



American Government - POLS 1433 Section 102  
College of Humanities & Social Science  
Prothro-Yeager Rm 200  
MWF 12:00 PM - 12:50 PM  
Fall 2022 | Aug 22 - Dec 10

#### Contact Information

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#### Course Description

Legislative, executive, and judicial functions in the United States and Texas governments; foreign policy; the conduct of foreign relations; civil liberties and rights; national defense; government and the economy; governmental services. Special attention given to Texas.

#### Textbook & Instructional Materials

American Government: Power and Purpose (with Ebook, InQuizitive, Timeplot Exercises, and Weekly News Quiz) 16th edition ISBN: 9780393538908

Governing Texas (with Ebook, InQuizitive, Infographic Animations, Simulations, and A Citizen's Guide to the Future of Texas) 5th edition ISBN: 9780393539745

#### Student Handbook

Refer to: [Student Handbook-2020-21](#)

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Cheating, collusion, and plagiarism (the act of using source material of other persons, either published or unpublished, without following the accepted techniques of crediting, or the submission for credit of work not the individual's to whom credit is given).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

## Grading

Course Grade - List all graded assignments with their point value and or percentage of total grade. Letter Grade Scale indicates the overall %.

Table 1: Percentage of each assignment.

Assignments	Percentage
Quizzes	15
InQuizitive	10
Midterm Exam	30
Reflection Paper	15
Final Exam	30
<b>Total</b>	<b>100</b>

Table 2: Total points for final grade.

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

## Homework

This class will have homework (InQuizitive) that is assigned through the textbook publishing company. Homework will be due at 11:59 PM on Friday. I will drop the three lowest homework grades at the end of the semester.

## Reflection Paper

This assignment asks students to apply what they have learned in class to the world around them. The signature assignment asks students to write a letter to a policymaker of their choosing to bring up a policy that they should be concerned about and what changes can be made by the policymaker to take the appropriate steps to address the issue at hand.

## Quizzes

This class will have one assigned quiz based on the Weekly News Quizzes that are assigned through the textbook publishing company. It is your own responsibility to keep up with world events and you can do so by listening/reading/watching the news on a daily basis. Some good sources to keep up with world events are National Public Radio (NPR), New York Times (NYT), Texas Tribune (TT), and the Washington Post (WP). The quizzes will be due at

11:59 PM on Friday. I will drop the three lowest quiz grades at the end of the semester.

### Exams

This class will have three (3) exams total, but only two (2) of the exams will count towards your final grade. Each of the exams is worth 30% of your grade and will cover the material from each chapter in the assigned textbooks. There will be one (1) final exam which will be a makeup exam in the event you miss an exam or you are unsatisfied with one of the grades you received on an exam. However, the **optional** final exam is cumulative and will contain material from each of the previous exams. Exams will consist of 50 multiple choice, true/false, and matching questions where you will be given one hour to complete once open. Exams will be available on D2L and will require the Respondus LockDown Browser. Exams will open at 12:01 AM and will close at 11:59 PM on the designated Fridays located further down in the syllabus.

### Extra Credit

This class will have limited extra credit opportunities. These extra credit opportunities will be announced via D2L. The type of extra credit opportunities that may be given during the course may come from a podcast, a documentary, or a current event. Extra credit assignments are worth one additional point towards the total grade in class.

### Late Work

Late submissions for assignment will incur a penalty of 25 points for every 24 hours it's not submitted. For the final exam, no work will be accepted after the final day of class (December 10th).

### Make Up Work/Tests

Absences due to required participation in university-sponsored activities must be approved by the college dean or Athletic Director and the Provost. Students with written approval must present a signed letter or memo to each instructor at least two (2) class days prior to the date of the absence. Only prior notification can guarantee lack of penalty for these absences. It is the responsibility of the student to arrange with the instructor to make-up all work missed during an authorized absence.

### Important Dates

Last day for term schedule changes: August 25.  
Deadline to file for graduation: September 26.

Last Day to drop with a grade of "W:"

Refer to: [Drops, Withdrawals & Void](#)

### 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.

### Attendance

Students are expected to attend all meetings of the classes in which they are enrolled. Although in general students are graded on intellectual effort and performance rather than attendance, absences may lower the student's grade where class attendance and class participation are deemed essential by the faculty member. In those classes where attendance is considered as part of the grade, the instructor should inform students of the specifics in writing at the beginning of the semester in a syllabus or separate attendance policy statement. An instructor who has an attendance policy must keep records on a daily basis. The instructor must give the student a verbal or written warning prior to being dropped from the class. Instructor's records will stand as evidence of absences. A student with excessive absences may be dropped from a course by the instructor. Any individual faculty member or college has the authority to establish an attendance policy, providing the policy is in accordance with the General University Policies.

### 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](#).

## Email Etiquette

Sending emails is a part of the professionalization development that students are expected to go through while they are in college. When you send me (or any other professor) an email please be sure to address the reader with the correct title, use appropriate grammar in the subject line and body of the email, and be brief and to the point. For more information on how to write a professional email visit the websites below.

[How to write a professional email](#)

[Email etiquette for students](#)

## Announcements

Be sure to check your email as this is how information for this class will be distributed. Announcements will be posted on D2L and will be sent to the email linked to D2L which is more likely than not your system email.

## Class Etiquette

Political Science and government classes often discuss topics that have the potential to ignite feelings for many. This class may do so and it is important for everyone to remember to be respectful of others beliefs should it become a point of topic. However, if any discussion becomes hostile towards another student or the instructor I, the instructor, reserve the right to remove students that have expressed what can be interpreted as hate speech towards race/ethnicity/gender/class/sexual expression. If you are not sure what may be interpreted as hate speech email me beforehand. Additionally, please review the link below that discusses classroom etiquette and conduct.

[Classroom etiquette for students](#)

## 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

#### Campus Carry Rules/Policies

Refer to: [Campus Carry Rules and Policies](#)

#### Smoking/Tobacco Policy

College policy strictly prohibits the use of tobacco products in any building owned or operated by WATC. Adult students may smoke only in the outside designated-smoking areas at each location.

#### Alcohol and Drug Policy

To comply with the Drug Free Schools and Communities Act of 1989 and subsequent amendments, students and employees of Midwestern State are informed that strictly enforced policies are in place which prohibits the unlawful possession, use or distribution of any illicit drugs, including alcohol, on university property or as part of any university-sponsored activity. Students and employees are also subject to all applicable legal sanctions under local, state and federal law for any offenses involving illicit drugs on University property or at University-sponsored activities.

### Grade Appeal Process

Update as needed. 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.

## Course Schedule

Week	Topics/Assignments/Exams	Due Date
Week 1 8/22 to 8/27	US - The Five Principles TX - Political Culture, People, and Economy of Texas	Aug 26
Week 2 8/28 to 9/3	US - Constructing a Government TX - Texas Constitution	Sep 2
Week 3 9/4 to 9/10	US - Federalism TX - Texas in the Federal System	Sep 9
Week 4 9/11 to 9/17	US - Civil Liberties and Civil Rights	Sep 16
Week 5 9/18 to 9/24	US - Congress TX - The Legislature	Sep 23
Week 6 9/25 to 10/1	US - The Presidency TX - Local Government	Sep 30
Week 7 10/2 to 10/8	US - The Executive Branch TX - The Executive Branch	Oct 7
Week 8 10/9 to 10/15	US - Federal Courts TX - The Judiciary <b>Exam 1</b>	Oct 14
Week 9 10/16 to 10/22	US - Public Opinion	Oct 21
Week 10 10/23 to 10/29	US - Elections and Political Parties TX - Elections and Political Parties	Oct 28
Week 11 10/30 to 11/5	US - Groups and Interests TX - Interest Groups and Lobbying	Nov 4
Week 12 11/6 to 11/12	US - The Media TX - Crime, Corrections, and Public Safety	Nov 11
Week 13 11/13 to 11/19	US - Economic Policy TX - Public Finance	Nov 18
Week 14 11/20 to 11/26	US - Social Policy TX - Public Policy <b>Reflection Essay</b>	Nov 25
Week 15 11/27 to 12/3	US - Foreign Policy TX - Building the Future <b>Exam 2</b>	Dec 2
Week 16 12/4 to 12/10	<b>Optional</b> Final Exam	Dec

Note: Syllabus is subject to change at the discretion of the instructor.