



TEXAS A&M UNIVERSITY
SAN ANTONIO

Department of Criminology and Political Science

Eugen L. Nagy, Lecturer

Fall 2026

Office: CAB 351 I

GOVT 2305-004, Federal Government

Office hrs: Tue 2-3 pm & by appt

Class: MW 9:30-10:45 am

Email: use Blackboard messaging

Classroom: Senator Frank L. Madla 210

Federal Government

DESCRIPTION

Within this course, the students will become familiar with the origins, development, structure and functioning of the institutions of the American political system, with a specific focus on the federal level of government. We will examine American politics from *historical*, *institutional* and *comparative* perspectives, studying the process of nation- and state-building; the origins and development of the institutions of the federal government; the history and organization of American political parties; the election processes; the structures and operation of the three branches of the federal government, and so on. During this process, the students will also acquire some of the key concepts and tools of the discipline of political science, learning how to apply them to American politics.

EXPECTED OUTCOMES

By the end of the semester, the students will possess a solid understanding of the foundations, development, structure and functioning of the principal institutions and actors of the American political system, and of the federal model of organizing the state. The overarching goal is to help the students see American politics with fresh eyes (“from the outside”), going beyond the ingrained preconceptions or the partisan debates of the moment, and becoming able to discuss and to explain American politics using the tools of political science. This will empower the students to become better informed, intentional citizens, who truly understand the functioning of American politics, and who are able to participate and to make their mark on it, if they so desire.



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In addition, through our work this semester the students will acquire and practice a number of study and learning skills: from how to close-read a text, to conceptualizing with precision and clarity; from how to take good notes and to review a material, to planning one's work and synthesizing what one has studied; and from test-taking skills, to learning from the feedback received. The goal is to advance the students on the path of becoming independent learners and budding scholars, who take charge of their educational path, while fully engaging in a life-long learning process.

COURSE WORK

IN THE CLASSROOM

We will meet in the classroom every Monday and Wednesday, with the exceptions noted in [TAMUSA's academic calendar](#). **Attendance is mandatory**, as the most important teaching and learning tool in this course is represented by the **class lectures**. This means that you can only succeed in this class if you attend each class, pay close attention, and take thorough and accurate lecture notes.

Attendance will be taken at the beginning of the class. In order to be marked present, a student needs to be present when attendance is taken, and to remain present throughout the class period. Except for certified emergencies, leaving the classroom for an extended time, or before the end of our class meeting, will result in being marked absent, and will also be qualified as disruptive behavior.

You are expected to actively participate in our common classroom work (classroom discussions). **Student participation** is evaluated on an ongoing basis and is **graded** separately. Together, attendance and participation will make up the **A&P (Attendance & Participation) portion of the final grade**.

ONLINE WORK

In addition to the classroom work, a separate track of the coursework will take place **online**. This online work will contain **materials** (readings, media etc.) distinct from the materials used for the classroom work, materials that the students will have to study on their own, and



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from which they will be **evaluated online**. The online track is divided into **seven two-week periods**, each period being dedicated to one specific material, and culminating in an online evaluation based on that material (see the “ONLINE WORK: SCHEDULE” section below).

OTHER ACTIVITIES

Other activities and forms of evaluation, such as classroom pop-quizzes, attending talks, campus events or field trips, or completing surveys or other materials, as indicated by the instructor, might also be included in our activities during the semester. Some of these might yield points counting (again) toward the **A&P grade**. More specific information regarding such activities will be provided as needed.

CLASS CANCELLATION

If a class needs to be cancelled due to unexpected circumstances, we will do our best to make up for it through **online video lectures and online graded assignments**, which will count toward the A&P grade.

COMMUNICATION

All email communication in this class will take place exclusively **through Blackboard messaging**. The normal answer time during regular business days is 24 hours. This does not apply to weekends (Sat-Sun), or any other non-working days, when such communication will not be checked.

ACADEMIC INTEGRITY

ACADEMIC DISHONESTY

All forms of **academic dishonesty** (*cheating, plagiarism etc.*) will be addressed promptly and with severity. The **use of AI tools** to complete any assignments in this course is **forbidden**. For online evaluations, the only materials allowed are those specifically assigned for the given exercise; the use of any other external material (e.g. internet sources) is considered academic dishonesty. For all assignments and evaluations, students are expected to follow carefully the



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written and oral instructions received from the instructor.

ACADEMIC DISCIPLINE

Whenever and wherever we meet, in the classroom or online, you are expected to be a **polite, respectful and active member of our learning community**. Positive participation is encouraged, and will contribute to a better grade. Disruptive behavior will not be tolerated, and will result in one or more of the disciplinary measures listed below, starting with expulsion from the given class meeting.

NOTE-TAKING TOOLS

In our classroom, the **use of any electronic device** (laptop, smartphone, headphones etc.) **is forbidden**, and is considered a disciplinary infraction, that will lead to disciplinary measures. Come prepared to take notes using pen and paper.

DISCIPLINARY MEASURES

Failure to comply with any of the requirements described above, indicated verbally in class, or contained in the official TAMUSA policies, will result in one or more of the following **disciplinary measures**, which are at the discretion of the instructor: expulsion from the given class; zero points (F) for the given assignment; deduction of points from the final grade component (e.g. *Attendance & Participation*); an F for the entire grade component (e.g. *Online Work*); an F for the entire course; reporting to the disciplinary bodies of the university; expulsion from the course roster; reporting to University Police etc. The implementation of these and other disciplinary measures is at the discretion of the instructor.



EXAMINATIONS & GRADING

CLASSROOM WORK

Our classroom work this semester is organized into **four modules**, each of them about three-four weeks in length, and each of them dealing with one general subject matter:

- M1: Nation- & State-Building
- M2: Parties & Congress
- M3: Presidency & Federal Administration
- M4: Policy Making & Federal Judiciary.

After each module there will be a **test** covering the material discussed in that module (**four tests** in total). The tests are made of short-answer questions. There is **no final cumulative test**, which means that you will have the opportunity to perform equally well in each module, and on each test. This also means that you have to maintain the same level of effort and investment in our common work, throughout the semester (through each module).

ONLINE WORK

The **online evaluations** will usually take the form of **online discussion forums**, unless otherwise indicated. Each online evaluation will be graded individually, contributing toward the overall **Online Work grade**. More detailed information will be provided in the instruction section of the specific assignment, and in the Online Work module on Blackboard.

GRADING

The main components of the final grade are as follows:

- *Test 1 (Nation- & State-Building): 17%*
- *Test 2 (Parties & Congress): 17%*
- *Test 3 (Presidency & Federal Administration): 17%*
- *Test 4 (Policy Making & Federal Judiciary): 17%*
- *Online Work: 16%*
- *Attendance & Participation: 16%*



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Each of these final grade components will receive a letter grade. Note that for these component grades we will use the traditional letter grading scale (with minus and plus), on a four-point scale, as follows:

A=4.0; A-=3.7; B+=3.3; B=3.0; B-=2.7; C+=2.3; C=2.0; C-=1.7; D+=1.3; D=1.0; D-=0.7.

In order to calculate the final grade, you will have to use the numeric equivalents of the letter grade for each component, according to the formula listed below:

$$\text{Final Grade} = T1*17\% + T2*17\% + T3*17\% + T4*17\% + OW*16\% + AP*16\%.$$

or, expressed differently,

$$\text{Final Grade} = T1*0.17 + T2*0.17 + T3*0.17 + T4*0.17 + OW*0.16 + AP*0.16.$$

Remember however that, as prescribed by the official policies of Texas A&M University - San Antonio, the official *final grade* for the course will be expressed and recorded as a *full letter grade* (A, B, C, D, or F).

SUPPORT FOR STUDENTS

Texas A&M University – San Antonio has a range of services dedicated to student success and well-being. These resources are listed and described in detail in the IMPORTANT UNIVERSITY POLICIES AND RESOURCES section of this syllabus (see below). Know how these resources can assist you, and do not be reluctant to use them; remember, your mental and physical health should always be your first concern!

If you are registered with **DSS** and need specific arrangements either in terms of the class work or for test taking, please make sure to inform the instructor ahead of time.

Overall, make sure to maintain a constant channel of communication with the instructor, and to let him know as early as possible if issues or problems occur that might have a negative impact on your attendance or work in this class.



STUDY MATERIALS

FOR CLASSROOM WORK

The **study / learning materials** that we will use for our classroom work are the following (in order of importance):

- class lecture notes
- textbook
- Blackboard materials.

Lecture notes: This is the most important teaching and learning tool in this class, so make sure that you attend each class, and that you take precise and detailed lecture notes. In this sense, it is a good idea to periodically exchange class notes with your colleagues, to make sure that you have the most comprehensive and precise information at hand.

Textbook: Theodore J Lowi et al. *American Government: Power and Purpose*. Eighteenth edition. W. W. Norton & Company. ISBN: 978-1-324-08826-4

The best way to use the textbook is to read the sections assigned for each class, before coming to class.

Blackboard materials: Additional study materials will be posted on Blackboard on an ongoing basis. All materials posted on Blackboard constitute mandatory study and examination materials.

FOR ONLINE WORK

Separate materials will be assigned for the **Online Work** track. Some of these materials (e.g. films to watch) might require **purchase or borrowing against cost**; please budget accordingly.



PLANNING YOUR WORK

SYLLABUS SCHEDULES

The general schedules posted below are **for orientation purposes only**. In actuality, the pacing and rhythm of any class is shaped by the common work, and each learning community has a different pace of work. Accordingly, the schedules included below might be modified, adjusted, updated and improved, as necessary, to better reflect the actual pace of work of our particular learning community, and to accomplish the goals of the course. All such changes are at the discretion of the instructor.

WEEKLY WORK PLAN

This is why **your actual planning tool** in this course is represented by the **Weekly Work Plan** that is posted before each week, and which contains the up-to-date information regarding what we will discuss that week, for every class; the readings that you need to complete for that week; announcements regarding upcoming tests, or other evaluations or events; as well as other important information regarding our work in this course. Make sure therefore **to consult the Weekly Work Plan before each week**, and to plan your work accordingly.

HOW TO SUCCEED IN THIS CLASS

The best way to do well in this class is as follows:

- plan your work for each week, using the Weekly Work Plan
- read the assigned textbook sections, before coming to class
- attend every class, and take precise and detailed lecture notes
- participate actively in our classroom discussions
- use the Review Topics documents to prepare for the tests
- do equally well on each test, focusing only on the module covered by that test.
- make sure to plan and to complete the online work within the set deadlines.



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CLASSROOM WORK: SCHEDULE

----- MODULE 1: NATION- & STATE-BUILDING -----

WEEK 1 INTRODUCTION

Aug 24-30

Syllabus. Work Plan. Expectations.

Concepts. The rise of the modern state.

WEEK 2 NATION- & STATE-BUILDING

Aug 31 – Sep 6

Competing colonialisms in North America.

From British colonies to independent statehood.

WEEK 3 NATION- & STATE-BUILDING

Sep 7-13

Mon, Sep 7: Labor Day – No Classes.

The Declaration of Independence.

Concepts. The Confederation. Toward a new Constitution.

Federalists and anti-federalists.

WEEK 4 NATION- & STATE-BUILDING

Sep 14-20

The Constitution – main institutions & federalism.

The Constitution - separation of powers & sharing in powers.



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WEEK 5 NATION- & STATE-BUILDING

Sep 21-27

The Bill of Rights.

----- **MODULE 2: PARTIES & CONGRESS** -----

Concepts. Development of the US party system.

Test 1 Review.

WEEK 6 PARTIES & CONGRESS

Sep 28 – Oct 4

TEST 1 – Nation- & State-Building.

Development of the US party system.

Realignments. The two-party system.

WEEK 7 PARTIES & CONGRESS

Oct 5-11

Political parties today. Nomination process: development.

Congressional elections: development.

Congressional campaigns.

WEEK 8 PARTIES & CONGRESS

Oct 12-18

Congress & its functions. Representation.

Leadership structures. The committee system.

CMOs. Congressional staff.



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WEEK 9 PARTIES & CONGRESS

Oct 19-25

Lawmaking process.

----- **MODULE 3: PRESIDENCY & FEDERAL ADMINISTRATION** -----

Presidency: nomination & elections (origins & development).

Test 2 – Review.

WEEK 10 PRESIDENCY & FEDERAL ADMINISTRATION

Oct 26 – Nov 1

TEST 2 – Parties & Congress.

Presidential campaigns: actors, money, strategies.

WEEK 11 PRESIDENCY & FEDERAL ADMINISTRATION

Nov 2-8

The presidency – powers & development.

The structure of the political executive.

WEEK 12 PRESIDENCY & FEDERAL ADMINISTRATION

Nov 9-15

The federal administration – concepts.

The federal administration – structure & functioning.

Test 3 – Review.

----- **MODULE 4: POLICY MAKING & FEDERAL JUDICIARY** -----

WEEK 13 POLICY MAKING & FEDERAL JUDICIARY

Nov 16-22

TEST 3 –Presidency & Federal Administration.

The Federal Budget.



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WEEK 14 POLICY MAKING & FEDERAL JUDICIARY

Nov 23-29

The federal judiciary.

Wed–Fri: Thanksgiving - No Classes

WEEK 15 POLICY MAKING & FEDERAL JUDICIARY

Nov 30 - Dec 4

The Supreme Court.

Federalism: development.

FINALS PERIOD

Dec 5-11

Friday, Dec 11, 8am: TEST 4 – Policy Making & Federal Judiciary

ONLINE WORK: SCHEDULE

WEEK 1 & 2: FROM COLONIES TO INDEPENDENCE

Aug 24 – Sep 6

Select episode of the TV show “John Adams.”

WEEK 3 & 4: FEDERALISTS & ANTI-FEDERALISTS

Sep 7-20

Selections from the Federalist and the Anti-Federalist papers.

WEEK 5 & 6: THE CONGRESS

Sep 21 – Oct 4

Ken Burns’ documentary “The Congress.”



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WEEK 7 & 8: MR SMITH GOES TO WASHINGTON

Oct 5-18

The movie “Mr. Smith Goes to Washington.”

WEEK 9 & 10: ALL THE PRESIDENT’S MEN

Oct 19 – Nov 1

The movie “All the President’s Men.”

WEEK 11 & 12: THE WEST WING

Nov 2-15

Select episodes of the TV show “The West Wing.”

WEEK 13 & 14: SCOTUS

Nov 16-29

Turning points in SCOTUS history (short videos).



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IMPORTANT POLICIES AND RESOURCES

University Email Policy and Course Communications

All correspondence between professors and students must occur via the university communications systems. Note that **in this course we will exclusively use the Blackboard mailing system for all communications.**

Make sure therefore that you have your TAMUSA accounts (Jaguar email account and Blackboard messaging system) 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-



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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:

MATH

	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

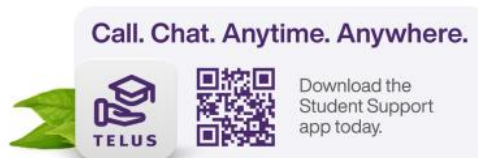
As a college student, there may be times when personal stressors interfere with your academic performance and negatively impact your daily functioning. If you are experiencing emotional difficulties or mental health concerns, support is available to you through the Student Counseling Center (SCC). To 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.



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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



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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 e-portfolios, 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 real time 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.



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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



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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



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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

The young Jaguars program 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.



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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](#).



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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

AI Policy

In GOVT 2305 all work submitted needs to be generated by the respective student. 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.