Syllabus
American National Government
POS 2041 C601 (for Global UCF Students)
Summer C 2018

Additional Information from Official Schedule of Classes

Credit Hours: 3 (3, 0)

Prerequisites: None

Class Meeting Days and Time: Monday & Wednesday from 10:00am to 11:50am

Class Location: NSC 0112

Modality: Face to face meetings with some work done online and on the class website.

Contact Information

Instructor: Dr. Aubrey Jewett

Office: Howard Phillips Hall (HPH) 302 E

Office Hours: Online by e-mail or in person M & W 12 noon -12:30 pm or by appointment

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Public Description of Course

Information Published in the UCF Undergraduate Catalog: A study of the dynamics of American national government, including its structure, organization, powers, and procedures.

Course Scope and Purpose: Politics can be defined as deciding who gets what, when and how in society. In American National Government, we look at politics in the United States. We analyze the cultural, constitutional and federalist structures that characterize American national government. We examine the major political participants and processes including public opinion and participation, mass media, political parties, campaigns and elections, and interest groups. We focus on the institutions that make up the American political system including the executive, legislative and judicial branches. We survey the public policy outcomes that emerge from political debate that affect civil liberties and rights, the economy, social welfare, and defense. The purpose of the course is to teach students how U.S. government works and prepare students to be informed citizens who actively participate in the democratic political process.

Course Goals (Student Learning Outcomes)

Students who successfully complete American National Government should be able to:

1. Demonstrate knowledge of American political philosophical and structural foundations.
2. Demonstrate knowledge of American governmental institutions.
3. Demonstrate knowledge of American political behavior.
4. Demonstrate knowledge of American public policy.
5. Critically analyze and evaluate American politics, government and public policy.
6. Understand how diversity affects American politics, policy and government.
7. Demonstrate effective written and oral communication pertinent to American politics and government.
8. Identify reliable media sources to follow current US political events, effectively summarize current events, and express an informed opinion about the events.
9. Compare and contrast major features of U.S. government and politics with those of their home country.

Course Materials/Required Text

1. Gaddie, Keith and Thomas R. Dye. 2018. *Politics in America 2018 Presidential Election Edition,* 11th ed. New York: Pearson. ISBN 9780134624365

To get this text you must purchase an access code for the online edition of the book. You can purchase the access code from many locations including Barnes and Noble (the campus bookstore), Amazon, Chegg and many other college booksellers. You may also purchase directly from Pearson (the publisher) as described below.

****On or soon after the first day of class, I will provide you with the web address to use to register with Pearson and redeem your access code so that you can utilize the e-version of Politics in America specifically tied to our course and section at UCF. You may also pay for the access code directly from Pearson when you are registering at the link I provide.****

Pearson gives you the option to purchase an additional print copy of the book during registration for about $20. You DO NOT need the print version but it is available if you want it in addition to your e-version. Even if you purchase the additional print copy, you will still need to use the online version of the book to take chapter quizzes built in to the e-book. The e-version also contains many other useful study tools to help you learn the material.

Assessment, Grading Procedures and Professional Behavior

Assignments and Grading Weights:

- Three Examinations (60% of the final grade) – Each exam will be taken online on the course website consists of 50 multiple-choice questions covering 4-5 chapters from our text and information from my lectures. You will have 2 hours to take the exam. You may take the exam a 2nd time to try and improve your grade but be aware that questions are pulled from a larger test bank and so many questions will be different on a 2nd attempt. If you take an exam twice, I will count the higher score of your two attempts.

- 13 E-book Chapter Quizzes (10% of the final grade) – You will take the quiz that comes at the end of each assigned chapter in the online version of our book. Each quiz is usually 15 multiple-choice questions. You will have two attempts at each question. The goal of these quizzes is to help you master the material and to encourage you to keep up with the readings. The course outline contains the deadline for each quiz (the quiz should be taken on or before the date and time listed). I will drop your lowest quiz score.

- Two Current Events (15% of the final grade) – You will write up and present two current events concerning American national politics or policy found at the website www.realclearpolitics.com. I will assign you two different dates for your current event presentations. The article you choose should have appeared within one week of your due date. You need to write up your current event using between 350-500 words and submit the written paper to me after the end of your presentation. The oral presentation should be brief (about two-three minutes). Your current event should start with the title, author, and original source of the article (realclearpolitics.com links to articles from many different news sources). Next, give a summary of the current event. After that, connect the current event to the information we are studying in American National Government and explain what you have learned. Then connect the current event to the politics of your home country: could something like this happen in your home country – explain why or why not and give a specific example. Finally state whether you agree or disagree with the current event and explain why or why not.

- Attendance and Class Participation (15% of the final grade) – Attendance is strongly encouraged and is part of your participation grade. I take roll every class. A series of brief assignments and discussions will be held during class (many assignments will involve comparing the US to your home country).

Grades and Grading Scale: I record grades in Webcourses and use a ten-point grading scale.

100-90 A (Outstanding or excellent work)
89-80 B (Solid, above average work)
79-70 C (Good, average work)
69-60 D (Below average or incomplete work)
59-0 F (Poor work or missed assignment)

Missed Exams, Assignments, Make-Up Policy and Professionalism:

- Make-up Assignments for Authorized University Events or Co-curricular Activities – Students who miss exams/assignments because they are representing UCF in authorized events or activities will be offered reasonable opportunity to complete the work with no penalty applied. It is the student's responsibility to provide the instructor with a copy of the Program Verification Form (which lists the names of students participating in the authorized event or activity) prior to the class in which the absence occurs.

- Religious Observances – A student who desires to observe a religious holy day of his or her religious faith must notify all of his/her instructors at the beginning of the term to be excused from classes to observe the religious holy day. The student is responsible for any material covered during the excused absence, but will be permitted a reasonable amount of time to complete any work missed.

- With Verifiable Extenuating Circumstances – If you miss an exam or assignment because of a verifiable extenuating circumstance (i.e. illness with a doctor's note, accident with a police report, or death in the family with documentation) I will let you make up the work with no grade penalty as long as you contact me before or soon after the due date (usually within 24 hours) and complete the work in a reasonable amount of time (usually within one week).

- Without Verifiable Extenuating Circumstances – If you miss an exam or assignment without a verifiable extenuating circumstance (you forgot, overslept, were too busy etc.) I will still allow you <u>one</u> make up in a reasonable amount of time (usually within one week) as long as you contact me quickly (usually within 24 hours), take responsibility for what happened, and have been showing a good faith effort to complete previous work. However, I deduct ten points from the score in fairness to classmates who showed up and completed the test, quiz or assignment on time.

Professional Communication: I expect professional communication whether face to face, by email, or in online discussions. When communicating with me, please address me by my title (Dr. Jewett or Prof. Jewett), politely explain the purpose of your communication, courteously provide evidence or background information as appropriate, and respectfully ask your question or make your statement or request. DO NOT make demands or unsubstantiated claims, issue threats or accusations, or question my motives. DO NOT personally attack other students for their opinions. Political disagreements are normal, but be scholarly and civil, focus on the material, explain your position calmly and rationally, and respect sincerely held beliefs of others.

Professional and Courteous Classroom Behavior: Professional behavior is particularly important when attending class. Please be courteous to fellow students and the professor. Be on time or be unobtrusive if you are late. Silence and/or put away cell phones (do not text or message). Pay attention and stay on task. Only use a laptop or tablet to take notes or look up pertinent information (do not randomly browse or check social media). Stay quiet and attentive except when participating in class activities or discussions.

Course Outline

I make an effort to follow the posted schedule. However, this outline may change during the semester due to unforeseen events or for pedagogical reasons. It is your responsibility to come to class and keep informed. This outline contains due dates for reading assignments, chapter quizzes, and tests. There are other assignments that have personalized due dates that will be provided to you separately. In-class discussion and assignments may occur on any class day.

Day	Date	Assignment	Day	Date	Assignment
Mon	5/14	Class Introduction G&D 1 Politics	Wed	6/27	G&D 9 Interest Groups Chapter 9 Quiz Due by 11pm
Wed	5/16	G&D 2 Political Culture	Mon	7/2	G&D 10 Congress
Fri	5/18	**Complete Online Pretest by 5:00 pm**	Tue	7/3	**Withdrawal Deadline.**
Mon	5/21	**Class Canceled** Chapter 1 & 2 Quiz Due by 11pm	Wed	7/4	**July 4th Holiday**
Wed	5/23	G&D 3 The Constitution	Mon	7/9	G&D 10 Congress Chapter 10 Quiz Due by 11pm
Mon	5/28	**Memorial Day Holiday**	Tue	7/10	**Deadline to take Exam 2 Online (11:00 pm)**
Wed	5/30	G&D 3 The Constitution Chapter 3 Quiz Due by 11pm	Wed	7/11	G&D 11 President
Mon	6/4	G&D 4 Federalism	Mon	7/16	G&D 11 President Chapter 11 Quiz Due by 11pm
Wed	6/6	G&D 4 Federalism Chapter 4 Quiz Due by 11pm	Wed	7/18	G&D 13 Courts Chapter 13 Quiz Due by 11pm
Mon	6/11	G&D 5 Opinion & Participation Chapter 5 Quiz Due by 11pm	Mon	7/23	G&D 14 Personal Liberties
Tue	6/12	**Deadline to take Exam 1 Online (11:00 pm)**	Wed	7/25	G&D 14 Personal Liberties Chapter 14 Quiz Due by 11pm
Wed	6/13	G&D 7 Political Parties	Mon	7/30	G&D 15 Civil Rights
Mon	6/18	G&D 7 Political Parties Chapter 7 Quiz Due by 11pm	Wed	8/1	G&D 15 Civil Rights Chapter 15 Quiz Due by 11pm
Wed	6/20	G&D 8 Campaigns & Elections	Thur	8/2	**Deadline to take Exam 3 Online (11:00 pm)**
Mon	6/25	G&D 8 Campaigns & Elections Chapter 8 Quiz Due by 11pm			

UCF Core Syllabus Statements

Academic Integrity:

I expect ethical academic behavior from all my students. Students should familiarize themselves with UCF's Rules of Conduct at <http://osc.sdes.ucf.edu/process/roc>. According to Section 1, "Academic Misconduct," students are prohibited from engaging in

a) Unauthorized assistance: Using or attempting to use unauthorized materials, information or study aids in any academic exercise unless specifically authorized by the instructor of record. The unauthorized possession of examination or course-related material also constitutes cheating.
b) Communication to another through written, visual, electronic, or oral means: The presentation of material which has not been studied or learned, but rather was obtained through someone else's efforts and used as part of an examination, course assignment, or project.
c) Commercial Use of Academic Material: Selling of course material to another person, student, and/or uploading course material to a third-party vendor without authorization or without the express written permission of the university and the instructor. Course materials include but are not limited to class notes, Instructor's PowerPoints, course syllabi, tests, quizzes, labs, instruction sheets, homework, study guides, handouts, etc.
d) Falsifying or misrepresenting the student's own academic work.
e) Plagiarism: Using or appropriating another's work without any indication of the source, thereby attempting to convey the impression that such work is the student's own.
f) Multiple Submissions: Submitting the same academic work for credit more than once without the express written permission of the instructor.
g) Helping another violate academic behavior standards.

For more information about Academic Integrity, students may consult The Center for Academic Integrity <http://www.academicintegrity.org/icai/assets/FVProject.pdf>.

For more information about plagiarism and misuse of sources, see "Defining and Avoiding Plagiarism: The WPA Statement on Best Practices" <http://wpacouncil.org/node/9>.

Responses to Academic Dishonesty, Plagiarism, or Cheating:

I uphold and enforce academic standards. Students should also familiarize themselves with the procedures for academic misconduct in UCF's student handbook, *The Golden Rule* <http://goldenrule.sdes.ucf.edu/docs/goldenrule.pdf>. UCF faculty members have a responsibility for students' education and the value of a UCF degree, and so seek to prevent unethical behavior and when necessary respond to academic misconduct. Penalties can include a failing grade in an assignment or in the course, suspension or expulsion from the university, and/or a "Z Designation" on a student's official transcript indicating academic dishonesty, where the final grade for this course will be preceded by the letter Z. For more information about the Z Designation, see <http://goldenrule.sdes.ucf.edu/zgrade>.

Course Accessibility:

The University of Central Florida and I are committed to providing access and inclusion for all persons with disabilities. Students with disabilities who need disability-related access in this course should contact the professor as soon as possible. Students should also connect with Student Accessibility Services (SAS) <http://sas.sdes.ucf.edu/> (Ferrell Commons 185, sas@ucf.edu, phone 407-823-2371). Through Student Accessibility Services, a Course Accessibility Letter may be created and sent to professors, which informs faculty of potential access and accommodations that might be reasonable. Determining reasonable access and accommodations requires consideration of the course design, course learning objectives and the individual academic and course barriers experienced by the student.

Campus Safety Statement:

Emergencies on campus are rare, but if one should arise during class, everyone needs to work together. Students should be aware of their surroundings and familiar with some basic safety and security concepts.

- In case of an emergency, dial 911 for assistance.
- Every UCF classroom contains an emergency procedure guide posted on a wall near the door. Students should make a note of the guide's physical location and review the online version at <http://emergency.ucf.edu/emergency_guide.html>.
- Students should know the evacuation routes from each of their classrooms and have a plan for finding safety in case of an emergency.
- If there is a medical emergency during class, students may need to access a first-aid kit or AED (Automated External Defibrillator). To learn where those are located, see <http://www.ehs.ucf.edu/workplacesafety.html> (click on link from menu on left).
- To stay informed about emergency situations, students can sign up to receive UCF text alerts by going to <my.ucf.edu> and logging in. Click on "Student Self Service" located on the left side of the screen in the toolbar, scroll down to the blue "Personal Information" heading on the Student Center screen, click on "UCF Alert", fill out the information, including e-mail address, cell phone number, and cell phone provider, click "Apply" to save the changes, and then click "OK."
- Students with special needs related to emergency situations should speak with their instructors outside of class.
- To learn about how to manage an active-shooter situation on campus or elsewhere, consider viewing this video (<https://youtu.be/NIKYajEx4pk>).

Deployed Active Military Status:

A deployed active duty military student who feels the need for a special accommodation due to that unique status should contact their instructor to discuss the circumstances.