

American & Texas Government: Political Behavior
PSCI 1050.008
Spring 2009
T,R: 12:30-1:50 p.m.

Prof. Andrew J. Enterline

Email: ajenter@unt.edu

Web: <http://www.psci.unt.edu/enterline/enterline.htm>

Phone: 940.565.2313

Office: Wooten Hall 145

Office Hours: R: 3–5:30 & by appt.

Teaching Assistants

Teaching Assistant (student last names A–Di): **Bradley Clark**

Email: bjc0113@unt.edu

Office: Wooten Hall 142

Phone: 940.565.4963

Office Hours: M,T 5–6:30 & by appt.

Teaching Assistant (student last names Dj–Ha): **Christine Balarezo**

Email: Cab0397@unt.edu

Office: Wooten Hall 331

Phone: 940.369.8733

Office Hours: M 12–3 & by appt.

Teaching Assistant (student last names He–Mc): **Kelan Lu**

Email: k10132@unt.edu

Office: Wooten Hall 169

Phone: 940.891.6804

Office Hours: MF 3–4:30 & by appt.

Teaching Assistant (student last names Me–Sa): **Danish Moti**

Email: msd0094@unt.edu

Office: Wooten Hall 331

Phone: 940.369.8733

Office Hours: W 10–1 & by appt.

Teaching Assistant (student last names Se–Z): **Angela Nichols**

Email: adn0037@unt.edu

Office: Wooten Hall 337

Phone: 940.891.6807

Office Hours: TR 10:30-12:15 & by appt.

Description

This course provides the student with knowledge of the various modes political behavior and participation in the American political system, including voting, political parties, and political candidacy. Additionally, the course will examine some of the social welfare, economic policy, and foreign policy issues currently confronted in, and by, the American polity.

Books

1. Fiorina, Peterson, Johnson & Mayer (loose-leaf version available at UNT bookstore.) *The New American Democracy*. **6th Edition**. New York: Longman. (Referred to as “FPJM” in the course calendar, below.)
2. Gloria C. Cox, ed. 2008. *Processes & Policies in American & Texas Politics*. **7th Edition**. Denton, Texas: University of North Texas Press. Note: Be sure that you purchase the workbook with the **RED** cover. (Referred to as “Cox” in the course calendar, below.)

Assignments

Exams

There will be **2 exams** in this course: One midterm exam (in class on March 12, the Thursday prior to spring break week), and a final exam (in class on May 14, during exam week). Each exam requires the student to answer objective questions drawn from the text, lecture (including discussions, multimedia, etc.), and the Cox workbook. The content of said questions will be drawn primarily from key concepts discussed in the course materials. Scantron sheets will be furnished to each student in each exam, while students are responsible for furnishing the student's name and a #2 pencil. Each exam will contribute 40% to each a student's final course grade (80% total.) The final exam is **not cumulative**. To prepare for the exam, it is recommended that students avail themselves of the publisher's student resources (e.g., practice quizzes) called "mypoliscilab" at <http://www.mypoliscilab.com/>. Exam grades will be reported via the UNT Blackboard system available at <http://ecampus.unt.edu/webct/entryPage.dowebct> (login using your UNT EUID and password.)

Make-up Exams

Regardless of circumstances, makeup exams for the midterm exam will be carried out directly **following the final exam** (on May 14 in the same room.) Makeup exams for the final exam will be arranged only if a student has a *documented* medical excuse or family emergency. If you have questions, please consult Prof. Enterline.

Workbook Chapters

During the semester students will read six (6) chapters from *Processes & Policies in American & Texas Politics, 7th Edition*. Students should complete *all* six of said workbook assignments associated with each chapter by the corresponding due dates specified in the course calendar. Two (2) workbook chapters of the six will be collected from students without forewarning in lecture on the day that they are assigned. The collected workbook assignments will each contribute 10% (20% of total grade) to a student's final grade, and will be graded by each student's respective teaching assistant. Workbook chapter exercises submitted at any time other than the lecture during which they are collected (e.g., under the professor's office door, placed in a political science faculty mailbox) will not be graded. Workbook chapter exercises must be completed on original sheets from a workbook (i.e., they cannot be photocopies of workbook exercises.) Students are responsible for stapling their workbook exercises prior to submission. Corrected workbook exercises may be retrieved from the student's assigned teaching assistant one week following submission. Grades for the two workbook assignments will be reported via the UNT Blackboard system available at <http://ecampus.unt.edu/webct/entryPage.dowebct>.

Course Calendar

20 Jan.	Course Introduction
22/27 Jan.	FPJM, Ch. 1: Democracy in the United States
29 Jan.–Feb. 5	FPJM, Ch. 5: Public Opinion Cox, Ch. 1: Public Opinion & Democracy (Due 2/5)
10/12 Feb.	FPJM, Ch. 6: Individual Participation
17/19 Feb.	FPJM, Ch. 9: The Media Cox, Ch. 3: The Political Role of the Media (Due 2/19)
24/26 Feb.	FPJM, Ch. 7: Interest Groups Cox, Ch. 5: Interest Groups & Lobbyists... (Due 2/26)
3/5 March	FPJM, Ch. 8: Political Parties
10 March	Exam Review
12 March	Midterm Exam
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17/19 March	<i>Spring Break</i>
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24/26 March	FPJM, Ch. 10: Electing the President
31 March/April 2	FPJM, Ch. 11: Choosing the Congress Cox, Ch. 6: How Elected Officials Get... (Due 4/2)
7/9 April	FPJM, Ch. 18: Domestic Policy Cox, Ch. 9: Accountability in Education Policy (Due 4/9)
14/16 April	FPJM, Ch. 19: Economic Policy
21/23 April	FPJM, Ch. 20: Foreign & Defense Policy Cox, Ch. 10: American Global Policy (Due 4/23)
28/30 April	Enterline Presents Some Research
5 May	Wrap up
7 May	Exam Review
14 May	Final & Makeup Exams: 10:30–12:30

Policy on Cheating and Plagiarism

The UNT Code of Student Conduct and Discipline defines cheating and plagiarism as the use of unauthorized books, notes, or otherwise securing help in a test; copying others' tests, assignments, reports, or term papers; representing the work of another as one's own; collaborating without authority with another student during an examination or in preparing academic work; or otherwise practicing scholastic dishonesty. Normally, the minimum penalty for cheating or plagiarism is grade of "F" in the course. In the case of graduate departmental exams, the minimum penalty shall be the failure of all fields of the exam. Determination of cheating or plagiarism shall be made by the instructor in the course, or by the field faculty in the case of departmental exams. Cases of cheating or plagiarism on graduate departmental exams, theses, or dissertations shall automatically be referred to the departmental Graduate Studies Committee. Cases of cheating or plagiarism in ordinary course work may, at the discretion of the instructor, be referred to the Undergraduate Studies Committee in the case of undergraduate students, or the Graduate Studies Committee in the case of graduate students. These committees, acting as agents of the department chair, shall impose further penalties, or recommend further penalties to the Dean of Students, if they determine that the case warrants it. In all cases, the Dean of Students shall be informed in writing of the case. Students may appeal a decision under this policy by following the procedures laid down in the UNT Code of Student Conduct and Discipline.

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 your teaching assistant on or before the second week of classes, so that appropriate accommodation can be made in a timely fashion.