POS 2041, American National Government
Spring Term 2016 Syllabus

(January 11 – May 4)
(Traditional/ Lecture Course Format)
(Monday/Wednesday/Friday, 10:30 – 11:20 A.M., BHC 0128)
(3 Credit hours)

Part 1: General Course Information.

Instructor: Alvin Quackenbush
Email: alvin.quackenbush@ucf.edu

Office Hours: Spring 2016, Howard Phillips Hall, Room 302N
Phone: (407) 823-0012
Tuesday/Thursday, 3:00 P.M. – 4:00 P.M.

Political Science Department Office: Howard Phillips Hall, Room 302
Phone: (407) 823-2608
Website: http://politicalscience.cos.ucf.edu/

Required Materials: *We The People, An Introduction to American Politics*, 10th *Core Edition* (Ginsburg, Lowi, Weir, and Tolbert). ISBN: 978-0-393-93704-6

Course Description: (3 Credits)
American National Government: A study of the dynamics of American national government, including its structure, organization, powers, and procedures.

Major Course Learning Outcomes:
1. Demonstrate an understanding of the philosophical theories that led to the writing of the Declaration of Independence and U.S. Constitution.

2. Demonstrate an understanding of the core values supporting the democratic tradition of the United States.

3. Demonstrate an understanding of the checks and balances system created by the U.S. Constitution, including an understanding of the major powers and responsibilities given to each branch.

4. Develop an understanding of the effects of government at all levels in the United States on citizens' lives and the effects of citizens on government in pursuit of social, political, and economic goals.

5. Demonstrate an understanding of the difference between direct and representative democracy.

6. Utilize critical thinking in analyzing political, social, and economic issues.

Part 2: Classroom Policies.

Attendance: Regular class attendance is expected. There is a direct correlation between class attendance and overall success in the course. All instructors/faculty are required 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. Failure to do so may result in a delay in the disbursement of your financial aid. There will be a 20 point syllabus quiz due on Friday, January 15th during the first week of the semester to ensure student attendance in the course.

Tardiness: Students are expected to be on time for class. Students who are tardy disrupt other students and the overall learning environment, so tardiness is not acceptable. Students who habitually disturb the class by talking, arriving late, *etc*., and have been warned may suffer a reduction in their final class grade.

Email: It is the policy of this professor to communicate with you via UCF email or the Webcourses message system. Failure to check for e-mail messages will not be accepted as an excuse for missed work.

Cell Phone**:** Students are required to turn off all cell phones and electronic devices before the beginning of class because they can disrupt the learning environment. This means no text messaging! If a cell phone vibrates or is audible, the student may be asked to leave for the remainder of the class. If there is an emergency situation warranting the use of a cell phone during class time, the student must notify the professor in writing prior to the beginning of class. During a testing situation, if a cell phone vibrates or is audible, the student's test or examination will be collected and the student will be asked to leave without an option for completion.

Laptop Computers: Students may use their laptop, tablet, or "mini-computer' (smart phone) during class to take notes or to access the Internet for research. A student who uses this freedom in an inappropriate fashion may be asked to leave the class for that day or to turn off their laptop or phone. Furthermore, laptop computer use is only permitted in the first five rows of the class seating. Students who wish to use a laptop in class are encouraged to arrive early to obtain a front row seat.

Part 3: Assignments.

1. Chapter Modules: There will be 15 chapter modules that you will complete online using UCF Webcourses. Webcourses is an online course management system that can be accessed through my.ucf.edu. Each module will consist of a few interactive exercises and a post quiz. The interactive exercises are untimed and typically consist of a simulation or video and have a few multiple choice assessment questions. The post quizzes will consist of 20 - 25 multiple choice or true/false questions and you will be given 1 attempt and 45 minutes to complete the post quiz. Your three lowest chapter modules will be dropped

Although these modules are completed outside of class you are expected to do your own work. Students needing assistance with Webcourses should call (407) 823-0407. **Late Work Policy**: You can access the chapter modules for an entire week so no excuse is valid for failing to complete the assignments. See the course schedule in the syllabus for all chapter module due dates. Students who fail to complete a chapter module will be expected to drop that particular module as one of their three low scores.

2. Tests: There will be four tests during the semester. The dates of the tests are listed in the syllabus on the course schedule. **Late Work Policy**: All tests must be taken on or before dates assigned. No makeup tests are available without the explicit consent of the instructor, which will only be granted in cases of documented emergencies. All makeup tests will be short answer and essay format only.

3. Final Examination: The final exam in this course is cumulative and will cover chapters 1-15 in the textbook. Any student not completing the examination will receive 0 of those possible points, and this will impact the final average in the course. **Late Work Policy**: The final exam must be taken on or before the date indicated in the syllabus. Again, no makeup tests are available without the explicit consent of the instructor, which shall only be granted in cases of documented emergences. All make up tests will be short answer and essay format only.

All graded materials in this course will be returned individually only by request. You can access your scores at any time using the Grades section of Webcourses@UCF. Please note that scores returned mid-semester are unofficial grades.

Part 4: Basis for Grade.

Evaluation: Your grade will be determined by grades on a syllabus quiz, 15 Chapter Modules (each consists of a few interactive exercises and a quiz and your lowest 3 will be dropped), 4 Tests (your lowest 1 will be dropped) and 1 Final Exam.

Syllabus Quiz: 20 points, (2%)
Modules: 30 points each (360 total, (39%)
Tests: 100 points (300 total, (32%)
Final Exam: 250 points (250 total, (27%)
930 Total Points

Grading Scale (NO ROUNDING OF GRADES):
90 - 100 = A
80 - 89 = B
70 - 79 = C
60 - 69 = D
59 and below = F

Part 5: University Policies.

University Policies: The UCF Golden Rule Student Handbook is at http://goldenrule.sdes.ucf.edu/ and UCF policies and procedures can be found at http://policies.ucf.edu/.

Withdrawal Policy: Withdrawal for each term begins after "Late Registration and Add/Drop" ends. Students may withdraw from a class and receive the notation of "W" until the date noted in the "Academic Calendar" of the *Schedule Web Guide*. A student may withdraw from courses using myUCF at https://my.ucf.edu, or by visiting the Registrar's Office (Millican Hall 161), certain college advising offices, or a Regional Campus records office. For a complete policy more information on withdrawals please go to https://www.academicservices.ucf.edu/

Student Code of Classroom Conduct: UCF is dedicated not only to the advancement of knowledge and learning, but is concerned with the development of responsible personal and social conduct. By enrolling at the university, a student assumes the responsibility for becoming familiar with and abiding by the general rules of conduct. The primary responsibility for managing the classroom environment rests with the

professor. Students who engage in any prohibited or unlawful acts that result in disruption of a class may be directed by the professor to leave the class. Violation of any UCF policies/procedures or classroom rules may lead to disciplinary action up to and including expulsion from the University. Disciplinary action could include being withdrawn from the class, disciplinary warning, probation, suspension, expulsion, or other appropriate and authorized actions. So, act mature, treating others with respect, verbally or online. The UCF Student Code of Conduct is in the current Student handbook and more information can be found at http://osc.sdes.ucf.edu/.

Ethics: As reflected in the UCF creed, integrity and scholarship are core values that should guide our conduct and decisions as members of the UCF community. Plagiarism and cheating contradict these values, and so are very serious academic offenses. Penalties can include a failing grade in an assignment or in the course, or suspension or expulsion from the university. Students are expected to familiarize themselves with and follow the University's Rules of Conduct (see http://www.osc.sdes.ucf.edu/).

Academic Integrity/Plagiarism: Plagiarism and Cheating of any kind on an examination, quiz, or assignment will result at least in an "F" for that assignment (and may, depending on the severity of the case, lead to an "F" for the entire course) and may be subject to appropriate referral to the Office of Student Conduct for further action. See the UCF Golden Rule for further information. 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. In other words, don't cheat by giving answers to others or taking them from anyone else. 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 illegitimately or to bend or break rules for one person that will not apply to everyone.

Turnitin.com: In this course we may 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. Accordingly, you may be expected to submit assignments in both hard copy and electronic format. After the assignment is processed, as an 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.

Religious Observances: Students are expected to notify their instructor in advance if they intend to miss class to observe a holy day of their religious faith. For a current schedule of major religious holidays, see the Faculty Center's main web page under "Calendars," and for additional information, contact the Office of Diversity Initiatives at 407-823-6479.

Course Accessibility: It is my goal that this class be an accessible and welcoming experience for all students, including those with disabilities that may impact learning in this class. If anyone believes the design of this course poses barriers to effectively participating and/or demonstrating learning in this course, please meet with me (with or without a Student Accessibility Services (SAS) accommodation letter) to discuss reasonable options or adjustments. During our discussion, I may suggest the possibility/necessity of your contacting SAS (Ferrell Commons 185; 407-823-2371; sas@ucf.edu) to talk about academic accommodations. You are welcome to talk to me at any point in the semester about course design concerns, but it is always best if we can talk at least one week prior to the need for any modifications.

Disclaimer: Changes in the syllabus and/or schedule may be made at any time during the term by announcement of the professor. It is your responsibility to stay informed of any changes.

Part 6: Course Schedule.

Spring 2016, January 11 – May 4, Traditional Course Format

Course Schedule: (UCF Calendars are at http://calendar.ucf.edu/2016/spring)

All the dates and assignments listed below are tentative, and can be changed at the discretion of the professor with proper notification via UCF email.

Week 1: (January 11 – 17), **Drop Refund Deadline January 14.**
Chapter 1, American Political Culture
Syllabus Quiz due by 11:59 pm, on Friday, January 15.
Chapter Modules due by 11:59 pm. on Sunday, January 17.

Week 2: (January 18 – 24), **January 18, No Class, MLK**
Chapter 2, The Founding and the Constitution
Chapter Modules due by 11:59 pm. on Sunday, January 24.

Week 3: (January 25 – 31)
Chapter 3, Federalism
Chapter Modules due by 11:59 pm. on Sunday, January 31.

Week 4: (February 1 – 7)
Chapter 4, Civil Liberties
Test 1, February 1, Chapters 1-3.
Chapter Modules due by 11:59 pm. on Sunday, February 7.

Week 5: (February 8 – 14)
Chapter 5, Civil Rights
Chapter Modules due by 11:59 pm. on Sunday, February 14.

Week 6: (February 15 – 21)
Chapter 6, Public Opinion
Chapter Modules due by 11:59 pm. on Sunday, February 21.

Week 7: (February 22 – 28)
Chapter 7, Participation and Voting
Test 2, February 22, Chapters 4-6.
Chapter Modules due by 11:59 pm. on Sunday, February 28.

Week 8: (February 29 – March 6)
Chapter 8, Political Participation
Chapter Modules due by 11:59 pm. on Sunday, March 6.

Week 9: (March 7 – 13), **March 7 – 12, Spring Break, NO Classes.**
Chapter 9, Political Parties
Chapter Modules due by 11:59 pm. on Sunday, March 13.

Week 10: (March 14 – 20)
Chapter 10, Campaigns and Elections
Test 3, March 14, Chapters 7-9.
Chapter Modules due by 11:59 pm. on Sunday, March 20.

Week 11: (March 21 – 27), **March 23 - Withdrawal deadline.**
Chapter 11, Groups and Interests
Chapter Modules due by 11:59 pm. on Sunday, March 27.

Week 12: (March 28 – April 3)
Chapter 12, Congress
Chapter Modules due by 11:59 pm. on Sunday, April 3.

Week 13: (April 4 – 10)
Chapter 13, The Presidency
Test 4, April 4, Chapters 10-12.
Chapter Modules due by 11:59 pm. on Sunday, April 10.

Week 14: (April 11 – 17)
Chapter 14, The Bureaucracy
Chapter Modules due by 11:59 pm. on Sunday, April 17.

Week 15: (April 18 – 24)
Chapter 15, The Federal Courts
Chapter Modules due by 11:59 pm. on Sunday, April 24.

Week 16: (April 25 – May 1), **April 27, No Classes, Study Day.**
College wide Final Exams: (April 28 – May 4)
Final Exam: May 2, 10:00 A.M. – 12:50 P.M., Chapters 1 – 15.