



PSCI - 2305 Fall 2026

United States Government and Politics

Dual Credit High School

August 20th - December 18th

INSTRUCTOR INFORMATION

Instructor: Chukwuemeka (Chuk) Uwanaka

Office Location:

Office Hours: TBD

Office Phone:

University Email Address:

Preferred Form of Communication: Email

Communication Response Time:

COURSE INFORMATION

This course is an assessment of the institutions, politics and policies of the American governing bodies. There will be better comprehension of the role that formal and informal institutions of the national government play in the public policy and governance process, from policy design, creation, implementation and assessment. The three branches of government namely executive, legislative and judicial; bureaucracies; public policy and governance process; and the influence of geopolitical and geoeconomic factors in government; will constitute topics to be covered.

This course aims to provide you with good knowledge of how a government functions at the federal level in the United States of America, and the governance process.

- Therefore, please note that the course is objective, and is not designed to teach you what to think about about political issues. Rather, you will be provided with the ability to determine how to think independently about political issues.

Materials and Textbooks Required

Online Textbook:

The syllabus/schedule are subject to change.

American Government and Politics in the Information Age - Open Textbook Library

https://socialsci.libretexts.org/Bookshelves/Political_Science_and_Civics/American_Government_and_Politics_in_the_Information_Age

This textbook is available free online. It will cover the material but note that you do get what you pay for. So while this does have good information to start with, supplemental readings and information will be provided during the semester.

Course Description

Student Learning Outcomes

1. Critical Thinking: Students will have the ability to evaluate common assumptions, and differentiate between fact, opinion and fiction.
2. Communication: Students will demonstrate clarity and purposefulness in communicating, in addition to using references, data and technology as required. All forms of communication from East Texas A&M students will be evidenced based, well structured and suited to the occasion and audience.
3. Personal Responsibility: Students will be able to understand the role they play in their own education.
4. Social Responsibility: Students will demonstrate awareness of civic, political, policy and social issues
5. Explain the origin and development of constitutional democracy in the United States.
6. Demonstrate good knowledge of the federal system of government.
7. Describe the concepts of separation of powers, and checks and balances.
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 U.S. political system.
10. Analyze the election process.
11. Describe the rights and responsibilities of citizens
12. Analyze domestic policy issues in U.S. politics
13. Demonstrate basic knowledge of U.S. role in global affairs.

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 PowerPoint.

Student Responsibilities

- Students are expected to complete the assigned readings before class and to engage in class Discussions;
- Complete all assignments;
- Be prepared to discuss the topics presented in class;
- Be courteous and respectful of your fellow students and instructors.

Technology Requirements

- Computer/Internet access and connection: sufficient for LMS access and email communication
- Microsoft Word, Excel, and PowerPoint

The syllabus/schedule are subject to change.

Important Notes

As a student enrolled at East Texas A&M, you have access to an email account. All my emails sent (and all other university emails) will go to this account, so please be sure to check it regularly. Conversely, you are to email me via the university email, as our spam filters will catch Yahoo, Hotmail, etc.

**** Please note that if you are using google docs. Do not share the documents, but download them as a word or pdf file and submit them that way. I will not have access to them and will be unable to grade them ***

Grading Policy and Assessments

Final Grades	Scale	Assessments
A	90%-100%	Assignments 20%
B	80%-89%	Discussions 20%
C	70%-79%	Midterm Exam 30%
D	60%-69%	Final Exam 30%
F	59% or Below	

Course Outline/Calendar

Below are reading assignments and exam schedule. In addition to the readings from the textbooks, students should also keep informed of the news and current events. As with most classes, this schedule is subject to change

Week of	Lecture Topic	Assignments
August 20 - August 26	Introduction to the Course/US Political Culture	Online textbook Chapter 6
August 27 - September 2	Constitution of the US	Online textbook Chapter 2
September 3 - September 9	US Congress	Online textbook Chapter 12
September 10 - September 16	Courts and the Judiciary	Online textbook Chapter 15
September 17 - September 23	Principles of Federalism	Online textbook Chapter 3
September 24 - September 30	Civil Liberties	Online textbook Chapter 4
October 1 - October 7	Civil Rights	Online textbook Chapter 5
October 8 - October 14	Midterm Exam	Midterm Exam
October 15 - October 21	US Political Parties, Political Participation and Elections	Online textbook Chapter 10 & 11
October 22 - October 28	Public Opinion and Media	Online textbook Chapter 7 & 1
October 29 - November 4	Interest Groups and Democratic Governance	Online textbook Chapter 9
November 5 - November 11	Presidency and the Bureaucracy	Online textbook Chapter 14
November 12 - November 18	Domestic and Foreign Policy	Supplied Reading
November 19 - November 25	Student Presentations	Student Presentations
November 26 - December 2	Thanksgiving Break	
December 3 - December 9	Final Week, Exam and Grades	Exam and Grades

Email: Emails will be sent throughout the semester, for emails to the entire class (i.e. — they are addressed to class, and not you personally) they do not require a response unless you need clarification.

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If the email is addressed to you personally, I do require that you at least acknowledge the email. If I do not receive an acknowledgment within a timely manner (48 hours in most cases) I will consider the subject matter of the emails moot. During the final weeks of the semester please access your email regularly, sometimes assignments do not get sent correctly or there are changes that need to be made. Do not work the entire semester only to fall through at the very end. Plan and manage time appropriately.

Submitting Assignments: You are responsible for attaching the correct assignment to the correct folder in the Dropbox. Once you submit your assignment, you should always click on the Outbox to make sure the assignment is there. Submitting an incorrect document, a blank document, or no document is counted as failure to complete the assignment on time. Each assignment or work should include your name

TECHNOLOGY REQUIREMENTS

LMS

All course sections offered by East Texas A&M University 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

Zoom Video Conferencing Tool

https://inside.tamuc.edu/campuslife/CampusServices/CITESupportCenter/Zoom_Account.aspx?source=universalmenu

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@etamu.edu.

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.

COMMUNICATION AND SUPPORT

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

The syllabus/schedule are subject to change.

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>

STUDENT RESPONSIBILITIES FOR COURSE

CWID and Password

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@etamu.edu.

Technology-Related Issues

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 ETAMU campus open computer lab, etc.

TECHNOLOGY REQUIREMENTS AND SUPPORT

Minimal Technical Skills Needed

Students will need reliable computer and internet access for this course. Students must be able to effectively use myLeo email, myLeo Online D2L, and Microsoft Office.

Learning Management System (LMS) – D2L

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

- View the [Learning Management System Requirements Webpage](#).
- Learn more on the [LMS Browser Support Webpage](#).

Technical Support

If you are having technical difficulty with any part of Brightspace, please contact student helpdesk or Brightspace Technical Support at 1-877-325-7778. Other support options can be found on the [Brightspace Support Webpage](#).

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COMMUNICATION AND SUPPORT

Interaction with Instructor Statement

If you have any questions or are having difficulties with the course material, please contact your instructor. Correspondence will always be through university email (your “myLeo” mail) and announcements in myLeo online (D2L). You will not RECEIVE email through D2L, so be sure to check your ETAMU email for communication. Students are encouraged to check university email daily.

Include the Following in Emails with Instructor:

- Course name and subject in the subject line
 - Salutation (Good afternoon, Dr. Chuk)
 - Proper email etiquette (no “text” emails – use proper grammar and punctuation)
 - Student name and CWID after the body of the email (possibly add to student signature on email)
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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.

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 online in the [Student Guidebook](#).

Students should also consult the [Rules of Netiquette Webpage](#) for more information regarding how to interact with students in an online forum.

ETAMU Attendance

For more information about the attendance policy, please view the [Attendance Webpage](#) and the [Class Attendance Policy](#).

Academic Integrity

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

The syllabus/schedule are subject to change.

[Undergraduate Academic Dishonesty University Procedure 13.99.99.R0.03](#)

[Undergraduate Student Academic Dishonesty Form](#)

[Graduate Student Academic Dishonesty University Procedure 13.99.99.R0.10](#)

[Graduate Student Academic Dishonesty Form](#)

Use of Artificial Intelligence

East Texas A&M University acknowledges that there are legitimate uses of Artificial Intelligence, ChatBots, or other software that has the capacity to generate text, or suggest replacements for text beyond individual words, as determined by the instructor of the course.

Any use of such software must be documented. Any undocumented use of such software constitutes an instance of academic dishonesty (plagiarism).

Individual instructors may disallow entirely the use of such software for individual assignments or for the entire course. Students should be aware of such requirements and follow their instructors' guidelines. If no instructions are provided the student should assume that the use of such software is disallowed.

In any case, students are fully responsible for the content of any assignment they submit, regardless of whether they used an AI, in any way. This specifically includes cases in which the AI plagiarized another text or misrepresented sources

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

East Texas A&M University

Velma K. Waters Library Rm 162

Phone (903) 886-5150 or (903) 886-5835

Fax (903) 468-8148

Email: studentdisabilityservices@etamu.edu

Website: [Office of Student Disability Services](#)

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Nondiscrimination Notice

East Texas A&M University 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 East Texas A&M University 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 ETAMU 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.

Pursuant to PC 46.035, the open carrying of handguns is prohibited on all East Texas A&M University campuses. Report violations to the University Police Department at 903-886-5868 or 9-1-1.

East Texas A&M Supports Students' Mental Health – Counseling Services

The Counseling Center at East Texas A&M University, 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

Mental Health and Well-Being

The university aims to provide students with essential knowledge and tools to understand and support mental health. As part of our commitment to your well-being, we offer access to Telus Health, a service available 24/7/365 via chat, phone, or webinar. Scan the QR code to download the app and explore the resources available to you for guidance and support whenever you need it.



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As an Institutional Member of the National Association of Schools of Music, East Texas State A&M University supports the Association's commitment to student health and wellness. The following web address provides links to information for resources related to physical and mental well-being, as well as assists in offering preventative measures that students can take to avoid serious and/or chronic conditions: [Musician Health and Safety - East Texas A&M University](#)

Department and Accrediting Agency Statement:

School of Music Mission Statement:

The School of Music at East Texas A&M University promotes excellence in music through the rigorous study of music history, literature, theory, composition, pedagogy, and the preparation of music performance in applied study and ensembles to meet the highest standards of aesthetic expression.

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