PSCI 2302
COURSE SYLLABUS: Fall 2014

Meets: MWF 9:00 to 9:50 a.m.
In: SS 309
Instructor: Andrea Potter
Office Location: One Stop Shop
Office Hours: M-F 8:00AM to 5:00PM (Please try to contact me first if you are stopping by)
Office Phone: 903-886-5070
Office Fax: 903-886-5187
University Email Address: Andrea.Potter@tamuc.edu
Throughout the semester, I encourage you to come by my office during office hours

Required Texts:

Patterson, Thomas. *The American Democracy, Texas Edition*, 11th ed. Mc-Graw Hill, New York, 2013. ISBN: ISBN 978007742418-3

****Copies of the book are available online.**

Course Description:

This course is an examination of the United States and Texas political systems with emphases on both formal and informal institutions and the roles they play in the creation and implementation of public policy. Topics considered include: the legislative, executive, and judicial branches; bureaucracies; and public policies. This course will also examine the historical, social, political, cultural, and international forces the effect our political systems in the United States and in Texas.

Format:

The course will be lecture based, though I do want to hear your thoughts/opinions on the various subjects that we are discussing. I also will rely on current news and topics to illustrate points that we discuss via lecture.

Course Learning Objectives:

Critical Thinking
1.) Students will be able to differentiate between fact and opinion.
2.) Students will be able to form substantive and evidence-driven arguments to propose solutions to problems or explain phenomena.

3.) Students will be able to recognize their own position as being subjective, follow objectively the arguments of others, and interpret data.
4.) Students will demonstrate the ability to synthesize a cogent body of knowledge from various sources of information, acknowledge the contributions/insights of others, and make independent judgments.
5.) Students will demonstrate creative thinking by linking content and insights from multiple disciplines.
6.) Students will be able to analyze, evaluate, or solve problems when given a set of circumstances or data.

Communication
1) In written, oral, and/or visual communication, A&M-Commerce students will communicate in a manner appropriate to audience and occasion, with an evident message and organizational structure.
2) Student communication will be clear, purposeful, and make appropriate use of evidence, data and technology as applicable.
3) Student communication will follow conventions of grammar and syntax appropriate to the audience, purpose and message.

Personal Responsibility
1) Students will be able to understand their role in their own education.
2) Students will understand and practice academic honesty.

Social Responsibiility
1) Students will demonstrate awareness of societal and/or civic issues.
2) Students will recognize and understand the roles of diversity in society.

Requirements:

Each student will be expected to:

1. **Complete the assigned readings on time and come to class prepared to engage in class discussions.**
2. Keep up with current issues and activities in American and Texas government and integrate this information into class activities. Current events will come up in class lectures and discussions and it is advisable to have a passing familiarity with the issues.
3. **CLASS ATTENDANCE IS MANDATORY**, be on time, and participate in class discussions. Students are responsible for obtaining prompts assigned.
4. **Do not carry on private conversations during class.**
5. **DO NOT USE LAPTOPS, PHONES, IPODS, ETC DURING CLASS!!!!**
6. **Respect the political opinions of your classmates, but do not be afraid to engage in discussion.**

Grading Scale

Final grades will be based on a 100-point scale, using the following letter/number conversion.
A = 90-100 B = 80-89 C = 70-79 D = 65-69 F = Below 65

Grades:

Your grade in this course will be determined by the criteria listed below. Writing assignments will be announced during the course of the semester and the number of which may vary depending on the amount of class participation/discussion. The following scale will be used to determine your grade:

- Exam 1 = 25%
- Exam 2 = 25%
- Exam 3 = 25%
- Exam 4 will replace your lowest grade.
- Essay- 15% (over 1 political topic discussed in the semester. Details will be given in class).
- Pop Quizzes/Participation = 10%

*Papers submitted must be a hard copy and be double-spaced, Times New Roman font with a size of 12pt.

* Exams will be multiple choice, with a scantron required to take the exam.

Make Up Exams:

No Make Up Exams will be given during the course of the semester. Exam 4 will count as your make up exam. This means that if you took both exams, then this is a free study day for the Third Exam. No more than one (1) make up exam will be permitted.

Any request for a make-up exam must be made in writing via **E-mail** BEFORE the last week of classes.

Slacker Clause

You will find, if you have not done so already, that taking university courses and making time for life within the context of work, family, and our other daily issues is difficult to manage. However, to that end a person must learn to effectively use their time for leisure, work, family, their issues, and also make room for their class assignments. In an effort to reinforce that idea, and ensure that you receive a quality learning experience in this course, **all assignments listed and that you receive during the time of this course must be completed. If you fail to complete one or more assignments, you will automatically fail this course.**

Plagiarism:

All students will maintain the highest level of personal responsibility and academic honesty. Academic dishonesty affects all individuals at the University and accordingly will not be tolerated. For this class, academic dishonesty includes cheating, plagiarism, collusion and/or falsifying academic work. In particular, passing off work as your own that was written by someone else, without proper citation or attribution, on either exams or discussion assignments will be considered an act of plagiarism. This holds true whether material comes from the textbook, another publication, an internet source, or another student.

Punishment for the first offense will range from failing the assignment to failing the entire course!

Students are expected to comply with the policies and procedures outlined in the Student Guidebook, which can be found at:
http://web.tamuc.edu/studentLife/documents/studentGuidebook.pdf

Students with Disabilities:
The Americans with Disabilities Act (ADA) is a federal anti-discrimination statute that provides comprehensive civil rights protection for persons with disabilities. Among other things, this legislation requires that all students with disabilities be guaranteed a learning environment that provides for reasonable accommodation of their disabilities. If you have a disability requiring an accommodation, please contact:
Office of Student Disability Resources and Services
Texas A&M University-Commerce
Gee Library, Room 132
Phone (903) 886-5150 or (903) 886-5835; Fax (903) 468-8148
StudentDisabilityServices@tamuc.edu

Tentative Readings and Course Schedule

DAY	TOPIC- read the corresponding chapters in the book as review
AUGUST	
25	Intro (Ch. 1)
27	Culture (Ch. 1)
29	Culture (Ch. 18)
SEPTEMBER	
1	NO CLASS
3	Structure (Ch. 11)
5	Structure (Ch. 11)
8	Structure (Ch. 11)
10	Structure (Ch. 12)
12	Structure (CH. 12)
15	NO CLASS
17	Structure (CH. 13)
19	Structure Ch. 13 and 14)
22	Structure (Ch. 14)
24	EXAM 1
26	Structure(Ch. 22 and 23)

OCTOBER		
1	Policy in Texas (Ch. 25)	
3	Policy in Texas (Ch. 25)	
6	Policy in Texas(Ch. 25 and 26)	
8	Policy in Texas (Ch. 26)	
10	EXAM 2	
13	Policy in Texas (Ch. 26)	
15	Policy in Texas (CH. 26)	
17	NO CLASS	
20	Camelot	
22	Camelot	
24	Camelot	
27	Camelot	
29	Camelot	
31	Camelot	
NOVEMBER		
3	Wrap Up	
5	Review	
7	EXAM 3	
10	Econ Policy (Ch. 15)	Essay Possible-due next class period
12	Environment (Ch. 15)	Essay Possible-due next class period
14	Environment (Ch. 15)	Essay Possible-due next class period
17	Environment (Ch. 15)	Essay Possible-due next class period
19	Welfare (Ch. 16)	Essay Possible-due next class period
21	Medical Care(Ch. 16)	Essay Possible-due next class period
24	Medical Care (Ch. 16)	Essay Possible-due next class period
26	MOVIE	Essay Possible-due next class period
28	NO CLASS	
DECEMBER		
1	Education (Ch. 16))	Essay Possible-due next class period
3	Immigration (Ch. 17)	Essay Possible-due next class period
5	Foreign Policy (Ch. 17)	Essay Possible-due next class period
8	Foreign Policy (Ch. 17)	
10	FINAL EXAM	

Political Science 2302

Principles of United States and Texas Government

Fall 2014

Mrs. Andrea Potter

Student Statement of Understanding:

I, _____, have read the syllabus and understand the guidelines and policies therein. Furthermore, I understand my obligation to adhere to these guidelines and policies in this class and failure to do so could result in my being dropped from the course or bring upon me some other corrective measure at the discretion of the professor. I understand that I am bound by the requirements listed therein.

Student's Signature: Student's CWID:

X_____ _____

Date: _____