

## Syllabus

### Issues & Policies in American Government (Honors): American Government & Business

(GOV 312L /37240)

Prof. Brian Roberts

#### Course Description

The relationship between the private and public sectors in the United States has, in many ways, defined us as a country. The Founders struggled to produce a constitution that offered blueprints for both the government and the economy and how they should interact. This course explores the history of this interaction through a variety of lenses, tackling such topics as property rights, regulation, corporate political behavior, and, of course, the political economy of pirates....

This course fulfills the second half of the legislative requirement for Government coursework.

#### Learning Objectives

Upon completing this class, you will be able to

- *summarize the key eras and theories defining the history of the American political economy,*
- *explain the role of the US Supreme Court in defining the relationship between government and the economy*
- *analyze contemporary corporate political behavior,*
- *complete original research using primary information and data sources.*

#### Required Readings

In addition to occasional readings posted on the course Canvas site there are three books and one newspaper subscription:

Eisner. 2014. The American Political Economy (2nd Ed) Routledge

Lamoreaux and Novak. 2017. Corporations and American Democracy. Harvard

Lehne. 2013. Government and Business. Sage

Holcombe. 2018. Political Capitalism. Cambridge

The Wall Street Journal. Students must subscribe or have daily access to *The Wall Street Journal* for the 15 weeks of the course. There are great student rates available at <http://wsj.com/studentoffer>

## Grading

- 60% of your class grade is determined by performance on two (2) tests. Each test will count for 30% of your grade. Test dates are listed below and are posted on the course calendar in Canvas.
- 15% of your class grade is based on ten (10) short writing assignments based on *Wall Street Journal* news articles. Due dates for these assignments are listed below and on the course calendar in Canvas. Assignment requirements are also posted on Canvas.
- 25% of your class grade is based on a research paper.

Grades will be based on the +/- scale. Numerical scores translate to grades as follows:

- - 94-100 A
  - 90-93 A-
  - 87-89 B+
  - 84-86 B
  - 80-83 B-
  - 77-79 C+
  - 74-76 C
  - 70-73 C-
  - 65-69 D
  - 0-65 F

## Course Communication

Official course announcements will be made in class and/or posted on Canvas.

## Academic Integrity

There is no tolerance for academic dishonesty in the course. Please refer to the following information maintained by Student Judicial Services about academic integrity for good rules of thumb to avoid problems: [http://deanofstudents.utexas.edu/sjs/acint\\_student.php](http://deanofstudents.utexas.edu/sjs/acint_student.php)

## Students with Disabilities

If you are a student with a disability, or think you may have a disability, and need accommodations please contact Disability and Access (D&A). You may refer to D&A's website for contact and more information: <http://community.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.

**Religious Accommodation**

Please notify me of your pending absence at least fourteen days prior to the date of observance of a religious holy day. If you must miss a class, an examination, a work assignment, or a project in order to observe a religious holy day, you will be given an opportunity to complete the missed work within a reasonable time after the absence.

**Title IX Reporting Requirements**

Under Senate Bill 212 (SB 212), the professor for this course is required to report for further investigation any information concerning incidents of sexual harassment, sexual assault, dating violence, and stalking committed by or against a UT student or employee. Federal law and university policy also requires reporting incidents of sex- and gender-based discrimination and sexual misconduct (collectively known as Title IX incidents). This means we cannot keep confidential information about any such incidents that you share with us. If you need to talk with someone who can maintain confidentiality, please contact University Health Services (512-471-4955 or 512-475-6877) or the UT Counseling and Mental Health Center (512-471-3515 or 512-471-2255). We strongly urge you make use of these services for any needed support and that you report any Title IX incidents to the [Title IX Office](#)