

Faculty Information	Dr. Amentahru Wahlrab E-mail: awahlrab@uttyler.edu (best contact method; Please include POLS 2305. [insert section number here] in the subject line) Office: Zoom only Office Hours: by Zoom: Mondays & Wednesdays: 11:30-1:30; and by appointment (please email to schedule an appointment) I am guaranteed to check email at least once a day (not including Sunday). You should expect a response within 3 business days. Email policy: per university request, I will only communicate with students via your Patriot email accounts. The university has had several problems reaching students with vital questions or information because they do not check their Patriot email, and they have asked faculty to require that students use their Patriot email accounts. <u>All responses to student email will be sent only to your Patriot email account</u> (even if you send the email from some other account). <u>Email sent from any non-Patriot email account will not be answered.</u>
Canvas and Technical Support	This online class will be conducted through Canvas. If you experience any problems logging into Canvas or any technical problems with the system you should seek help from Campus Computing. They can be reached via email at itsupport@patriots.uttyler.edu. Please include your full name, student ID number and date of birth in any communications you send to them.
Textbook <u>Available for free from UT Tyler library</u>	1. Anthony R. Dimaggio, <i>Political Power in America: Class Conflict and the Subversion of Democracy</i> (Albany: State University of New York, 2019).

Course Description and Objectives	This course is an examination of the United States political system, including its intellectual foundations and the design of the Constitution. It includes study of the major institutional factors, the impact of interest groups and the media, and the processes of policy-making. It may be taken in fulfillment of statutory requirements for a baccalaureate degree. The primary goal is to successfully complete a required course with minimal pain and suffering while gathering useful information. To that end, after successfully completing this course, students should be able to: • Demonstrate familiarity with terminology used to study political science and American government • Describe the historical evolution of American governmental structures • Defend the constitutional, institutional, political and legal processes and structures of the United States • Explain the interrelationships of American governmental institutions • Summarize the basic values of American political culture Credit Hours: 3; Prerequisites: None
Course Structure	This course will be conducted in five units (This course will run at a “go-at-your-own pace” schedule though the following schedule should be viewed as a strong suggestion.) and there will be one exam over the material in each unit (note: there is no comprehensive final exam in this course). All units will be available until the last day of classes, and you may work through them at you own pace so long as you complete all required materials for each unit before the end of classes. The units will close (i.e. no longer be available) at the end of the <u>last day of class</u> December 6, 2024 .

Grading	Your grade in this class will consist of the following components: • Chapter Quizzes –There will be one quiz for each chapter and each quiz will be worth 10 points. You may take up to 16 quizzes but I will count only the 10 highest scores (up to 100 points). • Unit Exams (400 points) – there will be five exams (one over each unit), each worth 100 points. You may take all five exams but I will count only the four highest scores. Course grades will be assigned as follows: • 90 – 100% = A • 80 – 89% = B • 70 – 79% = C • 60 – 69% = D • 0 – 59 % = F You must turn in <u>all assigned work to pass this class.</u>
Late and Make up work	This is a go-at-your-own-pace class. You must finish all material before the end of the last day of class.

Academic Dishonesty: DON'T CHEAT!	The UT Tyler community regards cheating as an extremely serious matter and deals severely with those who violate the standards of academic integrity. Examples of academic dishonesty include (but are not limited to): • Copying from another person's test paper • During a test, possession of materials not authorized by the person administering the test • Discussing the contents of an examination with another student who will take the examination or the divulging of examination contents to another when an instructor has allowed the exam to be kept by the student • Working with others in taking tests or preparing academic assignments when not authorized by the course instructor • Obtaining by any means another person's work and submitting that work as one's own. This included the downloading of academic papers or the purchase of papers written by others. If a student is suspected of academic dishonesty, the classroom instructor may ask the student to meet with him or her to discuss the incident. A student may admit to allegations of academic dishonesty, waive the right to a hearing and accept penalties imposed by the instructor. The student may also deny all allegations and ask to see the Dean of Student Affairs. An accused student may accept the decision of the Dean of Student Affairs or ask for a hearing before an impartial hearing officer appointed by the university. Witnesses may be called and evidence presented. The hearing officer will consider all evidence and make a decision. The decision of the hearing officer may be appealed to the President by either the student or the Dean of Student Affairs. For a discussion of possible penalties, please see the Guide to Student Conduct and Discipline.
Use of Artificial Intelligence Policy	UT Tyler is committed to exploring and using artificial intelligence (AI) tools as appropriate for the discipline and task undertaken. We encourage discussing AI tools' ethical, societal, philosophical, and disciplinary implications. All uses of AI should be acknowledged as this aligns with our commitment to honor and integrity, as noted in UT Tyler's Honor Code. Faculty and students must not use protected information, data, or copyrighted materials when using any AI tool. Additionally, users should be aware that AI tools rely on predictive models to generate content that may appear correct but is sometimes shown to be incomplete, inaccurate, taken without attribution from other sources, and/or biased. Consequently, an AI tool should not be considered a substitute for traditional approaches to research. You are ultimately responsible for the quality and content of the information you submit. Misusing AI tools that violate the guidelines specified for this course (see below) is considered a breach of academic integrity. The student will be subject to disciplinary actions as outlined in UT Tyler's Academic Integrity Policy. For this course, I expect all work students submit for this course to be their own. I have carefully designed all assignments and class activities to support your learning. Doing your own work, without human or artificial intelligence assistance, is best for your efforts in mastering course learning objectives. For this course, I expressly forbid using ChatGPT or any other artificial intelligence (AI) tools for any stages of the work process, including brainstorming. Deviations from these guidelines will be considered a violation of UT Tyler's Honor Code and academic honesty values.

University Policies	UT Tyler Honor Code Every member of the UT Tyler community joins together to embrace: Honor and integrity that will not allow me to lie, cheat, or steal, nor to accept the actions of those who do. Students Rights and Responsibilities To know and understand the policies that affect your rights and responsibilities as a student at UT Tyler, please follow this link: http://www.uttyler.edu/wellness/rightsresponsibilities.php Campus Carry We respect the right and privacy of students 21 and over who are duly licensed to carry concealed weapons in this class. License holders are expected to behave responsibly and keep a handgun secure and concealed. More information is available at http://www.uttyler.edu/about/campus-carry/index.php UT Tyler a Tobacco-Free University All forms of tobacco will not be permitted on the UT Tyler main campus, branch campuses, and any property owned by UT Tyler. For more information on cessation programs please visit www.uttyler.edu/tobacco-free. Grade Replacement/Forgiveness and Census Date Policies Grade Replacement Contracts are available in the Enrollment Services Center or at http://www.uttyler.edu/registrar. Each semester's Census Date can be found on the Contract itself, on the Academic Calendar, or in the information pamphlets published each semester by the Office of the Registrar. State-Mandated Course Drop Policy Texas law prohibits a student who began college for the first time in Fall 2007 or thereafter from dropping more than six courses during their entire undergraduate career. This includes courses dropped at another 2-year or 4-year Texas public college or university. For purposes of this rule, a dropped course is any course that is dropped after the census date (See Academic Calendar for the specific date). Exceptions to the 6-drop rule may be found in the catalog. Petitions for exemptions must be submitted to the Enrollment Services Center and must be accompanied by documentation of the extenuating circumstance. Please contact the Enrollment Services Center if you have any questions. Disability/Accessibility Services In accordance with Section 504 of the Rehabilitation Act, Americans with Disabilities Act (ADA) and the ADA Amendments Act (ADAAA) the University of Texas at Tyler offers accommodations to students with learning, physical and/or psychological disabilities. If you have a disability, including a non-visible diagnosis such as a learning disorder, chronic illness, TBI, PTSD, ADHD, or you have a history of modifications or accommodations in a previous educational environment, you are encouraged to visit https://hood.accessiblelearning.com/UTTyler and fill out the New Student application. The Student Accessibility and Resources (SAR) office will contact you when your application has been submitted and an appointment with Cynthia Lowery, Assistant Director of Student Services/ADA Coordinator. For more information, including filling out an application for services, please visit the SAR webpage at http://www.uttyler.edu/disabilityservices, the SAR office located in the University Center, # 3150 or call 903.566.7079. Student Absence due to Religious Observance Students who anticipate being absent from class due to a religious observance are requested to inform the instructor of such absences by the second class meeting of the semester. Student Absence for University-Sponsored Events and Activities If you intend to be absent for a university-sponsored event or activity, you (or the event sponsor) must notify the instructor at least two weeks prior to the date of the planned absence. At that time the instructor will set a date and time when make-up assignments will be completed. Social Security and FERPA Statement It is the policy of The University of Texas at Tyler to protect the confidential nature of social security numbers. The University has changed its computer programming so that all students have an identification number. The electronic transmission of grades (e.g., via e-mail) risks violation of the Family Educational Rights and Privacy Act; grades will not be transmitted electronically. Emergency Exits and Evacuation Everyone is required to exit the building when a fire alarm goes off. Follow your instructor's directions regarding the appropriate exit. If you require assistance during an evacuation, inform your instructor in
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	the first week of class. Do not re-enter the building unless given permission by University Police, Fire department, or Fire Prevention Services. Student Standards of Academic Conduct Disciplinary proceedings may be initiated against any student who engages in scholastic dishonesty, including, but not limited to, cheating, plagiarism, collusion, the submission for credit of any work or materials that are attributable in whole or in part to another person, taking an examination for another person, any act designed to give unfair advantage to a student or the attempt to commit such acts. i. "Cheating" includes, but is not limited to: • copying from another student's test paper; • using, during a test, materials not authorized by the person giving the test; • failure to comply with instructions given by the person administering the test; • possession during a test of materials which are not authorized by the person giving the test, such as class notes or specifically designed "crib notes". The presence of textbooks constitutes a violation if they have been specifically prohibited by the person administering the test; • using, buying, stealing, transporting, or soliciting in whole or part the contents of an unadministered test, test key, homework solution, or computer program; • collaborating with or seeking aid from another student during a test or other assignment without authority; • discussing the contents of an examination with another student who will take the examination; • divulging the contents of an examination, for the purpose of preserving questions for use by another, when the instructors has designated that the examination is not to be removed from the examination room or not to be returned or to be kept by the student; • substituting for another person, or permitting another person to substitute for oneself to take a course, a test, or any course-related assignment; • paying or offering money or other valuable thing to, or coercing another person to obtain an unadministered test, test key, homework solution, or computer program or information about an unadministered test, test key, home solution or computer program; • falsifying research data, laboratory reports, and/or other academic work offered for credit; • taking, keeping, misplacing, or damaging the property of The University of Texas at Tyler, or of another, if the student knows or reasonably should know that an unfair academic advantage would be gained by such conduct; and • misrepresenting facts, including providing false grades or resumes, for the purpose of obtaining an academic or financial benefit or injuring another student academically or financially. ii. "Plagiarism" includes, but is not limited to, the appropriation, buying, receiving as a gift, or obtaining by any means another's work and the submission of it as one's own academic work offered for credit. iii. "Collusion" includes, but is not limited to, the unauthorized collaboration with another person in preparing academic assignments offered for credit or collaboration with another person to commit a violation of any section of the rules on scholastic dishonesty. iv. All written work that is submitted will be subject to review by plagiarism software. Additional Syllabus Information <u>Important Covid-19 Information for Classrooms and Laboratories</u> <i>It is important to take the necessary precautions to ensure a healthy and successful year. UT Tyler continues to urge you to protect yourselves against the flu, COVID and any new threats that may be developing. Be diligent about preventive measures such as washing hands, covering sneezes/coughs, social distancing and vaccinations, which have proven to be successful in slowing the spread of viruses. Encourage those who don't feel well to stay home, and if they show symptoms, ask them to get tested for the flu or COVID. Self-isolation is important to reduce exposure (CDC quarantine/isolation guidelines). Please work with your faculty members to maintain coursework and please consult existing campus resources for support.</i>
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	Students who are feeling ill or experiencing symptoms such as sneezing, coughing, or a higher than normal temperature will be excused from class and should stay at home and may join the class remotely. Students who have difficulty adhering to the Covid-19 safety policies for health reasons are also encouraged to join the class remotely. Students needing additional accommodations may contact the Office of Student Accessibility and Resources at University Center 3150, or call (903) 566-7079 or email saroffice@uttyler.edu. Recording of Class Sessions Class sessions may be recorded by the instructor for use by students enrolled in this course. Recordings that contain personally identifiable information or other information subject to FERPA shall not be shared with individuals not enrolled in this course unless appropriate consent is obtained from all relevant students. Class recordings are reserved only for the use of students enrolled in the course and only for educational purposes. Course recordings should not be shared outside of the course in any form without express permission. UT Tyler Resources for Students • UT Tyler Writing Center (903.565.5995), writingcenter@uttyler.edu • UT Tyler Tutoring Center (903.565.5964), tutoring@uttyler.edu • The Mathematics Learning Center, RBN 4021, this is the open access computer lab for math students, with tutors on duty to assist students who are enrolled in early-career courses. • UT Tyler Counseling Center (903.566.7254)
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COURSE SCHEDULE

UNIT 1

(Weeks 1-2 August 25-September 7)

Themes: Introduction, Class Politics, Theories of Government, American Political Culture, the Founding and the Constitution, Federalism

Readings:

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| ! Introduction: A Class Analysis of the American Political System | ! Chapter 2: A Constitution in Question: How Democratic is the Founding Document? |
| ! Chapter 1: Theories of Government, Early American History, and the Politics of Class Conflict | ! Chapter 3: Federalism and the Struggle for Democracy |

Assignments: check Canvas for quizzes 1-4 and Unit 1 Exam

UNIT 2

(Weeks 3-5 September 8-September 27)

Themes: Interest Groups, Congress, the Executive Branch, and the Bureaucracy

Readings:

- ! Chapter 4: Interest Groups and the Upper-Class Perversion of Political Power
- ! Chapter 5: Congress: the Dysfunction Branch
- ! Chapter 6: The Executive Branch: Political Power, The Imperial Presidency, and the Threat to Democracy
- ! Chapter 7: The Bureaucracy and Rising Threats to the Common Good

Assignments: check Canvas for quizzes 5-8 and Unit 2 exam

UNIT 3

(Weeks 6-8 September 28-October 19)

Themes: Political Parties, Campaigns, Elections, and The Media

Assignments: check Canvas for quizzes 9-12 and Unit 3 exam

Readings:

- ! Chapter 8: The Courts and Judicial Process: Ideology, Conflict, and Class Elitism
- ! Chapter 9: Political Parties: a Crisis of Public Confidence
- ! Chapter 10: Elections and Voting: Electoral Capture by Elites
- ! Chapter 11: Politics and the Media: Bias in Pursuit of Elite Agendas

UNIT 4

(Weeks 9-11 October 20 – November 9)

Themes: Public Opinion and Ideology, Civil Liberties, Civil Rights, and the fight for Equality

Readings:

! Chapter 12: Public Opinion and Ideology: The Rise of	Right-Wing Politics and Mass Resistance ! Chapter 13 Civil Liberties and the	Quest for Corporate Personhood ! Chapter 14: Civil Rights and the Fight for Equality
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Assignments: check Canvas for quizzes 13-15 and Unit 4 exam

UNIT 5

(Weeks 12-14 November 10 – December 6)

Themes: Economic Policy, Foreign policy, and Conclusion

Readings:

- ! Chapter 15: Economic Policy: Growing Inequality and Business Power in Politics
- ! Chapter 16: Imperialism and U.S. Foreign Policy: Protecting Business Interests Abroad
- ! Conclusion: Where do we go from here?

Assignments: check Canvas for quizzes and exam