Political Science 2041.0W62: American National Government
University of Central Florida
Fall 2019
Instructor: John Hanley
Syllabus

Location: Online (no required face-to-face meetings)
3 Credit hours

Instructor: Dr. John Hanley
Office 306 Howard Phillips Hall
Office Hours: Tuesday 10:30-1, Thursday 10:30-noon via email & by appointment.
Email: via webcourses
Phone: 407-823-3329

To contact your assigned GTA use the course Inbox to send an email

Required Text
Textbook: Glen Krutz and Sylvie Waskiewicz. OpenStax American Government, Second Edition.
https://openstax.org/details/books/american-government-2e
This is a free, open-source, online textbook. There are links through the OpenStax website to obtain a print copy should you wish (approximate cost $48).

Catalog Description
A study of the dynamics of American national government, including its structure, organization, powers, and procedures.

Course Summary
This is a survey course is designed to provide students with a foundation for understanding and critically assessing American political processes, institutions, and public policies. The course proceeds in four major sections: first, we will situate the institutions of American government in the context of their creation and understand the objectives of the Founders and the tradeoffs inherent in institutional design. Second, we will observe and evaluate the performance of governmental institutions. Third, we will examine the relationships between government and individuals, groups, and corporate entities. Finally, we will consider American public policy. Throughout the course, but with particular attention at the end, we will assess the outcomes generated by American government both at home and abroad.

Learning Outcomes
1. Students will develop and demonstrate an understanding of the basic principles and practices of American democracy and how they are applied in our republican form of government.
2. Students will develop and demonstrate an understanding of the United States Constitution

and its application.
3. Students will develop and demonstrate knowledge of the founding documents and how they have shaped the nature and functions of our institutions of self-governance.
4. Students will develop and demonstrate an understanding of landmark Supreme Court cases, landmark legislation, and landmark executive actions and their impact on law and society.

Course Requirements
Assignments
You are responsible for:

- Keeping track of all deadlines and uploading your work before those deadlines
- keeping a copy of all assignments for this class
- checking that your grades posted online are correct;
- discrepancies must be reported to the instructor within one week of being posted.

Validation and Grading
The maximum points available for assignments will be as follows:

Syllabus & Intro Quiz	15
Modules 1-7	100 points each (approx.. 13.7%), 700 points
Optional Exam	100 points, to replace one of Modules 1-7
Closing Exercise	15
TOTAL	730 points

The plus/minus system will be used in calculating final grades.

A > 681 points	B+ > 632	C+ > 559	D > 437
A- > 657	B > 608	C > 535	F < 438
	B- > 583	C- > 510	

Optional Final Exam
If you take the Final Exam, that grade will replace your lowest Module grade. But, if you commit an academic integrity violation on one of your modules, the final exam cannot be used to replace that grade.

Incomplete grades, changes in exam dates, and extensions of written assignments will be approved only by the instructor, and only upon evidence of extenuating circumstances.

Late, and make-up work

- Late work (initial discussion postings and essays) will be penalized at a rate of 10% per day late (including weekend days and holidays unless otherwise noted in the module).
- BUT--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 three days after the deadline (or after the deadline for the final exam).

Schedule
Module Dates Topic/Module Readings

PART I: INTRODUCTION TO AMERICAN NATIONAL GOVERNMENT
August 26-September 6
Module #1: American Government, Civic Engagement, and the Constitution
Read Chapters 1-2

9/6-9/20
Module #2: Federalism and Congress
Read: Chapters 3 & 11

9/20-10/4
Module #3: The Presidency and the Bureaucracy
Read: Chapters 12 & 15

10/4-10/18
Module #4: The Courts and Civil Liberties
Read: Chapters 13 & 4

10/18-11/1
Module #5: Political Parties and Civil Rights
Read: Chapters 9 & 5

11/1-11/15
Module #6: Public Opinion, Voting. Campaigns and Elections
Read: Chapters 6 & 7

11/15-12/4 (Wednesday)
Module #7: Interest Groups and the Media
Read: Chapters 8 & 10

12/4-12/10 (Monday)
Optional Module: Optional Final Exam

Read: all chapters in eTextbook
NB. Full deadlines details are available in each module instructions (and in the live schedule below).

Academic Integrity
The Center for Academic Integrity (CAI) defines academic integrity as a commitment, even in the face of adversity, to five fundamental values: honesty, trust, fairness, respect, and responsibility. From these values flow principles of behavior that enable academic communities to translate ideals into action.

http://academicintegrity.org/

UCF Creed: Integrity, scholarship, community, creativity, and excellence are the core values that guide our conduct, performance, and decisions.

1. Integrity: I will practice and defend academic and personal honesty.
2. Scholarship: I will cherish and honor learning as a fundamental purpose of my membership in the UCF community.
3. Community: I will promote an open and supportive campus environment by respecting the rights and contributions of every individual.
4. Creativity: I will use my talents to enrich the human experience.
5. Excellence: I will strive toward the highest standards of performance in any endeavor I undertake.

The following definitions of plagiarism and misuse of sources come from the Council of Writing Program Administrators <http://wpacouncil.org/node/9> and have been adopted by UCF's Department of Writing & Rhetoric.

Plagiarism

In an instructional setting, plagiarism occurs when a writer deliberately uses someone else's language, ideas, or other original (not common-knowledge) material without acknowledging its source. This definition applies to texts published in print or on-line, to manuscripts, and to the work of other student writers.

Misuse of Sources

A student who attempts (even if clumsily) to identify and credit his or her source, but who misuses a specific citation format or incorrectly uses quotation marks or other forms of identifying material taken from other sources, has not plagiarized. Instead, such a student should be considered to have failed to cite and document sources appropriately.

Responses to Academic Dishonesty, Plagiarism, or Cheating

UCF faculty members have a responsibility for your education and the value of a UCF degree, and so seek to prevent unethical behavior and when necessary respond to infringements of academic integrity. 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.
For more information about UCF's Rules of Conduct, see http://www.osc.sdes.ucf.edu/.

Unauthorized Use of Class Materials

There are many fraudulent websites claiming to offer study aids to students but are actually cheat sites. They encourage students to upload course materials, such as test questions, individual assignments, and examples of graded material. Such materials are the intellectual property of instructors, the university, or publishers and may not be distributed without prior authorization. Students who engage in such activity are in violation of academic conduct standards and may face penalties.

Unauthorized Use of Class Notes

Third parties may be selling class notes from this class without my authorization. Please be aware that such class materials may contain errors, which could affect your performance or grade. Use these materials at your own risk.

In-Class Recording Policy

Outside of the notetaking and recording services offered by Student Accessibility Services, the creation of an audio or video recording of all or part of a class for personal use is allowed only with the advance and explicit written consent of the instructor. Such recordings are only acceptable in the context of personal, private studying and

notetaking and are not authorized to be shared with anyone without the separate written approval of the instructor.

Course Accessibility Statement

The University of Central Florida is committed to providing access and inclusion for all persons with disabilities. This syllabus is available in alternate formats upon request. Students with disabilities who need specific access in this course, such as accommodations, should contact the professor as soon as possible to discuss various access options. Students should also connect with Student Accessibility Services (Ferrell Commons, 7F, Room 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.

Campus Safety Statement

Emergencies on campus are rare, but if one should arise in our class, we will all need to work together. Everyone should be aware of the 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. Please make a note of the guide's physical location and consider reviewing the online version at http://emergency.ucf.edu/emergency_guide.html.
- Familiarize yourself with evacuation routes from each of your classrooms and have a plan for finding safety in case of an emergency. (Insert class-specific details if appropriate)
- If there is a medical emergency during class, we may need to access a first aid kit or AED (Automated External Defibrillator). To learn where those items are located in this building, see http://www.ehs.ucf.edu/AEDlocations-UCF (click on link from menu on left). (insert class specific information if appropriate)
- To stay informed about emergency situations, 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 tool bar, scroll down to the blue "Personal Information" heading on your Student Center screen, click on "UCF Alert", fill out the information, including your e-mail address, cell phone number, and cell phone provider, click "Apply" to save the changes, and then click "OK."
- If you have a special need related to emergency situations, please speak with me during office hours.
- Consider viewing this video (https://youtu.be/NIKYajEx4pk) about how to manage an active shooter situation on campus or elsewhere.

Deployed Active Duty Military Students

If you are a deployed active duty military student and feel that you may need a special accommodation due to that unique status, please contact your instructor to discuss your circumstances.