

## *Course Syllabus*

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### **Course Information**

Political Institutions in the U.S. and Texas (Government 2302.011 [25465])

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### **Professor Contact Information**

Professor: Tyler Young

Phone: (512)587-3753

Email: tay061000@utdallas.edu (preferred)

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

*None*

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### **Course Description**

This course explores the primary institutions of U.S. and Texas government. It examines the bureaucracy as well as the executive, legislative, and judicial branches of government at the state and federal level (3 credit hours).

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### **Student Learning Objectives/Outcomes**

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.
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### **Required Textbooks and Materials**

Ginsberg, Benjamin, Theodore Lowi, and Margaret Weir. *We the People: An Introduction to American Politics*. Eighth Texas Edition. ISBN 9780393149579.

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### **Assignments & Academic Calendar**

<b>Date</b>	<b>Readings</b>	<b>Assignment(s) Due (by 11:59PM) No late work accepted</b>
Monday, Jan. 14	Syllabus	Acquire Textbook
Wednesday, Jan. 30	Chapter 12	Ch. 12 Quiz due; Orientation Quiz due
Wednesday, Feb. 6	Chapter 13	Ch. 13 Quiz due; Discussion 1, Post 1 due
Wednesday, Feb. 13	Chapter 14	Ch. 14 Quiz due; Discussion 1, Post 2 due
Thursday, Feb. 14		Unit 1 Test due, opens 8am on Feb. 13
Wednesday, Feb. 20	Chapter 23	Ch. 23 Quiz due
Wednesday, Feb. 27	Chapter 24	Ch. 24 Quiz due; Discussion 2, Post 1 due

Wednesday, Mar. 6	Chapter 27	Ch. 27 Quiz due; Discussion 2, Post 2 due
Thursday, Mar. 7		Unit 2 Test due, opens 8am on Mar. 6
Wednesday, Mar. 13	Spring Break	
Wednesday, Mar. 20	Chapter 16	Ch. 16 Quiz due
Wednesday, Mar. 27	Chapter 17	Ch. 17 Quiz due; Discussion 3, Post 1 due
Wednesday, Apr. 3	Chapter 18	Ch. 18 Quiz due; Discussion 3, Post 2 due
Thursday, Apr. 4		Unit 3 Test due, opens 8am on Apr. 3
Wednesday, Apr. 10	Free Week	
Wednesday, Apr. 17	Chapter 15	Ch. 15 Quiz due
Wednesday, Apr. 24	Chapter 25	Ch. 25 Quiz due; Discussion 3, Post 1 due
Wednesday, May 1	Chapter 26	Ch. 26 Quiz due; Discussion 3, Post 2 due
Wednesday, May 8		Unit 4 Test due, opens 8am on Tuesday, May 7

## Grading Policy

There is a possible 510 points in the course.

Orientation Quiz: This is worth a possible 10 points

Chapter Quizzes: There are 12 of these worth 10 points each for a possible total of 120 points.

Discussion Posts: There are four discussions with 2 posts required for each;  
10 points for each post for a possible 80 points.

Unit Tests: There will be 4 Unit tests worth 100 points each, the lowest will be dropped for a possible 300 points

The Grading scale for this class is as follows:

450 - 510 points = A

350 - 399 points = C

Less than 300 points is an F

400 - 449 points = B

300 - 349 points = D

## Course & Instructor Policies

It is expected that students will complete their own work in this class and cheating will simply not be tolerated. Students will complete all assignments by the deadlines given. When a new Unit is open it is fine to work ahead on all assignments. I will not open units early. Please note all due dates and plan accordingly. The tests will be online and it is up to the student to secure appropriate internet access. Retaking the test due to technical malfunction is simply not an option. I highly recommend that you do not wait until the last minute as the server may become crowded thus leading to reduced computer response time. It is understood that things do happen and that is why the lowest test score will be dropped. Please do not consider that a free test but rather your insurance against computer disaster.

## Student Resources

Access to many University resources are available to students. Some sources of interest include:

**UTD Distance Learning:** <http://www.utdallas.edu/distancelearning/students>

**McDermott Library:** Distance Learners (UTD students who live outside the boundaries of Collin, Dallas, Denton, Rockwall, or Tarrant counties) will need a UTD-ID number to access all of the library's electronic resources (reserves, journal articles, ebooks, interlibrary loan) from off campus. For UTD students living within those counties who are taking online courses, a Comet Card is required to check out materials at the McDermott Library. For more information on library resources go to <http://www.utdallas.edu/distancelearning/students/libraries.html>

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## **UT Dallas Syllabus Policies and Procedures**

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.

***The descriptions and timelines contained in this syllabus are subject to change at the discretion of the Professor.***