Honors American National Government POS 2041H
Fall 2014

Contact and Class Information

Instructor: Dr. Aubrey Jewett

Office: Phillips Hall 302 E

Office Hours: Online by e-mail or in person T & R 8-10:15 am and 12-12:45pm.

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Class Day and Time: T & R 10 :30am – 11 :45am

Class Location : BA1 0213

Course Description

Politics can be defined as deciding who gets what, when and how in society. In **Honors American National Government** we look at politics in America. We analyze the cultural, constitutional and federalist structures that characterize American national government. We examine the major political participants and processes including public opinion and participation, mass media, political parties, campaigns and elections, and interest groups. We focus on the institutions that make up the American political system including the executive, legislative and judicial branches. We survey the public policy outcomes that emerge from political debate that affect civil liberties and rights, the economy, social welfare and national defense.

Goals

1. Demonstrate knowledge of American political philosophical and structural foundations.

2. Demonstrate knowledge of American governmental institutions.

3. Demonstrate knowledge of American political behavior.

4. Demonstrate knowledge of American public policy.

5. Critically analyze and evaluate American politics, government and public policy.

6. Understand how diversity in the United States impacts American politics and government

7. Demonstrate effective communication pertinent to American politics and government

Required Texts

1. Thomas R. Dye and Ronald Keith Gaddie, *Politics in America 2012 Election*, 10th ed. Upper Saddle River, NJ: Prentice Hall, 2014.

2. You do not need to buy a 2nd text. However we will be reading a number of reports from the CQ Researcher website/database. If you are accessing from the UCF on-campus network you can go directly to http://library.cqpress.com/cqresearcher/ and then click on Browse Reports (By Date). If you are accessing from off campus you will need to log in to the UCF library system at http://library.ucf.edu/ by clicking on the tab in the top right that says "Log in now" and entering your information (you can now log in using your NID and password) and then click on the CQ Electronic Library (towards the top under Popular Databases Quick Links) and then CQ Researcher and then Browse Reports (By Date).

Evaluation

60% Three Examinations - Closed book consisting of multiple choice and short answer questions on information from the Dye book and the CQ readings. Please bring a brown scantron and a #2 pencil on test day.

15% CQ Critiques (3) – You will be assigned three dates on which your 2000-3000 word papers will be due. Each paper will summarize, analyze, update and evaluate the policy issue we cover from the CQ Researcher on that particular day. You are expected to complete each critique and bring it to class on the day we are scheduled to cover that topic in class and participate in the discussion we have on these issues and turn it in at the end of class. Further details for organizing and writing the paper are available on the course website.

15% Extension Papers (2) – You will be assigned two dates on which your 2000-3000 word papers will be due. You will visit and browse several websites related to a chapter from the Dye book that we are covering on your assigned date. The paper should describe in detail, analyze, and reflect on three topics you learned about American politics and/or policy from those sites that extend your knowledge beyond what is found in the assigned chapters of the class text. Further details for organizing and writing the paper are available on the course website.

10% Two Current Events/ Class Participation – Two current event presentations from an opinion piece concerning national politics or policy written by a columnist who has signed his or her name. The opinion piece should have appeared within one week of your due date. Presentation should be brief (about two-three minutes) and include title, author, source, a brief overview/background of the issue being discussed, a summary of the piece, a connection to the material we are studying in the text book, and an evaluation of the substance of the article (not the style) – for instance do you agree or disagree and why. Choose a column from the website www.realclearpolitics.com which pulls many columns each day from around the country. You must use a different source from within realclearpolitics.com for each presentation. The current events count as half the 10% and class discussion/participation will count as the other half.

Policies

1. Attendance is strongly encouraged and is part of your participation grade. I take roll every class. Students who have perfect attendance in all classes preceding an exam are eligible for a bonus of from 1-3 points on the exam.

2. In fairness to students who show up for exams, make up exams are given only when the student contacts the professor before or on the day of the exam and a verifiable extenuating circumstance exists (such as illness with a physician's note or an accident with a police report). Make up exams for other reasons are at the discretion of the professor and are subject to a full letter grade penalty.

3. Late written assignments are accepted up to one week from the due date but will incur a ten-point penalty.

4. This class is on a ten point grading scale with no plus/minus grades: A 100-90; B 89-80; C 79-70, D 69-60, F 59-0.

5. Disabled students registered with Disability Services will be given needed accommodations.

6. I expect professional and ethical behavior from my students in class and on tests and assignments. I enforce the UCF policies pertaining to academic honesty and students should familiarize themselves with the Golden Rule. Also please be courteous to fellow students by being on time (be unobtrusive if you are late), turning off cell phones (no texting), paying attention and staying on task if you have a laptop (not randomly browsing and emailing), and by staying quiet except when participating.

Academic Engagement Assignment

As of fall 2014, all faculty members are required by the federal government to document students' academic activity at the beginning of each course. In order to document that you began this course, please complete the following academic activity by the end of the first week of classes, or as soon as possible after adding the course, but no later than Wednesday August 27. Failure to do so will result in a delay in the disbursement of your financial aid.

Go to the course website and then to Discussions and then to the "Class Introduction" topic. Click in the "Reply" box and type in several sentences to introduce yourself to your classmates and to me. You might include information about your major, expected graduation date, job/career (current/future plans), and a few personal details if you wish to share (family, interests/hobbies, etc.). After typing in your information, hit "Post Reply."

Course Outline

This outline may change during the semester. It is your responsibility to come to class and keep informed.

Day	Date	Assignment	Day	Date	Assignment
T	8/19	Introduction; D 1 Politics	T	10/14	D 10 Congress CQ Government Spending 7/12/13
R	8/21	D 2 Political Culture	R	10/16	D 11 President CQ U.S. Global Engagement 5/16/14
T	8/26	D 2 Political Culture & D 3 The Constitution CQ Wealth and Inequality 4/18/14	T	10/21	D 11 President
R	8/28	D 3 The Constitution CQ Minimum Wage 1/24/14	R	10/23	**Midterm Exam 2**
T	9/2	D 4 Federalism CQ School Discipline 5/9/14	M	10/27	**Withdrawal Deadline.** Last day to withdraw without grade penalty
R	9/4	D 4 Federalism & D 5 Opinion & Participation	T	10/28	D 13 Courts
T	9/9	D 5 Opinion and Participation CQ Voting Controversies 2/21/14	R	10/30	D 14 Civil Liberties CQ Government Surveillance 8/30/13
R	9/11	D 6 Mass Media	T	11/4	D 14 Civil Liberties
T	9/16	D 6 Mass Media CQ Media Violence 2/14/14	R	11/6	D 15 Civil Rights CQ Abortion Debates 3/21/14
R	9/18	**Midterm Exam 1**	T	11/11	D 15 Civil Rights & D 16 Economy
T	9/23	D 7 Political Parties	R	11/13	D 16 Economy CQ The Federal Reserve 1/3/14
R	9/25	D 7 Political Parties CQ Polarization in America 2/28/14	T	11/18	D 17 Social Welfare CQ Domestic Violence 11/15/13
T	9/30	D 8 Campaigns & Elections	R	11/20	D 17 Social Welfare & D 18 National Security
R	10/2	Campaigns & Elections CQ Border Security 9/27/13	T	11/25	D 18 National Security CQ Assessing the Threat from al Qaeda 6/27/14
T	10/7	D 9 Interest Groups CQ Regulating Lobbying 6/6/14	R	11/27	**Thanksgiving Holiday**
R	10/9	D 10 Congress	T	12/9	**Final Exam 10:00 am – 12:50 pm**