

POLS 3351: Comparative Politics

Fall 2026

Section: 10077

Texas A&M University-San Antonio

Instructor Information

Name: José O. Pérez, Ph.D.

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Office Number: Central Academic Building (CAB) 351A

Office Hours: Tuesdays/Thursdays from 11:30 AM-1:30 PM, in person or via Zoom, and/or by appointment.

Class Information

Dates: Tuesday/Thursday

Time: 2:00 PM to 3:15 PM

Classroom: Senator Frank L. Madla 206

Contact hours: 3 hours per week

Format of instruction: Course is discussion based and in-person, face-to-face instructional method.

Syllabus is subject to change throughout the semester and the instructor reserves the right to alter the schedule, readings, due dates, and so forth.

Course Description

The structures, functions and processes of selected political systems.

Course Learning Objectives

- Course Learning Objective 1: Obtain a working knowledge of various “Comparative Politics” theoretical debates and how previous scholars have theorized various processes such as state-building, collective action problems, political party formation, and so forth.
- Course Learning Objective 2: Analyze political systems, ideologies, and institutions across the world in a comparative manner.
- Course Learning Objective 3: Understand the historical and socio-economic contexts that have influenced and structured the development of various political cultures and processes around the globe.
- Course Learning Objective 4: Develop analytic and critical thinking skills that will enable students to evaluate competing arguments vis-à-vis Comparative Politics

in light of relevant empirical and historical evidence in a logical and in-depth manner.

- Course Learning Objective 5: Practice analytical and critical thinking skills through various written and oral communication exercises.

Grading

1. Grading Breakdown

Tasks	Percent of Final Grade
2-3 Page Short Essay Responses (2 in total):	20%
3-5 Page Midterm Exam	25%
3-5 Page Final Exam	25%
Participation	10%
Weekly Quizzes	20%
=Total	=100%

2. University Grading Scale:

This class will use the standard TAMU-SA grading scheme, summarized in the table below:

Grade	From	To
A	100%	90%
B	<90%	80%
C	<80%	70%
D	<70%	60%
F	<60%	0%

Important Dates:

- Short Essay Response #1: Due 9/13
- Midterm Exam: Due 10/11
- Short Essay Response #2: Due 11/8
- Final Exam: Due 12/9

Graded Course Components

1. 2-3 Page Short Essay Responses (2 total): These will be written essays where students will be given a prompt and will answer the prompt using class readings. Readings from class do not have to be cited – outside sources should be cited. Students should use this assignment to practice: 1) crafting a thesis statement, 2) developing paragraph topic sentences and ancillary paragraphs to build an argument, 3) synthesizing and employing sources, and 4) constructing a critical argument from introduction to conclusion that is concise and well supported. A full rubric will be provided for the assignment ahead of time. Responses must be 2-3 pages double-spaced, Times New Roman 12-point font, with 1-inch margins all around. The assignment will be open online on Blackboard with the prompt and students will have 5 days to complete the assignment. Students are not allowed to work with each other on this assignment.
2. Midterm Exam: Students will be given 3 questions to choose from and will be asked to answer 1 of the questions. A full rubric will be provided for the assignment ahead of time. The written exam response should be 3-5 pages double-spaced, Times New Roman 12-point font, with 1-inch margins all around. The assignment will be open on Blackboard and students will have 5 days to complete it and submit it via Blackboard. Students must cite at least 5 of the readings covered on the syllabus through the midterm in their response. The midterm will be virtual via Blackboard, open-notes and open-book. However, students are not allowed to collaborate or work with each other on the exam.
3. Final Exam: Students will be given 3 questions to choose from and will be asked to answer 1 of the questions. A full rubric will be provided for the assignment ahead of time. The written exam response should be 3-5 pages double-spaced, Times New Roman 12-point font, with 1-inch margins all around. The assignment will be open on Blackboard and students will have 5 days to complete it and submit it via Blackboard. Students must cite at least 5 of the readings covered on the syllabus since the midterm in their response. The final exam will be virtual via Blackboard, open-notes and open-book. However, students are not allowed to collaborate or work with each other on the exam.
4. Participation: Participation is an important part of student learning and classroom engagement, and therefore a part of the grade. To obtain full participation points a student must participate actively and consistently throughout the semester. However, I employ a broad definition of participation: asking a question, answering a colleague's question, asking a colleague to clarify their point, engaging in small group activities, helping a colleague during/after class, paying attention attentively as others speaks, pointing out a passage from the reading you would like clarification on, participating in classroom discussions, etc. Attendance will be taken regularly throughout the semester and will count towards your participation grade – each unexcused absence will result in a half point being subtracted from your participation grade.

5. Quizzes: These will be conducted weekly or biweekly throughout the semester and will focus on the assigned readings for that week and on material from previous lectures. Quizzes will be multiple choice, consisting of 5-7 questions. Students may complete the quiz at any given time during the 24-hour period that the quizzes are open on Blackboard, however, they will have 20 minutes and 1 attempt only to complete the quiz after opening it. The 3 lowest quiz grades will be dropped at the end of the semester.

Required Texts and Other Course Materials

We will be reading chapters from the following books so having access to them is required. HOWEVER, they should be available through the university library website to download free of charge, as well as physically available to check out from library. All other readings will be posted as links on Blackboard, so there is no need to directly purchase any texts for this course.. A reliable internet connection and computer will also be a necessity throughout the semester to complete and submit assignments.

1)Charles Tilly. Coercion, Capital, and European States AD 990-1992. 1992. Malden: Blackwell.

2)Benedict Anderson. Imagined Communities: Reflections on the Origin and Spread of Nationalism. New York: Verso.

3)Sidney Tarrow. Power in Movement: Social Movements and Contentious Politics. Cambridge: Cambridge University Press.

4)Lipsky, Michael. 2010. Street-Level Bureaucracy: Dilemmas of the Individual in Public Services. New York: Russell Sage Foundation.

Late Work Policy

All assignments are due on the specified time and date listed. All assignments submitted more than 15 minutes after they are due will be assessed a 5-percentage point late penalty. There will be an additional 5 percentage point penalty for each subsequent day that the assignment is late. No assignments will be accepted more than one week late.

Quizzes are all virtual and cannot be made up. Extensions need to be arranged ahead of time with the instructor.

Attendance Policy

Attendance is highly, highly encouraged because it usually correlates directly to learning outcomes in college-level courses. However, I understand there are many intervening factors that can cause a student to miss class. Try to come to class as much as possible and please communicate with me so we can work together on a plan to make up material or assignments missed due to unforeseen circumstances. Attendance will be taken regularly and will count as part of your participation grade.

Email Policy

When you email me, please expect a reply in around 72 hours, and responses may be delayed further over the weekend. This is because of conflicting obligations with family, research, and hobbies. Thus, important questions regarding assignments should be asked well ahead of time because if asked very close to the due date and time – you may not hear from me until after the assignment is due. Emailing me to notify me of an emergency is, of course, a different and valid matter.

Phone and Computer Usage Policy

I understand we live in a highly connected society and that emergencies arise that require immediate attention. Nevertheless, please refrain from cell phone usage during class unless it is an emergency, and please put phones on silent during class. Also, please limit your laptop usage during class to note-taking and other activities immediately related to the lecture to not disrupt your learning and that of those around you. Be present, be engaged, be active.

Blackboard Policy

Please check Blackboard regularly for course updates, assignment announcements, or possible lecture cancellations. I will notify you in advance during class of upcoming assignments – but it is a good habit to check Blackboard regularly, especially if you have missed a class.

Tentative Schedule and Timeline of Readings

This is a tentative course schedule – please complete readings and reflect on them before class.

Week 1: What is Comparative Politics?

Tuesday 8/25: Course and personal introductions, review of syllabus, instructions for completing the readings, class sets rules for in-class discussions together, and students set personal learning goals -No required readings

Thursday 8/27: Required Reading: Alasdair MacIntyre, “Is a Science of Comparative Politics Possible?” in Alasdair MacIntyre, *Against the Self-Images of the Age*, pp. 260-279.

Week 2: War Made the State?

-Tuesday 9/1: Required Reading: Charles Tilly. *Coercion, Capital, and European States AD 990-1992*. 1992. Malden: Blackwell. ONLY Chapter 1 and 3.

-Thursday 9/3: Required Reading: Charles Tilly. “State Making as Organized Crime.” in *Bringing the State Back In*, eds. Evans, Rueschemeyer, and Skocpol. Cambridge: Cambridge University Press, 1985. Pp. 169-191.

Week 3: Nationalism and the State

-Tuesday 9/8: Required Reading: Benedict Anderson. *Imagined Communities: Reflections on the Origin and Spread of Nationalism*. New York: Verso. Pp. 1-40.

-Thursday 9/10: Required Reading: Benedict Anderson. *Imagined Communities: Reflections on the Origin and Spread of Nationalism*. New York: Verso. Pp. 40-80.

*****Short Essay Response #1 Due 9/13 by 11:59 PM

Week 4: Individuals, the State, and Governance

-Tuesday 9/15: Required Reading: Scott, James. "Everyday Forms of Peasant Resistance." *The Journal of Peasant Studies* 13.2 (1986): 5-35.

-Thursday 9/17: Swati Srivastava. 2026. "Platform Rule: Facebook, Corporate Power, and Networked Publics." *European Journal of International Relations*, 0(0).

Week 5: Nationalism and Political Violence

-Tuesday 9/22: Film Screening in Class *Hotel Rwanda* (2004)

-Thursday 9/24: Film Screening in Class *Hotel Rwanda* (2004)

Week 6: What is Democracy?

-Tuesday 9/29: Required Reading: Robert A. Dahl, *Polyarchy*, 1971, pp. 1-16.

-Thursday 10/1: Terry Karl and Philippe Schmitter, "What Democracy Is... and Is Not," in Larry Diamond and Marc Plattner, eds, *The Global Resurgence of Democracy*, Baltimore: Johns Hopkins University Press, 1996. Pp. 49-62. (Comparative constitutions activity in class)

Week 7: Midterm Exam

-Tuesday 10/6: Review for Midterm exam in class.

*****-Thursday 10/8: Midterm Exam due 10/11 via Blackboard by 11:59 PM – no in-person class or readings

Week 8: Political Parties and Representational Systems

-Tuesday 10/13: Required Reading: Arend Lijphart. "Constitutional Choices for New Democracies." *Journal of Democracy* 2.1 (1991): 72-84. And lecture on two-party v. multi-party system and first-past-the-post v. proportional representational systems.

-Thursday 10/15: No readings, lecture on two-party v. multi-party system and first-past-the-post v. proportional representational systems.

Week 9: Military Rule and (Re)Democratization

-Tuesday 10/20: Required Reading: Required Reading: Steven Levitsky, Steven, and Lucan A. Way. "Elections without democracy: The rise of competitive authoritarianism." *Journal of Democracy* 13.2 (2002): 51-65.

-Thursday 10/22: Film screening in class, *Pray the Devil Back to Hell* (2008)

Week 10: Social Movements and Collective Action

-Tuesday 10/27: Required Reading: Sidney Tarrow. *Power in Movement: Social Movements and Contentious Politics*. Cambridge: Cambridge University Press. 2008. ONLY Introduction and Chapters 1 and 2

-Thursday 10/29: Required Reading: Sidney Tarrow. *Power in Movement: Social Movements and Contentious Politics*. Cambridge: Cambridge University Press. 2008. ONLY Chapter 5

Week 11: Bureaucrats, Bureaucracy, and Public Goods

-Tuesday 11/3: Required Reading: Lipsky, Michael. 2010. *Street-Level Bureaucracy: Dilemmas of the Individual in Public Services*. New York: Russell Sage Foundation. ONLY Chapters 1, 2, and 3.

-Thursday 11/5: Required Reading: Holland, Alisha C. "Forbearance." *American Political Science Review* 110.2 (2016): 232-246.

*****Short Essay Response #2 Due 11/8 by 11:59 PM

Week 12: Authoritarian Regimes

- Tuesday 11/10: Film screening in class The Death of Stalin (2017)
- Thursday 11/12: No class, professor at conference

Week 13: Women's Participation in Democracy

- Tuesday 11/17: Film screening in class, The Death of Stalin (2017)
- Thursday 11/19: Krook, Mona Lena, and Juliana Restrepo Sanín. "The Cost of Doing Politics? Analyzing Violence and Harassment Against Female Politicians." Perspectives on Politics 18.3 (2020): 740-755.

Week 14: Thanksgiving

- Tuesday 11/24: No class, no readings, Thanksgiving.
- Thursday 11/26: No class, no readings, Thanksgiving.

Week 15: The State Revisited

- Tuesday 12/1: Guillermo O'Donnell, "On the State, Democratization and Some Conceptual Problems: A Latin American View with Glances at Some Postcommunist Countries." World Development 21, no. 8 (1993): 1355–1369.
- Thursday 12/3: No required reading, course wrap up. Please review readings from Week 1 and 2 of the course for our discussion.

*****Final Exam Due via Blackboard on 12/9 by 11:59 P.M.

IMPORTANT POLICIES AND RESOURCES

University Email Policy and Course Communications: All correspondence between professors and students must occur via university email accounts. You must have your Jaguar email account ready and working. If it is not working, contact the help desk at helpdesk@tamusa.edu or at 210-784-HELP (4357). If you don't hear back within 48 hours, contact them again. They have many requests during the first part of the semester, so you may need to follow up with them.

Academic Accommodations for Individuals with Disabilities: Texas A&M University-San Antonio is committed to providing all students with reasonable access to learning opportunities and accommodations in accordance with The Americans with Disabilities Act, as amended, and Section 504 of the Rehabilitation Act. If you experience barriers to your education due to a disability or think you may have a disability, Disability Support Services is located in the Central Academic Building, Suite 210. You can also contact us via phone at (210) 784-1335, visit us at the [website](#) or email us at dss@tamusa.edu. All students are encouraged to discuss their academic accommodation with Disability Support Services and their instructors as soon as possible.

Academic Learning Center: All currently enrolled students at Texas A&M University-San Antonio can utilize the Academic Learning Center for subject-area tutoring. The Academic Learning Center provides free course-based tutoring to all currently enrolled students at Texas A&M University-San Antonio. Students wishing to work with a tutor can make appointments through the Brainfuse online tutoring platform. Brainfuse can be accessed in the *Tools* section of Blackboard. You can contact the Academic Learning Center by emailing tutoring@tamusa.edu, calling (210) 784-1307, or visiting the Central Academic Building, room 202. Online tutoring is also available for after hours and weekend assistance.

While tutoring hours may change based on tutor schedules and availability, the current tutoring hours for MATH in the ALC are as follows:

Appointments available MATH Walk in Tutoring – No appointment needed

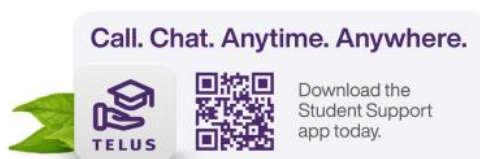
	Appointments available	Walk in Tutoring – No appointment needed
MONDAY	8 am – 6 pm	9 am – 5 pm
TUESDAY	8 am – 6 pm	9 am – 5 pm
WEDNESDAY	8 am – 6 pm	9 am – 5 pm
THURSDAY	8 am – 6 pm	9 am – 5 pm
FRIDAY	8 am – 5 pm	11 am – 4 pm

Counseling/Mental Health Resources: As a college student, there may be times when personal stressors interfere with your academic performance and negatively impact your daily

functioning. If you are experiencing emotional difficulties or mental health concerns, support is available to you through the Student Counseling Center (SCC). To schedule an appointment, visit our website, call 210-784-1331 or visit Madla 120 between the hours of 8:00 AM and 5:00 PM.

All mental health services provided by the SCC are free and confidential (as the law allows). The Student Counseling Center provides brief individual and group therapy, crisis intervention, consultation, case management, and prevention services. *Crisis support is available 24/7/365 by calling the SCC at 210-784-1331 or through the TELUS student support App.*

The TELUS Student Support App provides a variety of mental health resources to including 24/7/365 support for in the moment distress, crisis support, an anonymous peer-to-peer support network, mental health screenings, podcasts, and articles to improve your mental wellbeing.



Emergency Preparedness: JagE Alert is Texas A&M University-San Antonio's mass notification system. In the event of an emergency, such as inclement weather, students, staff and faculty, who are registered, will have the option to receive a text message, email with instructions and updates. To register or update your information visit: <https://tamusa.bbcportal.com/>. More information on emergency response may be found at: [Emergency Operations Plan](#) and the [Emergency Action Plan](#). Download the SafeZone App (<https://safezoneapp.com/>) for emergencies or call (210) 784-1911. Non-Emergency (210) 784-1900.

Financial Aid and Verification of Attendance: According to the following federal regulation, 34 CFR 668.21: U.S. Department of Education (DoE) Title IV regulation, a student can only receive Title IV funds based on Title IV eligibility criteria which include class attendance. If Title IV funds are disbursed to ineligible students (including students who fail to begin attendance), the institution must return these funds to the U.S. DoE within 30 days of becoming aware that the student will not or has not begun attendance. Faculty will provide the Office of Financial Aid with an electronic notification if a student has not attended by the published Census Date (the first week of class). Any student receiving federal financial aid who does not attend prior to the published Census Date (the first week of class) will have their aid terminated and returned to the DoE. Please note that any student who stops attending at any time during the semester may also need to return a portion of their federal aid.

Jaguar Writing, Language, and Digital Composing Center (WLDCC): The WLDCC provides support to graduate and undergraduate students in all three colleges as well as faculty and staff. Writing tutors work with students to develop reading skills, prepare oral presentations, and plan, draft, and revise their written assignments. Our language tutors

support students enrolled in Spanish courses and students composing in Spanish for any assignment. Our digital studio tutors support students working on digital projects such as eportfolios, class presentations, or other digital multimedia projects. The WLDCC offers face-to-face, synchronous online, and asynchronous digital appointments. Students can schedule appointments with the WLDCC in JagWire under the Student Services tab. Click on “Writing, Language, and Digital Composing Center” to make your appointment. Students wanting to work in realtime with a tutor can schedule an “Online Appointment.” Students wishing to receive asynchronous, written feedback from a tutor can schedule an “eTutoring” appointment. More information about what services we offer, how to make an appointment, and how to access your appointment can be found on our [website](#) . The WLDCC can also be reached by emailing wldcc@tamusa.edu.

Meeting Basic Needs: Any student who has difficulty affording groceries or accessing sufficient food to eat every day or who lacks a safe and stable place to live, and believes this may affect their performance in the course, is urged to submit a [CARE report](#) for support. Furthermore, please notify the professor if you are comfortable in doing so. This will enable them to direct you to available resources. A food pantry is available on campus; click [here](#) for hours and contact information.

Military Affairs: Veterans and active-duty military personnel are welcomed and encouraged to visit the Office of Military Affairs for any question involving federal or state VA Education Benefits. Visit the Patriots’ Casa building, room 202, or to contact the Office of Military Affairs with any questions at military.va@tamusa.edu or (210)784-1397.

Religious Observances: Texas A&M University-San Antonio recognizes the wide variety of faiths represented among the campus community and protects the rights of students, faculty, and staff to observe religious holidays according to their tradition. Under the policy, students are provided an opportunity to make up any examination, study, or course work requirements that may be missed due to a religious observance provided they notify their instructors before the end of the second week of classes for regular session classes.

The Six-Drop Rule: Students are subject to the requirements of Senate Bill (SB) 1231 passed by the Texas Legislature in 2007. SB 1231 limits students to a maximum of six (6) non-punitive course drops (i.e., courses a student chooses to drop) during their undergraduate careers. A non-punitive drop does not affect the student’s GPA. However, course drops that exceed the maximum allowed by SB 1231 will be treated as “F” grades and will impact the student’s GPA.

Statement of Harassment and Discrimination: Texas A&M University-San Antonio is committed to the fundamental principles of academic freedom, equal opportunity, and human dignity. To fulfill its multiple missions as an institution of higher learning, A&M-San Antonio encourages a climate that values and nurtures collegiality and the uniqueness of the individual on our campus and within our state, nation, and world. All

decisions and actions involving students and employees are to be based on applicable law and individual merit. Texas A&M University-San Antonio, in accordance with applicable federal and state law, prohibits discrimination, including harassment, on the basis of race, color, sex, religion, national origin, age, disability, genetic information, veteran status, sexual orientation, or pregnancy/parenting status. Individuals who believe they have experienced harassment or discrimination prohibited by this statement are encouraged to contact the University's Civil Rights Officer at 210-784-2061 or titleix@tamusa.edu.

Texas A&M University-San Antonio faculty are committed to providing a safe learning environment for all students and for the university as a whole. If you have experienced any form of sex discrimination or harassment, including sexual assault, sexual harassment, domestic or dating violence, or stalking based on sex, know that help and support are available. A&M-San Antonio's Title IX Coordinator can support those impacted by such conduct in navigating campus life, accessing health and counseling services, providing academic and housing accommodations, and more. The university strongly encourages all students to report any such incidents to the Title IX Coordinator. Please be aware that all A&M-San Antonio employees (other than those designated as confidential resources such as counselors and trained victim advocates) are required to report information about such discrimination and harassment to the university. This means that if you tell a faculty member about a situation of sexual harassment, sexual violence, or other related sex-based misconduct, the faculty member must share that information with the university's Title IX Coordinator (titleix@tamusa.edu, 210-784-2061, CAB 439K). If you wish to speak to a confidential employee who does not have this reporting requirement, you can contact the Student Counseling Center at (210) 784-1331 or visit them in Madla 120.

Pregnant/Parenting Students: Texas A&M-San Antonio does not require a pregnant or parenting student, solely because of that status or issues related to that status, to (1) take a leave of absence or withdraw from their degree or certificate program; (2) limit the student's studies; (3) participate in an alternative program; (4) change the student's major, degree, or certificate program; or (5) refrain from joining or cease participating in any course, activity, or program at the University. The university will provide such reasonable accommodations to pregnant students as would be provided to a student with a temporary medical condition that are related to the health and safety of the student and the student's unborn child. These could include maintaining a safe distance from substances, areas, and activities known to be hazardous to pregnant individuals and their unborn child; excused absences because of illness or medical appointments; modified due dates for assignments; rescheduled tests/exams; taking a leave of absence; and being provided access to instructional materials and video recordings of lectures for excused absences, if these would be provided to any other student with an excused absence. Pregnant/parenting students are encouraged to contact the Title IX Coordinator with any questions or concerns related to their status (titleix@tamusa.edu; 210-784-2061; CAB 439K).

Texas A&M-San Antonio has also designated the Title IX Coordinator as the liaison officer for current or incoming students who are the parent or guardian of a child younger than 18 years of age. The Title IX Coordinator can provide students with information regarding support services and other resources.

[Young Jaguars](#) can support parenting students with daycare if students meet this criteria: (1) must be enrolled in classes at Texas A&M-San Antonio in the current semester, (2) must be Pell eligible or a single parent, (3) child(ren) must be aged 3 to 12-years-old, and (4) child(ren) must be enrolled in Pre-K-3 through 6th grade. Hours of operation is Monday-Thursday 3:30pm-9:00pm. For more information, please contact Young Jaguars at youngjaguars@tamusa.edu or call (210) 784-2636.

[Students' Rights and Responsibilities](#): The following statement of students' rights and responsibilities is intended to reflect the philosophical base upon which University Student Rules are built. This philosophy acknowledges the existence of both rights and responsibilities, which is inherent to an individual not only as a student at Texas A&M University-San Antonio but also as a citizen of this country.

[Students' Rights](#)

1. A student shall have the right to participate in a free exchange of ideas, and there shall be no University rule or administrative rule that in any way abridges the rights of freedom of speech, expression, petition and peaceful assembly as set forth in the U.S. Constitution.
2. Each student shall have the right to participate in all areas and activities of the University, free from any form of discrimination, including harassment, on the basis of race, color, national or ethnic origin, religion, sex, disability, age, and pregnancy/parenting or veteran status in accordance with applicable federal and state laws.
3. A student has the right to personal privacy except as otherwise provided by law, and this will be observed by students and University authorities alike.
4. Each student subject to disciplinary action arising from violations of university student rules shall be assured a fundamentally fair process.

[Students' Responsibilities](#)

1. A student has the responsibility to respect the rights and property of others, including other students, the faculty, and administration.
2. A student has the responsibility to be fully acquainted with the published University Student Rules found in the Student Handbook, [Student Code of Conduct](#), on our website, and University Catalog, and to comply with them, as well as with federal, state, and local laws.
3. A student has the responsibility to recognize that student actions reflect upon the individuals involved and upon the entire University community.

4. A student has the responsibility to recognize the University's obligation to provide a safe environment for learning.
5. A student has the responsibility to check their university email for any updates or official university notifications.

We expect that students will behave in a manner that is dignified, respectful, and courteous to all people, regardless of sex, ethnic/racial origin, religious background, or disability. Conduct that infringes on the rights of another individual will not be tolerated.

Students are expected to exhibit a high level of honesty and integrity in their pursuit of higher education. Students engaging in an act that violates the standards of academic integrity will find themselves facing academic and/or disciplinary sanctions. Academic misconduct is any act, or attempt, which gives an unfair advantage to the student. Additionally, any behavior specifically prohibited by a faculty member in the course syllabus or class discussion may be considered as academic misconduct. For more information on academic misconduct policies and procedures please review the [Student Code of Conduct](#) or visit the resources available in the [OSRR website](#)

Important Fall 2026 Dates:

Dates	Event
August 20	Tuition & Fee Payments deadline
August 24	First day of class
September 7	Labor Day Holiday – No Classes / University Closed
September 9	Census Date – Students not paid in full or enrolled in a payment plan by 4:59 pm may be dropped for non-payment
October 5 – October 16	Midterm grading period
November 13	Last day to drop with an automatic "W"
November 25	Study Day – No classes
November 26-November 28	Thanksgiving Holiday – No Classes / University Closed
November 30	Last day to drop a course or withdraw from the University
December 4	Last day of classes
December 5 – December 11	Final exams
December 15	Commencement

The complete [academic calendar](#) is available online.

No Use of Generative AI Permitted

This course assumes that all work submitted by students will be generated by the students themselves, working individually or in groups. Students should not have another person/entity do the writing of any portion of an assignment for them, which includes hiring a person or a company to write assignments and/or using artificial intelligence (AI) tools like ChatGPT. Use of any AI-generated content in this course qualifies as academic dishonesty and violates Texas A&M-San Antonio's standards of academic integrity.