A survey of U.S. national government, and Texas state government. The course includes such topics as the U.S. and Texas Constitutions; democratic theory; federalism; political culture, political socialization and public opinion; political participation and electoral behavior; political parties and interest groups; press; and local government in Texas.

Course Title: American and Texas Government I
Course Number: POSC 2331 – A (1285)
Credit Hours: Three
Prerequisites: None
Semester and Year: Fall 2016
Class Days and Time: MWF 10:10am-11:00am
Room- Strake 206
Instructor: Michael J. Upchurch
Office Location: Adjunct Faculty Room at the Poly Sci House
Office Hours: Before and after class and by appointment
E-MAIL: uptex@aol.com IMPORTANT NOTE: USE AS SUBJECT POSC 2331!!
Office or alternate phone: 713.899-7426
Course Learning Outcomes: POSC 2331

- Understand the meaning of power, politics, and political culture and evaluate the role of government.
- Identify the elements of democratic theory.
- Identify the characteristics and development of the U.S. and Texas constitutions.
- Analyze the concept of federalism and its operation in the U.S.
- Define public opinion, how it is measured, and its impact on public policy.
- Explain the role, activities, and major types of interest groups and describe various techniques used by groups to promote their interests.
- Trace the evolution of political parties and evaluate their role in the American political system.
- Analyze the dynamics of the electoral process.
- Assess the major functions of the media and its role on politics.

Required Textbooks and/or Materials:

Evaluation:
Three exams will be administered during the Fall session and a final exam component. In addition, class participation and attendance will factor into the final grade.

<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th>Requirement</th>
<th>Tentative Date</th>
<th>Percent of Final Average</th>
</tr>
</thead>
<tbody>
<tr>
<td>Exam 1</td>
<td>All exam dates will be provided separately</td>
<td>20%</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Exam 2</td>
<td>Ditto</td>
<td>20%</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Exam 3</td>
<td>Ditto</td>
<td>20%</td>
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<tr>
<td>Final Exam</td>
<td>Ditto</td>
<td>20%</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Political Writing Assignment</td>
<td>The end of the semester</td>
<td>20%</td>
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</tbody>
</table>

100%

Letter Grade Assignment:
Letter grade assignment is per course catalog and according to university policy.
ATTENDANCE POLICY:
Attendance to all classes is expected. Should you anticipate an absence, please notify the instructor in advance. An excessive number of absences will prohibit the successful completion of this course. If you should miss a class, it is the student’s responsibility to obtain lecture notes and assignments from a classmate. Current political events will often be discussed in class. Class participation and attendance are factors in calculating the final grade.

ASSIGNMENTS:
All assignments and exams are to be completed and submitted to the instructor on the scheduled due date. No late assignments will be accepted.

MAKE-UP EXAMS:
Students should contact the instructor prior to missing a scheduled examination by phone, in person, by e-mail or by voice mail. An opportunity to take an alternative examination will be offered to those who make prior contact with the instructor. All make-up exams will be administered outside of regular class hours. Make-up exams may be all essay!

WITHDRAWAL POLICY:
Withdrawal from the course on or after the official day of record will result in a final grade of “W” on the student’s transcript and no credit will be awarded. Prior to the official day of record, it is the student’s responsibility to initiate and complete a request for withdrawal from any course. Last day to drop and receive “W” is as officially listed by UST. (Friday, November 4, 2016)

ACADEMIC INTEGRITY:
The University of St. Thomas is committed to a high standard of academic integrity in the academic community. In becoming a part of the academic community, students are responsible for honesty and independent effort. Failure to uphold these standards includes, but is not limited to the following: plagiarizing written work or projects, cheating on exams or assignments, collusion on an exam or project, and misrepresentation of credentials or prerequisites when registering for a course. Cheating includes looking at or copying from another student's exam, orally communicating or receiving answers during an exam, having another person take an exam or complete a project or assignment, using unauthorized notes, texts, or other materials for an exam, and obtaining or distributing an unauthorized copy of an exam or any part of an exam. Plagiarism means passing off as his/her own the ideas or writings of another (that is, without giving proper credit by documenting sources). Plagiarism includes submitting a paper, report or project that someone else has prepared, in whole or in part. Collusion is inappropriately collaborating on assignments designed to be completed independently. These definitions are not exhaustive. When there is clear evidence of cheating, plagiarism, collusion or misrepresentation, a faculty member will take disciplinary action including but not limited to: requiring the student to retake or resubmit an exam or assignment, assigning a grade of zero or "F" for an exam or assignment; or assigning a grade of "F" for the course. Additional sanctions including being withdrawn from the course, program or expelled from school may be imposed on a student who violates the standards of academic integrity.

ADA STATEMENT
Any student with a disability requiring accommodations in this course must contact Counseling and Disability Services in Crooker Center. This office can be reached at (713) 525-6953 or 3162. The professor is unable to unilaterally grant ADA consideration to students.

**CELL PHONES AND ELECTRONIC DEVICES:** Mute all cell phones and electronic devices. In an emergency, please leave the classroom before responding.

**HOLIDAYS:**
As officially set by UST for the Fall 2016.

**HAVE FUN & GOOD LUCK!**

The professor reserves the right to make any necessary changes to this syllabus, as well as any changes to the reading and testing schedule. However, no material changes are expected to be made at this time.

**NOTE:** The reading and testing schedule is attached.
POLITICS  What is it really?

Chapter 1  Politics:  Who Gets What, When, and How

Chapter 2  Political Culture:  Ideas in Conflict

CONSTITUTION  One of the greatest stories ever told!

Chapter 3  The Constitution:  Limiting Governmental Power
   The Constitution of the United States

Chapter 4  Federalism:  Dividing Governmental Power

EXAM I ON POLITICS AND THE CONSTITUTION

PARTICIPANTS  Who are the players?

Chapter 5  Opinion and Participation:  Thinking and Acting in Politics

Chapter 6  Mass Media:  Setting the Political Agenda

Chapter 7  Political Parties:  Organizing Politics

Chapter 8  Campaigns and Elections:  Deciding Who Governs

Chapter 9  Interest Groups:  Getting Their Share and More

EXAM II ON PARTICIPANTS

(TEXAS CHAPTERS ON NEXT PAGE AND FINAL INFORMATION)
TEXAS POLITICS  A very tough political agenda!


Chapter 1  Political Culture

Chapter 2   The Texas Constitution

Chapter 8  Elections, Voting, and Campaigns

Chapter 9  Political Parties

Chapter 10  Interest Groups

Chapter 11  Public Policy

EXAM III ON TEXAS POLITICS  (The six chapters listed from the online free text)

NOTE: THE LAST DAY OF CLASS IS MONDAY, DECEMBER 5, 2016. THE FINAL EXAM WILL BE WEDNESDAY, DECEMBER 7, 8:00-10:30AM.

HAPPY HOLIDAYS !!!