

Faculty Information	Dr. Amentahru Wahlrab E-mail: awahlrab@uttyler.edu (best contact method; Please include POLS 2305 in the subject line) Office: CAS 124A and Zoom by request Office Hours: Mondays & Wednesdays: 12:30-2:00; 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 and Canvas. 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 (even if you send the email from some other account). Email sent from any non-Patriot email account will not be answered.</u>
Canvas and Technical Support	This in-person class will also utilize 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. Readings available through Canvas. 2. Numerous secondary sources are available (though not required) but I have, in the past, used: 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	Weekly Format • Monday: Lecture and discussion • Wednesday: Lecture and discussion • Friday: In-class short response based on the week's readings and discussion

Grading	Your grade in this class will consist of the following components: • Attendance and Participation: 25% • Weekly Short Answers (14): 65% • Final Reflection Essay: 10% 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	No late work allowed

COURSE SCHEDULE

Weekly Format: Mondays and Wednesdays will consist of lecture and discussion of the assigned readings. On Fridays, students will complete a short in-class writing assignment responding to the week's question using evidence from the assigned readings and class discussion. Attendance and participation are required.

Course Theme: Who Governs America?

Each week we will examine competing answers to the question, "Who governs America?" through primary sources, class discussion, and weekly writing assignments.

Week 1 (Aug. 24-28): Founding Ideas: Why Have Government?

- Locke, *Second Treatise of Government* (selections)
- Paine, *Common Sense* (selections)
- Declaration of Independence

Weekly Question: What makes government legitimate?

Week 2 (Aug. 31-Sept. 4): The Constitutional Convention

- Articles of Confederation
- Constitutional Convention debates (selections)

Weekly Question: How much power should government possess?

Week 3 (Sept. 9-11): The Constitution and American Democracy (Labor Day Sept. 7)

- U.S. Constitution
- Constitutional Convention debates on representation and slavery (selections)

Weekly Question: Who was included in "We the People"?

Week 4 (Sept. 14-18): Federalists and Anti-Federalists

- Federalist No. 10
- Federalist No. 51
- Brutus No. 1

Weekly Question: Can a republic survive?

Week 5 (Sept. 21-25): Federalism

- McCulloch v. Maryland
- Gibbons v. Ogden
- Texas v. White (selections)

Weekly Question: Should political power belong primarily to the states or the national government?

Week 6 (Sept. 28-Oct. 2): Congress and Representation

- Federalist No. 57
- Federalist No. 62

- Civil Rights Act debates (selections)

Weekly Question: Who does Congress represent?

Week 7 (Oct. 5-9): The Presidency

- Federalist No. 70
- Washington's Farewell Address
- Jackson's Bank Veto Message
- Roosevelt's First Inaugural Address

Weekly Question: How much power should presidents possess?

Week 8 (Oct. 12-16): The Bureaucracy and Administrative State

- Pendleton Civil Service Act (selections)
- Weber, "Bureaucracy" (selections)
- Brownlow Report (selections)

Weekly Question: Do unelected officials govern America?

Week 9 (Oct. 19-23): The Courts

- Marbury v. Madison
- Brown v. Board of Education
- Dobbs v. Jackson Women's Health Organization (selections)

Weekly Question: Should judges govern?

Week 10 (Oct. 26-30): Political Parties and Elections

- Washington's Farewell Address (party sections)
- Citizens United v. FEC (selections)
- Democratic and Republican Party Platforms (selections)

Weekly Question: Who influences elections?

Week 11 (Nov. 2-6): Citizenship and Equality

- Frederick Douglass, "What to the Slave Is the Fourth of July?"
- Declaration of Sentiments
- Dred Scott v. Sandford (selections)
- Civil Rights Act of 1964 (selections)

Weekly Question: Who belongs in the American political community?

Week 12 (Nov. 9-13): Civil Liberties and Civil Rights

- Bill of Rights
- Schenck v. United States
- Tinker v. Des Moines

- New York Times v. United States

Weekly Question: What limits should government place on freedom?

Week 13 (Nov. 16-20): Wealth, Power, and Democracy

- Carnegie, "The Gospel of Wealth"
- Roosevelt's Second Bill of Rights Speech
- Powell Memorandum (selections)
- Occupy Wall Street Declaration

Weekly Question: Do economic elites govern America?

Thanksgiving Week (Nov. 23-27)

- No Classes

Week 14 (Nov. 30-Dec. 4): Social Movements and Democratic Change

- King, "Letter from Birmingham Jail"
- Voting Rights Act of 1965 (selections)
- Reagan, "A Time for Choosing" *or* Obama's 2004 Democratic National Convention Address

Weekly Question: How do citizens gain political influence?

Final Week (Dec. 7-11): Who Governs America?

- **Final Reflection:** After a semester of readings and discussion, who governs America and why?