American National Government
Pos 2041 - Summer

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Office Hours 9-9:45 A.M., Mon.-Thurs.

This course is designed to familiarize the student with the basic political processes in the United States. We will be exploring the meaning of democracy and the workings of our institutions of government as they were designed and as they exist today. We will also focus our attention on the concept of "power" - what it means, who has it, who doesn't and what its implications are.

Course objectives:

1. To provide an historical and substantive understanding of the American political system.
2. To teach students how to separate fact from opinion, how to evaluate opinions (some are more valid than others), and how to differentiate between what was, what is, and what ought to be.
3. To provide assistance in teaching students **how** not **what** to think.
4. To help students understand the competing interests and diversity in our society in order to enable them to participate in a more aware and rational manner in future decision making.

As members of a global community, this course is designed to assist students to become critical thinkers, to respect and understand diversity, and to understand the importance of becoming life-long learners.

Please Read:

My teaching style is not for everyone. If you can't take notes by hand and listen at the same time, if you expect me to just teach "to the test" so you can just memorize "stuff", get through the class with a decent grade and not learn anything, this course is NOT for you. I lecture, discuss current events and history, give examples, tell "stories" etc. for examples and further explanation on how what you are reading and listening to in class apply to the real world. This is a University course - not High School. You are adults and I will treat you as such. Learning is understanding!

E-mail does not mean I am available for "office hours" 24-7! I check at least once a day – usually in the morning (except on weekends), so please don't e-mail me at 11 PM Friday and expect a response before Monday.

Please remember this is a short semester, so stay on top of the reading and studying. You will understand lecture and discussion much better if the text is read in advance of class.

Go to the text companion site by typing in the URL http://wadsworth.com. At the top right corner of the page, type in "Govt", second edition, and follow the student companion link for each chapter. You'll find crossword, practice quizzes et. al. there that are very helpful for understanding your reading assignments a clue to possible test questions. The password to use, if necessary, in on the card at the front of your text

It is *essential* for you to contact at least two of your classmates for information if you miss a class or to share notes. Finding out what you missed is **your responsibility!** After doing that, please feel free to come by and see me if you need further clarification or still have questions.

Please don't email me about questions you may have that are answered on the syllabus already. Please search for the answer yourself first, then contact me if you can't find the answer.

I am always available to help you during my office hours or by appointment.

Course Requirements and Grade Composition:

Students will be expected to read **all** text assignments **prior** to class and to "keep up" on current events. I do not take attendance on a daily basis, but **you** are responsible for all class lecture material and for any changes made in the syllabus or any thing course related. One of the most basic guidelines for success in this course is coming to class every day. I do not post my lectures on the web or loan them to you because you missed class- this class is based on face to face learning and I teach a university course – not High School, Part II.

I will post your grades on MyUCF . You are responsible for bringing any errors to my attention within 5 working days of posting should I make a mistake that harms your grade. I will **NOT** make any adjustments after the deadline! If it is your favor = "Shhhhhh"

As previously stated, if you miss a class, it is up to you to get the class notes from someone (I suggest that you exchange names, email addresses, and phone numbers with at least 2 classmates during the first day or two).Given the short length of a summer term course, it is imperative that you do not miss class unnecessarily! Keeping up with readings, test dates, announcements, and ensuring your grades are properly posted is your responsibility.

There will be three objective tests given during the term, each counting 33.3% of your final grade. An essay make-up will only be considered if you get in touch with me (phone, email etc.) within 24 hours days of missing a test! There are no exceptions

There are also optional extra credit assignments which can add up to three points to your final grade. Term lists will be provide for you to use as study guides, but please understand that not all test questions will be based on this list.

I must be fair to all students, so please don't ask for exceptions to the class rules or requirements. This syllabus is a "contract", so be sure to read it carefully so that you know what

to expect from me and what I expect of you.

Text

GOVT 2, Henschen and Sidlow

Reading

Test #1- Introduction, Ch. 1-5
Test #2- Ch. 6-7, 10 and 8 & 9
Test #3- Ch. 11-16 (15 and 16 may not be covered given time constraints _ I'll let you know as the term progresses)

The first two test dates will be announced in class (Test 3 will be the last day of class)

Extra credit: Due IN class on Thursday, July 28. (It will be late if not turned in at this time) Late assignments will be penalized by 1 point per every 24 hours after the due date and time. (i.e. after class Thursday and before 10 on Friday will both lose 1 point) The list of possible options will be handed out in class in a few days.

All papers must be typed and pages stapled together or 1 point (each) will be deducted.

Tests are 50 M/C and possibly T/F questions. You will need answer sheets (#2052 – light brown, narrow) and #2 pencils with erasers that actually erase without leaving smudges.

Grade Calculation

Grade Scale:

90-100 A
80-89 B
70-79 C
60-69 D
below 60 F

I do not use plus/ minus grades or automatically "round up" numerically (a 79.8 is a C). Please don't ask me to round up your grade.

Add your 3 test grades together and divide by 3. Add any extra credit points and that is your grade. I only calculate grades once at the end of the semester, but it is very simple for you to do it on your own during the term.

Additional information

The University Writing Center (UWC) is available for help with all your papers and written assignments. Phone 823-2197 or visit on the web at http://reach.ucf.edu/~uwc

Grammar and composition count!!! This is true for all your written assignments – not just in English Comp. classes!

* Plagiarism of any kind will result in a failing grade for this course.
* Cell phones and all other electronic devices must be turned off during class. If your phone rings, you will stand up and apologize to the entire class for your "thoughtless" behavior **OR** you will required lead the class in a chorus round of singing "Row, Row, Row Your Boat" (the class will join in and we'll go a few rounds!) or other options I may choose to use – like answering the call and quacking like a duck to you caller without saying another word.

* The use of laptop computers is not allowed (too much past abuse)

This syllabus and all other class requirements may be changed at any time by your Instructor.

<u>Please place this and its attachments in your notebook and do not lose it. Thanks</u>