

**POLI 4318-110, CRN 10114, Issues in American Politics  
Spring 2023**

Texas A&M University-Central Texas

**COURSE DATES, MODALITY, AND LOCATION**

This Course meets face-to-face **Tuesdays and Thursdays 11:00-12:15pm** in **FH-312** with supplemental materials made available online through the A&M-Central Texas Canvas Learning Management System [<https://tamuct.instructure.com/>].

**INSTRUCTOR AND CONTACT INFORMATION**

**Instructor:**Dr. John Koehler

**Office:**Heritage Hall 204Q

**Phone:** 254-501-5845

**Email:** j.koehler@tamuct.edu

**Office Hours:**

Virtually by appointment (upon request, I will email a link to meet through web-x or Teams). If deemed necessary, in-person appointments can be made.

**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.

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

**SAFEZONE.** SafeZone provides a public safety application that gives you the ability to call for help with the push of a button. It also provides Texas A&M University-Central Texas the ability to communicate emergency information quickly via push notifications, email, and text messages. All students automatically receive email and text messages via their myCT accounts.

Downloading SafeZone allows access to push notifications and enables you to connect directly for help through the app.

You can download SafeZone from the app store and use your myCT credentials to log in. If you would like more information, you can visit the [SafeZone](http://www.safezoneapp.com) website [[www.safezoneapp.com](http://www.safezoneapp.com)].

To register SafeZone on your phone, please follow these 3 easy steps:

1. Download the SafeZone App from your phone store using the link below:
  - o [iPhone/iPad](https://apps.apple.com/app/safezone/id533054756): [<https://apps.apple.com/app/safezone/id533054756>]
  - o [Android Phone / Tablet](https://play.google.com/store/apps/details?id=com.criticalarc.safezoneapp)  
[<https://play.google.com/store/apps/details?id=com.criticalarc.safezoneapp>]
2. Launch the app and enter your myCT email address (e.g. {name}@tamuct.edu)
3. Complete your profile and accept the terms of service

**For updates on COVID information**, please monitor the University [website](https://www.tamuct.edu/covid19/)  
 [https://www.tamuct.edu/covid19/]

**COURSE INFORMATION**

**Course Overview and description**

The purpose of this course is to help students understand contemporary issues in American policy. Topics will vary. Several concepts will be addressed including: federalism; the role of government; limitations on government resources; varying viewpoints on each of the policy issues addressed.

**Course Objective and Student Learning Outcomes (SLOs)**

By the end of the course, students should be able to: 1. Describe the policy process and identify general difficulties. 2. Discuss factual elements about a wide array of policy issues. 3. Articulate opposing positions on several issues. 4. Cite major developments related to major issues. 5. Critically analyze arguments for and against certain policies and the impact policy changes may have

**Required Reading and Textbook(s)**

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

**COURSE REQUIREMENTS**

Assignment	Points	Percentage	SLO
Attendance	50	5	1-5
Opinion Papers	150	15	4-5
Research Paper	200	20	4-5
Midterm	200	20	1-5
Discussion Boards	150	15	1-5
Final Exam	250	25	1-5
<b>Total Possible</b>	<b>1000</b>	<b>100</b>	
895+ = A    795-894=B    695-794=C    595-694=D    594 or lower = F			

## Grading Criteria Rubric and Conversion

- Discussion boards will open once a week on Canvas. They will typically be due by the end of the week (Friday). Late responses will be accepted for 3 days at half credit. Beyond that, no make ups will be allowed without documentation. Responses will be to particular questions related to readings or current events. Comments must be meaningful, useful, and most importantly, respectful.
- The attendance score will be reduced by .5 percentage point for each unexcused absence.
- Exams will contain a mixture of question types such as short answer and multiple-choice questions, the final exam is cumulative.
- Expectations for the paper are provided below.

### **Research Paper: 20% of final grade. Worth 200 pts**

- **10pts: Topic Approval**
- **10pts Bibliography**
- **20pts Bibliography**
- **40 pts Grammar and Formatting**
- **120pts Content**

Each student will be responsible for completing one research paper of **5-7 pages**.

Formatting guidelines are as follows: double-spaced lines, one-inch margins (i.e., top, bottom, left, and right), and Times New Roman font. A bibliography must be included and follow American Political Science Association Style for citations. Papers will be graded based on grammar, content, and clarity.

Topics must be approved by **Feb 24** and an annotated bibliography will be due on **Mar 24**.

The final paper is due **Apr 14**. Any papers turned in after this time will be considered late.

Each day late will result in the loss a full letter grade.

## Posting of Grades

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

## Grading Policies

Discussion Boards cannot be made up beyond the ability to complete them in Canvas unless approved by the instructor who may choose to allow for late submission or excuse the assignment. Other 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 with a preference to use the testing center.

## COURSE OUTLINE AND CALENDAR

### Complete Course Calendar

	Title	Readings	Assignments
<b>Week 1</b> <b>Jan 17</b>	Policy Process		
<b>Week 2</b> <b>Jan 24</b>	Business and Economy		
<b>Week 3</b> <b>Jan 31</b>	Business and Economy		
<b>Week 4</b> <b>Feb 7</b>	Environment		
<b>Week 5</b> <b>Feb 14</b>	Rights and Liberties		
<b>Week 6</b> <b>Feb 21</b>	Rights and Liberties		<i>Paper Topics Due Fri</i>
<b>Week 7</b> <b>Feb 28</b>	Social Policy		<i>Midterm Exam</i>
<b>Week 8</b> <b>Mar 7</b>	Spring Break Mar 13-17 No Class		
<b>Week 9</b> <b>Mar 14</b>	Social Policy		<i>Bibliography due Fri</i>
<b>Week 10</b> <b>Mar 21</b>	Health		
<b>Week 11</b> <b>Mar 28</b>	Health		
<b>Week 12</b> <b>Apr 4</b>	Media		
<b>Week 13</b>	Media	Readings on Canvas	<i>Paper due Fri</i>

<b>Apr 11</b>			
<b>Week 14</b> <b>Apr 18</b>	National Security		
<b>Week 15</b> <b>Apr 25</b>	National Security		
<b>Week 16</b> <b>May 2</b>			
<b>Week 17</b> <b>May 9</b>	Overview and <b>FINAL EXAM</b>		

### **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**

Deadlines can be found at the following link:

<https://www.tamuct.edu/registrar/academic-calendar.html>

## **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](mailto: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.*

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## **UNIVERSITY RESOURCES, PROCEDURES, AND GUIDELINES**

### **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 Warrior Center for Student Success, Equity 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>]

### **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. Any deviation by students from this expectation may result in a failing grade for the assignment and potentially a failing grade for the course. All academic misconduct concerns will be referred to the Office of Student Conduct. 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), [<https://www.tamuct.edu/student-affairs/student-conduct.html>].

If you know of potential honor violations by other students, you may [submit a referral](https://cm.maxient.com/reportingform.php?TAMUCentralTexas&layout_id=0), [[https://cm.maxient.com/reportingform.php?TAMUCentralTexas&layout\\_id=0](https://cm.maxient.com/reportingform.php?TAMUCentralTexas&layout_id=0)].

### **Drop Policy**

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

Form through Warrior Web.

[<https://federation.ngwebsolutions.com/sp/startSSO.ping?PartnerIdId=https://eis-prod.ec.tamuct.edu:443/samlss&SpSessionAuthnAdapterId=tamuctDF&TargetResource=https%3a%2f%2fdynamicforms.ngwebsolutions.com%2fSubmit%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.

### **Important information for Pregnant and/or Parenting Students**

Texas A&M University-Central Texas supports students who are pregnant, experiencing pregnancy-related conditions, 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/pregnant-and-parenting-students.html) [https://www.tamuct.edu/student-affairs/pregnant-and-parenting-students.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, both virtually and in-person. Student success coaching is available online upon request.

If you have a question, are interested in becoming a tutor, or in need of success coaching contact the Warrior Center for Student Success, Equity and Inclusion at (254) 501-5836, visit the Warrior Center at 212 Warrior Hall, or by emailing [WarriorCenter@tamuct.edu](mailto:WarriorCenter@tamuct.edu).

To schedule tutoring sessions and view tutor availability, please visit [Tutor Matching Services](https://tutormatchingservice.com/TAMUCT) [https://tutormatchingservice.com/TAMUCT] or visit the Tutoring Center in 111 Warrior Hall.

Chat live with a remote 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 Library & Archives**

The University Library & Archives provides many services in support of research across campus and at a distance. We offer over 350 electronic databases containing approximately 631,525 eBooks and 75,149 journals, in addition to the 97,443 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 virtually through WebEx, Microsoft Teams or in-person at the library. [Schedule an appointment here](https://tamuct.libcal.com/appointments) [https://tamuct.libcal.com/appointments]. 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](https://tamuct.libguides.com/index) [https://tamuct.libguides.com/index]

### **University Writing Center**

University Writing Center: Located in Warrior Hall 416, the University Writing Center (UWC) at Texas A&M University–Central Texas (A&M–Central Texas) is a free service open to all A&M–Central Texas students. The hours of operation are from 10:00 a.m.-5:00 p.m. Monday thru Thursday in Warrior Hall 416 (with online tutoring available every hour as well) with satellite hours available online only Monday thru Thursday from 6:00-9:00 p.m. and Saturday 12:00-3:00 p.m.

Tutors are prepared to help writers of all levels and abilities at any stage of the writing process. While tutors will not write, edit, or grade papers, they will assist students in developing more effective composing practices. 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. In addition, students may work independently in the UWC by checking out a laptop that runs the Microsoft Office suite and connects to WIFI, or by consulting our resources on writing, including all of the relevant style guides. 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 [WCOonline](https://tamuct.mywconline.com/) [https://tamuct.mywconline.com/]. In addition, you can email Dr. Bruce Bowles Jr. at [bruce.bowles@tamuct.edu](mailto:bruce.bowles@tamuct.edu) if you have any questions about the UWC, need any assistance with scheduling, or would like to schedule a recurring appointment with your favorite tutor.

### **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 Wellness and 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/bit) website for more information [https://www.tamuct.edu/bit]. If a person's behavior poses an imminent threat to you or another, contact 911 or A&M-Central Texas University Police at 254-501-5805.

## **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.