(SSC\)](#) offers assistance to students in the areas of writing, mathematics, communication, multiple science fields, study skills, and other academic disciplines. These services are available through individual appointments, small group appointments, drop-in labs, workshops, and weekly reviews. All undergraduate students enrolled at UT Dallas are eligible to participate in these services. Not all courses will be supported by all services. Please check the website at the beginning of each semester to find out which courses are supported by which services.

The SSC is divided into six units and undergraduate students are able to use as fits their course needs each semester. All services are free of charge.

In **Academic Success Coaching (ASC)**, students can receive help with time management, goal setting, test preparation, and various other study techniques and strategies. Student coaches offer one-on-one appointments and workshops throughout the semester.

The **Communication Lab (CommLab)** offers one-on-one and group appointments where students can gain practical feedback for improving oral and group presentations.

The **Peer-Led Team Learning (PLTL)** program provides an active, engaged learning experience for students enrolled in potentially difficult gateway courses. Students who register with PLTL will meet in small groups once a week and are expected to attend every session. Students who regularly attend sessions typically earn a half to a whole letter grade higher than students who do not participate in the PLTL program.

Peer Tutoring (PT) offers math and science tutoring assistance for many of the historically challenging undergraduate courses at UT Dallas. The sessions are designed to address students' individual questions and needs; however, the tutors do not provide answers for homework, quizzes, or exams. Peer Tutoring services include drop-in tutoring for most 1000 and 2000 level courses, one-on-one appointments for a limited number of 3000 and 4000 level courses, and weekly reviews the timings of which vary by semester.

Supplemental Instruction (SI) provides peer-facilitated weekly study sessions for students taking historically difficult courses. SI sessions encourage active, collaborative learning based on critical thinking and transferable study skills. SI Leaders attend lectures and take notes, just like the enrolled students. Students should check the SSC website for supported subjects and session times.

The **Writing Center (WC)** is a collaborative learning environment for students interested in developing stronger writing skills. One-on-one appointments are offered, as are weekly workshops. Scheduling an appointment is strongly recommended, but drop-in hours are also available.

The Student Success Center's main office is located in the McDermott Library Building on the first floor, MC 1.302, and can be contacted by calling 972-883-6707 or by sending an email to ssc@utdallas.edu.

Graduate Students

The **[Center for Teaching and Learning](#)** supports graduate students, especially teaching assistants through teaching certificates, workshops on pedagogy, and reading groups on emerging educational issues. They are located in MC 2.402, on the first floor of the McDermott Library. The Center's phone number is 972-883-2247.

The [**Office of Graduate Education Fellowship Services**](#) offers workshops on fellowship and grant writing, including a Grant Writing Certificate program. Students applying for external funding can schedule appointments to find funding and to develop their applications. The Fellowship Office is located in FA 3.104C, on the second floor of the Founders West Annex. The office's phone number is 972-883-4568.

The [**Office of Graduate Education Writing Services**](#) offers workshops on writing as well as one-on-one appointments, writing groups, and writing retreats to help graduate students improve their writing skills. The Writing Services Office is located in FA 3.104, on the second floor of the Founders West Annex. Appointments can be made via email at gradeducation@utdallas.edu.

University Resources

Additional university resources, "Resources for Study and Campus Life" are listed in the online Undergraduate Catalog, <https://catalog.utdallas.edu/now/undergraduate/resources/index> and the Graduate Catalog, <https://catalog.utdallas.edu/now/graduate/resources/index>.