

Political Science (PSCI) 1040.003, Fall 2013
 American Government: Laws and Institutions
 Eagle Student Services Center (ESSC) 255, TR 8:00- 9:20 am

Instructor:

Dr. John Ishiyama
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Assigned Students (If your last name falls in this range your initial point of contact is this Teaching Assistant):	Accettura-Hagan	Hall-Norris	Occhialini-Young

There is a blackboard site for this course where all homework assignments can be accessed. In addition copies of documents will be placed there as well (e.g. the syllabus).

I. Course Goals: This is an introductory American government course designed to examine the development of the institutional structures of the U.S. and Texas political systems. To be able to analyze the US political system, we will be adopting an explicitly **Comparative Perspective, i.e. how does the US political system compare with the political system of other countries.** There are two reasons for this. First, being able to understand the development and operation of the political systems of other countries, helps us understand why the American political system developed in the way it did. Further, comparison offers potential alternatives to consider if one were interested in effecting improvement in the US system. The second is more practical: the instructor is primarily trained as a comparative political scientist, and has extensive experience studying other political systems, particularly in Europe, the former Soviet Union, and Africa. Thus, every effort will be made to understand the US political system in comparison with other political systems.

By the end of the semester, students will be able to identify, analyze, and evaluate the national institutions of government—Congress, the Presidency, the Bureaucracy, the Judiciary, and related state level institutions. Student learning objectives include:

- 1.1 Demonstrating the ability to identify and explain constitutionalism.
- 1.2 Comprehending the principles of Federalism.
- 1.3 Synthesizing the roles of the executive, legislative, and judicial branches of government.
- 2.1 Demonstrating an awareness and recognition of the scope of democratic theory.
- 2.2 Differentiating between civil rights and civil liberties.

This course satisfies state mandated requirements for a course emphasizing the U.S. and Texas constitutions.

II. Required Texts:

Patterson, Thomas (2012) WE THE PEOPLE 10th ed (special UNT edition) New York: McGraw Hill

III. Policy on attendance: I do not take regular attendance. Whether you choose to attend or not is entirely up to you. However, much of what appears on the exams will be taken directly from lectures, so it is very much in your interest to attend on a regular basis.

IV. TAMS Students: If you are absent for any reason, you are required to file an absence report with the TAMS Academic Office. In addition, as your professor, I will send periodic attendance reports to the TAMS Academic Office. TAMS specifically prohibits the use of laptop computers or other electronic devices (head phones and cell phones, for example) during the class lecture. Audio recorders are OK as well as electronic tablets.

V. University of North Texas--Policy on Cheating and Plagiarism: Academic Integrity.
(See UNT Policy 18.1.16 http://www.unt.edu/policy/UNT_Policy/volume3/18_1_16.pdf)

Categories of Academic Dishonesty.

Cheating. The use of unauthorized assistance in an academic exercise, including but not limited to:

- use of any unauthorized assistance to take exams, tests, quizzes or other assessments;
- dependence upon the aid of sources beyond those authorized by the instructor in writing papers, preparing reports, solving problems or carrying out other assignments;
- acquisition, without permission, of tests, notes or other academic materials belonging to a faculty or staff member of the University;
- dual submission of a paper or project, or re-submission of a paper or project to a different class without express permission from the instructor;
- any other act designed to give a student an unfair advantage on an academic assignment.

Plagiarism. Use of another's thoughts or words without proper attribution in any academic exercise, regardless of the student's intent, including but not limited to:

- the knowing or negligent use by paraphrase or direct quotation of the published or unpublished work of another person without full and clear acknowledgement or citation.
- the knowing or negligent unacknowledged use of materials prepared by another person or by an agency engaged in selling term papers or other academic materials.

Forgery. Altering a score, grade or official academic university record or forging the signature of an instructor or other student.

Fabrication. Falsifying or inventing any information, data or research as part of an academic exercise.

Facilitating Academic Dishonesty. Helping or assisting another in the commission of academic dishonesty.

Sabotage. Acting to prevent others from completing their work or disrupting the academic work of others.

Available Academic Penalties: The following academic penalties may be assessed at the instructor's discretion upon determination that academic dishonesty has occurred. Admonitions and educational assignments are not appealable.

Admonition. The student may be issued a verbal or written warning.

Assignment of Educational Coursework. The student may be required to perform additional coursework not required of other students in the specific course.

Partial or no credit for an assignment or assessment. The instructor may award partial or no credit for the assignment or assessment on which the student engaged in academic dishonesty, to be calculated into the final course grade.

Department of Political Science POLICY ON ACADEMIC INTEGRITY: The Political Science Department adheres to and enforces UNT's policy on academic integrity (cheating, plagiarism, forgery, fabrication, facilitating academic dishonesty and sabotage). Students in this class should review the policy (UNT Policy Manual Section 18.1.16), which may be located at http://policy.unt.edu/sites/default/files/untpolicy/pdf/7-Student_Affairs-Academic_Integrity.pdf. Violations of academic integrity in this course will be addressed in compliance with the penalties and procedures laid out in this policy.

VI. University of North Texas-Statement of ADA Compliance: The Political Science Department cooperates with the Office of Disability Accommodation to make reasonable accommodations for qualified students with disabilities. Please present your written accommodation request on or before the sixth class day (beginning of the second Day of classes).

VII. Course Requirements: There will be three major exams scheduled for this term. The first is scheduled for October 3 and is worth 100 points. The second is scheduled for November 5 and is worth 100 points. The third is the final examination (scheduled for December 10, 8:00 a.m. - 10:00 a.m.) is worth 125 points and is a comprehensive examination.

In addition homework assignments are worth a total of 180 points. These homework assignments are designed to both allow you to review material from the previous lecture (asking questions about material that appeared in lecture, but not in the readings) and also prepare you for the next topic's lectures by answering questions about future readings. The homework will be available in LearnSmart (which you can access via blackboard). The assignment will be made available on the day specified on the syllabus, and due on the day and time specified by the syllabus.

Grades: Your final grade will be calculated based on 505 total points

Anything in the lectures, class discussion, and assigned readings is fair game for exam questions.

The workbook provides you with additional resources for your learning experience. Each chapter corresponds with the topic under discussion in class. Assignments will be turned in on the Blackboard site. **UNDER NO CIRCUMSTANCE WILL LATE ASSIGNMENTS BE ACCEPTED.** If you have a question about how your assignment is graded or you think there is an error in the grade assignment, please contact the teaching assistant assigned to prior to the next class meeting after the grade is posted. **FAILURE TO DO SO WAIVES YOUR ABILITY TO APPEAL THE ASSIGNMENT GRADE.**

VIII. Miscellaneous: If you miss class, it is incumbent on you to be responsible for the notes. You should ask one of your classmates for notes in the unlikely event that you miss class.

I do not mind if you use a laptop or recording devices during lectures. However do not distract your fellow students with the device (e.g. by watching movies or something irrelevant to class)

PLEASE TURN CELL PHONES OFF DURING CLASS!

ALSO, ABSOLUTELY NO ELECTRONIC DEVICES OF ANY KIND (e.g. computers, phones, ipads, etc) WILL BE ALLOWED DURING AN EXAM.

NO DARK GLASSES DURING THE EXAMINATION TIME.

BATHROOM BREAKS WILL NOT BE ALLOWED DURING EXAMINATIONS.

NO ONE WILL BE ALLOWED IN THE ROOM TO TAKE THE EXAM AFTER THE FIRST PERSON LEAVES.

FAILURE TO COMPLY WILL RESULT IN THE ASSIGNMENT OF AN IMMEDIATE FAILING GRADE FOR THAT EXAMINATION.

I will post the power point slides on the blackboard site. They will appear within one week after the lecture. Powerpoint slides are not meant as a substitute for class attendance.

IX. Schedule of lecture topics and readings:

Topic 1	August 29 Introduction the class September 3: Core Values of American Democracy and What Causes Democracy? Readings: Patterson Ch. 1, Democracy in the U.S. No assignments
Topic 2	September 5-10: the Development of American Democracy Readings: Patterson Ch. 2

Homework (covers previous lecture September 5-10 and readings for Sept 12 and 17 due September 11 by midnight)

- Topic 3 September 12-17 Constitutionalism and Constitutionalism in Comparative Perspective: US, Texas, and other constitutions
Readings: Patterson Ch 10 and ch 11
Homework (covers previous lecture September 12-17 and readings for September 19-24 due September 18 by midnight)
- Topic 4 September 19-24 – October 4 Federalism and American Political Development
Patterson Ch. 3
Homework (covers previous lecture September 19-24 and readings for September 26 due September 25 by midnight)
- Topic 5 September 26 Federalism in Comparative Perspective

EXAM 1 October 3

- Topic 6 October 8-10 The Legislature
Readings: Patterson chp 6
Homework (covers previous lecture September 26, Oct 8-10 and readings for October 15-17 due October 14 by midnight)
- Topic 7 October 15-17 The Legislature: Comparative Perspectives
Patterson chp 12
Homework (covers previous lecture Oct 15-17 and readings for October 22-24 due October 21 by midnight)
- Topic 8 October 22-24 The Executive
Readings: Patterson ch 7
Homework (covers previous lecture Oct 22-24 and readings for October 29-31 due October 28 by midnight)
- Topic 9 **October 29-October 31** The Executive: Comparative Perspectives
Readings: ch 13

EXAM 2 November 5

- Topic 10 November 7-12 The Federal Bureaucracy
Readings: Patterson ch 8
Homework (covers previous lecture Nov 7-12 and readings for Nov 14-19 due October 14 by midnight)
- Topic 11 November 14- 19 The Courts
Readings: Patterson chp 9 and chp 14
Homework (covers previous lecture Nov 14-19 and readings for Nov 21-26 due Nov 20 by midnight)
- Topic 12 November 21- November 26 Civil Liberties
Readings: Patterson chp 4
Homework (covers previous lecture Nov 21-26 and readings for Dec 3-5 due Dec 2 by midnight)

Thanksgiving Break November 28- December 1

Topic 13 December 3-5 Civil Rights
Readings: Patterson ch 5

FINAL EXAM : Tuesday December 10, 8:00 a.m. - 10:00 a.m. ESSC 255