POS 2041-0012 AMERICAN NATIONAL GOVERNMENT

SPRING 2018 Tuesday/Thursday 3:00-4:15pm

Nicholson School of Communication (NSC) 0108

INSTRUCTOR	OFFICE HOURS
Professor Matthew Baker Email **mebaker@ucf.edu** Telephone 321-754-8868	Tuesday/Thursdays 4:15-5:45pm @ Starbucks, HPA1 Please contact me via email to schedule an appointment as well

TEXT

GOVT 10; by Sidlow and Henschen (ISBN: 9781337405287)
We will also rely on other texts and materials supplied via Webcourses

DESCRIPTION

This course is designed to provide a comprehensive introduction to structure and processes of the United States Government and the external forces affecting American Politics.

COURSE OBJECTIVES

1. Review the origins and structure of the American Government.
2. Understand the key players and issues surrounding each of the three branches of government.
3. Contextualize contemporary American political issues with historical changes.
4. Prepare students for more in-depth studies of political science.
5. Provide students with tools to become active and engaged citizens.

GRADES

Grades will be be assessed as follows:

COMPONENT	**VALUE**	**POINTS**	**LETTER GRADE**
Syllabus Quiz	1%	0-59	F
Attendance (24 classes)	12%	60-66	D
Quizzes (3)	12%	67-69	D+
Exam 1	25%	70-76	C
Exam 2	25%	77-79	C+
Exam 3	25%	80-86	B
Optional Final Exam		87-89	B+
TOTAL	**100%**	90-100	A

Point totals will be rounded to the nearest whole number to the hundredth decimal place. For example, a point total of 79.49 would receive a “79” or “C+” whereas a point total of 79.51 would receive an “80” or “B”.

ATTENDANCE

"Showing up is eighty percent of life." As such, I will take attendance at the beginning of each class. This class meets 28 times during the course of the semester. You are permitted 4 absences, no questions asked, no need for an excuse. If you fail to attend at least 70% of classes, you will received an "F" for the semester.

QUIZZES

There will be quizzes administered via Webcourses throughout the semester to ensure students are engaging with the course content each week. There will be three (3) quizzes each worth four (4) percent of your grade based on completion and quality of the answers. Quizzes are due at 11:59pm. Late submissions (even 1 minute) will be subject to a 50% late penalty and will not be received more than 24 hours late.

EXAMINATIONS

There will be 3 non-comprehensive examinations throughout the semester each making up 25 percent of your grade. Each examination will cover the material subsequent to the previous examination, including the final examination.

Students who arrive after the first student has turned in their exam will not be permitted to take the exam.

An optional comprehensive final examination will be administered and can take the place of a missed examination or the lowest grade exam a student may have earned.

WEBCOURSES

Webcourses is an online course management system (accessed through my.ucf.edu and then the "Online Course Tools" tab) which will be used as a medium for turning in assignments and a forum for communicating with your classmates and professor. This will be used for the short answer quizzes as well as any announcements. My recommendation is to check Webcourses every 2-3 days for updates from your classmates or myself.

RESPECT AND RESPONSIBILITY

The UCF Creed espouses the values of Integrity, Scholarship, Community, Creativity and Excellence. The value of "Community" comes with it the responsibility that "I will promote an open and supportive campus environment by respecting the rights and contributions of every individual."

Throughout this course we will engage in productive discussion about many controversial topics. It is important that these academic discussions remain respectful and constructive. With that in mind: rude, disrespectful, intimidating or unprofessional language in any communication or discussion assignment in this course will not be permitted and may result in a reduction of your grade.

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.

Many incidents of plagiarism result from students' lack of understanding about what constitutes plagiarism. However, you are expected to familiarize yourself with UCF's policy on plagiarism. All work you submit must be your own scholarly and creative efforts. UCF's Golden Rule defines plagiarism as follows: "whereby another's work is used or appropriated without any indication of the source, thereby attempting to convey the impression that such work is the student's own."

SERVICES

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, Ferrell Commons Room 132, phone (407) 823-2371, TTY/TDD only phone (407) 823-2116, before requesting accommodations from the professor.

The schedule, procedures, and syllabus for this class are subject to change in the event of extenuating circumstances.

TENTATIVE SCHEDULE

	TOPIC	ASSIGNMENT (check Webcourses for the most up-to-date schedule)
PART 1: INTRODUCTION AND FOUNDATIONS		
Week 1	Introduction	1/8- Syllabus, Introduction Read the Declaration of Independence
		1/10 Chapter 1 **INTRO Quiz 1/11/19 due by 10pm**
Week 2	The Constitution	1/15 Read The Constitution, The Articles of Confederation (PDF on Webcourses)
		1/17 Federalist 10, Federalist 51, "Is the Electoral College Dead"
Week 3	Federalism	1/22 Chapter 3: Federalism
		1/24 **1/27 11:59pm QUIZ 1 DUE**
PART 2: INSTITUTIONS		
Week 4	Congress	1/29 Chapter 11: The Congress
		1/31 Exam Briefing for Exam 1
Week 5	The Presidency	2/5 **EXAM 1 (Weeks 1-4)**
		2/7 Chapter 12: The Presidency
Week 6	The Presidency The Federal Bureaucracy	2/12
		2/14 Chapter 13
Week 7	The Judiciary	2/19 Chapter 14
		2/21 **2/24 11:59pm QUIZ 2 DUE**

PART 3: LIBERTIES AND RIGHTS		
Week 8	Civil Liberties	2/26 Chapter 4
		2/28
Week 9	Civil Rights	3/5 Chapter 5 Exam Briefing for Exam 2
		3/7 **EXAM 2 (Weeks 5-9)**
3/11-3/16	**SPRING BREAK-NO CLASS**	
3/20	**WITHDRAWAL DEADLINE**	
PART 4: MECHANICS OF DEMOCRACY		
Week 10	Interest Groups	3/19 Chapter 6
		3/21
Week 11	Political Parties	3/26 Chapter 7
		3/28
Week 12	Public Opinion and Voting	4/2 Chapter 8
		4/4 Additional readings on Webcourses
Week 13	Campaigns and Elections	**4/8 11:59pm QUIZ 3 DUE** 4/9 Chapter 9
		4/11
Week 14	Domestic Policy	4/16 Chapter 15 Exam Briefing for Exam 3
		4/18 EXAM 3 (Weeks 10-14)
TUESDAY 4/23	STUDY DAY	
THURSDAY 4/25	**FINAL EXAMINATION**	**1:00pm-3:50pm**