



**Course Syllabus: American Government II**  
**POL1433 Section X20**  
**Spring 2022 Online**

**Contact Information**

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**Course Description**

This course introduces students to the political system of the United States and the state of Texas. In this course we will study the institutions of American government including the three branches of government at the federal and state level; government and the economy, social and foreign policy; and civil liberties and rights.

Texas Core Objectives: This course will support the development of the following state mandated core learning objectives: Critical Thinking, Communication Skills, Social Responsibility, and Personal Responsibility.

**Course Modality Statement:** This course has been planned as a fully **online** course for the Spring semester of 2022. I will use D2L for posting syllabi, course communication, course schedule, attendance, and gradebook, as well as for course materials and testing. There will be some online office hours announced through D2L. You should regularly check D2L and the email hosted via D2L for important course information.

**Textbook & Instructional Materials**

Benjamin Ginsberg, Benjamin, Margaret Weir, Theodore Lowi and Caroline Tolbert. 2019. *We the People*. 13th Edition. New York: W.W. Norton & Sons.  
Ebook: ISBN: 978-0-393-53878-6

Champagne, Anthony, and Edward Harpham. 2019. *Governing Texas: An Introduction to Texas Politics* 5th Edition. New York: W.W. Norton & Sons.  
Ebook: ISBN: 978-0-393-53974-5

## **Student Handbook**

Refer to: [Student Handbook-2020-2021](#)

### ***Academic Misconduct Policy & Procedures***

Academic Dishonesty: Cheating, collusion, and plagiarism (the act of using source material of other persons, either published or unpublished, without following the accepted techniques of crediting, or the submission for credit of work not the individuals to whom credit is given). Additional guidelines on procedures in these matters may be found in the Office of Student Rights and Responsibilities.

### **Grading**

Course Grade: There will be 3 exams (exam1, exam2, and a final), 13 chapter InQuizitive exercises (lowest 3 scores will be dropped), 10 Discussion exercises, and 10 Question submissions. For the point distribution see Table 1. All grades will be recorded in D2L.

***Table 1: Points allocated to each assignment***

<b><i>Assignments</i></b>	<b><i>Points</i></b>
InQuizitive	10
Discussion	10
Question Submissions	10
Exam 1	25
Exam 2	25
Final Exam	20
<b><i>Total Points</i></b>	<b><i>100</i></b>

***Table 2: Total points for final grade.***

Grade	Points
A	90-100
B	80 to 89
C	70 to 79
D	60 to 69
F	Less than 60

### ***InQuizitive***

InQuizitive is an adaptive quizzing tool that combines interactive question types with game-like elements to engage students. Instructions for accessing InQuizitive will be given during the introduction to the class. Students are required to purchase the electronic textbook, the accompanying InQuizitive

software, and access the proper class through the student set ID. Students who fail to do so or who do not follow the posted instructions will not receive a grade for this assignment. Each week we will cover a different subject and the InQuizitive assignment must be completed by the end of that week. In InQuizitive, students must answer a minimum number of questions in each activity before receiving a grade and reach a Target Score to earn a 100%.

These grades will be imported into D2L as a percentage (1% to 100%) and at the end of the semester the lowest three scores will be dropped, the rest of the scores will be multiplied by 0.01, and then added together for a maximum of 10 points.

If the quiz is not completed before the due date, the student will receive a **ZERO** grade. There will be **no make-up quizzes** nor will technical issues that occurred on the last day that the quiz is open will be considered.

### ***Discussions***

On some weeks, I will post a question along with a link to a current item in the news that deals with that week's topic. The student will have to input 2 responses.

First, the student will respond with an answer that most closely aligns with their political beliefs and then cite evidence (links to articles or current research) that backs up their argument. Then, the student will respond with a counter-argument that refutes the above information. This evidence must also be cited and sourced. Other students are free to comment on the posts but it must be respectful.

The questions will be posted on Mondays' at 8am and will be due on Sunday at 11pm. Late work will not be accepted and participation in these assignments is worth 1 point each.

There will be 10 discussion questions posted in the 'Communication>Discussion' section during the semester.

### ***Review Questions***

Each week, students will submit questions that they have over the topic being covered. The student should read the chapter and then do the Inquizitive assignment before posting their question in the discussion section. Each question must be posted by Sunday at 11pm and they are worth 1 point each (for a total of 10 points). Before each exam, I will collate the questions and answer them in a live Zoom meeting where students can attend and ask more questions if needed. This video will be recorded and posted in D2L for those students who could not attend. This will be the students review opportunity for the exams.

These questions will be posted in the 'Communication>Discussion' section during the semester.

## **Exams**

**Exam Policies:** There will be three required examinations: exam 1, 2, and a final. The scheduled examination dates are posted in the calendar section and these are not subject to change. All of the exams will be given in D2L.

**Exam Make-Ups:** If a student misses an exam, to be eligible for a make-up exam they must have documentation from the **Office of Student Rights and Responsibilities** that detail the reason for the absence.

If a student fails to notify the instructor and provide the required documentation, the student will receive a **ZERO** for that grade.

If a student does have a sufficient reason for missing the exam, the make-up exam must be completed within 7 days of the regularly scheduled exam date. Scheduling the make-up exam is the student's responsibility, not the instructor.

All make-up exams will be in **essay format**.

**Taking Exams Early:** Only under extraordinary circumstances will a student be allowed to take an exam, including the final, early. Only university approved excuses from the **Office of Student Rights and Responsibilities** (i.e. death in the family, illness, etc.) will be considered for taking an exam early. Plane tickets or summer vacation plans are not a legitimate reason.

You must request to take an exam early **IN WRITING** well before the date of the exam and approval is solely at the discretion of the instructor.

### **Exam 1**

Exam 1 will be worth 25 points, it will be administered through D2L, and it will consist of multiple-choice questions. The specified dates and time are in the course schedule.

### **Exam 2**

Exam 2 will be worth 25 points, it will be administered through D2L, and it will consist of multiple-choice questions. The specified dates and time are in the course schedule.

### **Final Exam**

The Final exam will be worth 20 points, it will be administered through D2L, and it will consist of multiple-choice questions. The specified dates and time are in the course schedule.

### ***Extra Credit***

There is **NO EXTRA-CREDIT** for this class.

### ***Late Work***

Late work will **NOT** be accepted.

### **Technology Requirements & Desire-to-Learn (D2L)**

Extensive use of the MSU D2L program is a part of this course. Each student is expected to be familiar with this program as it provides a primary source of communication regarding assignments, examination materials, and general course information. You can log into [D2L](#) through the MSU Homepage. If you experience difficulties, please contact the technicians listed for the program or contact your instructor.

All exams and quizzes will utilize the Respondus Lockdown Browser and Respondus Monitor for testing. In order to utilize these programs, you will need to note the following:

- Chromebooks are not compatible with the Respondus Lockdown Browser and Monitor;
- Apple iPads may be used for quizzes and exams, but these are not advised for any assignment with a written component;
- Mobile phones and similar devices are not compatible with the required programs;
- A working webcam on the computing device is needed for all exams and quizzes.

Please note: a limited number of webcams and laptops with cameras are available for check-out through the MSU Texas Moffett Library.

### **Online Computer Requirements**

Taking an online class requires you to have access to a computer (with Internet access) to complete and upload your assignments. It is your responsibility to have (or have access to) a working computer in this class. ***Assignments and tests are due by the due date, and personal computer technical difficulties will not be considered reason for the instructor to allow students extra time to submit assignments, tests, or discussion postings.***

Computers are available on campus in various areas of the buildings as well as the Academic Success Center. **Your computer being down is not an excuse for missing a deadline!!** There are many places to access your class! Our online classes can be accessed from any computer in the world which is connected to the internet. Contact your instructor immediately upon having computer trouble.

If you have technical difficulties in the course, there is also a student helpdesk available to you. The college cannot work directly on student computers due to both liability and resource limitations, however, they are able to help you get connected to our online services. For help, log into [D2L](#).

### **Instructor Class Policies**

***Expectations:*** Since this is an internet course, the logistics will be somewhat different than a regular lecture class, however all participation exercises, quizzes, and exams must be completed by the specified due dates. Due to the fact that the students will have a week to complete all of the course work this should not be a problem. If, however, an issue arises that will cause the student to miss an assignment or an exam the following policy must be followed: contact me before the assignment or exam is due and provide valid documentation for not completing the assignments on time. Each case will be judged individually and it is up to the instructor to decide whether or not to permit late work. Extra credit for missed assignments will not be granted.

***Readings:*** The assigned chapters serve as a foundation for the participation exercises and they should be read and studied. Do not rely solely on the posted notes and powerpoints. Not all of the material from the chapters is covered in them and the student is accountable for all of the assigned information.

***Communication Policy:*** In order to facilitate timely and effective communication between the instructor and the student the following policies will be put in place:

All emails need to be sent through Desire2Learn. This will keep student communications separate from the day to day administrative and campus wide emails.

All emails need to begin with your full name (i.e. the name that you are registered under) and your class number and section.

All emails received Monday through Friday (before noon) will be answered within 24 hours, while emails received on Saturday, Sunday, or Friday afternoon will be answered on the following Monday.

All emails that concern questions that are already answered in the syllabus, exercise instructions, announcement section of D2L, or given during class will merely be referred to those communications (i.e. my response will be, "Please refer to the syllabus or instructions to answer this question.").

### **Change of Schedule**

A student dropping a course (but not withdrawing from the University) within the first 12 class days of a regular semester or the first four class days of a summer semester is eligible for a 100% refund of applicable tuition and fees. Dates are published in the Schedule of Classes each semester.

### **Refund and Repayment Policy**

A student who withdraws or is administratively withdrawn from Midwestern State University (MSU) may be eligible to receive a refund for all or a portion of the tuition, fees and room/board charges that were paid to MSU for the semester. HOWEVER, if the student received financial aid (federal/state/institutional grants, loans and/or scholarships), all or a portion of the refund may be returned to the financial aid programs. As described below, two formulas (federal and state) exist in determining the amount of the refund. (Examples of each refund calculation will be made available upon request).

### **Services for Students with Disabilities**

In accordance with Section 504 of the Federal Rehabilitation Act of 1973 and the Americans with Disabilities Act of 1990, Midwestern State University endeavors to make reasonable accommodations to ensure equal opportunity for qualified persons with disabilities to participate in all educational, social, and recreational programs and activities. After notification of acceptance, students requiring accommodations should make application for such assistance through Disability Support Services, located in the Clark Student Center, Room 168, (940) 397-4140. Current documentation of a disability will be required in order to provide appropriate services, and each request will be individually reviewed. For more details, please go to [Disability Support Services](#).

### **College Policies**

#### ***Grade Appeal Process***

Students who wish to appeal a grade should consult the Midwestern State University [Undergraduate Catalog](#)

**Notice:** Changes in the course syllabus, procedure, assignments, and schedule may be made at the discretion of the instructor.



## 1433-X20 Course Schedule

Week	Topic	Activity	Start Date	Due Date
1	Syllabus & Introduction to Political Science		1/10 @ 8am	1/17 @ 11pm
2	WTP12: Congress	InQuizitive	1/18 @ 8am	1/23 @ 11pm
3	WTP13: The President	InQuizitive	1/24 @ 8am	1/30 @ 11pm
4	WTP15: The Federal Courts	InQuizitive	1/31 @ 8am	2/6 @ 11pm
5	WTP14: Bureaucracy	InQuizitive	2/7 @ 8am	2/13 @ 11pm
6	<b>Exam 1</b>		<b>2/14 @ 8am</b>	<b>2/20 @ 11pm</b>
7	WTP4: Civil Liberties	InQuizitive	2/21 @ 8am	2/27 @ 11pm
8	WTP5: Civil Rights	InQuizitive	2/28 @ 8am	3/6 @ 11pm
9	WTP16: Government & the Economy; WTP17 Social Policy	InQuizitive	3/7 @ 8am	3/20 @ 11pm
10	WTP18: Foreign Policy	InQuizitive	3/21 @ 8am	3/27 @ 11pm
11	<b>Exam 2</b>		<b>3/28 @ 8am</b>	<b>4/3 @ 11pm</b>
12	GT7: TX Legislature	InQuizitive	4/4 @ 8am	4/10 @ 11pm
13	GT8: TX Executive Branch	InQuizitive	4/11 @ 8am	4/17 @ 11pm
14	GT9: TX Judiciary	InQuizitive	4/18 @ 8am	4/24 @ 11pm
15	GT10: TX Local Government	InQuizitive	4/25 @ 8am	5/1 @ 11pm
<b>16</b>	<b>Final</b>		<b>5/2 @ 8am</b>	<b>5/6 @ 11pm</b>

*WTP: We the People & GT: Governing Texas*