



Political Science 2305.91E: United States Government Fall 2021 (Boles High School)

Instructor: Rebecca Lynch

Office Location: Ferguson SS 135

Office Hours: Virtual Office Hours T/R 4-5

Virtual Meetings via Zoom available by appt.

University Email Address: Rebecca.lynch@tamuc.edu

Preferred Form of Communication: Email

Communication Response Time: 36 Hours **excluding weekends**

COURSE INFORMATION

<https://open.umn.edu/opentextbooks/textbooks/american-government-and-politics-in-the-information-age>

Course Description:

This course is a survey of the institutions and policies of the American governing bodies. You will learn about formal and informal institutions of the national government and how they play into the creation and implementation of public policy. Topics considered include the legislative, executive, and judicial branches, bureaucracies, public policies (formulation and implementation), and global forces that continue to shape our understanding of the relationship between the people and government.

- Please note that you will not be taught what to think about political issues in this course. Rather, you will be provided with the knowledge to determine how to think about political issues for yourself.

Student Learning Outcomes:

1. Critical Thinking: Students will be able to differentiate between fact and opinion.
2. Communication: Student communication will be clear, purposeful, and make appropriate use of evidence, data and technology as applicable. In written, oral, and/or visual communication, A&M-Commerce students will communicate in a manner appropriate to the audience and occasion, with an evident message and organizational structure.
3. Personal Responsibility: Students will be able to understand their role in their own education.
4. Social Responsibility: Students will demonstrate awareness of societal and/or civic issues
5. Explain the origin and development of constitutional democracy in the United States.
6. Demonstrate knowledge of the federal system.
7. Describe separation of powers and checks and balances in both theory and practice.
8. Demonstrate knowledge of the legislative, executive, and judicial branches of the federal government.
9. Evaluate the role of public opinion, interest groups, and political parties in the political system.

10. Analyze the election process. 11. Describe the rights and responsibilities of citizens 8. Analyze issues and policies in U.S. politics.

COURSE REQUIREMENTS Minimal Technical Skills Needed

Students will need to be familiar with the University learning management system (D2L/Brightspace), know how to use a personal computer, navigate the internet, and use basic word processing software such as Microsoft Word and Power Point.

Instructional Methods

Each week will consist of and involve recorded lectures or videos and discussion over the assigned readings and any other supplemental readings the instructor wishes to add. You will regularly be asked to contribute your opinions and answer questions about the readings.

Student Responsibilities or Tips for Success in the Course

Students are expected to complete the assigned readings before class and engage in class discussions

Complete all assignments

Be prepared to discuss the topics presented in class

Be courteous to and respectful of your fellow students and instructors

University Pandemic Response

A&M-Commerce requires the use of face-coverings in all instructional and research classrooms/laboratories. Exceptions may be made by faculty where warranted. Faculty have management over their classrooms. Students not using face-coverings can be required to leave class. Repetitive refusal to comply can be reported to the Office of Students' Rights and Responsibilities as a violation of the student Code of Conduct.

Students should not attend class when ill or after exposure to anyone with a communicable illness. Communicate such instances directly with your instructor. Faculty will work to support the student getting access to missed content or completing missed assignments.

The Counseling Center at A&M-Commerce, located in the Halladay Building, Room 203, offers counseling services, educational programming, and connection to community resources for students. Students have 24/7 access to the Counseling Center's crisis assessment services by calling 903-886-5145. For more information regarding Counseling Center events and confidential services, please visit www.tamuc.edu/counsel.

GRADING: A = 1080-1200 pts. B = 960-1079 C = 840-959 D = 720-839 F = 0-719

A = 90%-100% B = 80%-89.9% C = 70%-79.9% D = 60%-69.9% F = 0%-59.9%

This class uses a point system based on a total of 1200 points total. This means assignments have different point values as opposed to percentages and will reflect as much in the grade book. If you have questions regarding the point system for this class please feel free to reach out to me.

This following is the breakdown for this class Grading:

Discussion Board Posts (DBP) 10pts each = 140pts total

Weekly Assignments 10pts each = 200pts total

Quizzes 20pts each = 260pts total

Exams 100pts each = 300pts total

Final Paper = 150pts total

Final Exam = 150pts total

Assessments

Note: Personal computer and internet connection problems do not excuse the requirement to complete all course work in a timely and satisfactory manner. Each student needs to have a backup method to deal with these inevitable problems. These methods might include the availability of a backup PC at home or work, the temporary use of a computer at a friend's home, the local library, office service companies, Starbucks, a TAMUC campus open computer lab, etc.

Participation: With this being an online course, you will need to login to D2L and access this course regularly throughout the week. There will be discussion board posts weekly and assignments throughout the semester that you will be required to complete on our online platform. Not logging in and keeping up with due dates and weekly readings and assignments will have a detrimental effect on your grade.

Exams: There will be three exams given during the semester in addition to a final exam to be administered during finals week. They comprise a significant portion of your grade, so it would be beneficial to be prepared for your exams. **Exams will open Monday at 8:00 am and close Friday of the same week at 5:00 pm.** Since there is a multi-day window for exams, makeup exams will not be given. If you have an athletic or academic reason as to why you are not able to take the exam during the window it is open, you must email me IMMEDIATELY so that other arrangements can be made. This means emailing me **BEFORE** the exam opens, not after the fact. There will be absolutely no exceptions to this policy.

Quizzes: Quizzes will be given weekly and can be over the subject matter or **current topics/events**. Questions for the quizzes will come from the week's lectures, assigned readings and any breaking news (political, sports, or pop culture related). Quizzes will be given every week during the semester. Quizzes cannot be made up if they are missed. Quizzes will open on **Monday at 8:00 am and close Friday at 5:00 pm each week**

Discussion Board Posts: Like with a face to face class where students would engage with one another, you will be expected to do so in this course as well. For weekly discussion posts students are expected to respond to the week's prompt with a **MINIMUM of at least 350 words** and you are also responsible for responding to at least TWO other classmates' responses with a minimum of at least 150 words per response. **Original discussion posts AND peer responses (2) are due FRIDAY of each week by 5:00 pm.** You should make three total posts each week. Discussion posts are worth 10 points each week with the original post being 5 points and the two responses being worth 2.5 points each. In your discussion posts please include a word count. (Points for this assignment along with all others will lose points for not following directions.)

Final Paper: *More details will come later in the semester about possible topics and requirements.*

Extra Credit: Extra credit will be given at the instructor's discretion. I will NOT create extra credit for any student at any time because they "need to get" a certain grade or because they have chosen not to do the original assignments assigned. I do not "give" grades rather you EARN your grade. I cannot stress this enough: keep up with your assignments and your grade in the gradebook throughout the whole semester and not just at the end.

Submitting Assignments & Late Assignments: Writing assignments without cover pages and/or no name will not be graded. I **DO NOT** accept late work. Each assignment is given with enough time to complete it. Assignments that have to be submitted to the dropbox/D2L are **ALWAYS** due at 5:00 pm the day they are due. **Assignments submitted online after 5:00 pm will not be opened or graded.** You are responsible for attaching the correct assignment to the correct folder in D2L Brightspace. Once you submit your assignment you should always click on the document to guarantee that it has been submitted correctly, or no document is counted as failure to complete the assignment on time. Poor internet connection, dead laptop batteries, etc. are not valid reasons for an assignment not being completed.

TECHNOLOGY REQUIREMENTS LMS

All course sections offered by Texas A&M University-Commerce have a corresponding course shell in the myLeo Online Learning Management System (LMS). Below are technical requirements

LMS Requirements:

<https://community.brightspace.com/s/article/Brightspace-Platform-Requirements>

LMS Browser Support:

https://documentation.brightspace.com/EN/brightspace/requirements/all/browser_support.htm

YouSeeU Virtual Classroom Requirements:

<https://support.youseeu.com/hc/en-us/articles/115007031107-Basic-System-Requirements>

ACCESS AND NAVIGATION

You will need your campus-wide ID (CWID) and password to log into the course. If you do not know your CWID or have forgotten your password, contact the Center for IT Excellence (CITE) at 903.468.6000 or helpdesk@tamuc.edu.

COMMUNICATION AND SUPPORT

If you have any questions or are having difficulties with the course material, please contact your Instructor.

Technical Support

If you are having technical difficulty with any part of Brightspace, please contact Brightspace Technical Support at 1-877-325-7778. Other support options can be found here:
<https://community.brightspace.com/support/s/contactsupport>

Interaction with Instructor Statement:

Student emails will be responded to within 24 hours except for on weekends. Weekly assignments will regularly be graded and inputted into the grade book. Any student wishing to discuss a grade or assignment should email me or request to schedule a video conference and will receive a response within 24 hours.

COURSE AND UNIVERSITY PROCEDURES/POLICIES

Syllabus Change Policy

The syllabus is a guide. Circumstances and events, such as student progress, may make it necessary for the instructor to modify the syllabus during the semester. Any changes made to the syllabus will be announced in advance.

University Specific Procedures Student Conduct

All students enrolled at the University shall follow the tenets of common decency and acceptable behavior conducive to a positive learning environment. The Code of Student Conduct is described in detail in the Student Guidebook.

<http://www.tamuc.edu/Admissions/oneStopShop/undergraduateAdmissions/studentGuidebook.aspx> Students should also consult the Rules of Netiquette for more information regarding how to interact with students in an online forum: <https://www.britannica.com/topic/netiquette>

TAMUC Attendance

For more information about the attendance policy please visit the Attendance webpage and Procedure 13.99.99.R0.01.

<http://www.tamuc.edu/admissions/registrar/generalInformation/attendance.aspx>

<http://www.tamuc.edu/aboutUs/policiesProceduresStandardsStatements/rulesProcedures/13students/academic/13.99.99.R0.01.pdf>

Academic Integrity

Students at Texas A&M University-Commerce are expected to maintain high standards of integrity and honesty in all of their scholastic work. For more details and the definition of academic dishonesty see the following procedures

Undergraduate Academic Dishonesty 13.99.99.R0.03

<http://www.tamuc.edu/aboutUs/policiesProceduresStandardsStatements/rulesProcedures/13students/undergraduates/13.99.99.R0.03UndergraduateAcademicDishonesty.pdf> Graduate Student

Academic Dishonesty 13.99.99.R0.10

<http://www.tamuc.edu/aboutUs/policiesProceduresStandardsStatements/rulesProcedures/13students/graduate/13.99.99.R0.10GraduateStudentAcademicDishonesty.pdf>

Students with Disabilities-- ADA Statement

The Americans with Disabilities Act (ADA) is a federal anti-discrimination statute that provides comprehensive civil rights protection for persons with disabilities. Among other things, this legislation requires that all students with disabilities be guaranteed a learning environment that provides for reasonable accommodation of their disabilities. If you have a disability requiring an accommodation, please contact:

Office of Student Disability Resources and Services

Texas A&M University-Commerce

Gee Library- Room 162

Phone (903) 886-5150 or (903) 886-5835 Fax (903) 468-8148

Email: studentdisabilityservices@tamuc.edu

Website: Office of Student Disability Resources and Services

<http://www.tamuc.edu/campusLife/campusServices/studentDisabilityResourcesAndServices/>

Nondiscrimination Notice

Texas A&M University-Commerce will comply in the classroom, and in online courses, with all federal and state laws prohibiting discrimination and related retaliation on the basis of race, color, religion, sex, national origin, disability, age, genetic information or veteran status. Further, an environment free from discrimination on the basis of sexual orientation, gender identity, or gender expression will be maintained.

Campus Concealed Carry Statement

Texas Senate Bill - 11 (Government Code 411.2031, et al.) authorizes the carrying of a concealed handgun in Texas A&M University-Commerce buildings only by persons who have been issued and are in possession of a Texas License to Carry a Handgun. Qualified law enforcement officers or those who are otherwise authorized to carry a concealed handgun in the State of Texas are also permitted to do so. Pursuant to Penal Code (PC) 46.035 and A&M- Commerce Rule 34.06.02.R1, license holders may not carry a concealed handgun in restricted locations. For a list of locations, please refer to the Carrying Concealed Handguns On Campus document and/or consult your event organizer.

Web url:

<http://www.tamuc.edu/aboutUs/policiesProceduresStandardsStatements/rulesProcedures/34SafetyOfEmployeesAndStudents/34.06.02.R1.pdf> Pursuant to PC 46.035, the open carrying of handguns is prohibited on all A&M-Commerce campuses. Report violations to the University Police Department at 903-886-5868 or 9-1-1.

Course Calendar
 Subject to Change

Date	Topic/Chapter Title	Assignments Due
Aug. 30th - Sept. 3rd	American Political Culture <i>Chapter 6 - Online Textbook</i>	Read Syllabus Introduction Post Quiz 1
Sept. 6th - 10th	The Founding and the Constitution Chapter 2	DBP 2 and Quiz 2 Weekly Assignment
Sept.13th - 17th	Congress Chapter 12	DBP 3 and Quiz 3 Weekly Assignment
Sept. 20th - 24th	The Courts Chapter 15	DBP 4 and Quiz 4 Weekly Assignment
Sept.27th - Oct. 1st	The Presidency Chapter 13 Exam 1	DBP 5 Quiz 5 Exam 1
Oct. 4th - 8th	Federalism Chapter 3	DBP 6 Quiz 6 Weekly Assignment
Oct. 11th - 15th	Civil Liberties & Civil Rights Chapter 4&5	DBP 7 Quiz 7 Weekly Assignment
Oct. 18th - 22nd	Political Parties Chapter 11	DBP 8 Quiz 8 Weekly Assignment
Oct.25th - 29th	Elections, Campaigns Chapter 10 Exam 2	DBP 9 Quiz 9 Exam 2
Nov. 1st - 5th	Public Opinion Chapter 7	DBP 10 Quiz 10 Weekly Assignment
Nov. 8th - 12th	Interest Groups Chapter 9	DBP 11 Quiz 11 Weekly Assignment
Nov. 15th - 19th	The Bureaucracy Chapter 14	DBP 12 Quiz 12 Weekly Assignment

Nov. 22nd - 26th	TBD	TBD
Nov. 29th - Dec. 3rd	Domestic Policy Chapter 16	DBP 13 Quiz 13 Weekly Assignment
Dec. 6th - 10th	Exam 3/Final Paper Due	Exam 3/Final Paper Due/Final DBP 14
Dec. 13th - 17th	Final Exam	Final Exam

******Your professor reserves the right to make changes to the syllabus at any point during the semester and will inform students of alterations. ******