



Course GOVT 2305.0U1 – American National Government
Professor Adrienne Gathman, J.D.
Term Summer 2016 (May 23 – August 8)
Meetings MWF 11:30 am – 12:45 pm, JSOM 2.722

Professor's Contact Information

Office Location Green Hall 3.314
Email Address aeg140130@utdallas.edu
Office Hours Monday 10:15 am – 11:15 am; Wednesday 12:45 pm – 1:45 pm; or by appointment
Other Information Please contact me via the e-mail address listed above. Messages sent through eLearning are not as immediate.

General Core Area 070 Government/Political Science

Description: Courses in this category focus on consideration of the Constitution of the United States and the constitutions of the states, with special emphasis on that of Texas. Courses involve the analysis of governmental institutions, political behavior, civic engagement, and their political and philosophical foundations.

Objectives: **Critical Thinking (CT)**—to include creative thinking, innovation, inquiry, and analysis, evaluation, and synthesis of information
Communication (COM)—to include effective development, interpretation, and expression of ideas through written, oral, and visual communication
Social Responsibility (SR)—to include intercultural competence, knowledge of civic responsibility, and the ability to engage effectively in regional, national, and global communities
Personal Responsibility (PR)—to include the ability to connect choices, actions, and consequences to ethical decision-making

General Course Information

Pre-requisites, Co-requisites, & other restrictions Not Applicable

Course Description This course serves as an introduction to the study of politics and political institutions in the United States. It will introduce the actors, institutions, and processes of the American system of government through the coverage of the Constitution, Congress, the Presidency, Voting and Elections, Public Opinion and other topics. This course is not meant to be an in-depth study of any one topic, as it will instead provide you with an overview of the information necessary to understand how the government works. The goal is for you to be able to think critically and logically about the functions of the government and how they may impact your lives.

Learning Outcomes

On completing this core curriculum course, students will be able to:

- Comprehend the origins and evolution of the U.S. government
- Describe the historical and social context within which the American political system operates
- Describe the powers of and relationships between the major institutions of the federal government
- Identify and understand social and personal responsibility in the broader context of politics and U.S. political institutions

The following book has been ordered for this course:

Ginsberg, et al. *We the People*. 10th Edition. W.W. Norton.

Required Texts & Materials

This text is available at the UTD bookstore, Off-Campus Books, etc. Students regularly ask if they can use another edition. The choice is up to you, but understand new editions include new information. All quizzes and exams will be based on this edition, so points may be lost if an older version is used.

Approximately one chapter will be assigned for each class period. You should read the assigned material carefully at least once before its first assigned class. Chapter references in the course outline are to this text.

Suggested Texts, Readings, & Materials

You may also want to stay up-to-date on current events in American politics. Current events will figure into class discussions and assignments. I recommend making a habit of reading a daily newspaper or its equivalent website, such as the Dallas Morning News, Los Angeles Times, New York Times, or the Chicago Tribune. You may also wish to read a weekly news magazine or its web equivalent such as The Economist, Time, Newsweek, etc. Since this is a presidential election year, political articles are not hard to find and provide excellent examples of the government at work.

Course Policies

Grading (credit) Criteria	There are FIVE major graded components to this course:		
	Exam 1 (25%)		
	Exam 2 (20%)		
	Exam 3 – August 8 (25%)		
	Exam 4 – August 8 (20%)		
	Highest 9 of 11 online quizzes via eLearning (10%)		
	Grades are based on the following grading scale:		
	A: 94-100	A-: 90-93	
B+: 87-89	B: 84-86	B-: 80-83	
C+: 77-79	C: 74-76	C-: 70-73	
D+: 67-69	D: 64-66	D-: 60-63	
F: 59 and below			

Exams

The four exams will be given on the dates noted in the course plan of this syllabus. Exams will be given in class and are closed book. They will include multiple choice and true-false questions based on lecture material and the required readings. In order to take the exam, you must show up to class with a pencil and an 882-E scantron.

eLearning and Assessments

eLearning is used in this class for quizzes, review, and to check your progress in the class. You can access the course eLearning page at <http://elearning.utdallas.edu>. Additional information about how to use eLearning is available at this site as well. You will need your UTD NetID to access this site. eLearning is also how I will communicate with you when an announcement needs to be made. You are responsible for announcements made through eLearning. You may forward messages from eLearning to your regular e-mail account. Please select a forwarding address in your mail preferences if you do not regularly check your eLearning mail or UTD email.

eLearning Quizzes

You must take quizzes online through eLearning. They are accessible via the "Quizzes" folder on the main page. The following rules should be noted for each quiz:

- The quizzes are open book. You may refer to the book and to lecture materials while you take the quizzes.
- The quizzes should be your individual work. The order of questions is randomized, so there is no advantage to working with someone on them.
- It is your responsibility to take the quiz before it expires and to note the date and time of the expiration. These dates are all noted on the syllabus. You have approximately five days to take each quiz, so plan accordingly.
- Each quiz has a 3-hour time limit. Once you have started the quiz, the timer continues to run even if you exit eLearning, so make sure you have enough time to complete the quiz once you have started it.
- I am not responsible for your inability to access eLearning. Plan for outages and the like when taking the quizzes. Any problems accessing eLearning are your problem to deal with.
- The quiz questions and answers will be available as study guides to those who have taken the quizzes after they have closed. If you do not take the quiz, you will not be granted access to the questions or answers.
- I will count only the highest 9 of 11 quizzes. There are no makeups for the quizzes. If you miss one, you will receive a 0.
- These quizzes are extremely important, as they will cover the same material covered on the exams. Exact questions from the quizzes may be taken and used on exams, so taking all of the quizzes is in your best interest.
- Each quiz will open at 12:05 a.m. on the opening date noted below and close at 11:55 p.m. on the closing date.

	Quiz Schedule																																				
	<table><tr><th>Dates Open</th><th>Quiz Number</th><th>Chapters Covered</th></tr><tr><td>June 1 – June 6</td><td>1</td><td>2</td></tr><tr><td>June 6 – June 10</td><td>2</td><td>3</td></tr><tr><td>June 10 – June 13</td><td>3</td><td>4 & 5</td></tr><tr><td>June 17 – June 22</td><td>4</td><td>12</td></tr><tr><td>June 22 – June 27</td><td>5</td><td>13 & 14</td></tr><tr><td>June 27 – July 4</td><td>6</td><td>15</td></tr><tr><td>July 8 – July 13</td><td>7</td><td>6 & 7</td></tr><tr><td>July 13 – July 19</td><td>8</td><td>8 & 9</td></tr><tr><td>July 19 – July 23</td><td>9</td><td>10</td></tr><tr><td>July 27 – August 1</td><td>10</td><td>11</td></tr><tr><td>August 1 – August 6</td><td>11</td><td>16 & 17</td></tr></table>	Dates Open	Quiz Number	Chapters Covered	June 1 – June 6	1	2	June 6 – June 10	2	3	June 10 – June 13	3	4 & 5	June 17 – June 22	4	12	June 22 – June 27	5	13 & 14	June 27 – July 4	6	15	July 8 – July 13	7	6 & 7	July 13 – July 19	8	8 & 9	July 19 – July 23	9	10	July 27 – August 1	10	11	August 1 – August 6	11	16 & 17
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August 1 – August 6	11	16 & 17																																			
Make-up Exams	<u>Missed exams will result in a 0 for that exam unless prior arrangements have been made with the professor.</u>																																				
Extra Credit	Extra credit will be available through class attendance. In addition, bonus questions will be included on each exam.																																				
Late Work	NO LATE WORK WILL BE ACCEPTED.																																				
Class Attendance	<p>Class attendance is required. I will take attendance throughout the term and will use it as a means of extra credit. You are responsible for any announcements made or information given during class.</p> <p>You are expected to be pro-active in anticipating and planning for any absences or problems you will have in completing course work. Make arrangements for possibly missed work prior to the due date is preferable and more likely to be successful than doing it after the due date. Plan for absences and missed work accordingly.</p>																																				
Comet Creed	<p><i>The UT Dallas student body voted on this creed in 2014. It is a standard that Comets choose to live by and encourage others to do the same:</i></p> <p><i>“As a Comet, I pledge honesty, integrity, and service in all that I do.”</i></p>																																				
UT Dallas Syllabus Policies and Procedures	<p><i>The information contained in the following link constitutes the University’s policies and procedures segment of the course syllabus.</i></p> <p><i>Please go to http://go.utdallas.edu/syllabus-policies for these policies.</i></p>																																				

Classroom Citizenship

The following rules apply in class:

- Students who display inappropriate or disrespectful behavior will be immediately removed from the classroom and reported to the Associate Dean of Students.
- Scholastic dishonesty will not be tolerated in this course. All students will be held responsible for plagiarism, cheating, and/or collusion. Students who do not follow the conditions of the instructor regarding scholastic dishonesty will automatically receive an “F” in this course.

- I discourage the use of laptops, iPads, phones, or other portable electronic devices during the lecture. I have found that they are distracting and often take away from your ability to grasp the material as presented in class.
- TURN OFF YOUR CELL PHONE. It is very distracting to others. “Off” means it does not ring or vibrate. (Exceptions can be made, but you must come talk to me for approval)
- Do not fall asleep. It is rude and distracting. Bring coffee if you need it.
- Be polite and courteous to your fellow students. When discussing politics, discussion can at times become contentious, but respect should always be employed.
- Raise your hand when you want to speak, whether to answer or ask a question.
- Class starts at 11:30, so be here at 11:30. The instructor will address consistent late arrivals.

Academic Calendar & Assigned Readings

You should read the assigned material for each date BEFORE class. Also note that you will need to check eLearning periodically for updates, announcements, and quizzes. Readings are listed in bold with the topics below.

May 23	<i>INTRODUCTION TO COURSE: Syllabus Review</i>
<i>FOUNDATIONS</i>	
May 25	Chapter 1 – American Political Culture
May 27	Chapter 1 – American Political Culture
May 30	No Class – Memorial Day
Jun 1	Chapter 2 – The Founding and the Constitution
June 3	Chapter 2 – The Founding and the Constitution
June 6	Chapter 3 – Federalism
June 8	Chapter 3 – Federalism
June 10	Chapter 4 – Civil Liberties
June 13	Chapter 5 – Civil Rights
June 15	EXAM 1 – Foundations
<i>GOVERNMENT INSTITUTIONS</i>	
June 17	Chapter 12 – Congress
June 20	Chapter 12 – Congress
June 22	Chapter 13 – The Presidency
June 24	Chapter 13 – The Presidency
June 27	Chapter 14 – Bureaucracy in a Democracy
June 29	Chapter 15 – The Federal Court
July 1	Chapter 15 – The Federal Court
July 4	No Class – Independence Day
July 6	EXAM 2 – Government Institutions

<i>POLITICS</i>	
July 8	Chapter 6 – Public Opinion
July 11	Chapter 7 – The Media
July 13	Chapter 7 – The Media (Video)
July 15	Chapter 8 – Political Participation and Voting
July 18	Chapter 9 - Political Parties
July 20	Chapter 10 – Campaigns and Elections
July 22	Chapter 10 – Campaigns and Elections (Video)
July 25	EXAM 3 – Politics
<i>POLICY AND INTERESTS</i>	
July 27	Chapter 11 – Groups and Interests
July 29	Chapter 11 – Groups and Interests (Video)
Aug 1	Chapter 16 – Government and the Economy
Aug 3	Chapter 17 – Social Policy
Aug 5	Chapter 17 – Social Policy
Aug 8	EXAM 4 – Policy

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