POS 2041-0009 (88045), American National Government
Fall Term 2016 Syllabus

(August 22 – December 12)

(Traditional/ Lecture Course Format)

(Tuesday & Thursday, 12:00 P.M. – 1:15 P.M., MSB 0336)

(3 Credit hours)

Part 1: General Course Information.

Instructor: Alvin (AJ) Quackenbush

Email: alvin.quackenbush@ucf.edu

Office Hours: Fall 2016, Howard Phillips Hall, Room 302N

Phone: (407) 823-0012

Tuesday & Thursday, 1:30 P.M. – 2:30 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 and will be taken at the start of each class. As a result, a portion of your grade is based directly on your attendance 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 10 point syllabus quiz due on Friday, August 26th 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. Furthermore, if you are tardy you will not receive attendance credit for that particular day.

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. Syllabus Quiz: There will be a 10 point syllabus quiz due on Friday, August 26th during the first week of the semester to ensure student attendance in the course.

2. Attendance: There are 29 class meetings this summer. On three of those days we will have an examination. You can also miss one day and not lose any attendance points. The remaining 25 regular class days you can earn 4 points for attendance on each day. Thus you can earn 25 X 4 = 100 points for attendance during the entire semester. Attendance will be taken promptly at the beginning of each class. Excused absences will only be accepted in the case of a documented emergency or a specific documented school function or event.

3. Chapter Quizzes: 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 throughmy.ucf.edu. Each quiz will consist of 20 multiple choice or true/false questions and you will be given 1 attempt and 45 minutes to complete the quiz. Your three lowest quiz scores will be dropped.

Although these quizzes 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 quizzes for an entire week so no excuse is valid for failing to complete the assignment. See the course schedule in the syllabus for all chapter quiz due dates. Students who fail to complete a chapter quiz will be expected to drop that particular module as one of their three low scores.

4. Examinations: There will be three in-class examinations during the semester. Tests will consist of a variety of multiple choice, true/false, and short answer type questions. The exams will cover 5 chapters each and the third exam will serve as the final exam for the course. Any student not completing an examination will receive 0 of those possible points, and this will impact the final average in the course. **Late Work Policy**: The examinations 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, attendance, 15 Chapter online Quizzes (your lowest 3 will be dropped), 3 in-class Examinations.

Syllabus Quiz: 10 total points, (2%)

Attendance: 25 classes, 4 points each (100 total, 15%)

12 Quizzes: 20 points each (240 total, (37%)

3 Exams: 100 points each (300 total, (46%)

650 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 tohttps://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 (Links to an external site.).

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.

Fall 2016, August 22 – December 12, Traditional Course Format

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

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: (August 22 – 28), **Drop Refund Deadline August 25.**

Chapter 1, American Political Culture

Syllabus Quiz due by 11:59 pm, on Friday, August 26.

Chapter Quiz due by 11:59 pm. on Sunday, August 28.

Week 2: (August 29 – September 4)

Chapter 2, The Founding and the Constitution

Chapter Quiz due by 11:59 pm. on Sunday, September 4.

Week 3: (September 5 – 11), **Monday, September 5th Labor Day, NO CLASSES**.

Chapter 3, Federalism

Chapter Quiz due by 11:59 pm. on Sunday, September 11.

Week 4: (September 12 – 18)

Chapter 4, Civil Liberties

Chapter Quiz due by 11:59 pm. on Sunday, September 18.

Week 5: (September 19 – 25)

Chapter 5, Civil Rights

Chapter Quiz due by 11:59 pm. on Sunday, September 25.

Week 6: (September 26 – October 2)

Exam 1, Chapters 1- 5 in Class on Tuesday, September 27.

Chapter 6, Public Opinion

Chapter Quiz due by 11:59 pm. on Sunday, October 2.

Week 7: (October 3 – 9)

Chapter 7, The Media

Chapter Quiz due by 11:59 pm. on Sunday, October 9.

Week 8: (October 10 – 16)

Chapter 8, Political Participation

Chapter Quiz due by 11:59 pm. on Sunday, October 16.

Week 9: (October 17 – 23)

Chapter 9, Political Parties

Chapter Quiz due by 11:59 pm. on Sunday, October 23.

Week 10: (October 24 – 30)

Chapter 10, Campaigns and Elections

Chapter Quiz due by 11:59 pm. on Sunday, October 30.

Week 11: (October 31 – November 6), **October 31 - Withdrawal deadline.**

Exam 2, Chapters 6- 10 in Class on Tuesday, November 1.

Chapter 11, Groups and Interests

Chapter Quiz due by 11:59 pm. on Sunday, November 6.

Week 12: (November 7 – 13), **Friday, November 11th Veterans Day, NO CLASSES**.

Chapter 12, Congress

Chapter Quiz due by 11:59 pm. on Sunday, November 13.

Week 13: (November 14 – 20)

Chapter 13, The Presidency

Chapter Quiz due by 11:59 pm. on Sunday, November 20.

Week 14: (November 21 – 27), **Thursday, November 24th to Saturday November 26th, Thanksgiving, NO CLASSES**.

Chapter 14, The Bureaucracy

Chapter Quiz due by 11:59 pm. on Sunday, November 27.

Week 15: (November 28 – December 4)

Chapter 15, The Federal Courts

Chapter Quiz due by 11:59 pm. on Sunday, December 4.

Week 16: (December 5 – 11), **Monday, December 5th Study Day, NO CLASSES**.

Final Exam/Exam 3: Thursday, December 8, 10:00 A.M. – 12:50 P.M., Chapters 11 – 15.