POS 2041.0009
AMERICAN NATIONAL GOVERNMENT
Spring Term-2012

SYLLABUS

Instructor:	Ed Bradford	Office hours-T,TH	0815-0945
Office:	Phillips Hall Room 305F		1200-1330
Phone:	(407) 823-2608		1445-1545
Email:	Ralph.Bradford@ucf.edu	Class meets- T,TH	0900-1015
	All E-mail **MUST** include the	MAP	room 360
	Code "09" in the subject area.		

Course Objective:
This course is intended to provide a base of knowledge and to encourage the development of critical thinking which are necessary for an understanding of the American political system. It is also designed to provide a basis for further studies of political theories and systems.

Requirements/Grading:
IMPORTANT:. Attendance in class for lectures and discussions is mandatory.
Material from the lectures, as well as readings from the text and other sources, will be included on the exams. You are solely responsible for any information presented in class pertaining to exams, schedule and syllabus changes, and assignments. It is imperative that you remain current in your reading assignments in order to maximize the value of the lectures and class discussions.

There will be three "section" exams that will cover material from the corresponding section of the text and an optional cumulative final exam. Your final grade will be calculated using the three highest exam scores. Each exam will constitute 30% of your grade and the remaining 10% will be based on written assignment[s] to be announced in class. Late submission of assignments will result in a substantial penalty. There will be NO early/late/makeup exams. I do NOT use the +/- grading scale.

Text:
American Government by Lowi and Ginsberg **11th ed Hardcover ISBN 978-0-393-11820-9**
Paperback 978-0-393-15633-1

Reading Assignments:

PART I.-FOUNDATIONS

Chapter 1- 5 Principles of Politics
Chapter 2-Constructing a Government: The Founding and the Constitution.
Chapter 3-The Constitutional Framework: Federalism and the Separation of Powers.
Chapter 4-The Constitution and the Individual: The Bill of Rights, Civil Liberties and Civil Rights.

FIRST EXAM

PART II.-INSTITUTIONS

Chapter 5-Congress: the First Branch
Chapter 6-The President: The Presidency as an Institution.
Chapter 7-The Executive Branch: Bureaucracy in a Democracy.
Chapter 8-The Federal Courts: Structure and Strategies.

SECOND EXAM

PART III.-POLITICS

Chapter 9 & Chapter 13-Public Opinion and The Media.
Chapter 10-Elections.
Chapter 11-Political Parties.
Chapter 12-Groups and Interests.

PART IV. GOVERNANCE

Chapter 14-Government in Action: Public Policy and the Economy.

THIRD EXAM

CUMULATIVE FINAL EXAM
*0800 Tuesday, April 24th 2012

In addition to the above readings, each student is expected to avail him/herself of current information sources, such as newspapers and broadcast news programs (many are available on the net) in order to maintain currency in American politics. This information will be utilized in class discussions and on exams.

If you encounter any problems or have any questions, please do not hesitate to see me during my regularly scheduled office hours. If the posted office hours are incompatible with your schedule, I will be happy to work out a mutually acceptable appointment.

The policies of the University of Central Florida regarding academic honesty are fully supported and applied with mediaeval rigor.

The Instructor reserves the right to make any changes in the syllabus which, in his professional opinion, contributes to the educational experience.

Dates of Interest

January 9-	Classes begin.
January 16-	Holiday-Martin Luther King, Jr. Day
January 20-	Payment deadline
March 5-10-	Spring Break
March 20-	Withdrawal Deadline
April 23-	Classes end.