Instructor: Dr. Dongkyu Kim
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Classroom & course hours: *
Office hours: 211 ELANB, TTR, 12:00 – 1:30 (with appointment)

* Online Class: To access the course site, log into Blackboard through myUTRGV using your university credential.

Course Description
This course introduces you to theories about and the practice of American federal government. Specific topics include origin and development of the U.S. Constitution, structure and powers of the national government including the legislative, executive, and judicial branches, federalism, political participation, the national election process, public policy, civil liberties, and civil rights. Throughout the semester, we will examine the following questions. Why is our government set up the way it is? How was our government established by our Constitution and the debates of the founding era? How have they evolved over time? How does the American mass public fit into the political process of American government? In doing so, we will explore the very foundation of our national government and public behavior in American politics.

Learning Objectives/Outcomes for the Course
1. To demonstrate knowledge and understanding of the separation of powers as described in the U.S. Constitution;
2. To demonstrate knowledge and understanding of Congress and its institutions;
3. To demonstrate knowledge and understanding of the Presidency and the workings of federal agencies;
4. To demonstrate knowledge and understanding of the federal judicial system; and,
5. To demonstrate knowledge and understanding of the processes by which federal domestic policy are made and executed.

Learning Objectives for Core Curriculum Requirements
This course fulfills a core area requirement in Government/Political Science:
1. Courses in this category focus on consideration of the Constitution of the United States and the constitutions of the states, with special emphasis on that of Texas.
2. Courses in this area involve the analysis of governmental institutions, political behavior, civic engagement, and their political and philosophical foundations.
3. The following four core objectives must be addressed in each course approved to fulfill this category requirement: Critical Thinking Skills, Communication Skills, Personal Responsibility, and Social Responsibility.
The core objectives are defined as:

**Critical Thinking** Students will demonstrate comprehension of a variety of written texts and other information sources by analyzing and evaluating the logic, validity, and relevance of the information in them to solve challenging problems, to arrive at well-reasoned conclusions, and to develop and explore new questions.

**Communication Skills** Students will demonstrate the ability to adapt their communications to a particular context, audience, and purpose using language, genre conventions, and sources appropriate to a specific discipline and/or communication task.

**Personal Responsibility** Students will demonstrate an awareness of the range of human values and beliefs that they draw upon to connect choices, actions, and consequences to ethical decision-making.

**Social Responsibility** Students will recognize and describe cultural diversity, the role of civic engagement in society, and the link between ethics and behavior.

**How to Succeed in this Class**

1. Succeeding in this course will take a significant investment of your time. Be prepared to keep up with reading assignments and review materials periodically to make sure you get main points.
2. Please turn in assignments including quizzes on time. No late submissions will be accepted in any circumstances.
3. The key to succeeding in this class is to complete the reading assignments before the day for which they are assigned, turn in assignments on time, and complete quizzes and other activities on time.

**Communication is the KEY**
Email is the official method of communication for this course. Students can expect to receive emails from the instructor, Dr. Kim introducing assigned course work and the topics to be presented on the PowerPoint slides uploaded to Blackboard. Students are expected to check their university email account several times a week. Student questions emailed to Dr. Kim will be answered within one-two working days.

**Concerning Email/Blackboard:**
1. The subject line of each email must state your full name and section number.
2. Use your university email account (UTRGV) when sending emails to me. I will not respond to those emails sent via outside accounts.
3. It is a good idea to save all correspondence between you and me.
4. Check the Blackboard page at least once a day for updates. You are responsible for keeping up-to-date with the posts.

The course structure mentioned above assumes students have basic computer skills and know how to use the various programs and hardware used during this session (e.g. Microsoft Word). For information and computer support geared toward online learning, access:
Course Requirements

All quizzes and assignments must be taken by the due date listed on the schedule below or they will not be counted. This course requires students to complete the content of the course as it is assigned. However, students have the flexibility to complete the content any time during the week it is assigned.

A. Exams (60%): You will have two (2) exams in this course, each of which counts for 25% of your course grade. These exams are not cumulative, each covering the only topics learned in each period. There are NO make-up exams.
   • Exam dates are: July 30 Mon, August 13 Sun, and August 17, Fri.

B. Review Quizzes (10%): Five (5) times during the semester, you will be asked to complete a short quiz on recent material via Blackboard. The quiz format will be five multiple-choice or/and T/F items. To ensure that you are prepared for quizzes, I recommend that you review what you have learned after every lecture. You will find that devoting fifteen minutes or so, either later that day or during the next, to looking back over the points that were covered will be very helpful to keeping up with material. There are NO make-up quizzes.
   • Quiz dates are: July 23 Sun, July 30 Sun, August 6 Sun, August 13 Sun, and August 17 Thu.

C. Reading Quizzes (10%): For each topic, you will be given a quiz of 10-15 questions on the chapter of your textbook to be discussed the following period. The questions will be simple true/false, multiple choice questions whose answers can easily be found from the corresponding chapter of the textbook. This activity is designed for you to familiarize yourself with a new topic before viewing lecture material & doing assignments for the topic. Ideally, you are supposed to complete the quiz first before completing any other activities assigned for the topic as a warm-up activity.

D. Weekly Discussion Assignments (20%): Every week, you will be asked to complete a discussion assignment. The assignments correspond with the topics covered during the week. Your write-up is approximately 1-2 paragraphs, or less than one single-spaced page in length. These assignments will form the basis of the class discussion and be posted on the course website each week. Please DO NOT email me your discussion assignments. The aim of these assignments is to link the theory and practice of politics, by learning about the real (and constantly changing) world of politics.

Then, you are responsible for reading the posts of other students, and commenting on TWO of them each time in at least 3 sentences. When you respond to other posts please try to have constructive feedback/comments, but remember to keep them respectful. Simply saying “I agree with you”, “I like your idea”, or “I don’t agree” does not count as a comment. You should discuss why you agree or disagree with the person you comment on. This accounts for the rest 5% of this assignment.
The earlier you complete these discussion posts the better it will be for everyone. Please do not wait until the last minute to complete your posts, or your classmates will not be able to respond to them. Keep in mind that you **MUST** post your write-up **first** so that you can have access to the posts of your classmates.

**F. Grading Rubric:** 100-90 A; 89-80 B; 79-70 C; 69-60 D; 59- F

The final grade for the course will be determined on the basis of your point totals for all assignments over the course of the summer II session. Please email the instructor at any time during the session if you have questions about your grade or progress in the class.

**Required Textbooks**

**Class Topics and Readings**
Readings are to be completed by the due date assigned to each topic. For each topic you should

1) read the assigned chapters in the **textbook**,
2) view the PowerPoint **slides** and
3) complete **assignments** such as reading quizzes, review quizzes, and discussion assignments!

❖ **Topic 1 (July 12, Thu – July 15, Sun)**
Introduction to U.S. Politics; Historical and Philosophical Foundation of American Politics
Barbour and Wright Chapter 3 “Politics of the American Founding”

**Weekly Discussion Assignment 1 (Due July 15, Sun 11:59PM)**
Weekly Discussion Assignment 1 will be available between July 12 and July 15. Read instructions carefully posted on Blackboard to complete the assignment properly. Remember, you should post your own posting and then comment on **TWO** other postings by the deadline.

❖ **Topic 2 (July 16, Mon – July 18, Wed)**
Federalism and the U.S. Constitution
Barbour and Wright Chapter 4 “Federalism and the U.S. Constitution”

**Reading Quiz 1 (Due July 18, Wed 11:59PM)**
Reading Quiz 1 will be available between July 16 and July 18. Read Chapter 4 of your textbook closely and complete the quiz by the deadline.

❖ **Topic 3 (July 19, Thu – July 22, Sun)**
Civil Liberties
Barbour and Wright Chapter 5 “Fundamental American Liberties”
Reading Quiz 2 (Due July 22, Sun 11:59PM)
Reading Quiz 2 will be available between July 19 and July 22. Read Chapter 5 of your textbook closely and complete the quiz by the deadline.

Weekly Discussion Assignment 2 (Due July 22, Sun 11:59PM)
Weekly Discussion Assignment 1 will be available between July 16 and July 22. Read instructions carefully posted on Blackboard to complete the assignment properly. Remember, you should post your own posting and then comment on TWO other postings by the deadline.

Review Quiz 1 (Due July 22, Sun 11:59PM)
It covers Topic 1, 2, and 3.
Review Quiz 1 will be made available between July 16 and July 22. Choose the best time for you to complete the quiz within the window.

Topic 4 (July 23, Mon – July 25, Wed)
Civil Rights
Barbour and Wright Chapter 6 “The Struggle for Equal Rights”

Reading Quiz 3 (Due July 25, Wed 11:59PM)
Reading Quiz 3 will be available between July 23 and July 25. Read Chapter 6 of your textbook closely and complete the quiz by the deadline.

Topic 5 (July 26, Thu – July 29, Sun)
Political Ideology & Political Culture; Public Opinion & Participation
Barbour and Wright Chapter 11 “Public Opinion”

Reading Quiz 4 (Due July 29, Sun 11:59PM)
Reading Quiz 4 will be available between July 26 and July 29. Read Chapter 11 of your textbook closely and complete the quiz by the deadline.

Weekly Discussion Assignment 3
Weekly Discussion Assignment 3 will be available between July 23 and July 29. Read instructions carefully posted on Blackboard to complete the assignment properly. Remember, you should post your own posting and then comment on TWO other postings by the deadline.

Review Quiz 2 (Due July 29, Sun 11:59PM)
It covers Topics 4 and 5.
Review Quiz 2 will be made available between July 23 and July 29. Choose the best time for you to complete the quiz within the window.

Exam 1 Due July 30, Mon 11:59PM
Exam 1 will be made available between July 29 8:00 AM and July 30 11:59 PM. You MUST complete your exam by July 30 11:59 PM.

- **Topic 6 (July 31, Tue – August 2, Thu)**
  - **Interest Groups**
  - Barbour and Wright Chapter 13 “Interest Groups”

  **Reading Quiz 5 (Due August 2, Thu 11:59PM)**
  - Reading Quiz 5 will be available between July 31 and August 2. Read Chapter 13 of your textbook closely and complete the quiz by the deadline.

- **Topic 7 (August 3, Fri – August 6, Mon)**
  - **Political Parties**
  - Barbour and Wright Chapter 12 “Political Parties”

  **Reading Quiz 6 (Due August 6, Mon 11:59PM)**
  - Reading Quiz 6 will be available between August 3 and August 6. Read Chapter 12 of your textbook closely and complete the quiz by the deadline.

  **Weekly Discussion Assignment 4 (Due August 6, Mon 11:59PM)**
  - Weekly Discussion Assignment 4 will be available between August 3 and August 6. Read instructions carefully posted on Blackboard to complete the assignment properly. Remember, you should post your own posting and then comment on TWO other postings by the deadline.

  **Review Quiz 3 (Due August 6, Mon 11:59PM)**
  - It covers Topics 6 and 7.
  - Review Quiz 3 will be made available between July 31 and August 6. Choose the best time for you to complete the quiz within the window.

- **Topic 8 (August 7, Tue – August 9, Thu)**
  - **Congress**
  - Barbour and Wright Chapter 7 “Congress”

  **Reading Quiz 7 (Due Nov 19, Sun 11:59PM)**
  - Reading Quiz 7 will be available between August 7 and August 9. Read Chapter 7 of your textbook closely and complete the quiz by the deadline.

- **Topic 9 (August 10, Fri – August 13, Mon)**
  - **The Presidency**
  - Barbour and Wright Chapter 8 “The Presidency”
Reading Quiz 8 (August 13, Mon 11:59PM)
Reading Quiz 8 will be available between August 7 and August 9. Read Chapter 8 of your textbook closely and complete the quiz by the deadline.

Weekly Discussion Assignment 5 (Due August 13, Mon 11:59PM)
Weekly Discussion Assignment 5 will be available between August 7 and August 13. Read instructions carefully posted on Blackboard to complete the assignment properly. Remember, you should post your own posting and then comment on TWO other postings by the deadline.

Review Quiz 4 (Due August 13, Mon 11:59PM)
It covers Topics 8 and 9. Review Quiz 3 will be made available between August 7 and August 13. Choose the best time for you to complete the quiz within the window.

Topic 10 (August 14, Tue – August 16, Thu)
The Judiciary
Barbour and Wright Chapter 10 “The American Legal System and the Courts”

Reading Quiz 9 (Due August 16, Thu 11:59PM)
Reading Quiz 9 will be available between August 14 and August 16. Read Chapter 10 of your textbook closely and complete the quiz by the deadline.

Review Quiz 5 (Due August 16, Thu 11:59PM)
It covers Topic 10. Review Quiz 5 will be made available between August 14 and August 16. Choose the best time for you to complete the quiz within the window.

Exam 2 Due August 17, Fri 11:59PM
Exam 2 will be made available between August 17 8:00 AM and August 17 11:59PM. You MUST complete your exam by August 17 11:59PM.
**UTRGV Policy Statements**

**STUDENTS WITH DISABILITIES:**
If you have a documented disability (physical, psychological, learning, or other disability which affects your academic performance) and would like to receive academic accommodations, please inform your instructor and contact Student Accessibility Services to schedule an appointment to initiate services. It is recommended that you schedule an appointment with Student Accessibility Services before classes start. However, accommodations can be provided at any time. **Brownsville Campus:** Student Accessibility Services is located in Cortez Hall Room 129 and can be contacted by phone at (956) 882-7374 (Voice) or via email at ability@utrgv.edu. **Edinburg Campus:** Student Accessibility Services is located in 108 University Center and can be contacted by phone at (956) 665-7005 (Voice), (956) 665-3840 (Fax), or via email at ability@utrgv.edu.

**MANDATORY COURSE EVALUATION PERIOD:**
Students are required to complete an ONLINE evaluation of this course, accessed through your UTRGV account (http://my.utrgv.edu); you will be contacted through email with further instructions. Students who complete their evaluations will have priority access to their grades. Online evaluations will be available:

**SCHOLASTIC INTEGRITY:**
As members of a community dedicated to Honesty, Integrity and Respect, students are reminded that those who engage in scholastic dishonesty are subject to disciplinary penalties, including the possibility of failure in the course and expulsion from the University. Scholastic dishonesty includes but is not limited to: cheating, plagiarism, and collusion; 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. Since scholastic dishonesty harms the individual, all students and the integrity of the University, policies on scholastic dishonesty will be strictly enforced (Board of Regents Rules and Regulations and UTRGV Academic Integrity Guidelines). All scholastic dishonesty incidents will be reported to the Dean of Students.

**SEXUAL HARASSMENT, DISCRIMINATION, and VIOLENCE:**
In accordance with UT System regulations, your instructor is a “responsible employee” for reporting purposes under Title IX regulations and so must report any instance, occurring during a student’s time in college, of sexual assault, stalking, dating violence, domestic violence, or sexual harassment about which she/he becomes aware during this course through writing, discussion, or personal disclosure. More information can be found at www.utrgv.edu/equity, including confidential resources available on campus. The faculty and staff of UTRGV actively strive to provide a learning, working, and living environment that promotes personal integrity, civility, and mutual respect in an environment free from sexual misconduct and discrimination.

**COURSE DROPS:**
According to UTRGV policy, students may drop any class without penalty earning a grade of DR until the official drop date. Following that date, students must be assigned a letter grade and can no longer drop the class. Students considering dropping the class should be aware of the “3-peat rule” and the “6-drop” rule so they can recognize how dropped classes may affect their academic success. The 6-drop rule refers to Texas law that dictates that undergraduate students may not drop more than six courses during their undergraduate career. Courses dropped at other Texas public higher education institutions will count toward the six-course drop limit. The 3-peat rule refers to additional fees charged to students who take the same class for the third time.