

Political Science (PSCI) 1040.006, Fall 2011
 American Government: Laws and Institutions
 Eagle Student Services Center (ESSC) 255, 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):	Adame-Hazen	Heidt -Potts	Price - Young

Supplemental Instruction

Student Supplemental Instructor: **James Mayfield**

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/>

There is a blackboard vista site for this course where all workbook assignments can be accessed and all workbook assignments are to be turned in. In addition copies of documents will be placed there as well (e.g. the syllabus). PLEASE MAKE SURE THAT YOU ARE ABLE TO SECURE WORKBOOK ACCESS

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:

- Fiorina, Peterson, Johnson, and Mayer. *The New American Democracy UNT Custom Edition* (F, P, J, & M) Custom edition is available at UNT bookstore (on campus).
- Perspectives on American & Texas Politics (Electronic Workbook)
(C) This can ONLY be purchased via the UNT book store (on campus)

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 Dr. Allen of 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 4 and is worth 100 points. The second is scheduled for November 3 and is worth 100 points. The third is the final examination (scheduled for December 15) is worth 125 points and is a comprehensive examination.

In addition workbook assignments in total are worth 150 points

Finally, you will write two 750-1000 word essays using the Calibrated Peer Review system (which will be explained later in the term. The essay assignments will be worth 50 points for a total of 100 points

Grades: Your final grade will be calculated where based on 575 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 WORKBOOK 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, if you wish to use a laptop or notebook computer (including Ipads) you must sit in an area designated by the instructor (in the first three rows of the lecture hall). This is to ensure that the use of these instruments do not distract your fellow classmates.

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. 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 25-30: Introduction- What affects the development of democracy?
Readings:
F, P, J, &M, Ch. 1, Democracy in the U.S.

Workbook, Ch. 1

NO CLASS THURSDAY SEPTEMBER 1 (WILL BE AT A CONFERENCE)

- Topic 2 September 6-8: the Development of American Democracy
Exercises 1-2, 1-3, and 1-5 due on September 8
Readings: F, P, J, &M Ch. 2, Establishing a Constitutional Democracy
Workbook Ch. 2
- Topic 3 September 13-15 Constitutionalism and Constitutionalism in Comparative Perspective
Readings: F, P, J, &M TX-2 the Texas Constitution, APPENDICES 1-4 pp. 613-635
Exercises 2-1, 2-3, and 2-5 due on September 15
Workbook Ch. 3

FIRST CALLIBRATED PEER REVIEW ASSIGNMENT ON THE FOUNDATION OF THE CONSTITUTION DISTRIBUTED SEPTEMBER 20 DUE September 27

- Topic 4 September 20-22 – October 4 Federalism
Readings F, P, J, &M, Chap. 3, Federalism;
workbook, Ch. 4
Exercises 3-1, 3-2, 3-5 due on the September 22
- Topic 5 September 27-29 Federalism in Comparative Perspective and American Political Culture.
Readings F, P, J, &M, Chap. 4, American Political Culture
Exercises 4-1, 4-3, 4-5 due on September 29

EXAM 1 October 4

- Topic 6 October 6-11 The Legislature
Readings: F, P, J, &M, Ch. 12, Congress and its Work; Workbook, Ch. 5
- Topic 7 October 13-18 The Legislature: Comparative Perspectives
F, P, J, &M, TX-2 the Texas Legislature **Exercises 5-2, 5-3, 5-4, due on October 18**
- Topic 8 October 20-25 The Executive
Readings: F, P, J, &M, Ch. 13, the Presidency; Workbook, Ch. 6
- Topic 9 **October 27**-November 1 The Executive: Comparative Perspectives
F, P, J, &M, TX-2 the Texas Executive and Bureaucracy (up to page 130)
Exercises, 6-2, 6-6 due on the November 1

EXAM 2 November 3

- Topic 10 November 8-10 The Bureaucracy
Readings: F, P, J, &M, Ch. 14, the Bureaucracy;
Workbook, Ch. 7
F, P, J, &M, TX-2 the Texas Executive and Bureaucracy (from page 132-end of chapter)
Exercises, 7-2 and 7-4 due on November 10
- Topic 11 November 15- 17 The Courts
Readings: F, P, J, &M, Ch. 15, the Courts; TX-5 The Texas Judiciary; Workbook, Ch. 8
Exercises 8-1, 8-3 due on December 1

SECOND CALLIBRATED PEER REVIEW ASSIGNMENT ON THE IMPORTANCE OF MARBURY VS. MADISON DISTRIBUTED November 15 DUE November 22

Thanksgiving Break November 24-27

- Topic 12 November 22- November 29 Civil Liberties
Readings: F, P, J, &M, Ch. 16, Civil Liberties; Workbook, Ch. 9.
Exercise 9-1, 9-2 due on November 29
- Topic 13 December 1-6 Civil Rights
Readings: F, P, J, &M, Ch. 17, Civil Rights, Workbook. Ch. 10
Exercises 10-1, 10-2, 10-3, 10-4 due on December 6
- Topic 14 December 8 -Review

FINAL EXAM : Thursday December 15, 8:00 a.m. - 10:00 a.m. ESSC 255