Instructor: Dr. Deen
Office: 206 University Hall
Phone: (817)272-2991
email:deen@uta.edu
Office Hours: T/R 11:00-11:45, Wednesdays 1:30-2:30 and by appointment.
   If these times are inconvenient, I will be happy to make individualized appointments.
   THE FASTEST WAY TO REACH ME IS VIA EMAIL.

Introduction
The political system in the United States is complex and fascinating. Because every resident of this country is affected by government, understanding the way the system operates is critical. This course is designed to give students a broad understanding of U.S. politics by surveying its basic components.

The course begins by examining the structure of our government. First we explore our government’s framework: the Constitution and federalism. Then we follow the development of these constitutional provisions to understand how they have affected the lives of citizens, especially in the contemporary context.

The next section of the course examines how people become involved in the political system. We all influence the political process through: organizations such as political parties or interest groups; the electoral process; even by holding opinions. In this portion of the course, we will analyze the citizens’ role in the democratic process.

The final portion of the course is devoted to the institutions of our national government. The Congress, President, Courts and Bureaucracy, and the policies they create are important. This is true not only because we put them in office (directly or indirectly), but also because their activities affect us daily. The legality of particular actions, the taxes we pay, the air that we breathe are all influenced by these political actors. In this section, we will learn about what they do, how they do it and why.

Students should know that this course satisfies The University of Texas at Arlington’s core curriculum requirement for US Government.

Student Learning Objectives
There are many objectives for this course, which will be accomplished by students’ reading, class discussion, and active learning projects. Meeting these objectives will be assessed through in-class exercises, written essays and/or in-class examinations. Among the course objectives, over the course of the semester students will:

- Define fundamental concepts associated with American politics in writing or through appropriate responses on exams. (CRITICAL THINKING)
- Describe the structure and function of the US Constitution, including the three branches of American Government. (CRITICAL THINKING)
- Demonstrate understanding of the theory and practice of American politics through a discussion of such in writing or by providing appropriate responses on assignments/exams. (COMMUNICATION)
• Identify/discuss the evolving history and nature of civil rights and civil liberties in America. (SOCIAL RESPONSIBILITY AND PERSONAL RESPONSIBILITY)
• Identify/discuss the influence of mass media, socio-political movements, interest groups, corporations, political parties, campaigns and elections have on American politics. (SOCIAL RESPONSIBILITY AND PERSONAL RESPONSIBILITY)

**Required Text**

If you purchase the textbook at the UT Arlington bookstore, it will come packaged with access to Pearson’s MyPoliSciLab and eText. MyPoliSciLab has online tutorials over the text as well as exercises designed to help you understand and make sense of the material. We will use some of the MyPoliSciLab examples in class occasionally and I may allow completion of some of the exercises for extra credit.

If the textbook you purchase does not come with access to MyPoliSciLab, you may purchase access separately (more on this shortly). Access to MyPoliSciLab is not mandatory, though you will likely feel more integrated into the course (being able to follow along with lecture, being able to recreate the examples from class when you study on your own) if you have access.

The access code for our class is: cm568172. At the end of this syllabus is a detailed handout on MyPoliSciLab from the publisher including how to purchase access to MyPoliSciLab separately. PLEASE TAKE CARE to purchase access for the correct textbook, correct version, correct edition. This book comes in many different forms/versions.

I do not anticipate any additional readings, however should any become necessary they will be announced in class.

**Blackboard**
We will use Blackboard, an online course management tool, as a place for announcements, for you to take occasional quizzes and complete assignments. If you have never used Blackboard, start here: [http://www.uta.edu/blackboard/index.php](http://www.uta.edu/blackboard/index.php).

**Student Responsibilities**
**ATTENDANCE AND PARTICIPATION** I expect you to attend all classes. Students should come to class having read and thought about the material. People who don’t attend class typically do very poorly on the exams. Exam questions draw heavily on lecture material and in-class discussion. Some material may only be available by coming to class. STUDENTS MISS CLASS AT THEIR OWN RISK. Should you find occasion to be absent, I will be happy to discuss the material once you have obtained class notes from another student.

Communicating your thoughts to others is an important component of learning and thus participation will be an important part of this course. Participation means not only responding to questions, but also asking questions inside and outside of class and engaging in small group work. Coming to office hours, emailing and phoning me all count as participation. People who participate typically perform better on other assignments than those who do not.
**EXAMS**
There are 2 exams and a final exam. Each will consist of multiple choice, true/false, short answer and/or essay questions. The questions for the exams will be drawn from both lecture and the text.

**Grades**
Grades will be assigned according to the following distribution:

- Exam 1: 25%
- Exam 2: 25%
- Final Exam: 25%
- Class participation: In class discussion, small group work, Blackboard quizzes AND SIGNATURE ASSIGNMENTS, and the Choices project: 25%

More information about the Choices Project, the SIGNATURE ASSIGNMENTS and the breakdown of this portion of the class grade will be distributed in class. In brief, the signature assignments will consist of a series of structured vignettes about which students will answer multiple choice questions.

**STUDENTS MUST HAVE ACCESS TO BLACKBOARD IN ORDER TO RECEIVE CREDIT FOR THIS PORTION OF THE COURSE GRADE.**

Letter grades will be assigned as follows:

- A: 90-100%
- B: 80 - 89%
- C: 70 - 79%
- D: 60 - 69%
- F: below 60%

Students are expected to keep track of their performance throughout the semester and seek guidance from available sources (including the instructor) if their performance drops below satisfactory levels.

**Expectations for Out-of-Class Study**
Beyond the time required to attend each class meeting, students enrolled in this course should expect to spend at least an additional six hours per week of their own time in course-related activities, including reading required materials, completing assignments, preparing for exams, etc. A general rule of thumb is this: for every credit hour earned, a student should spend 3 hours per week working outside of class. Hence, a 3-credit course might have a minimum expectation of 9 hours of reading, study, etc..

**Class Policies**
Makeup work and late penalties
No makeup will be scheduled for the EXAMS OR THE FINAL except for medical reasons or extreme circumstances. The student and instructor must discuss the situation in advance of the exam to schedule such a make-up. Written documentation of the extreme circumstance may be required and documentation is subject to verification. Makeup exams are at the discretion of the instructor and will differ significantly from the in-class exam.

Grade Grievances
Any appeal of a grade in this course must follow the procedures and deadlines for grade-related grievances as published in the current undergraduate / graduate catalog. For undergraduate courses, see http://wweb.uta.edu/catalog/content/general/academic_regulations.aspx#10; for graduate courses, see http://www.uta.edu/gradcatalog/2012/general/regulations/#grades.

Drop Policy
Students may drop or swap (adding and dropping a class concurrently) classes through self-service in MyMav from the beginning of the registration period through the late registration period. After the late registration period, students must see their academic advisor to drop a class or withdraw. Undeclared students must see an advisor in the University Advising Center. Drops can continue through a point two-thirds of the way through the term or session. It is the student's responsibility to officially withdraw if they do not plan to attend after registering. Students will not be automatically dropped for non-attendance. Repayment of certain types of financial aid administered through the University may be required as the result of dropping classes or withdrawing. For more information, contact the Office of Financial Aid and Scholarships (http://wweb.uta.edu/ses/fao).

Americans with Disabilities Act
The University of Texas at Arlington is on record as being committed to both the spirit and letter of all federal equal opportunity legislation, including the Americans with Disabilities Act (ADA). All instructors at UT Arlington are required by law to provide “reasonable accommodations” to students with disabilities, so as not to discriminate on the basis of that disability. Any student requiring an accommodation for this course must provide the instructor with official documentation in the form of a letter certified by the staff in the Office for Students with Disabilities, University Hall 102. Only those students who have officially documented a need for an accommodation will have their request honored. Information regarding diagnostic criteria and policies for obtaining disability-based academic accommodations can be found at www.uta.edu/disability or by calling the Office for Students with Disabilities at (817) 272-3364.

Academic Integrity
All students enrolled in this course are expected to adhere to the UT Arlington Honor Code:

I pledge, on my honor, to uphold UT Arlington’s tradition of academic integrity, a tradition that values hard work and honest effort in the pursuit of academic excellence.
I promise that I will submit only work that I personally create or contribute to group collaborations, and I will appropriately reference any work from other sources. I will follow the highest standards of integrity and uphold the spirit of the Honor Code.

Per UT System Regents’ Rule 50101, §2.2, suspected violations of university’s standards for academic integrity (including the Honor Code) will be referred to the Office of Student Conduct. Violators will be disciplined in accordance with University policy, which may result in the student’s suspension or expulsion from the University.

Student Support Services
UT Arlington provides a variety of resources and programs designed to help students develop academic skills, deal with personal situations, and better understand concepts and information related to their courses. Resources include tutoring, major-based learning centers, developmental education, advising and mentoring, personal counseling, and federally funded programs. For individualized referrals, students may visit the reception desk at University College (Ransom Hall), call the Maverick Resource Hotline at 817-272-6107, send a message to resources@uta.edu, or view the information at www.uta.edu/resources.

START STRONG Freshman Tutoring Program
University Tutorial and Supplemental Instruction (UTSI)/University College
All first time freshmen can receive six FREE hours of tutoring for this course and other selected subjects for this semester. Students must sign up and complete their first hour of tutoring by September 14th. To sign up, visit UTSI in 205 Ransom Hall/University College. Upon completion of your first tutoring appointment, you will receive five hours of additional free tutoring. Flexible tutoring hours are available from 7:00am – 9:00pm, seven days a week at secure locations on campus. All tutors receive extensive training. Find out more at:

Electronic Communication
UT Arlington has adopted MavMail as its official means to communicate with students about important deadlines and events, as well as to transact university-related business regarding financial aid, tuition, grades, graduation, etc. All students are assigned a MavMail account and are responsible for checking the inbox regularly. There is no additional charge to students for using this account, which remains active even after graduation. Information about activating and using MavMail is available at http://www.uta.edu/oit/cs/email/mavmail.php.

My policy regarding email:
Students have the responsibility to verify that emails have been received. I will respond that I have received email, in general within 48 hours. For correspondence, email is generally the fastest way to reach me. However, please do not submit written work via email unless arranged in advance with the instructor. In the event that written work is submitted via email, students have the responsibility to insure that the work is received.

Student Feedback Survey
At the end of each term, students enrolled in classes categorized as lecture, seminar, or laboratory shall be directed to complete a Student Feedback Survey (SFS). Instructions on how to access the SFS for this course will be sent directly to each student through MavMail approximately 10 days before the end of the term. Each student’s feedback enters the SFS database anonymously and is aggregated with that of other students enrolled in the course. UT Arlington’s effort to solicit, gather, tabulate, and publish student feedback is required by state law; students are strongly urged to participate. For more information, visit http://www.uta.edu/sfs.

Final Review Week
A period of five class days prior to the first day of final examinations in the long sessions shall be designated as Final Review Week. The purpose of this week is to allow students sufficient time to prepare for final examinations. During this week, there shall be no scheduled activities such as required field trips or performances; and no instructor shall assign any themes, research problems or exercises of similar scope that have a completion date during or following this week unless specified in the class syllabus. During Final Review Week, an instructor shall not give any examinations constituting 10% or more of the final grade, except makeup tests and laboratory examinations. In addition, no instructor shall give any portion of the final examination during Final Review Week. During this week, classes are held as scheduled. In addition, instructors are not required to limit content to topics that have been previously covered; they may introduce new concepts as appropriate.

If you have any questions regarding any of these policies, please contact me.

Course Schedule
The following is a tentative course schedule. IT MAY CHANGE if we move more slowly or quickly through the material than I anticipate. There will be a series of session in class directly related to the Choices project. Attendance at these sessions is mandatory and the schedule will be announced in class. Also, there will be in-class small group work and Blackboard assignments that will be announced in class and/or on Blackboard.

Coming to class is critical in order to stay on top of course requirements.

In parentheses are the chapter numbers in your text that should be read in advance of each section.

Section 1
<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th>Date</th>
<th>Topic</th>
</tr>
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<tbody>
<tr>
<td>August 23</td>
<td>Introduction, Policies and procedures</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>August 28-30</td>
<td>Intro; What is government and how can I influence it? (1), Colonial governments (2)</td>
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<tr>
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<td>SIGNATURE ASSIGNMENT on critical thinking will be posted to Blackboard by 12:00pm on August 28 and is due by 9:30am on August 30.</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>September 4-6</td>
<td>Colonial governments and the Constitution (2, Appendix 1, 2)</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>September 11-13</td>
<td>Federalism (3)</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>September 18-20</td>
<td>Civil Liberties (4)</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>September 25-27</td>
<td>Civil Rights (5)</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>October 2</td>
<td>Exam 1 in class</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>October 4-9</td>
<td>Public opinion (10, 12)</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>October 11-18</td>
<td>Elections (14)</td>
</tr>
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<td>SIGNATURE ASSIGNMENT on communication will be posted to Blackboard by 12:00pm on October 11 and is due by 9:30am on October 18.</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>October 23-25</td>
<td>Media (11)</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>October 30</td>
<td>Parties (15)</td>
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<td>SIGNATURE ASSIGNMENT on social responsibility will be posted to Blackboard by 12:00pm on October 30 and is due by 9:30am on November 1.</td>
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<tr>
<td>October 31</td>
<td>LAST DAY TO DROP CLASSES</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>November 1</td>
<td>Exam 2</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>November 6</td>
<td>ELECTION DAY!</td>
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<tr>
<td>November 6-8</td>
<td>Congress (6)</td>
</tr>
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<td>November 13-15</td>
<td>Presidency (7)</td>
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<td></td>
<td>SIGNATURE ASSIGNMENT on personal responsibility will be posted to Blackboard by 12:00pm on November 13 and is due by 9:30am on November 15.</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>November 20</td>
<td>Courts (9)</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>November 22</td>
<td>NO CLASS - Thanksgiving</td>
</tr>
</tbody>
</table>
Thursday, December 6, 2012, 8:00am  FINAL EXAM

See http://wwwb.uta.edu/ses/recordsandregistration/content/student_services/final_exam_schedule.aspx for full exam schedule.
**MyPoliSciLab** is the most proven and most used online resource for American Government

**MyPoliSciLab** has been completely redesigned to make it easier for you to study lecture material, apply what you’ve learn, and participate in the political conversation.

**STUDY**
MyPoliSciLab makes preparing for your next test or quiz more effective. You can highlight or take notes in our interactive eBook or take our pre, post, and chapter exams to hone your knowledge. You can also check out the flashcard tool to study key term definitions.

**APPLY**
After you study the material covered in your lecture you can now go apply that knowledge to over 150 videos and multimedia activities. A wide variety of exercises and will help you gain a deeper understanding of course concepts.

**PARTICIPATE**
In MyPoliSciLab you can now participate in the political conversation. You can take a citizenship test to see how well you score and even register to vote! There is also a weekly current events quiz and poll where you can see what other students just like you think about various issues.
How to Register for MyPoliSciLab:

To register for MyPoliSciLab, you will need:

Your school’s zip code: 76019
A MyPoliSciLab student access code (packaged with your new text, available standalone at your bookstore, or available for purchase with a credit card at www.mypoliscilab.com).
A valid email address.

In addition, your instructor will provide you with:
A Course ID needed to join your instructor’s course: cm568172

I ALREADY HAVE AN ACCESS CODE:

Go to www.mypoliscilab.com
Click on Student in the “Register” box

Click Yes, I have an access code

Select your course
Select your Book (Books are listed alphabetically by author)
Select whether or not your access code contains an E-Text (if you do not know ask your instructor)

Read the Pearson License Agreement and Privacy Policy and click the I Accept button.

Do you have a Pearson Education account?

If Yes – Fill in your login name and password. (TIP! You can use the same login in and password that you are using for your other Pearson products.)

If No – Follow the onscreen instructions to create a login name and password.

If Not Sure – Enter your email address and click Search.

Enter your access code in the boxes provided and click Next.

Enter and select the required information in the appropriate fields on the next page and click Next.

Review and print your Confirmation and Summary page (a confirmation will also be sent to your email address).

TIP! Be sure to take note of your login name and password—write them down or save them on your computer in a place you will not forget.
I DON’T HAVE AN ACCESS CODE:
Purchase access online.
   Go to www.mypoliscilab.com
   Click Student in the “Register” box.
   Click No, I need to buy access.
Select your Course
Select your Book
Select your version- you can purchase MyPoliSciLab with or without an E-text of your textbook.
Read the Pearson License Agreement and Privacy Policy
Select “I Accept”
Do you have a Pearson Education account?
    If Yes – Fill in your login name and password. (TIP! You can use the same login in and password that you are using for your other Pearson products.)
    If No – Follow the onscreen instructions to create a login name and password.
    If Not Sure – Enter your email address and click Search.
Enter in all appropriate information in the blank fields.
Enter your Payment information and Billing information and click “Continue” – You can pay with a credit card or with PayPal.
Confirm your order on the next page.

How to Join My Professor’s Course:

If your instructor is utilizing the gradebook feature you will be given “Class ID,” which you will use to join the Grade Tracker grade book for your course.

Dr. Deen’s course id for Fall 2012 is: cm568172.
Doing so will allow your instructor to view your results on assignments and online activities.
You will need to "Join your class" just once, and you may do so as soon as you have your Class ID.
Log in to your MyPoliSciLab course.

1. Register for Access Code to start your Login Name and Password
2. On the top right navigation, click the “Join a Class” tab.
3. **Enter your Class ID** (looks like cm766951) and click **Next**.

![Image of mypsychlab with instructions to enter class ID]

4. Review the course information and confirm by clicking **Next**.

![Image of confirm class page]

5. You will see a Class Confirmation page: Click the **Enter Class Now** button to immediately access your resources.

![Image of class confirmation page]

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_Please note: The images are not part of the plain text representation._
Technical Support


Here you can:

**Call** 800-677-6337 (12PM – 8PM eastern M-F) to speak with a support representative.  
*(This number is valid from **August 15 to October 15, 2011**, and then again from **January 1 to March 15, 2012**.)*

**Search** frequently asked questions.

**Ask a Question** and receive a detailed response, monitored 24/7.

**Chat** online with a live representative 24/7.

Visit [http://247pearsoned.custhelp.com](http://247pearsoned.custhelp.com) for chat support hours.

You can also start by searching our [Online Knowledgebase](#).

Did you Know?

You can now get instant updates, find out what's new, and get real-time answers to your MyPoliSciLab questions.

Friend us on Facebook, follow us on twitter, and let us know what you think!

[Facebook](http://www.facebook.com/MyPoliSciLab)

[twitter](http://twitter.com/MyPoliSciLab)