

**University of North Texas at Dallas**  
**Fall 2014**  
**SYLLABUS**

<b>PSCI 1050: American Government – Policies and Processes</b>		<b>3 Hrs</b>
<b>Department of</b>	<b>Social Sciences</b>	<b>Division of Liberal Arts and Life Science</b>
<b>Instructor Name:</b>	<i>Ronald Hy</i>	
<b>Office Location:</b>	<i>Founders Hall, 322</i>	
<b>Office Phone:</b>	972-338-1588 (I only answer and check phone messages when I am in the office. Please communicate by official university email if you want a prompt reply.)	
<b>Email Address:</b>	ronald.hy@untDallas.edu	
<b>Office Hours:</b>	Tuesday: 10:00 – 11:30 am; 2:30 – 3:30 pm; 4:30 – 5:30 pm Wednesday: 10:00 – 11:30 am Thursday: 10:00 – 11:30 am; 2:30 – 3:30 pm; 4:30 – 5:30 pm and by appointment	
<b>Virtual Office Hours:</b>	None, but you may email at any time. I will try to answer within 24 hours.	
<b>Classroom Location:</b>	Founders Hall	
<b>Class Meeting Days &amp; Times:</b>	Tuesday and Thursday	
<b>Course Catalog Description:</b>	Political parties, elections, interest groups, mass media, public opinion and public policy.	
<b>Prerequisites :</b>	None. However, knowledge of material covered in PSCI 1040 lays a foundation in democratic principles and the organization of American government that will benefit discussions in PSCI 1050.	
<b>Co-requisites:</b>	None	
<b>Required Text:</b>	Kollman, Ken. 2014 <u>The American Political System</u> , 2d ed. NY: Norton.	
<b>Recommended Text and References:</b>	Additional online readings linked to homework assignments and quizzes may be assigned.	
<b>Access to Learning Resources:</b>	UNT Dallas Library: phone: (972) 780-3625; web: <a href="http://www.unt.edu/unt-dallas/library.htm">http://www.unt.edu/unt-dallas/library.htm</a> UNT Dallas Bookstore: phone: (972) 780-3652; e-mail: <a href="mailto:1012mgr@fheg.follett.com">1012mgr@fheg.follett.com</a>	

<b>Learning Objectives/Outcomes: At the end of this course, the student will:</b>	
1	Be able to discuss individual and mass behaviors of the American electorate with regards to the decision to participate, voter turnout, voter choice, party electoral strategies and bureaucratic decision-making.
2	Be able to discuss the policy processes in the American federal and Texas state governments;
3	Demonstrate the ability to write cogently about major issues in American and state government and public responses to those initiatives;
4	Define roles and processes used to produce policy;
5	Identify past, current and future issues of American and Texas government, including differences and similarities in state and federal approaches to major policy initiatives;
<b>General Education objectives</b>	
6	The course is designed to enhance critical thinking through inquiry and analysis and the creative linking of disparate or similar concepts.
7	The course is designed to enhance written, oral and reading skills to promote communication.
8	The course is designed to ensure UNT Dallas graduates are socially responsible, interculturally competent, and civically engaged through enhanced knowledge of local and global governments and issues, and through various culture-based approaches underlying government institutions and policy.
9	The course promotes personal responsibility through discussions of ethical problems and reasoning in the public sphere.
10	Taken together, these general education objectives are designed to achieve the ultimate goal of the university, to provide skills and a conceptual foundation that allows graduates to continue learning long after leaving the university.

### Course Outline

This schedule is subject to change by the instructor. Any changes to this schedule will be communicated via Blackboard.

Module	Readings	Timeline
Task 1	Chapter 1: Introduction	Oct 26-28
Task 2	Chapter 10: Political Participation	Sept 2-4
Task 3	Chapter 9 & 14: Public Opinion & Mass Media	Sept 9-18
<b>ASSIGNMENT &amp; TEST 1</b>		<b>Tuesday, September 23, 2014</b>
Task 4	Chapter 11: Interest Groups	Sept 25-Oct 7
Task 5	Chapter 12: Political Parties	Oct 9-21
Task 6	Chapter 13: Elections & Campaigns	Oct 23-30
<b>ASSIGNMENT &amp; TEST 2</b>		<b>Tuesday, November 04, 2014</b>
Task 7	Chapter 15: Economic Policy	Nov 6-13
Task 8	Taxing & Budgeting in Texas	Nov 18-25
Task 9	Spending in Texas	Nov 28-Dec 2
Task 10	Chapter 17: Foreign Policy	Dec 4
<b>FINAL EXAM</b>		<b>Monday, December 08, 2014</b>

## Course Evaluation Methods

This course will utilize the following instruments to determine student grades and proficiency of the learning outcomes for the course.

### Grading Matrix:

Test 1	40 points
Test 2	40 points
Final Exam	40 points
Newspaper articles	40 points
Assignments	30 points
<b>Total</b>	<b>190 points</b>

- 1) **Exams.** Students will take two tests and a final exam through the course of the semester. Each test will be worth 40 points. The final exam will not be comprehensive.
- 2) ***Make-up tests will be essays and will only be given with proper documentation for university-excused absences. Students are responsible for all materials covered if absent and for contacting me immediately to schedule make-up tests.***

- 3) **Newspaper or internet articles.** At the end of each class, each student can submit a neatly presented article about some issues pertaining to American or Texas government and a two-paragraph typed summary (at least three sentences per paragraph) of that article. Only one article and summary will be accepted on the day of the class, and the student must attend class to submit the article and summary. Students CANNOT submit articles for other students. The article must be printed from the Internet. An Internet address for Texas newspapers is as follows: [http://www.50states.com/news/texas.htm#U-eXn\\_IdVyy](http://www.50states.com/news/texas.htm#U-eXn_IdVyy)

- The worth of these items is as follows:

✓ 22 - 20 articles	40 points
✓ 19 - 17 articles	30 points
✓ 16 - 14 articles	20 points
✓ 13 - 11 articles	10 points
✓ 10 – 8 articles	5 points
✓ < 8 articles	0 points

- 4) **Assignments.** Students are required to complete one assignment that will be due the day of each test. Each assignment is worth 15 points, for a total of 30 points. The assignments can be found on Blackboard.

### Grade Determination

Grades will be given using the following scale as a foundation:

A = (90 –100%)
B = (80 – 89%)
C = (70 – 79%)
D = (60 – 69%)
F = (59% or less)

## **University Policies and Procedures**

### **Students with Disabilities (ADA Compliance):**

*The University of North Texas Dallas faculty is committed to complying with the Americans with Disabilities Act (ADA). Students' with documented disabilities are responsible for informing faculty of their needs for reasonable accommodations and providing written authorized documentation. Grades assigned before an accommodation is provided will not be changed as accommodations are not retroactive. For more information, you may visit the Student Life Office, Suite 200, Building 2 or call Laura Smith at 972-780-3632.*

### **Student Evaluation of Teaching Effectiveness Policy:**

*The Student Evaluation of Teaching Effectiveness (SETE) is a requirement for all organized classes at UNT. This short survey will be made available to you at the end of the semester, providing you a chance to comment on how this class is taught. I am very interested in the feedback I get from students, as I work to continually improve my teaching. I consider the SETE to be an important part of your participation in this class.*

### **Exam Policy:**

*Exams should be taken as scheduled. No makeup examinations will be allowed except for documented emergencies (See Student Handbook).*

### **Academic Integrity:**

*Academic integrity is a hallmark of higher education. You are expected to abide by the University's code of Academic Integrity policy. Any person suspected of academic dishonesty (i.e., cheating or plagiarism) will be handled in accordance with the University's policies and procedures. Refer to the Student Code of Academic Integrity at <http://www.unt.edu/unt-dallas/policies/Chapter%2007%20Student%20Affairs,%20Education,%20and%20Funding/7.002%20Code%20of%20Academic%20Integrity.pdf> for complete provisions of this code.*

*In addition, all academic work submitted for this class, including exams, papers, and written assignments should include the following statement:*

**On my honor, I have not given, nor received, nor witnessed any unauthorized assistance that violates the UNTD Academic Integrity Policy.**

### **Bad Weather Policy:**

*On those days that present severe weather and driving conditions, a decision may be made to close the campus. In case of inclement weather, call UNT Dallas Campuses main voicemail number (972) 780-3600 or search postings on the campus website [www.unt.edu/dallas](http://www.unt.edu/dallas). Students are encouraged to update their Eagle Alert contact information, so they will receive this information automatically.*

### **Attendance and Participation Policy:**

*The University attendance policy is in effect for this course. Class attendance and participation is expected because the class is designed as a shared learning experience and because essential information not in the textbook will be discussed in class. The dynamic and intensive nature of this course makes it impossible for students to make-up or to receive credit for missed classes. Attendance and participation in all class meetings is essential to the integration of course material and your ability to demonstrate proficiency. Students are responsible to notify the instructor if they are missing class and for what reason. Students are also responsible to make up any work covered in class. It is recommended that each student coordinate with a student colleague to obtain a copy of the class notes, if they are absent.*

### **Diversity/Tolerance Policy:**

*Students are encouraged to contribute their perspectives and insights to class discussions. However, offensive & inappropriate language (swearing) and remarks offensive to others of particular nationalities, ethnic groups, sexual preferences, religious groups, genders, or other ascribed statuses will not be*

*tolerated. Disruptions which violate the Code of Student Conduct will be referred to the Office of Student Life as the instructor deems appropriate.*

**Note:**

- Use of Cell Phones & other Electronic Gadgets in the Classroom
- Food & Drink in the Classroom
- Use of Laptops
- Grade of Incomplete, "I"
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