University of Central Florida
American National Government
POS 2041 Section 14 – Spring 2015
Tuesday and Thursday 1:30 – 2:45pm (3 credit hours)
Mathematical Sciences Building, Room 360

Instructor: Dr. Lynne Gleiber
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Office hours: Tuesdays and Thursdays 11am – 1pm
Howard Phillips Hall, Room 302N
Appointments for times not listed are always welcomed.

Course Description
In this introductory course in the American political system, you will be provided with opportunities to understand the institutions and processes of American politics. We will examine the principles and origins of the United States Constitution, political institutions, how democracy works from a practical standpoint, and domestic and foreign public policy. Students are invited to share their insights during class discussions to promote an environment of learning in which all views are welcome and respected.

Course Objectives
After completing the course you will have a deeper understanding of the basic concepts of American government and politics. You will also gain knowledge of the interrelated nature of many of the concepts and institutions we examine over the course of the semester. When you read or discuss material from a section in the course and think of a previous reading assignment or discussion, please share your thoughts with all of us. It means that you are really getting it!
For instance, if a discussion of interest groups reminds you of an earlier discussion of rights and liberties, this means that you are understanding how the various aspect of politics and government relate to one another. This is a skill that you will find useful in other courses and endeavors. Speak up!!! Speak out!!! Speak often!!!

Course Requirements
Text book: *GOVT6*, Cengage Learning; sixth edition; Authors: Edward Sidlow and Beth Henschen. All students are expected to arrive on time. Cell phones or other communications devices must be turned off or silenced while in class. All students are welcomed and encouraged to contribute to class discussions. Reading assignment must be completed before class.

Grading Distribution
Final grades will be composed as follows:

Examination 1	20%
Examination 2	20%
Examination 3	20%
Essay	20%
Final Examination	20%

Examinations, Written Assignments, and Grading
Exam questions will be based on information covered in the textbook as well as material presented during class lectures and discussions. Besides your exams, you will be responsible for an analytical essay focusing on one of the topics of the course. You may choose your own topic however it must be submitted on or before February 10, 2015 for approval. The essay must be between five and eight double-

spaced typed pages in length and will be graded on the basis of clarity, soundness, and use of material relevant to the course. More details regarding the essay will be given in class.

In order to be fair to all students, extra credit work will not be given. If a student misses an exam, he or she must provide sufficient justification for doing so (e.g. a documented emergency) to qualify for a make-up-exam. If documentation is not provided, a make-up exam will not be given. It is the responsibility of the student to contact me (by telephone, voice mail or e-mail) before or immediately after the missed exam to discuss making up the exam. Students must arrive on time to take exams. No student will be allowed to begin an exam once other students have finished and left the exam room.

Academic Integrity

Academic integrity is fundamental to the process of learning and evaluating academic performance. Academic dishonesty will not be tolerated. Academic dishonesty includes, but is not limited to, the following: cheating, plagiarism, tampering with academic records and examinations, falsifying identity, and being an accessory to acts of academic dishonesty. For clarification of what constitutes academic dishonesty, please consult The Golden Rule, the University of Central Florida's Student Handbook http://www.goldenrule.sdes.ucf.edu/ . Violations of the rules addressing academic integrity, stated in The Golden Rule, will result in documentation of the infraction and a grade of zero for the work in question. Confirmation of academic dishonesty an also result in expulsion from the University of Central Florida.

Attendance and Withdrawal

Students are expected to attend all classes and are responsible for withdrawing from the course if they decide not to complete it. Students who discontinue attending class, and do not withdraw will fail the course.

Special Needs

The University of Central Florida is committed to providing reasonable accommodations for all persons with disabilities. This syllabus is available in alternate formats upon request. Students who need accommodations must be registered with Student Disability Services, Ferrell Commons Room 185, phone (407) 823-2371, TTY/TDD only phone (407) 823-2116, before requesting accommodations from me for the course. Once Student Disability Services has been contacted, I am happy to make any arrangements needed by my students.

Course Plan

The following is a schedule of readings, exams, and assignments for the course. Adjustments may be made if necessary such as in cases of inclement weather which would make travel to campus unsafe. Please note that if classes are suspended because of unsafe weather conditions, students should still adhere to the dates of readings and assignments listed below unless advised to do otherwise.

Date	Topics	Reading assignment
13-Jan	Introduction to course	
15	*Part 1: Foundations* Overview of America in the Twenty-First Century	pp. 3 - 18
20	The Constitution	pp. 23 - 31
22	The Constitution	pp. 31 - 42
27	Federalism	pp. 47 - 57
29	Federalism	pp. 57 - 65
3-Feb	Exam 1	
5	*Part 2: Our Liberties and Rights* Civil Liberties	pp. 69 - 84
10	Civil Liberties/ Civil Rights; Last day to submit essay topics.	pp. 84 - 90 & 93 - 100
12	Civil Rights	pp. 100 - 115
17	*Part 3: Politics of Democracy* Interest Groups	pp. 119 - 138
19	Political Parties	pp. 143 - 160
24	Public Opinion and Voting	pp. 164 - 184
26	Campaigns and Elections	pp. 189 - 198
3-Mar	Campaigns and Elections	pp. 198 - 208
5	Politics and the Media	pp. 214 - 229
17	Exam 2	
19	*Part 4: Institutions* Congress	pp. 235 - 244
24	Congress	pp. 244 - 255
26	The Presidency	pp. 259 - 275
31	The Presidency and The Bureaucracy	pp. 276 - 281 & 285 - 293
2-Apr	The Bureaucracy; Essays are due.	pp. 293 - 304
7	The Judiciary	pp. 308 - 327
9	Exam 3	
14	Part 5: Public Policy Domestic Policy	pp. 331 - 342
16	Domestic Policy	pp. 342 - 350
21	Foreign Policy	pp. 353 - 360
23	Foreign Policy & review for final	pp. 361 - 372
Tuesday May 5	Final exam: 1 – 3:50 pm	