UNIVERSITY OF CENTRAL FLORIDA

Spring 2014

Course Syllabus-Outline
American National Government-Pos 2041

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I. POS 2041: Course Description

Theory, organization, principles and functions of national government, stressing relationships of individual to all levels of government in our political system.

II. Texts and Materials

We the People an introduction to American politics - Eighth (8th) shorter edition - Ginsberg, Lowi and Weir

III. Course Calendar and Schedule (subject to revision)

WEEK	TOPICS	CHAPTERS
1	Introduction	1
2	American Political Culture	1
3 & 4	Constitutional Democracy	2
5	Federalism	3
6	**Examination One**	
7	Civil Liberties	4
8	Civil Rights	5
9	Public Opinion/The Media	6 & 7
10	**Examination Two**	
11	Political Participation &Voting/Political Parties	8 & 9
12	Campaigns and Elections	10
13	Group and Interests/**Examination Three**	11
14	Congress and the Presidency	12 & 13
15	The Federal Courts	15
16	Seminar	
17	**Examination Four/**TBA	

IV. Evaluation, Testing and Grading

There will be four (4) examinations of equal value this session. Each exam will cover only the units specified including targeted lectures, class discussions, materials, online assignments and media during that unit.

Part of the total grade **may** be earned by a critical article review (you will receive a handout in a few weeks). This review will deal with issues of American National Government.

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

V. Student Responsibilities

Students are responsible for all reading of text and handout material prior to class meeting covering those topics. If you have difficulty with any of the reading or lecture material, please see instructor immediately. **Attendance is expected for every class meeting**. However, should a class be missed, students are responsible for obtaining any information, notes or materials that were missed. In the event an emergency causes an examination to be missed, **one** make-up exam may be taken within three (3) days after the scheduled exam. For **all** procedures and policies, refer to the UCF catalog and/or website.

VI. Student Competencies

Students will be given opportunities to think critically and make reasoned choices by acquiring, analyzing, synthesizing and evaluating data. In addition, reading, listening, writing and speaking effectively will be promoted and practiced.

VII. CLAST Competencies

Reading skill, essay construction and English language skills are integral functions of this course.

VIII. GEP Objectives for POS 2041

Students who complete POS 2041 will demonstrate knowledge of American political philosophical and structural foundations

Students who complete POS 2041 will demonstrate knowledge of American governmental institutions

Students who complete POS 2041 will demonstrate knowledge of American political behavior

Students who complete POS 2041 will demonstrate knowledge of American public policy

Students who complete POS 2041 will be able to critically evaluate core aspects of American political and government

Students who complete POS 2041 will understand how diversity in the United States impacts American politics and government

Students who complete POS 2041 will demonstrate effective communication pertinent to American politics and government

This is an interesting and important course. It is my desire that you should gain much insight and understanding of our governmental institutions, procedures and individuals. You are encouraged to express your opinions and thoughts as the class evolves.