POS2041.0W57 American National Government

Dr. Kerstin Hamann

Spring 2016

Instructor Contact

Instructor	Dr. Kerstin Hamann
Office	Phillips Hall 302
Office Hours	Dr. Hamann's Office Hours: Monday and Thursday 10:00 a.m. - 11:00 a.m. and by appointment (ever office hours, it's best to confirm via email first since I sometimes have meeting scheduled during offic hours) For GTA help or appointments (use Coursemail and send an email to your assigned GTA) Groups 1-3 TBA Groups 4-6 TBA
Homepages	http://politicalscience.cos.ucf.edu/people/hamann-kerstin/
Phone	407-823-2608 (no voice mail)
E-mail	Please use Coursemail for all emails

Course Information

Course Name	POS2041 American National Government
Credit Hours	3 Credit Hours
Semester/Year	Spring 2016
Location	Completely online (no required face-to-face meetings)

Required Text

- "GOVT7." 2015. Edward I. Sidlow & Beth Henschen. Wadsworth Publishing; 7th edition.
- This edition of the book can be bought either online or at the UCF bookstore

- You do not need to buy the access code or any other supplemental materials that might be offered with the book.

Course Requirements

Assignments	• You are responsible for keeping a copy of all assignments for this class. • You are also responsible for checking that the grades posted online are correct; any discrepancies must be reported to the instructor <u>within one week</u> of being posted.

Late, make-up, and extra credit work	• All quizzes are opened on the first day of the semester, but their deadlines correspond with the modules in which the material is discussed.
	  o If you miss a quiz deadline, you will NOT be permitted to take that quiz, no exceptions!
	• Other late work (initial discussion postings and essays) will be penalized at a rate of 5 points per day late (including weekend days and holidays unless otherwise noted in the module).
	  o The Final Exam is penalized at 10 points per day late
	• Because discussion postings cannot be made after the discussion is closed - there is no late option for final discussion postings.
	• No work will be accepted more than a week after the deadline (or three days after the deadline for the final exam).
	• There are no substitute assignments and positively NO EXTRA CREDIT, so please don't ask!
	• No module grades will be discussed a week after it was posted.

Evaluation and Grading

The following scale will be used for the assignment of final grades.

Letter Grade	Points
A	90-100
B	80-89
C	70-79
D	60-69
F	59 or below

Course Overview

Welcome to POS2041, American National Government! These are truly exciting times for the United States as major political issues are being discussed and decided during these challenging times. The presidential primaries are in full swing, and other issues such as immigration, terrorism, health care, debates around gun violence, and so forth are hotly debated. This class will prepare you to better understand these, and many other, issues, and provide you with the tools to have an informed opinion that is grounded in an understanding of the of the historical foundations of the United States, the institutions, the policy-making processes, and policy areas of the country. The textbook will provide a solid foundation for your knowledge, but the class requires that you keep up-to-date with current events and do some independent research to see how the material you learn in the book actually applies to current events and issues. Understanding the political underpinnings of U.S. politics will help you understand current political debates better, help you form an informed opinion, and make you better equipped to be an engaged citizen. Throughout the course, you will be asked to provide evidence for your reasoning, question others and thereby challenge them to provide evidence as well, and critically examine evidence provided by different sources. This is part of what the discipline of political science is all about - to collect, analyze, and critically evaluate empirical evidence.

Course Structure

The course contains 8 modules, 14 chapters "pop" quizzes, and a final exam. Modules typically have discussions to explore core concepts further and push you to apply them to specific issues and/or essays that integrate much of what you learned in critical reflection. For each module I have uploaded the publisher's PowerPoint slides summarizing the main points of the assigned textbook chapters; this should help you structure the course material, but should not be used as an alternative to reading the textbook. Finally, each module has deadlines within the module period - typically, pop quizzes are due first since you need to complete the reading before you can enter into an informed discussion; there is a deadline for the first discussion posting, and a separate one for the additional follow-up postings (this allows the discussion to flow like a real face-to-face discussion). Short papers are typically due at the end of the module. It is crucial that you are aware of all these deadlines as soon as a module opens so you don't miss any parts and lose points. (You can see all the semester's deadlines by clicking on the syllabus link on the left of this page, in the calendar, and also within each module's instructions). Your chapter pop quiz grades will be combined into a single score that is worth 5% of your final class grade (see the syllabus for more information on how your class grade is calculated).

To get started, please review the Announcements, Syllabus, Schedule (available on the left of this page) and the Course Rules and Policies, etc. available at the top of this page): these are the ground rules, policies, and expectations for the class. I have also uploaded a statement on how to write clear, concise, well documented short papers and an example of a good quality reply posting.

I have uploaded some additional class readings to the LINKS page. If you're new to using the CANVAS program, please check out the guide to webcourses above and/or the "Success Resources" link to the left of this page.

Now, click on "Modules" on the left-hand side of this page, then click on Module 1: Introduction, and follow the instructions. I wish you all a great semester and welcome to the class!

I wish you all a great semester,

Dr. Hamann

Grading

Assignment	**Percentage of Grade**
Module #1	1%
Your highest 6 grades from the 7 substantive modules (#2 through #8)	12% each. Your lowest substantive module grade will be automatically dropped (see caveat in Academic honesty, below).
Pop Quizzes	5%
Final exam	22%
Total	100%

Schedule

Module Dates	**Topic/Module**	**Readings**
PART I: INTRODUCTION TO AMERICAN NATIONAL GOVERNMENT		
Jan 11- 18	Module #1: Introduction	Read: Ch. 1
Jan 14 – 25	Module #2: US Government Foundations, Constitution and Federalism	Read: Chs. 2, 3
PART II: RIGHTS AND LIBERTIES		
Jan 25 - Feb 1	Module #3: Civil Rights and Liberties	Read: Chs. 4, 5

PART III: THE POLITICS OF DEMOCRACY		
Feb 1 - Feb 15	Module #4: Interest Groups and Political Parties	Read: Chs. 6, 7
Feb 15 - 29	Module #5: Public Opinion, Voting.Politics and the Media	Read: Chs. 8, 10
Feb 29 - Mar 21	Module #6: Campaigns and Elections	Read: Ch. 9
Spring Break	**March 7th - 13th (no classes - spring break)**	
PART IV: INSTITUTIONS		
Mar 21 - Apr 4	Module #7: The Bureaucracy and the Judiciary	Read: Chs. 13, 14
Apr 4 - 18	Module #8: Congress and the Presidency	Read: Chs. 11, 12
Apr 18 - 28	Final exam.Must be uploaded before **11 pm April 28th**	Read: all chapters in textbook

NB. Full deadlines details are available in each module instructions (and in the live syllabus listing below).

Attendance Policy

Because this is a completely online class with no face-to-face meetings, there is no attendance policy, as such. Having said that, you need to keep up with the pace of the class and participate in all parts of each of the modules. Note that each module contains several deadlines; that is, not all work for a module is due on the last day listed on the Schedule. You must read each module's instructions for a list of deadlines for the various assignments and deadlines. It is your responsibility to check these deadlines as soon as a module opens so you won't miss any due dates.

NB: The federally-mandated attendance reporting policy for financial aid purposes requires you to complete an assignment before the end of the first week (before 5:00 pm on Friday) for financial aid disbursement. I will use the citizenship quiz for this purpose. It does not matter what score you receive on the citizenship quiz, but you must complete it before the deadline. Failure to do so might impact your financial aid and/or other support.

Academic Honesty

Academic dishonesty in any form will not be tolerated. If you are uncertain as to what constitutes academic dishonesty, please consult The Golden Rule, the University of Central Florida's Student Handbook (http://www.goldenrule.sdes.ucf.edu/) for further details. As in all University courses, The Golden Rule Rules of Conduct will be applied. Violations of these rules will result in a record of the infraction being placed in your file and receiving a zero on the work in question AT A MINIMUM. At the instructor's discretion, you may also receive a failing grade for the course. Confirmation of such incidents can also result in expulsion from the University. Plagiarism and cheating of any kind on any examination, quiz, or assignment fall under this policy and may be subject to appropriate referral to the Office of Student Conduct for further action. Any module that contains any material that is identified by the professor as plagiarized will not be eligible to be dropped as your lowest grade. *Please do not plagiarize!* It is imperative that you cite all your sources properly, use in-text citations, and clearly identify direct quotes from other sources.

For all essay assignments in this course, we will utilize turnitin.com, an automated system which instructors can use to quickly and easily compare each student's assignment with billions of web sites, as well as an enormous database of student papers that grows with each submission. Your essays will automatically be submitted to turnitin.com when you upload them to Canvas, so you will not have to go through a separate submission process. After the assignment is processed, as instructor I receive a report from turnitin.com that states if and how another author's work was used in the assignment. For a more detailed look at this process visit http://www.turnitin.com.

I will assume for this course that you will adhere to the academic creed of this University and will maintain the highest standards of academic integrity.

I will also adhere to the highest standards of academic integrity, so please do not ask me to change (or expect me to change) your grade for reasons unrelated to the quality of your work or to bend or break rules for one person that will not apply to everyone.

Furthermore, any attempt to save, store, distribute, or discuss any quiz questions for this class will be interpreted as cheating and will be treated accordingly.

All your work must be done on your own; you are not allowed to collaborate on quizzes, discussion postings, or essays. In short, all your written work and work submitted for grading must be your own, original work produced for this class only.

Title IX

Title IX makes it clear that violence and harassment based on sex that interferes with educational opportunities is an offense subject to the same penalties as offenses based on other protected categories such as race, national origin, etc. If you or someone you know has been harassed or assaulted, you can find resources available to support the victim, including confidential resources, and information concerning reporting options at shield.ucf.edu. Perpetrators are subject to expulsion or termination and may also be subject to criminal penalties.

Disability Access

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 with disabilities who need accommodations in this course must contact the professor at the beginning of the semester to discuss needed accommodations. No accommodations will be provided until the student has met with the professor to request accommodations. Students who need accommodations must be registered with Student Accessibility Services (http://sas.sdes.ucf.edu/), phone (407) 823-2371, TTY/TDD only phone (407) 823-2116, before requesting accommodations from the professor.

University Writing Center:

The University Writing Center (UWC) is a free resource for UCF undergraduates and graduates. At the UWC, a trained writing consultant will work individually with you on anything you're writing (in or out of class), at any point in the writing process from brainstorming to editing. Appointments are recommended, but not required. For more information or to make an appointment, visit the UWC website at http://www.uwc.ucf.edu, stop by MOD 608, or call 407.823.2197.