

Course Syllabus

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GOV312L: Issues and Policies in American Government – U.S Social Policy

The University of Texas at Austin

Department of Government

Spring 2023 (Unique ID: 37980)

Location: PAR 203 ([Map](#) 

(<https://utdirect.utexas.edu/apps/campus/buildings/nlogon/maps/UTM/PAR/>)

Tuesday 8:00 - 9:30 / Thursday 8:00 - 9:30

Woong Kwon

(woongkwon@utexas.edu (<mailto:woongkwon@utexas.edu>))

Office hours: Thursday 10:00 – 13:00 (and by appointment)

Office: TBD

Course Overview

This course critically examines the overall structure and characteristics of the U.S. welfare state from both historical and comparative perspectives, focusing on American society's economic and political development. The first one-third of the class will cover major areas within current research on the welfare state to provide theoretical frameworks for understanding the U.S. welfare state from comparative perspectives. We will review the different types of welfare states found among advanced industrialized countries, the key dynamics underneath the welfare state development, and the traditional and new challenges to the welfare states. In the remaining two-thirds of the class, we will discuss the development of the U.S. welfare state. We will begin by surveying the brief history of the American welfare state, including health care, social insurance, and anti-poverty programs, from the Progressive Era to the present. Then we will address the economic and political forces driving welfare politics in the United States. Finally, we will discuss contemporary challenges to the U.S. welfare state, including race, inequality, and immigration.

Learning Outcomes

The course's main objective is to provide students with an understanding of the dynamics and underlying issues of welfare politics in the United States. The welfare state is an essential topic of political economy, which studies the interaction between politics (states) and the economy (markets). Upon completing the course, students will have developed a basic competence to read, connect, or generate ideas related to advanced texts in the area.

Assignments and Grading

Your grade in this course will be based on the five components as follows:

1. First mid-term exam (25%): The first exam will be an in-class exam on the material covered during the first few weeks. It will consist of multiple-choice questions only.
2. Second mid-term exam (25%): The second exam will be an in-class exam on the material covered after the first exam (non-cumulative). It will consist of multiple-choice questions and short answer questions.
3. Final exam (25%): The final exam will be an in-class exam on the material covered after the second exam (non-cumulative). It will consist of one essay question and five short answer questions.
4. Pop-up quizzes (15%): There will be six pop-up quizzes over the course, all of which are multiple-choice questions. The lowest two scores will be removed from your grading (so the best four scores will be counted into your final grade). These pop-up quizzes will replace the regular attendance check also. Students who do not take the pop-up quizzes more than three times will not be allowed to have a grade better than B+.
5. Book Review (10%): You will write a book review, summarizing and discussing one of the books listed below. Your book review should be 1,000 ~ 1,200 words and due by 11:59 pm on April 16 via CANVAS. Please DO NOT send it via email. In your book review, you should address 1) the basic argument of the author and 2) its implications for understanding American welfare politics. Those who submit outstanding book reviews will have extra credits.

<Book List>

- Gilens, Martin (1999), *Why Americans Hate Welfare: Race, Media, and the Politics of Antipoverty Policy*, The University of Chicago Press.
- Mettler, Suzanne (2011), *The Submerged State: How Invisible Government Policies Undermine American Democracy*, The University of Chicago Press.
- Haney-Lopez, Ian (2014), *Dog Whistle Politics: How Coded Racial Appeals Have Reinvented Racism and Wrecked the Middle Class*. Oxford University Press.
- Hacker, Jacob (2019), *The Great Risk Shift: The New Economic Insecurity and the Decline of the American Dream [Second Edition]*, Oxford University Press

*All these books are available (e-book) via the UT library

** There will also be opportunities for extra credit that will be interspersed throughout the semester. These opportunities are entirely voluntary but can benefit you both academically and personally. Extra credit will require 1) attendance and a half-page summary of the event or 2) a one-page short essay on an article or AV material. You may choose one extra credit opportunity this semester. Properly completed extra credit assignments will increase your final grade by 1 point.

** A word on late or missed assignments. Over the course of the semester, it is inevitable that some events will cause a time management issue, which might lead to a missed assignment deadline. Though normally handled on a case-by-case basis, there are some baseline penalties for missed or delayed assignments. Missed exams for documented reasons (illness, family emergency) can be made up for 3 days post-exam with no penalty. Missed exams for any non-documented reason can be made up until 3 days post-exam but will accrue a 10% penalty for each missed day before grading.

Grading Scale

93-100 A	90-92 A-	
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87-89 B+	83-86 B	80-82 B-
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77-79 C+	73-76 C	70-72 C-
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60-69 D

<60 F

Required Readings

The required text for this course is *The Welfare State: A Very Short Introduction* by David Galand (Oxford University Press, 2016). There will also be various supplementary academic journals, book chapters, and newspaper articles (all of them are available via the University library for free). The average reading load will be around 30 to 40 pages per class.

The materials for this class are available through the Longhorn Textbook Access (LTA) program, a new initiative between UT Austin, The University Co-op, and textbook publishers to significantly reduce the cost of digital course materials for students. You are automatically opted into the program but can easily opt out (and back in) via Canvas through the 4th class day. If you remain opted-in at the end of the 4th class day, you will receive a bill through your "What I Owe" page and have until the end of the 15th class day to pay and retain access. If you do not pay by the 15th class day, you will lose access to the materials, and your charge will be removed. More information about the LTA program is available at <https://www.universitycoop.com/longhorn-textbook-access> (https://www.universitycoop.com/longhorn-textbook-access)

Policies

Extension of Deadlines

Extension of deadlines for the assignments will not be offered except in extremely rare circumstances. These extremely rare circumstances can be: 1) University-sanctioned events (verification required), 2) extraordinary medical emergencies (verification required), or (3) religious observances. Extension of deadlines requested for any other reason will be decided case-by-case. Vacations and early departure for breaks do not constitute legitimate reasons for extensions.

Academic Dishonesty

All violations of university academic conduct guidelines, including plagiarism, will be referred to the Dean of Students and result in a zero on the assignment or exam. As commonly defined, plagiarism consists of passing off one's own ideas, words, writings, etc., which belong to another. Under the definition, you are committing plagiarism if you copy another person's work and turn it in as your own, even if you should have the person's permission. For more information, please visit <https://deanofstudents.utexas.edu/conduct/academicintegrity.php> (https://deanofstudents.utexas.edu/conduct/academicintegrity.php)

Religious Holidays

According to UT-Austin policy, students must notify the instructor of an impending absence at least 14 days prior to the date of observance of a religious holy day. If a student must miss a class, an examination, a work assignment, or a project in order to observe a religious holy day, the student will be given an opportunity to complete the missed work within a reasonable time after the absence.

Student Privacy

The Family Educational Rights and Privacy Act (FERPA) requires that student privacy be preserved. Thus, posting grades, even by the last four digits of the social security number, is forbidden. In addition, all communication will

remain between the instructor and the student, and the instructor will not be able to share details of the student's performance with parents, spouses, or any others.

Documented Disability Statement

The university is committed to creating an accessible and inclusive learning environment consistent with university policy and federal and state law. Please let me know if you experience any barriers to learning so I can work with you to ensure you have an equal opportunity to participate fully in this course. In addition, if you are a student with a disability or think you may have a disability and need accommodations, don't hesitate to contact Disability and Access (D&A). Please refer to D&A's website for contact and more information: <http://diversity.utexas.edu/disability/>  (<http://diversity.utexas.edu/disability/>). If you are already registered with D&A, please deliver your Accommodation Letter to me as early as possible in the semester so we can discuss your approved accommodations and needs in this course.

Course Summary:

Date	Details	Due
Tue Jan 10, 2023	 10 January: Introduction (https://utexas.instructure.com/courses/1355157/assignments/6159981)	due by 11:59pm
Thu Jan 12, 2023	 Office Hours (https://utexas.instructure.com/appointment_groups/22709)	10am to 1pm
Fri Jan 13, 2023	 12 January: What is the Welfare State? (https://utexas.instructure.com/courses/1355157/assignments/6159987)	due by 11:59pm
Sat Jan 14, 2023	 Office Hours - ISSUES & POLICIES IN AMER GOV (37980) (https://utexas.instructure.com/calendar?event_id=3466161&include_contexts=course_1355157)	10am to 1pm
Sun Jan 15, 2023	 Office Hours - ISSUES & POLICIES IN AMER GOV (37980) (https://utexas.instructure.com/calendar?event_id=3466162&include_contexts=course_1355157)	10am to 1pm
Mon Jan 16, 2023	 Office Hours - ISSUES & POLICIES IN AMER GOV (37980)	10am to 1pm

Date	Details	Due
Tue Jan 17, 2023	 Office Hours - ISSUES & POLICIES IN AMER GOV (37980) 17 January: Ethics and Values	10am to 1pm due by 11:59pm
Wed Jan 18, 2023	 Office Hours - ISSUES & POLICIES IN AMER GOV (37980)	10am to 1pm
Thu Jan 19, 2023	 Office Hours  Office Hours - ISSUES & POLICIES IN AMER GOV (37980) 19 January: Birth of the Welfare State	10am to 1pm due by 11:59pm
Fri Jan 20, 2023	 Office Hours - ISSUES & POLICIES IN AMER GOV (37980)	10am to 1pm
Sat Jan 21, 2023	 Office Hours - ISSUES & POLICIES IN AMER GOV (37980)	10am to 1pm
Sun Jan 22, 2023	 Office Hours - ISSUES & POLICIES IN AMER GOV (37980)	10am to 1pm
Mon Jan 23, 2023	 Office Hours - ISSUES & POLICIES IN AMER GOV (37980)	10am to 1pm

Date	Details	Due
Tue Jan 24, 2023	 Office Hours - ISSUES & POLICIES IN AMER GOV (37980) (https://utexas.instructure.com/calendar?event_id=3466171&include_contexts=course_1355157)	10am to 1pm
Wed Jan 25, 2023	 24 January: Keynesian Welfare State (https://utexas.instructure.com/courses/1355157/assignments/6161041)	due by 11:59pm
Thu Jan 26, 2023	 Office Hours - ISSUES & POLICIES IN AMER GOV (37980) (https://utexas.instructure.com/calendar?event_id=3466172&include_contexts=course_1355157)	10am to 1pm
Fri Jan 27, 2023	 Office Hours - ISSUES & POLICIES IN AMER GOV (37980) (https://utexas.instructure.com/calendar?event_id=3466173&include_contexts=course_1355157)	10am to 1pm
Sat Jan 28, 2023	 26 January: Dynamics (1) (https://utexas.instructure.com/courses/1355157/assignments/6161056)	due by 11:59pm
Sun Jan 29, 2023	 Office Hours - ISSUES & POLICIES IN AMER GOV (37980) (https://utexas.instructure.com/calendar?event_id=3466174&include_contexts=course_1355157)	10am to 1pm
Mon Jan 30, 2023	 Office Hours - ISSUES & POLICIES IN AMER GOV (37980) (https://utexas.instructure.com/calendar?event_id=3466176&include_contexts=course_1355157)	10am to 1pm
Tue Jan 31, 2023	 Office Hours - ISSUES & POLICIES IN AMER GOV (37980) (https://utexas.instructure.com/calendar?event_id=3466177&include_contexts=course_1355157)	10am to 1pm
	 31 January: Dynamics (2) (https://utexas.instructure.com/courses/1355157/assignments/6161134)	due by 11:59pm

Date	Details	Due
Wed Feb 1, 2023	 <u>Office Hours - ISSUES & POLICIES IN AMER GOV (37980)</u> (https://utexas.instructure.com/calendar?event_id=3466179&include_contexts=course_1355157)	10am to 1pm
Thu Feb 2, 2023	 <u>Office Hours - ISSUES & POLICIES IN AMER GOV (37980)</u> (https://utexas.instructure.com/calendar?event_id=3466180&include_contexts=course_1355157)	10am to 1pm
	 <u>2 February: Varieties</u> (https://utexas.instructure.com/courses/1355157/assignments/6161599)	due by 11:59pm
Fri Feb 3, 2023	 <u>Office Hours - ISSUES & POLICIES IN AMER GOV (37980)</u> (https://utexas.instructure.com/calendar?event_id=3466181&include_contexts=course_1355157)	10am to 1pm
Sat Feb 4, 2023	 <u>Office Hours - ISSUES & POLICIES IN AMER GOV (37980)</u> (https://utexas.instructure.com/calendar?event_id=3466182&include_contexts=course_1355157)	10am to 1pm
Sun Feb 5, 2023	 <u>Office Hours - ISSUES & POLICIES IN AMER GOV (37980)</u> (https://utexas.instructure.com/calendar?event_id=3466183&include_contexts=course_1355157)	10am to 1pm
Mon Feb 6, 2023	 <u>Office Hours - ISSUES & POLICIES IN AMER GOV (37980)</u> (https://utexas.instructure.com/calendar?event_id=3466184&include_contexts=course_1355157)	10am to 1pm
Tue Feb 7, 2023	 <u>Office Hours - ISSUES & POLICIES IN AMER GOV (37980)</u> (https://utexas.instructure.com/calendar?event_id=3466185&include_contexts=course_1355157)	10am to 1pm
	 <u>7 February: Traditional Challenges</u> (https://utexas.instructure.com/courses/1355157/assignments/6161829)	due by 11:59pm
Wed Feb 8, 2023	 <u>Office Hours - ISSUES & POLICIES IN AMER GOV (37980)</u> (https://utexas.instructure.com/calendar?event_id=3466186&include_contexts=course_1355157)	10am to 1pm

Date	Details	Due
Thu Feb 9, 2023	 <u>Office Hours - ISSUES & POLICIES IN AMER GOV (37980)</u> (https://utexas.instructure.com/calendar?event_id=3466187&include_contexts=course_1355157)	10am to 1pm
Fri Feb 10, 2023	 <u>9 February: New Challenges</u> (https://utexas.instructure.com/courses/1355157/assignments/6161832)	due by 11:59pm
Sat Feb 11, 2023	 <u>Office Hours - ISSUES & POLICIES IN AMER GOV (37980)</u> (https://utexas.instructure.com/calendar?event_id=3466188&include_contexts=course_1355157)	10am to 1pm
Sun Feb 12, 2023	 <u>Office Hours - ISSUES & POLICIES IN AMER GOV (37980)</u> (https://utexas.instructure.com/calendar?event_id=3466190&include_contexts=course_1355157)	10am to 1pm
Mon Feb 13, 2023	 <u>Office Hours - ISSUES & POLICIES IN AMER GOV (37980)</u> (https://utexas.instructure.com/calendar?event_id=3466191&include_contexts=course_1355157)	10am to 1pm
Tue Feb 14, 2023	 <u>14 February: American Welfare State at a Glance</u> (https://utexas.instructure.com/courses/1355157/assignments/6162359)	due by 11:59pm
Wed Feb 15, 2023	 <u>Office Hours - ISSUES & POLICIES IN AMER GOV (37980)</u> (https://utexas.instructure.com/calendar?event_id=3466193&include_contexts=course_1355157)	10am to 1pm

Date	Details	Due
	 <u>Office Hours - ISSUES & POLICIES IN AMER GOV (37980)</u> (https://utexas.instructure.com/calendar?event_id=3466194&include_contexts=course_1355157)	10am to 1pm
Thu Feb 16, 2023	 <u>Midterm Exam One</u> (https://utexas.instructure.com/courses/1355157/assignments/6163063)	due by 11:59pm
	 <u>16 February: History - The Progressive Era</u> (https://utexas.instructure.com/courses/1355157/assignments/6162404)	due by 11:59pm
Fri Feb 17, 2023	 <u>Office Hours - ISSUES & POLICIES IN AMER GOV (37980)</u> (https://utexas.instructure.com/calendar?event_id=3466195&include_contexts=course_1355157)	10am to 1pm
Sat Feb 18, 2023	 <u>Office Hours - ISSUES & POLICIES IN AMER GOV (37980)</u> (https://utexas.instructure.com/calendar?event_id=3466196&include_contexts=course_1355157)	10am to 1pm
Sun Feb 19, 2023	 <u>Office Hours - ISSUES & POLICIES IN AMER GOV (37980)</u> (https://utexas.instructure.com/calendar?event_id=3466197&include_contexts=course_1355157)	10am to 1pm
Mon Feb 20, 2023	 <u>Office Hours - ISSUES & POLICIES IN AMER GOV (37980)</u> (https://utexas.instructure.com/calendar?event_id=3466198&include_contexts=course_1355157)	10am to 1pm
Tue Feb 21, 2023	 <u>Office Hours - ISSUES & POLICIES IN AMER GOV (37980)</u> (https://utexas.instructure.com/calendar?event_id=3466199&include_contexts=course_1355157)	10am to 1pm
	 <u>21 February: History - New Deal Era</u> (https://utexas.instructure.com/courses/1355157/assignments/6162407)	due by 11:59pm
Wed Feb 22, 2023	 <u>Office Hours - ISSUES & POLICIES IN AMER GOV (37980)</u> (https://utexas.instructure.com/calendar?event_id=3466200&include_contexts=course_1355157)	10am to 1pm

Date	Details	Due
Thu Feb 23, 2023	<u>Office Hours - ISSUES & POLICIES IN AMER GOV (37980)</u> (https://utexas.instructure.com/calendar?event_id=3466201&include_contexts=course_1355157)	10am to 1pm
Tue Feb 28, 2023	<u>23 February: History - The Great Society</u> (https://utexas.instructure.com/courses/1355157/assignments/6162408)	due by 11:59pm
Thu Mar 2, 2023	<u>28 February: History - 1970 ~ 1980</u> (https://utexas.instructure.com/courses/1355157/assignments/6162469)	due by 11:59pm
Tue Mar 7, 2023	<u>2 March: History - 1990 ~ Present</u> (https://utexas.instructure.com/courses/1355157/assignments/6162681)	due by 11:59pm
Thu Mar 9, 2023	<u>7 March: Political Institutions / Political Parties</u> (https://utexas.instructure.com/courses/1355157/assignments/6162777)	due by 11:59pm
Tue Mar 21, 2023	<u>9 March: Interest Groups / Public Opinion</u> (https://utexas.instructure.com/courses/1355157/assignments/6162778)	due by 11:59pm
Thu Mar 23, 2023	<u>21 March: Poverty (1)</u> (https://utexas.instructure.com/courses/1355157/assignments/6162779)	due by 11:59pm
Tue Mar 28, 2023	<u>23 March: Poverty (2)</u> (https://utexas.instructure.com/courses/1355157/assignments/6162884)	due by 11:59pm
Thu Mar 30, 2023	<u>Midterm Exam Two</u> (https://utexas.instructure.com/courses/1355157/assignments/6163039)	due by 11:59pm
Tue Apr 4, 2023	<u>30 March: The Elderly</u> (https://utexas.instructure.com/courses/1355157/assignments/6162914)	due by 11:59pm
Thu Apr 6, 2023	<u>4 April: Workers and Families</u> (https://utexas.instructure.com/courses/1355157/assignments/6162929)	due by 11:59pm
Tue Apr 11, 2023	<u>6 April: The Disabled and Veterans</u> (https://utexas.instructure.com/courses/1355157/assignments/6162942)	due by 11:59pm
Thu Apr 13, 2023	<u>11 April: Challenges (1) - Gender and Families</u> (https://utexas.instructure.com/courses/1355157/assignments/6162948)	due by 11:59pm
	<u>13 April: Challenges (2) - Inequality</u> (https://utexas.instructure.com/courses/1355157/assignments/6162962)	due by 11:59pm

Date	Details	Due
Sun Apr 16, 2023	 Book Review (https://utexas.instructure.com/courses/1355157/assignments/6163014)	due by 11:59pm
Tue Apr 18, 2023	 18 April: Challenges (3)- Race and Immigration (https://utexas.instructure.com/courses/1355157/assignments/6162964)	due by 11:59pm
Thu Apr 20, 2023	 Course Recap (https://utexas.instructure.com/courses/1355157/assignments/6163008)	due by 11:59pm
Sun Apr 30, 2023	 Final Exam (https://utexas.instructure.com/courses/1355157/assignments/6163043)	due by 11:59pm