Instructor: Professor Collins
Office: Wooten Hall 133
Office Hours: 10:30-12:00 Mondays and Wednesdays and by appointment
E-mail: pmcollins@unt.edu

Contact information and office hours for the Teaching Assistants and Supplemental Instructor will be posted on the course’s Blackboard Learn page.

Objectives
The purpose of this course is to introduce students to the roles of the U.S. and Texas governments in the American political system. We will consider the institutions, processes, and decisions of political actors that define American and Texas government. In addition, we will focus particular attention on a multitude of issues, including the U.S. and Texas constitutions, civil rights and liberties, federalism, as well as the three branches of government.

Readings
Students are required to have access to the following books:


Note: The Cox eWorkbook is available solely in an electronic format. As such, students will need to purchase an eWorkbook access code.


Note: The Fiorina book is a composite of two textbooks (Fiorina et al., The New American Democracy [7th ed.] and Dye et al., Politics in America, Texas Edition [9th ed.]) that is custom printed for this class. This saves you the expense of purchasing the two textbooks separately. Due to this, it is unlikely that you will be able to purchase this book at an online retailer.

Purchasing Options:

(1) Students may purchase a bundled hardcopy edition of Fiorina and an eWorkbook access code through the UNT bookstore (retail cost, new: $109.75).
(2) Students may purchase a standalone hardcopy edition of Fiorina through the UNT bookstore (retail cost: $79.00).

(3) Students may purchase a standalone access code for the eWorkbook from the UNT bookstore (retail cost: $30.75).

(4) Students may purchase a bundled electronic edition of Fiorina and an eWorkbook access code, using a major credit card, from Pearson publications (retail cost: $51.60). To do this, log onto this course's Blackboard Learn page at [https://learn.unt.edu/](https://learn.unt.edu/). Once there, you should go into the “Pearson Content” folder in the left menu and select the “Pearson Login” folder. Next, select “Purchase” under the text reading “To purchase access to the Fiorina/Dye PSCI 1040 eTextbook, eWorkbook (and MyPoliSciLab), please click Purchase below.” Alternatively, you can follow this direct link: [https://register.pearsoncmg.com/reg/include/consent.jsp?originalDest=/reg/buy/buy1.jsp?productID=166075](https://register.pearsoncmg.com/reg/include/consent.jsp?originalDest=/reg/buy/buy1.jsp?productID=166075).

(5) Students may purchase a standalone access code, using a major credit card, for the eWorkbook from Pearson publications (retail cost: $37.50). To do this, log onto this course’s Blackboard Learn page at [https://learn.unt.edu/](https://learn.unt.edu/). Once there, you should go into the “Pearson Content” folder in the left menu and select the “Pearson Login” folder. Next, select “Purchase” under the text reading “To purchase access to the PSCI 1040 eWorkbook (and MyPoliSciLab), please click Purchase below.” Alternatively, you can follow this direct link: [https://register.pearsoncmg.com/reg/include/consent.jsp?originalDest=/reg/buy/buy1.jsp?productID=166076](https://register.pearsoncmg.com/reg/include/consent.jsp?originalDest=/reg/buy/buy1.jsp?productID=166076).

Notes:

(1) From August 29 to September 7, 2012, the Political Science Department will provide personnel to assist you in purchasing and registering for the course materials, as well as with any other technological issues you might have. A schedule of these timeslots will be made available on the course’s Blackboard Learn page at [https://learn.unt.edu/](https://learn.unt.edu/) under “Student Support Hours” in the “Course Content” folder. The student support hours will be held in Room 550A of the General Academic Building (the computer lab).

(2) Once you have purchased or redeemed your access codes for the Cox eWorkbook, you can set up an account to access the eWorkbook (and the electronic version of the Fiorina textbook, if applicable) through the “Pearson Login” folder on Blackboard Learn that appears in the “Pearson Content” tab. When you register, you may be given an option to “Join a Course” or to use “Self Study eText.” If you are given this option, you should select “Self Study eText.” You must login through the “Pearson Login” folder each time you wish to view these materials.

(3) If you are having trouble accessing the materials from Pearson Publications, you should contact Pearson’s Tech Support. To do this, log onto this course’s Blackboard Learn page at [https://learn.unt.edu/](https://learn.unt.edu/). Once there, you should go into the “Pearson Content” folder in the left menu and select the “Tech Support” folder. This will provide you with a series of links regarding the course materials. Remember: the Professor and Teaching Assistants are not technical support personnel!

(4) When you purchase access to the Cox eWorkbook, Pearson publications also provides access to MyPoliSciLab, an online teaching and learning solution for American government. While this can be a useful resource, you are not required to use MyPoliSciLab for this course.
All readings are required and listed the day they are expected to be read in the course schedule section. I suggest you prepare questions to bring to class if you have any trouble understanding the readings.

**Grades**

Final grades will be computed on the following basis:

- **90-100% = A**
- **60-69% = D**
- **80-89% = B**
- **0.0-59% = F**
- **70-79% = C**

Note that only a student’s final average in the class is rounded up (final averages with decimal values of 0.5 and above are rounded to the next whole number). Individual grades for the exams, eWorkbook assessments, and the extra credit assignment are not rounded up.

**Exams (Exam 1 – 25%; Exam 2 – 25%; Final Exam – 25%)**

There will be three examinations in this class. All exams are closed book. Exams will utilize a multiple choice format. Scantrons will be provided, but students must bring a #2 pencil with them to the examinations. In addition, students must bring their student identification cards with them to the examinations. The final exam will not be cumulative. Rather, it will cover material addressed during the last third of the semester. For the examinations, students are responsible for all lectures, textbook, and eWorkbook readings (although no questions that appeared on the eWorkbook assessments will also appear on the examinations). I will make review sheets for each exam available to students on the course’s Blackboard Learn page. We will use any remaining time during the class period before the examinations to conduct a review session.

**Workbook Assessments (25%)**

Students will complete five eWorkbook assessments. The due dates for the eWorkbook assessments are delineated in the course schedule section below. Each eWorkbook assessment will contribute 5% to the student’s grade. eWorkbook assessments must be completed electronically on the course’s Blackboard Learn page (https://learn.unt.edu/). It is my experience that most assessments will take about 1 to 2 hours to complete on average, excluding time spent reading the relevant chapter. Note that the eWorkbook assessments are individual, not group, assignments. Sharing answers on the assessments is a form of academic dishonesty and will be treated as such.

The eWorkbook assessments are based on the Cox eWorkbook. As such, students must ensure that they have access to the 9th Edition of the eWorkbook. Students should first read the entire eWorkbook chapter corresponding to the assessment (including the text and exercises that follow the main entry in each chapter). Next, students should access the eWorkbook assessments through the course’s Blackboard Learn page by selecting the “Assessments” tab in the upper left hand menu bar. Once there, students can select the relevant assessment and begin working on the assessment by clicking “Begin.” (Note: Depending on the processing power of your computer and the speed of your internet connection, it may take some time for the assessment to load). If you plan on leaving the assessment, be sure to save your answers so you can access them later by clicking “Save Answer” after you complete each question.

After completing all questions in the assessment, students must submit their work for grading. This can be accomplished by clicking “Save and Submit” on the bottom of the assessment page.
For example, the first assessment involves questions from Chapter 4 of the Cox eWorkbook. After reading Chapter 4 of the eWorkbook and the text corresponding to the questions, students should access the assessment by selecting the “Assessments” tab on the upper left hand menu bar. Next, select “Chapter 4 eWorkbook Assessment” and then select “Begin.” A new window will pop-up containing the questions for this assessment. Once you have completed the entire assessment, click “Save and Submit” to submit your assessment.

eWorkbook assessments must be submitted by 9:00AM on the day the assessments are due. For example, the Chapter 4 eWorkbook assessment is due by 9:00AM on September 17, 2012. Late assignments will be penalized 5 points for each calendar day they are late, starting at 9:01AM on the day the assignment is due. After 10 days from the due date, students will be ineligible to submit the assessment and will receive a zero (0) for the assessment (which will be denoted by a missing grade for the eWorkbook assessment once the eligibility period has ended). Thus, for example, students will be unable to complete the Chapter 4 eWorkbook Assessment after 9:00AM on September 27, 2012.

Grades will be released to students once the ten-day late window has closed and all assessments have been graded (typically, this means students can view their grades 11 days after the assessment is due). Students wishing to review an eWorkbook assessment can meet with their Teaching Assistant during office hours. Note that no questions from the eWorkbook assessments will also appear on the examinations.

Extra Credit
There is one individualized opportunity for extra credit in this class. The extra credit assignment is due in class on November 5, 2012 and may be submitted earlier than this date. Extra credit assignments that are late will not be accepted. For the extra credit assignment, students will write a five page (double spaced) paper that discusses four newspaper articles related to one or more of the topics discussed in class. To receive full credit, students should make it clear how the newspaper articles are related to the topic(s) covered in class. The extra credit assignment is worth up to 3 points on the student’s final grade in this class. Full details on the extra credit assignment are available on the course’s Blackboard Learn page. This will be the only individualized opportunity for extra credit in this class.

COURSE SCHEDULE

8/29  General Course Information

8/31  American Government and Politics
      Fiorina, Chapter 1

9/3    No Class: Labor Day

9/5    The U.S. Constitution I
      Fiorina, Chapter 2

9/7    The U.S. Constitution II
      Cox, Chapter 1

9/10   The U.S. Constitution III
      Cox, Chapter 3
9/12 Federalism I
Fiorina, Chapter 3

9/14 Federalism II
Cox, Chapter 4

9/17 Federalism III
Fiorina, Federalist 10 and 51 (pages 629-635)
Chapter 4 eWorkbook Assessment due on Blackboard by 9:00AM. Note: For questions 1-7 and 11, I recommend you print the pdf copy of Exercise 4-1, “State Reliance on Federal Funds/Major Sources of State Revenue” (questions 1-7) and Exercise 4-3, “Graphing the Federal Revenue Sharing Trend” (question 11) from the folder labeled “eWorkbook Exercise PDFs” in the “Pearson Content” folder.

9/19 Texas Origins and Constitution
Fiorina, Chapter TX-2 (This appears in the electronic version of Fiorina under “Dye, Politics in America, Texas Edition, 9/e.”)

9/21 The Presidency I
Fiorina, Chapter 13

9/24 The Presidency II

9/26 The Presidency III
Cox, Chapter 6
Chapter 6 eWorkbook Assessment due on Blackboard by 9:00AM.

9/28 Catch Up and Review for Exam 1

10/1 Exam 1

10/3 The Federal Bureaucracy I
Fiorina, Chapter 14

10/5 The Federal Bureaucracy II
Cox, Chapter 7

10/8 The Federal Bureaucracy III

10/10 The Texas Executive and Bureaucracy
Fiorina, Chapter TX-4 (This appears in the electronic version of Fiorina under “Dye, Politics in America, Texas Edition, 9/e.”)
Chapter 7 eWorkbook Assessment due on Blackboard by 9:00AM.

10/12 The U.S. Congress I
Fiorina, Chapter 12
10/15  The U.S. Congress II  
Cox, Chapter 5

10/17  The U.S. Congress III

10/19  The U.S. Congress IV  
**Chapter 5 eWorkbook Assessment due on Blackboard by 9:00AM. Note: For questions 16-35, I recommend you print the pdf copy of Exercise 5.5, “Crossword Puzzle” from the folder labeled “eWorkbook Exercise PDFs” in the “Pearson Content” folder.**

10/22  The Texas Legislature  
Fiorina, Chapter TX-3 (This appears in the electronic version of Fiorina under “Dye, Politics in America, Texas Edition, 9/e.”)

10/24  Interest Groups in the Legislature

10/26  Catch Up and Review for Exam 2

10/29  Exam 2

10/31  The Federal Judiciary I  
Fiorina, Chapter 15

11/2  The Federal Judiciary II  
Cox, Chapter 8

11/5  The Federal Judiciary III  
**Extra Credit Papers Due**

11/7  The Federal Judiciary IV

11/9  The Texas Judiciary I  
Fiorina, Chapter TX-5 (This appears in the electronic version of Fiorina under “Dye, Politics in America, Texas Edition, 9/e.”)

11/12  The Texas Judiciary II

11/14  Civil Liberties I  
Fiorina, Chapter 16

11/16  Civil Liberties II  
Cox Chapter 9  
**Chapter 9 eWorkbook Assessment due on Blackboard by 9:00AM.**

11/19  Civil Liberties III  
Cox, Chapter 2
11/21  No Class: Day Before Thanksgiving

11/23  No Class: Thanksgiving Break

11/26  Civil Liberties IV

11/28  Civil Rights I
       Fiorina, Chapter 17

11/30  Civil Rights II
       Cox, Chapter 10

12/3   Civil Rights III

12/5   Catch Up and Review for Final Examination

12/10  Final Examination
       8:00AM – 10:00AM

MISCELLANEOUS INFORMATION

Cell Phones: Cellular telephones are ubiquitous on college campuses. While there are myriad appropriate times and places to use a cell phone, during a class period is not one of them. Therefore, students are prohibited from using their cell phones during class, regardless of whether they are used for calling, web browsing, or for text messaging purposes. Cell phones should be turned off and stowed away at all times in the classroom.

Laptop/Tablet Computers: Students are free to use laptop or tablet computers for note taking purposes during class. However, using such devices for other purposes, such as surfing the internet or watching a baseball game, can be distracting to other students. As such, if a student is discovered using his or her laptop or tablet for any purpose other than note taking, that student will be removed from the class period and will forfeit the opportunity to use his or her computer for the remainder of the semester. Note that the Teaching Assistants will periodically observe students’ use of laptop and tablet computers to ensure compliance with this policy.

Classroom Decorum: A university setting is a fertile ground for the exchange of ideas. I certainly encourage students to express their thoughts relevant to this class. However, students must do so in a respectful manner. If a student is unable to conduct him or herself in a means that is conducive to a learning atmosphere, that student will be removed from class. This includes demonstrating respect for your fellow students, as well as for the Professor and Teaching Assistants. For example, it is unacceptable to come to class late, leave class early, sleep during class, or surf the internet during class.

Email Etiquette: Email is the preferred means of communication for the Professor and Teaching Assistants outside of office hours. Please use the email addresses posted on the syllabus. Do not email the Professor or Teaching Assistants via Blackboard Learn. When you email the Professor or your Teaching Assistant, you need to follow some basic rules. First, insert the course title and number into the subject line of your message. Second, plainly identify yourself and articulate the content of your message clearly. This means you should not use text message or instant message speak. Finally, before you email the
Professor or your Teaching Assistant, you should review the syllabus and the course’s Blackboard Learn page. It is very likely that you can find an answer to your question(s) by examining this syllabus or the Blackboard Learn page. Failure to follow these simple rules will generally result in a non-response from the target of your email communication.

**Attendance and PowerPoint Presentations:** Attendance in this class is not required. However, because I will cover material in class that is not discussed in the texts, I strongly encourage you to attend each class session. If a student is absent from a class session, it is that student’s responsibility to obtain lecture notes from a classmate. PowerPoint presentations will be made available to students on the course’s Blackboard Learn page. Due to occasional changes in the American political system, the PowerPoint slides made available to students at the beginning of the semester may not necessarily reflect those covered in class. As such, students should rely on the PowerPoint slides discussed in class.

**Blackboard Learn:** Students are responsible for all materials and announcements posted on Blackboard Learn (https://learn.unt.edu/). Students’ grades will be available for viewing on the course’s Blackboard Learn page under the “My Grades” tab in the left hand menu bar.

**Grade Disputes:** A great deal of time is invested in grading student assignments. If a student wishes to dispute a grade, he or she must do so in writing. Students must articulate a clear explanation as to why they feel a different grade is in order, as well as what grade they believe to be more representative of their work. Merely “wanting” or “needing” a higher grade is not a sufficient reason. Students should also note that if work is reviewed for a grade dispute, the entire work is reviewed, not simply the specific aspect being disputed by the student. All grade disputes are due in writing to the student’s Teaching Assistant within ten calendar days after the grade for the assignment is posted on Blackboard Learn. Grade disputes will not be considered if submitted past the ten day statute of limitations. Note that the Family Educational Rights and Privacy Act (FERPA) prohibit the Professor and the Teaching Assistants from discussing grades via email. Accordingly, grade disputes should be handled during office hours.

**Make-Up Policies:** Students are expected to complete all assignments by the due date and take all examinations at the scheduled times. Make-up exams will be permitted only under the severest of circumstances. As a general rule, make-up exams will not be offered. In order to be eligible for a make-up exam, students must present the Professor with written documentation verifying a legitimate reason for their absence. Students must present this documentation to the Professor during office hours no later than ten calendar days following the missed examination. Failure to present the Professor with documentation within ten calendar days following the missed examination makes a student ineligible to take a make-up examination. Students eligible for a make-up examination will have one hour to complete the examination. Make-up examinations will take place during prefinals week (December 3-7, 2012). Students should be aware that the make-up exam, if allowed, may not be the same as the original examination. While the material to be tested will stay the same, the exact question(s) and format may differ. There will be no opportunity to take a make-up exam in place of the final examination.

**Office Hours:** Office hours are currently scheduled from 10:30-12:00 Mondays and Wednesdays. If these times prove to be inconvenient, special appointments are available. Students should contact me via email to schedule special appointments.

**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 to the professor on or before the sixth class day.
**Academic Honesty**: Academic dishonesty will not be tolerated in this class. Incidents of plagiarism and/or cheating will result in a failing grade for the class and further penalties per the University’s judicial process. Students are advised to review the policies established by UNT regarding academic integrity ([http://policy.unt.edu/](http://policy.unt.edu/)). If you have any questions about what constitutes plagiarism or cheating, see the Professor or your Teaching Assistant. Ignorance is not an excuse for academic misconduct. Finally, students agree that, by taking this course, all required assignments may be subject to submission for textual similarity review to [www.turnitin.com](http://www.turnitin.com) or a similar plagiarism prevention system.

**The UNT Department of Political Science Policy on Cheating and Plagiarism:**

I. **Categories of Academic Dishonesty.**

A. **Cheating.** The use of unauthorized assistance in an academic exercise, including but not limited to:
   1. use of any unauthorized assistance to take exams, tests, quizzes or other assessments;
   2. dependence upon the aid of sources beyond those authorized by the instructor in writing papers, preparing reports, solving problems or carrying out other assignments;
   3. acquisition, without permission, of tests, notes or other academic materials belonging to a faculty or staff member of the University;
   4. 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;
   5. any other act designed to give a student an unfair advantage on an academic assignment.

B. **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:
   1. 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.
   2. 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.

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

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

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

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

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

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

C. *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.

D. *Course Failure*. The instructor may assign a failing grade for the course.

**Stipulation**: I reserve the right to change this syllabus as I see fit at any point in the semester.