

POLI 3302-110, CRN 80226, ELECTIONS AND POLITICAL PARTIES

Fall 2020

Texas A&M University-Central Texas

COURSE DATES, MODALITY, AND LOCATION

This Course is **fully online** and does not require any synchronous meeting times. Materials will be found on the A&M-Central Texas Canvas Learning Management System [<https://tamuct.instructure.com/>]. Participation/ attendance will be taken based on lecture viewing. For any extenuating circumstances such as medical procedures that prevent or delay participation in online assignments, please notify me to discuss possible accommodations.

INSTRUCTOR AND CONTACT INFORMATION

Instructor:Dr. John Koehler

Office:Heritage Hall 204Q

Phone:254-501-5845

Email: j.koehler@tamuct.edu

Office Hours:

By appointment only, through Web-X or Zoom

Student-instructor interaction:

University email is the preferred method of communication. Every attempt will be made to respond to emails within 24 hours, however longer response times may take place over weekends and holidays. Students are welcome to come unannounced during office hours but appointments or notice is appreciated.

WARRIOR SHIELD

Emergency Warning System for Texas A&M University-Central Texas

Warrior Shield is an emergency notification service that gives Texas A&M University-Central Texas the ability to communicate health and safety emergency information quickly via email, text message, and social media. All students are automatically enrolled in Warrior Shield through their myCT email account.

Connect to Warrior Shield by [911Cellular](https://portal.publicsafetycloud.net/Account/Login) [<https://portal.publicsafetycloud.net/Account/Login>] to change where you receive your alerts or to opt out. By staying enrolled in Warrior Shield, university officials can quickly pass on safety-related information, regardless of your location.

COVID-19 SAFETY MEASURES

To promote public safety and protect students, faculty, and staff during the coronavirus pandemic, Texas A&M University-Central Texas has adopted policies and practices to minimize virus transmission. All members of the university community are expected to adhere to these measures to ensure their own safety and the safety of others. Students must observe the following practices while participating in face-to-face courses, course-related activities (office

hours, help sessions, transitioning to and between classes, study spaces, academic services, etc.) and co-curricular programs:

- Self-monitoring—Students should follow CDC recommendations for self-monitoring. Students who have a fever or exhibit symptoms of COVID-19 should participate in class remotely and should not participate in face-to-face instruction. Students required to quarantine must participate in courses and course-related activities remotely and must not attend face-to-face course activities. Students should notify their instructors of the quarantine requirement. Students under quarantine are expected to participate in courses and complete graded work unless they have symptoms that are too severe to participate in course activities.
- Face Coverings— Face coverings must be worn inside of buildings and within 50 feet of building entrances on the A&M-Central Texas Campus. This includes lobbies, restrooms, hallways, elevators, classrooms, laboratories, conference rooms, break rooms, non-private office spaces, and other shared spaces. Face coverings are also required in outdoor spaces where physical distancing is not maintained. The university will evaluate exceptions to this requirement on a case by case basis. Students can request an exception through the Office of Access and Inclusion in Student Affairs.
 - o If a student refuses to wear a face covering, the instructor should ask the student to leave and join the class remotely. If the student does not leave the class, the faculty member should report that student to the Office of Student Conduct. Additionally, the faculty member may choose to teach that day’s class remotely for all students.
- Physical Distancing—Physical distancing must be maintained between students, instructors, and others in the course and course-related activities.
- Classroom Ingress/Egress—Students must follow marked pathways for entering and exiting classrooms and other teaching spaces. Leave classrooms promptly after course activities have concluded. Do not congregate in hallways and maintain 6-foot physical distancing when waiting to enter classrooms and other instructional spaces.
- The university will notify students in the event that the COVID-19 situation necessitates changes to the course schedule or modality.

COURSE INFORMATION

Course Overview and description

The course studies the electoral process in American national, state, and local political systems. Emphasis will be placed on the evolution of the structure and functions of political parties, interest groups, the news media, and other participants in the electoral process.

Course Objective and Student Learning Outcomes (SLOs)

Upon completion of this course, the student will be able to:

1. Describe the history and structure of the major political parties in American politics.
2. Analyze and synthesize information about political socialization and participation in the United States.
3. Demonstrate understanding of the role that political parties play in American democracy.
4. Identify structural and institutional interaction with campaigns and parties (Campaign finance, electoral rules, Parties and the legislative branch)
5. Understand and predict the outcomes of elections in the United States.

Required Reading and Textbook(s)

Brewer, Mark D. and L. Sandy Maisel. Parties and Elections in America: The Electoral Process. 8th ed. Lanham, MD: Rowman & Littlefield

Follow Twitter: @Dr_K_PoliSci

While this is not for a grade, I would like everyone to please follow twitter, even if you just activate a separate account for this then delete it. We can post interesting political news, follow the election as it develops, and have debate-watching commentary.

Articles posted on Canvas

Additional readings such as journal articles can be found through the libraries database or be provided by the instructor.

The book is required and available for purchase at the bookstore. You are under no obligation to purchase a textbook from a university-affiliated bookstore. The same textbook or E-Book version may also be available from an independent retailer, including an online retailer.

COURSE REQUIREMENTS

Assignment	Points	Percentage	SLO
Reading Summaries	150	15	1-5
Participatory Assignments	50	5	1-5
Congressional District Paper	150	15	2, 4, 5
Online Midterm	250	25	1-5
Discussion Boards	150	15	1-5
Online Final Exam	250	25	1-5
Total Possible	1000	100	
895+ = A 795-894=B 695-794=C 595-694=D 594 or lower = F			

Grading Criteria Rubric and Conversion

- Reading summaries will consist of responses to particular questions related to each weeks readings. They will be due on Sept 25th and Nov 20th in preparation for the exams.
- Expectations for the paper are provided below.
- Exams will be completed on Canvas using Proctorio. Exams will contain a mixture of question types such as short answer and multiple-choice questions, the final exam is cumulative.

Posting of Grades

Grades will be posted on Canvas within **7 days** of each assignment.

Grading Policies

Some assignments such as discussion boards or assignments that expire within Canvas cannot be completed late. Other assignments such as papers may be turned in late but may be subject to a penalty of one letter grade (10 points) per day late. No exam will be made up without an excused absence. Make up exams are scheduled at the instructor's convenience.

COURSE OUTLINE AND CALENDAR

Complete Course Calendar

	Title	Readings	Assignments
Week 1 Aug 24	American Parties and Organization	Ch 1- 2 Aldrich and Lee 2015 Why Two Parties?	
Week 2 Aug 31	Voting and other forms of political participation	Ch 3; pp 194-197 (7 th ed) or 207-211 (8 th ed)	
Week 3 Sept 7	Representation and Gerrymandering	Abramowitz and Webster 2016 The Rise of Negative Partisanship and Nationalization	
Week 4 Sept 14	Polling an electoral prediction		
Week 5	Party in Government	Ch 11 Gardbaum 2017 Political	<i>1st 3 Reading Summaries due</i>

Sept 21		Parties, Voting systems, and the Separation of Powers	
Week 6 Sept 28	Organized groups in the political process	Ch 4	Analyzing a Congressional District—paper
Week 7 Oct 5	Campaign Finance	Ch 5 Jacobson 2015 Its nothing personal: decline of the incumbency advantage	
Week 8 Oct 12	State and Local Nominations	CH 6	Midterm Exam
Oct 19	State and Local Elections	Ch 7	
Oct 26	Presidential Nominations	Ch 8	
Nov 2	Presidential Elections	Ch 9	
Nov 9	TBA		
Nov 16	Media and the electoral process	Ch 10 Lies Inc. (Scan on Canvas) Gerber et al. 2011 ...Persuasive effects of TV campaign ads..	
Nov 23	Media Continued		
Nov 30	the role of parties	Ch 12 Hutter, Kriesi, and Lorenzini 2018 Social Movts in interaction with political parties	Reading Summaries Due
Week 16 Dec 7	Overview and FINAL EXAM		

Excused Absences, Make-Up Work, and Late Work

Late work will reduced one letter grade for each day late. No exam will be made up without an excused absence. Make up exams are scheduled at the instructor's convenience.

Important University Dates

August 24, 2020	Classes Begin for Fall Semester
August 26, 2020	Deadline for Add, Drop, and Late Registration for 16- and First 8-Week Classes
August 31, 2020	Deadline to Drop First 8-week Classes with No Record
September 7, 2020	Labor Day (University Closed)
September 9, 2020	Deadline to drop 16-week Classes with No Record
October 1, 2020	Deadline for Teacher Education Program Applications
October 2, 2020	Deadline to Drop First 8-week Classes with a Quit (Q) or Withdraw (W)
October 15, 2020	Deadline for Clinical Teaching/Practicum Applications
October 16, 2020	Classes End for First 8-week Session
October 16, 2020	Deadline to Withdraw from University for First 8-Week Classes (WF)
October 19, 2020	Add, Drop, and Late Registration Begins for Second 8- Week Classes \$25 Fee assessed for late registrants
October 19, 2020	Classes Begin for Second 8-Week Session
October 19, 2020	Class Schedule Published for Spring Semester
October 20, 2020	Deadline for Faculty Submission of First 8-Week Class Final Grades (due by 3pm)
October 21, 2020	Deadline for Add, Drop, and Late Registration for Second 8-Week Classes
October 26, 2020	Deadline to Drop Second 8-Week Classes with No Record
October 30, 2020	Deadline for Graduation Application for Fall Ceremony Participation
November 1, 2020	Deadline for GRE/GMAT Scores to Graduate School Office
November 2, 2020	Registration Opens for Spring Semester
November 6, 2020	Deadline to Drop 16-Week Classes with a Quit (Q) or Withdraw (W)
November 11, 2020	Veteran's Day (University Closed)
November 20, 2020	Deadline for Final Committee-Edited Theses Fall Semester with Committee Approval Signatures to Graduate School Office
November 26-27, 2020	Thanksgiving (University Closed)
November 27, 2020	Deadline to Drop Second 8-Week Classes with a Quit(Q) or Withdraw (W)
December 11, 2020	Deadline to Withdraw from University for 16- and Second 8-Week Classes

December 11,2020 Fall Semester Ends
December 11,2020 Deadline for Applications for Tuition Rebate for Fall Graduation (5pm)
December 11,2020 Deadline for Fall Degree Conferral Applications to the Registrar's Office \$20 Late Application Fee
December 11,2020 Fall Commencement Ceremony Bell County Expo 7 pm
December 15,2020 Deadline for Faculty Submission of 16-Week and Second 8-Week Final Class Grades (due by 3pm)
December 15, 2020 Deadline for Theses to Clear Graduate School Office for Fall Semester

TECHNOLOGY REQUIREMENTS AND SUPPORT

Technology Requirements

This course will use the A&M-Central Texas Instructure Canvas learning management system. **We strongly recommend the latest versions of Chrome or Firefox browsers. Canvas no longer supports any version of Internet Explorer.**

Logon to A&M-Central Texas Canvas [<https://tamuct.instructure.com/>] or access Canvas through the TAMUCT Online link in myCT [<https://tamuct.onecampus.com/>]. You will log in through our Microsoft portal.

Username: Your MyCT email address. Password: Your MyCT password

Canvas Support

Use the Canvas Help link, located at the bottom of the left-hand menu, for issues with Canvas. You can select “Chat with Canvas Support,” submit a support request through “Report a Problem,” or call the Canvas support line: 1-844-757-0953.

For issues related to course content and requirements, contact your instructor.

Online Proctored Testing

A&M-Central Texas uses Proctorio for online identity verification and proctored testing. This service is provided at no direct cost to students. If the course requires identity verification or proctored testing, the technology requirements are: Any computer meeting the minimum computing requirements, plus web camera, speaker, and microphone (or headset). Proctorio also requires the Chrome web browser with their custom plug in.

Other Technology Support

For log-in problems, students should contact Help Desk Central

24 hours a day, 7 days a week

Email: helpdesk@tamu.edu

Phone: (254) 519-5466

[Web Chat](http://hdc.tamu.edu): [http://hdc.tamu.edu]

Please let the support technician know you are an A&M-Central Texas student.

UNIVERSITY RESOURCES, PROCEDURES, AND GUIDELINES

Drop Policy

If you discover that you need to drop this class, you must complete the [Drop Request](#) Dynamic Form through Warrior Web.

[https://dynamicforms.ngwebsolutions.com/casAuthentication.ashx?InstID=eaed95b9-f2be-45f3-a37d-46928168bc10&targetUrl=https%3A%2F%2Fdynamicforms.ngwebsolutions.com%2Fsubmit%2FForm%2Fstart%2F53b8369e-0502-4f36-be43-f02a4202f612].

Faculty cannot drop students; this is always the responsibility of the student. The Registrar's Office will provide a deadline on the Academic Calendar for which the form must be completed. Once you submit the completed form to the Registrar's Office, you must go into Warrior Web and confirm that you are no longer enrolled. If you still show as enrolled, FOLLOW-UP with the Registrar's Office immediately. You are to attend class until the procedure is complete to avoid penalty for absence. Should you miss the drop deadline or fail to follow the procedure, you will receive an F in the course, which may affect your financial aid and/or VA educational benefits.

Academic Integrity

Texas A&M University -Central Texas values the integrity of the academic enterprise and strives for the highest standards of academic conduct. A&M-Central Texas expects its students, faculty, and staff to support the adherence to high standards of personal and scholarly conduct to preserve the honor and integrity of the creative community. Academic integrity is defined as a commitment to honesty, trust, fairness, respect, and responsibility. Any deviation by students from this expectation may result in a failing grade for the assignment and potentially a failing grade for the course. Academic misconduct is any act that improperly affects a true and honest evaluation of a student's academic performance and includes, but is not limited to, working with others in an unauthorized manner, cheating on an examination or other academic work, plagiarism and improper citation of sources, using another student's work, collusion, and the abuse of resource materials. All academic misconduct concerns will be referred to the university's Office of Student Conduct. Ignorance of the university's standards and expectations is never an excuse to act with a lack of integrity. When in doubt on collaboration, citation, or any issue, please contact your instructor before taking a course of action.

For more [information regarding the Student Conduct process](#),

[https://www.tamuct.edu/student-affairs/student-conduct.html].

If you know of potential honor violations by other students, you may [submit a report](#),

[https://cm.maxient.com/reportingform.php?TAMUCentralTexas&layout_id=0].

Academic Accommodations

At Texas A&M University-Central Texas, we value an inclusive learning environment where every student has an equal chance to succeed and has the right to a barrier-free education. The Office of Access and Inclusion is responsible for ensuring that students with a disability receive equal access to the university's programs, services and activities. If you believe you have a disability requiring reasonable accommodations please contact the Office of Access and Inclusion, WH-212; or call (254) 501-5836. Any information you provide is private and confidential and will be treated as such.

For more information please visit our [Access & Inclusion](https://tamuct.instructure.com/courses/717) Canvas page (log-in required) [https://tamuct.instructure.com/courses/717]

Important information for Pregnant and/or Parenting Students

Texas A&M University-Central Texas supports students who are pregnant and/or parenting. In accordance with requirements of Title IX and related guidance from US Department of Education's Office of Civil Rights, the Dean of Student Affairs' Office can assist students who are pregnant and/or parenting in seeking accommodations related to pregnancy and/or parenting. Students should seek out assistance as early in the pregnancy as possible. For more information, please visit [Student Affairs](https://www.tamuct.edu/student-affairs/index.html) [https://www.tamuct.edu/student-affairs/index.html]. Students may also contact the institution's Title IX Coordinator. If you would like to read more about these [requirements and guidelines](http://www2.ed.gov/about/offices/list/ocr/docs/pregnancy.pdf) online, please visit the website [http://www2.ed.gov/about/offices/list/ocr/docs/pregnancy.pdf].

Title IX of the Education Amendments Act of 1972 prohibits discrimination on the basis of sex and gender—including pregnancy, parenting, and all related conditions. A&M-Central Texas is able to provide flexible and individualized reasonable accommodation to pregnant and parenting students. All pregnant and parenting students should contact the Associate Dean in the Division of Student Affairs at (254) 501-5909 to seek out assistance. Students may also contact the University's Title IX Coordinator.

Tutoring

Tutoring is available to all A&M-Central Texas students, on a remote online basis. Visit the Academic Support Community in Canvas to view schedules and contact information. Subjects tutored on campus include Accounting, Advanced Math, Biology, Finance, Statistics, Mathematics, and Study Skills. Tutors will return at the Tutoring Center in Warrior Hall, Suite 111 in the Fall 2020. Student success coaching is available online upon request.

If you have a question regarding tutor schedules, need to schedule a tutoring session, are interested in becoming a tutor, success coaching, or have any other question, contact Academic Support Programs at (254) 501-5836, visit the Office of Student Success at 212F Warrior Hall, or by emailing studentsuccess@tamuct.edu .

Chat live with a tutor 24/7 for almost any subject from on your computer! Tutor.com is an online tutoring platform that enables A&M-Central Texas students to log in and receive online tutoring support at no additional cost. This tool provides tutoring in over 40 subject areas except writing support. Access Tutor.com through Canvas.

University Writing Center

The University Writing Center (UWC) at Texas A&M University–Central Texas (TAMUCT) is a free service open to all TAMUCT students. For the Fall 2020 semester, all services will be online as a result of the COVID-19 pandemic. The hours of operation are from 10:00 a.m.-5:00 p.m. Monday thru Thursday with satellite hours online Monday thru Thursday from 6:00-9:00 p.m. The UWC is also offering hours from 12:00-3:00 p.m. on Saturdays.

Tutors are prepared to help writers of all levels and abilities at any stage of the writing process. By providing a practice audience for students' ideas and writing, our tutors highlight the ways in which they read and interpret students' texts, offering guidance and support throughout the various stages of the writing process. While tutors will not write, edit, or grade papers, they will assist students in developing more effective composing practices. Whether you need help brainstorming ideas, organizing an essay, proofreading, understanding proper citation practices, or just want a quiet place to work, the UWC is here to help!

Students may arrange a one-to-one session with a trained and experienced writing tutor by making an appointment via [WOnline](https://tamuct.mywconline.com/) [https://tamuct.mywconline.com/]. In addition, you can email Dr. Bruce Bowles Jr. at bruce.bowles@tamuct.edu if you have any questions about the UWC and/or need any assistance with scheduling.

University Library

The University Library provides many services in support of research across campus and at a distance. We offer over 200 electronic databases containing approximately 250,000 eBooks and 82,000 journals, in addition to the 85,000 items in our print collection, which can be mailed to students who live more than 50 miles from campus. Research guides for each subject taught at A&M-Central Texas are available through our website to help students navigate these resources. On campus, the library offers technology including cameras, laptops, microphones, webcams, and digital sound recorders.

Research assistance from a librarian is also available 24 hours a day through our online chat service, and at the reference desk when the library is open. Research sessions can be scheduled for more comprehensive assistance, and may take place on Skype or in-person at the library. Assistance may cover many topics, including how to find articles in peer-reviewed journals, how to cite resources, and how to piece together research for written assignments.

Our 27,000-square-foot facility on the A&M-Central Texas main campus includes student

lounges, private study rooms, group work spaces, computer labs, family areas suitable for all ages, and many other features. Services such as interlibrary loan, TexShare, binding, and laminating are available. The library frequently offers workshops, tours, readings, and other events. For more information, please visit our [Library website](http://tamuct.libguides.com/index) [http://tamuct.libguides.com/index].

For Fall 2020, all reference service will be conducted virtually. Please go to our [Library website](http://tamuct.libguides.com/index) [http://tamuct.libguides.com/index] to access our virtual reference help and our current hours.

A Note about Sexual Violence at A&M-Central Texas

Sexual violence is a serious safety, social justice, and public health issue. The university offers support for anyone struggling with these issues. University faculty are mandated reporters, so if someone discloses that they were sexually assaulted (or a victim of Domestic/Dating Violence or Stalking) while a student at TAMUCT, faculty members are required to inform the Title IX Office. If you want to discuss any of these issues confidentially, you can do so through Student Counseling (254-501-5955) located on the second floor of Warrior Hall (207L).

Sexual violence can occur on our campus because predators often feel emboldened, and victims often feel silenced or shamed. It is incumbent on ALL of us to find ways to actively create environments that tell predators we don't agree with their behaviors and tell survivors we will support them. Your actions matter. Don't be a bystander; be an agent of change. For additional information on campus policy and resources visit the [Title IX webpage](https://www.tamuct.edu/compliance/titleix.html) [https://www.tamuct.edu/compliance/titleix.html].

Behavioral Intervention

Texas A&M University-Central Texas cares about the safety, health, and well-being of its students, faculty, staff, and community. If you are aware of individuals for whom you have a concern, please make a referral to the Behavioral Intervention Team. Referring your concern shows you care. You can complete the [referral](https://cm.maxient.com/reportingform.php?TAMUCentralTexas&layout_id=2) online [https://cm.maxient.com/reportingform.php?TAMUCentralTexas&layout_id=2].

Anonymous referrals are accepted. Please see the [Behavioral Intervention Team](https://www.tamuct.edu/student-affairs/bat.html) website for more information [https://www.tamuct.edu/student-affairs/bat.html]. If a person's behavior poses an imminent threat to you or another, contact 911 or A&M-Central Texas University Police at 254-501-5800.

INSTRUCTOR POLICIES

Excused Absences, Make-Up Work, and Late Work

Late work will be reduced one letter grade for each day late. No exam will be made up without an excused absence. Make up exams are scheduled at the instructor's convenience.

