

**Political Science (PSCI) 1040.008, Fall 2014**  
 American Government: Laws and Institutions  
 AUDITORIUM BUILDING 100 (Audb 100),  
 TR 8:00- 9:20 am

Instructor:

Dr. John Ishiyama

Office: 166 Wooten Hall

Office Hours: Tuesdays and Thursdays 10:30-12:00 p.m. and by appointment

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Assigned Students (If your last name falls in this range your initial point of contact is this Teaching Assistant):	Abdelzrik- Enterline	Evans- Leavoy	Lebos- Reid	Remsburg- Zetina

**Student Supplemental Instructor: Allyse Griffin**

**YOUR FIRST POINT OF CONTACT WITH THE COURSE IS YOUR ASSIGNED TEACHING ASSISTANT- IF YOU HAVE QUESTIONS, FIRST CONTACT YOUR TA, BEFORE CONTACTING THE PROFESSOR**

**BEFORE WRITING THE PROFESSOR PLEASE READ**

<http://m.wikihow.com/Email-a-Professor>. (Link also available on the blackboard site)

*There is a blackboard site for this course where text and workbook assignments can be accessed. (<https://learn.unt.edu/>) 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:**

There is one textbook for the course required for purchase.

Jocelyn Evans and Kristy Michaud (2014) Central Ideas in American Government (online textbook available via blackboard site) Soomo Publishing.

The textbook is packaged with the 1040 workbook Laws and Institutions, First Edition.

Both of these are available for purchase online. The instructions on how to link with text book are available on the blackboard site for the course under the file “UNTbundlequickstart.pdf”.

As for purchasing access, students can either purchase passkeys from the bookstore which you can use to access the webtext or you can purchase access directly from Soomo

**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, so please do so.

**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](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](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. Students may appeal any decision under this policy by following the procedures laid down in the UNT Policy Manual Section 18.1.16 "Student Standards of Academic Integrity".

***Acceptable Student Behavior:***

Student behavior that interferes with an instructor's ability to conduct a class or other students' opportunity to learn is unacceptable and disruptive and will not be tolerated in any instructional forum at UNT. Students engaging in unacceptable behavior will be directed to leave the classroom and the instructor may refer the student to the Center for Student Rights and Responsibilities to consider whether the student's conduct violated the Code of Student Conduct. The university's expectations for student conduct apply to all instructional forums, including university and electronic classroom, labs, discussion groups, field trips, etc. The Code of Student Conduct can be found at <https://deanofstudents.unt.edu/conduct>.

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 University of North Texas makes reasonable academic accommodation for students with disabilities. Students seeking accommodation must first register with the Office of Disability Accommodation (ODA) to verify their eligibility. If a disability is verified, the ODA will provide you with an accommodation letter to be delivered to faculty to begin a private discussion regarding your specific needs in a course. You may request accommodations at any time, however, ODA notices of accommodation should be provided as early as possible in the semester to avoid any delay in implementation.

Note that students must obtain a new letter of accommodation for *every* semester and must meet with *each* faculty member prior to implementation in each class. For additional information see the Office of Disability Accommodation website at <http://www.unt.edu/oda>. You may also contact them by phone at 940.565.4323.

**VII. Course Requirements:** On September 2, there will be a syllabus quiz (in class). Be prepared by reading carefully the syllabus. This is worth 30 points. There will be three major exams scheduled for this term. The first is scheduled for October 2 and is worth 200 points. The second is scheduled for November 4 and is worth 200 points. The third is the final examination (scheduled for December 9, 8:00 a.m. - 10:00 a.m.) is worth 250 points and is a comprehensive examination.

In addition workbook assignments are worth a total of 320 points. These assignments are designed to help you prepare for the examination

Grades: **Your final grade will be calculated based on 1000 total points**

**THERE WILL BE NO EXTRA CREDIT OFFERED TO INDIVIDUALS FOR THIS COURSE. IT IS FUNDAMENTALLY UNFAIR TO OFFER EXTRA CREDIT TO INDIVIDUALS AND NOT TO THE ENTIRE CLASS. SO PLEASE DO NOT ASK FOR EXTRA CREDIT.**

**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. If you complete the workbook assignment by the assigned due date on the syllabus, you can earn up to 100% of the points. If you turn the workbook assignment late, after the due date, you can earn up to 50% of the points, up until **TWO WEEKS AFTER THE DUE DATE. UNDER NO CIRCUMSTANCES WILL LATE ASSIGNMENTS BEYOND THE FINAL DUE DATE 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. Do not ask either the TA or me for notes from the class.

**YOUR FIRST POINT OF CONTACT WITH THE COURSE IS YOUR ASSIGNED TEACHING ASSISTANT- IF YOU HAVE QUESTIONS, FIRST CONTACT YOUR TA.**

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 COMPLETES AND 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 after the lecture. Powerpoint slides are not meant as a substitute for class attendance. The lectures will also appear in PANOPTO slide captures which will allow you to hear the lecture as well.

### **IX. Supplemental Instruction**

A Supplemental Instruction (SI) component is provided for all students who want to improve their understanding of the material taught in this course. SI sessions are led by a student who has already mastered the course material and has been trained to facilitate group sessions where students can meet to compare class notes, review and discuss important concepts, develop strategies for studying, and prepare for exams. Attendance at SI sessions is free and voluntary. Students may attend as many times as they choose. SI sessions begin the second week of class and continue throughout the semester. A session schedule will be announced in class. For information about the program, and session schedule/updates, visit: <http://learningcenter.unt.edu/>

### **X. Schedule of lecture topics and readings:**

Topic 1           August 26-  
  Introduction to the class  
  No readings

### **NO CLASS THURSDAY AUGUST 28 (I will be away at a conference)**

Topic 2                            September 2-9 the Development of American Democracy  
Readings: CIAG chp 1, Workbook chapter 3

**Workbook assignments from workbook chp 3 due September 11 by midnight**

Topic 3                   September 11-16 Constitutionalism and Constitutionalism in Comparative  
  Perspective: US, Texas, and other constitutions  
Readings: CIAG chapter 2  
**(pay particular attention to powerpoint slides on comparative constitutions of Britain and Russia)**

Topic 4                            September 18-23 –Federalism and American Political  
Development    CIAG chapter 4; Workbook chapter 5

**Workbook assignments from workbook chp 5 due September 25 by midnight**

- Topic 5            September 25 Federalism in Comparative Perspective  
**(pay particular attention to powerpoint slides on comparative federalism)**

**EXAM 1 October 2**

- Topic 6            October 7-14 The Legislature  
Readings: CIAG chp 6; workbook chp 7  
**Workbook assignments from workbook chp 7 due October 16 by midnight**

- Topic 7            October 16 The Legislature: Comparative Perspectives  
**(pay particular attention to powerpoint slides on comparative legislatures, especially the British case)**

- Topic 8            October 21-28 The Executive  
Readings: Patterson chp 8; workbook chp 9  
**Workbook assignments from workbook chp 9 due October 30 by midnight**

- Topic 9            **October 30-Nov 2** The Executive: Comparative Perspectives  
**(pay particular attention to powerpoint slides on comparative executives)**

**EXAM 2 November 4**

- Topic 10           November 6-11 The Federal Bureaucracy  
Readings: CIAG chp 10; workbook chp 11.  
**Workbook assignments from workbook chp 11 due Nov 13 by midnight**

- Topic 11           November 13- 18 The Courts  
Readings: CIAG chp 12; workbook chp13  
**Workbook assignments from workbook chp 13 due Nov 20 by midnight**

- Topic 12           November 20- November 25 Civil Liberties  
Readings: CIAG chp 14; workbook chp15  
**Workbook assignments from workbook chp 13 due December 2 by midnight**

**Thanksgiving Break November 27- November 30**

Topic 13

December 2-4 Civil Rights

Readings: CIAG chp 16; workbook chp17

**Workbook assignments from workbook chp 17 due SUNDAY  
December 8 by midnight**

**FINAL EXAM :** Tuesday December 9, 8:00 a.m. - 10:00 a.m.