

Schedule and Weekly Calendar POLS 2311, Fall 2023

(Professor reserves the right to modify the schedule; class notice will be given.)

Week	Topic	Reading Assigned	Assignment and Exam and Assignment Due Dates; Notes
8/28-9/1	Class Introduction; Syllabus Review: Understanding American Politics	Chapter 1 in Bianco textbook	Each day students are to spend 15 minutes online following U.S. and TX political news for class discussion
9/4-9/8	Labor Day Holiday; Federal or State Court live field observations for Assignment #2	Bianco textbook Appendix: Dec of Ind., Articles of Confed., Constitution, Federalist Papers	No class on 9/4-- Labor Day Holiday No class on 9/6-- perform assignment #2: live field federal or state court observations
9/11-9/15	The Constitution and the Founding; Federalism	Chapter 2 and Chapter 3 in Bianco textbook	
9/18-9/22	Civil Liberties	Chapter 4 in Bianco textbook	
9/25-9/29	Civil Rights	Chapter 5 in Bianco textbook	
10/2-10/6	Texas Government	Appendix in Bianco textbook pp A1-A15	10/4 Exam 1 in class with Respondus on your laptop (Chapter 1-5, Appendix, and Texas Government lecture)
10/9-10/13	Public Opinion and the Media; Political Parties	Chapters 6 and 7 in Bianco textbook	
10/16-10/20	Elections	Chapter 8 in Bianco textbook	10/18 Assignment #1 Due— Government Public Meeting
10/23-10/27	Congress	Chapter 10 in Bianco textbook	Note: we'll cover Chapter 10 before Chapter 9
10/30-	Interest Groups	Chapter 9 in	11/1 Exam 2 in

11/3		Bianco textbook	class with Respondus on your laptop (Chapters 6-10)
11/6-11/10	The Presidency	Chapter 11 in Bianco textbook	
11/13-11/17	The Bureaucracy	Chapter 12 in Bianco textbook	11/13 Assignment #2 Due—Texas State or Federal Courts
11/20-11/24	The Courts	Chapter 13 in Bianco textbook	No class on 11/23 and 11/24—Thanksgiving Holiday
11/27-12/1	Economic and Social Policy	Chapter 14 in Bianco textbook	
12/4-12/8	Foreign Policy	Chapter 15 in Bianco textbook	
12/11-12/15	Final Exam Week	Review on your own for Exam 3	12/13 (Wednesday) Exam 3 in class with Respondus on your laptop from 10 a.m. to 12:45 p.m. (Chapters 11-15)