Learning objectives:

Students will identify and compare and contrast different political and economic systems of the modern world.

Students will explain why governments are necessary – why good politics is essential to good government.

Students will identify agents of political socialization and explain how they affect a person's political philosophy.

Students will be able to explain how governments control people's actions.

Students will list a minimum of six sources or our estrangement and solutions for overcoming our estrangement.

Students will explain their position on a current public issue in the light of their political philosophy.

Political Science 2310 is a survey course that serves as an introduction to the study of politics in the United States. The emphasis of this class is on the development of a personal political philosophy. This will involve a careful analysis of how theories and ideologies affect an individual's perspective. In a representative democracy such as the United States, politics should be the concern of all the people, citizens and non-citizens, children and adults. Politics is not an activity confined only to policy makers. Good politics is essential to the very survival of the American governmental system. An individual’s attitude toward government and public policy should be rooted in the person’s political philosophy. Thus it is essential for the individual to develop and understand their political thinking.

The first step in identifying one’s political philosophy is to ask hard questions about his/her belief system and to ask how these beliefs fit within the norms of American society and the actions of the government. To not ask WHY is to be less than human! Avoiding questions
because we may be afraid of the answers is not an excuse. A series of questions concerning why
we are estranged (separated) will be examined in the light of theories raised by different western
philosophers. Students will determine their own position after careful thought. All viewpoints are
worthy of respect and no one should be put down for their opinions, however it is important for
an individual to explain and support their comments. It is important to learn to support your
position with accurate and timely information. The defense of your position is the true test of the
strength of your belief or position.

Students are also expected to abide by all University policies and regulations concerning student
behavior on campus. The Professor reserves the right to drop students for failure to comply with
University and classroom rules.

This class is Asynchronous, which means you are not required to check in at any specific days or
times. However please note that all the quizzes are on Monday only. Power points and lectures
will be available until the Wednesday before Thanksgiving, November 25.

Students will need to rent the printed copy available in the bookstore or purchase the eBook.
This link is to purchase the ebook:

There are plenty of used copies of the text in the bookstore that are available to rent. You do not
need the ebook unless you prefer that.

Required text: A Novel Approach to Politics, Douglas Van Belle and Kenneth Mash,
5th edition.

There will be 13 Quizzes that you will access on blackboard directly from the home page for this
class – each quiz is 20 points: Only the ten highest quiz grades will be counted: please ignore
the percentages on blackboard. I use a point system, what matters is the number of correct
answers.

You need to read the chapters carefully. I will be using respondus lockdown for the quizzes and
for the final exam which means you will be monitored while taking the quiz through the
webcam on your computer. Please be sure to read the requirements that are described further
in this syllabus.
Chapter quizzes - 260 points (Possible)

Final Exam – 125 points – Lectures/Current Events – Comprehensive

Grade Point Scale:
275+ = A     240+ = B     110+ = C

Schedule of quizzes:

Monday:    August 31 - Chapter 1
Monday:    September 7 - Labor Day
Monday:    September 14 - Chapter 2
Monday:    September 21 - Chapter 3
Monday:    September 28 - Chapter 4
Monday:    October 5 - Chapter 5
Monday:    October 12 - Chapter 6
Monday:    October 19 - Chapter 7
Monday:    October 26 - Chapter 8
Monday:    November 2 - Chapter 9

Student drop date

Monday:    November 9- Chapter 10
Monday:    November 16 - Chapter 11
Monday:    November 23 - Chapter 12
Monday:    November 30 - Chapter 14

Exam:    Monday: December 7: Lecture notes, current events, Ch. 9 & Ch. 12

The quizzes will be available from 6:00 am - 11:00 pm the day of the quiz. Quizzes will be timed, 15 minutes, and once you open the quiz you must complete it. You cannot exit and return to the quiz. Scores will be on blackboard the day after the quiz was given.
Emma Zamora is the tutor for this class. She will post the times for tutoring on the home page. If you are not doing well on the quizzes then take advantage of the tutoring. It is not required and there is no extra credit for participation however the sessions can be very helpful.

Problems with your computers or with internet service are not excuses for not taking or completing the quiz. If you are having technology issues please attempt to resolve them before the next quiz. Do not wait. There are sources available if you need assistance with technology listed further on in this syllabus.

Note: I understand the issue that some students have with required courses as well as the fact that we are living in challenging times. If your major concern is to pass this class you may stop taking quizzes when you score 110 points on the 10 best quiz grades (you must take at least 10 quizzes). You do not need to do anything else to pass.

For those of you who are willing to do more for the A or the B, take all the quizzes if possible, check the class home page every day. I will post some material for you to consider for the final exam. Power points will be posted on course messages. Recorded lectures will be available through Blackboard Collaborative. The link is on the home page.

I will also post on the home page some links to reliable news sources for your current events. This is an election year: November 3 - election of the president, 33 U.S. Senators, all 435 U.S. Representatives, state legislators, mayor of El Paso and some city and county judges and other officers. As a citizen of the United States it is your obligation to be informed and to make smart decisions about voting. If you are not registered to vote in Texas you must register at least 30 days before the election which is on Tuesday, November 3. I will let you know where and how to register. If you are not from El Paso and you want to vote in your home state then be sure to contact your hometown election office about a mail ballot. Do so early because the post office is expecting to be extremely busy with mail in ballots. The only requirement to be eligible to vote is you must be at least 18 years of age and a citizen of the United States.

If you have any questions or concerns please let me know through course messages on Blackboard. Do not wait until the last few weeks of class to let me know. Asking for help is not a reason to be embarrassed, during these challenging and uncertain times we can all use a helping hand from time to time.

**ALTERNATIVE MEANS OF SUBMITTING WORK IN CASE OF TECHNICAL ISSUES**

I strongly suggest that you submit your work with plenty of time to spare in the event that you have a technical issue with the course website, network, and/or your computer. I also suggest you save all your work (answers to discussion points, quizzes, exams, and essays) in a separate Word document as a back-up. This way, you will have evidence that you completed the work and will not lose credit. If you are experiencing difficulties submitting your work through
the course website, please contact the UTEP Help Desk. You can email me your back-up document as a last resort.

**INCOMPLETE GRADE POLICY**

Incomplete grades may be requested only in exceptional circumstances after you have completed at least half of the course requirements. Talk to me immediately if you believe an incomplete is warranted. If granted, we will establish a contract of work to be completed with deadlines.

**ACCOMMODATIONS POLICY**

The University is committed to providing reasonable accommodations and auxiliary services to students, staff, faculty, job applicants, applicants for admissions, and other beneficiaries of University programs, services and activities with documented disabilities in order to provide them with equal opportunities to participate in programs, services, and activities in compliance with sections 503 and 504 of the Rehabilitation Act of 1973, as amended, and the Americans with Disabilities Act (ADA) of 1990 and the Americans with Disabilities Act Amendments Act (ADAAA) of 2008. Reasonable accommodations will be made unless it is determined that doing so would cause undue hardship on the University. Students requesting an accommodation based on a disability must register with the UTEP Center for Accommodations and Support Services (CASS). Contact the Center for Accommodations and Support Services at 915-747-5148, or email them at cass@utep.edu, or apply for accommodations online via the CASS portal.

**COVID-19 Accommodations**

Students are not permitted on campus when they have a positive COVID-19 test, exposure or symptoms. If you are not permitted on campus, you should contact me as soon as possible so we can arrange necessary and appropriate accommodations. **(classes with on-campus meetings)** Students who are considered high risk according to CDC guidelines and/or those who live with individuals who are considered high risk may contact Center for Accommodations and Support Services (CASS) to discuss temporary accommodations for on-campus courses and activities.

**SCHOLASTIC INTEGRITY**

Academic dishonesty is prohibited and is considered a violation of the UTEP Handbook of Operating Procedures. It includes, but is not limited to, cheating, plagiarism, and collusion. Cheating may involve copying from or providing information to another
student, possessing unauthorized materials during a test, or falsifying research data on laboratory reports. Plagiarism occurs when someone intentionally or knowingly represents the words or ideas of another as ones' own. Collusion involves collaborating with another person to commit any academically dishonest act. Any act of academic dishonesty attempted by a UTEP student is unacceptable and will not be tolerated. All suspected violations of academic integrity at The University of Texas at El Paso must be reported to the Office of Student Conduct and Conflict Resolution (OSCCR) for possible disciplinary action. To learn more, please visit HOOP: Student Conduct and Discipline.

CLASS RECORDINGS

The use of recordings will enable you to have access to class lectures, group discussions, and so on in the event you miss a synchronous or in-person class meeting due to illness or other extenuating circumstance. Our use of such technology is governed by the Federal Educational Rights and Privacy Act (FERPA) and UTEP’s acceptable-use policy. A recording of class sessions will be kept and stored by UTEP, in accordance with FERPA and UTEP policies. Your instructor will not share the recordings of your class activities outside of course participants, which include your fellow students, teaching assistants, or graduate assistants, and any guest faculty or community-based learning partners with whom we may engage during a class session. You may not share recordings outside of this course. Doing so may result in disciplinary action.

TEST PROCTORING SOFTWARE

The quizzes will and final exam course will make use of Respondus Lock Down Browser and Respondus Monitor inside of Blackboard to promote academic integrity. You are encouraged to learn more about how to use these programs prior to the first test.

Please review the following guidelines:

The assessments will only be available at the times identified on the course calendar.
You may take the test at any time during the 17 hour window.
A reliable Internet connection is essential to completing the exam. If you must go to a location to take the exam (such as the library), be sure to follow their health and safety requirements.
You have 1 attempt only to take the quiz. Once the window closes, your answers will be saved, and no changes can be made. The higher score will be recorded.
Respondus Lockdown Browser will require that all internet tabs are closed prior to the start of the test. Respondus Monitor requires a webcam and microphone.

You will be required to show the webcam your student ID prior to the start of the test.

Your face should be completely visible during the test. Blocking the camera will disable the test.

No notes or textbook materials are permitted during the test. Respondus Monitor requires you to take a video of your surrounding area (desk, chair, walls, etc.) You should not have conversations with other people and/or leave and return to the area during the test.

PLAGIARISM DETECTING SOFTWARE

Some of your course work and assessments may submitted to SafeAssign, a plagiarism detecting software. SafeAssign is used review assignment submissions for originality and will help you learn how to properly attribute sources rather than paraphrase.

Course Resources: Where you can go for assistance

UTEP provides a variety of student services and support:

Technology Resources

Help Desk: Students experiencing technological challenges (email, Blackboard, software, etc.) can submit a ticket to the UTEP Helpdesk for assistance. Contact the Helpdesk via phone, email, chat, website, or in person if on campus.

Academic Resources

UTEP Library: Access a wide range of resources including online, full-text access to thousands of journals and eBooks plus reference service and librarian assistance for enrolled students.

University Writing Center (UWC): Submit papers here for assistance with writing style and formatting, ask a tutor for help and explore other writing resources.

Math Tutoring Center (MaRCS): Ask a tutor for help and explore other available math resources.

History Tutoring Center (HTC): Receive assistance with writing history papers, get help from a tutor and explore other history resources.
**RefWorks**: A bibliographic citation tool; check out the RefWorks tutorial and Fact Sheet and Quick-Start Guide.

**Individual Resources**

**Military Student Success Center**: Assists personnel in any branch of service to reach their educational goals.

**Center for Accommodations and Support Services**: Assists students with ADA-related accommodations for coursework, housing, and internships.

**Counseling and Psychological Services**: Provides a variety of counseling services including individual, couples, and group sessions as well as career and disability assessments.