Syllabus
Honors American National Government
POS 2041H 0201
Fall 2019

Additional Information from Official Schedule of Classes

Credit Hours: 3 (3, 0)

Prerequisites: Permission of Honors

Class Meeting Days and Time: Tuesday and Thursday 10:30 – 11:45 AM

Class Location: BA 1 207

Modality: This is a Face-to-Face course that also has a class website. The course website can be found at www.webcourses.ucf.edu.

Contact Information

Instructor: Dr. Aubrey Jewett

Office: Howard Phillips Hall (HPH) 302 E

Office Hours: Online by e-mail or in person T & R from 9-10 am and 12-1 pm or by appointment

Phone: Political Science Main Office 407-823-2608; Direct Office Line 407-823-6030

E-mail: aubrey.jewett@ucf.edu

Public Description of Course

Information Published in the UCF Undergraduate Catalog: Same as POS 2041 with honors-level content (POS 2041 is described as "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 **Honors American National Government** we look at politics in America. 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 national

defense. The purpose of the course is to teach students about American national government and prepare students to follow, analyze and participate in American politics.

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 in the United States impacts American politics and government

7. Demonstrate effective communication pertinent to American politics and government

Course Materials/Resources

1. Gaddie, Keith and Thomas R. Dye. 2019. *Politics in America 2018 Elections and Updates Edition,* 11th ed. New York: Pearson. ISBN 9780135202753

To get this text you must purchase an access code for the online edition of the book. The easiest and least expensive way to gain access is to log into our class website and click on the Pearson Revel link. Pearson gives you the option to purchase an additional print copy of the book during registration. 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 access the online version through the course website 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.

2. You do not need to buy a 2nd text. However we will be reading a number of reports from the CQ Researcher website/database. To access you can log in to the course website and then click on UCF Library Tools. Click on Articles and Databases and then in the Database search box enter "CQ Researcher Plus Archive (1923+)" and hit "Search." Then click on the search result "CQ Researcher Plus Archive (1923+)" and then click on Browse Reports (By Date) to find the assigned article (CQ article titles and their date of publication are listed in the outline below).

Assessment, Grading Procedures, Expectations and Support

Assignments and Grading Weights:

Three Examinations (50%) - Closed book consisting of multiple choice and short answer questions on information from the Gaddie & Dye book and the CQ readings. Please bring a brown scantron and a #2 pencil on test day.

Three CQ Researcher Critiques (15%) – You will be assigned three dates on which your 2000-3000 word papers will be due. Each paper will summarize, analyze, update and evaluate the policy issue we cover from the CQ Researcher on that particular day. You are expected to complete each critique and bring it to class on the day we are scheduled to cover that topic in class and participate in the discussion we have on these issues and turn it in at the end of class. Further details for organizing and writing the paper are available on the course website.

Chapter Quizzes (10%) – You will take the quiz that comes at the end of each assigned chapter in the online version of our book. If you miss a question you can try again a second time but will lose a couple of points (which is better than losing all of the points for a question). The course outline contains the deadline to complete each chapter quiz (the quiz should be taken by 11:00pm on or before the date listed). I will drop your lowest quiz score.

Two Current Events (10%) – 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 500-750 words and submit the written paper to me via the course website. The oral presentation should be brief (about two-three minutes). Your current event should start with the title, author, date, 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 information we are studying in American National Government (specific sections of our textbook) and explain what you have learned. Finally give your opinion/reaction to the article and explain why you think the way you do. You must use a different source from within realclearpolitics.com for each presentation.

Attendance (5%) & Class Participation **(**10%**) –** Attendance is strongly encouraged. Participation includes joining discussion of the material from the Gaddie and Dye book and especially policy issues from the CQ Researcher.

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 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) if 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 or put in earbuds and listen to your phone). 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 normally 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, 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. G&D is the abbreviation for our textbook authored by Gaddie and Dye.

Day	Date	Assignment	Day	Date	Assignment
T	8/27	Introduction; G&D 1 Politics	T	10/22	G&D 10 Congress CQ National Debt 9/1/17
R	8/29	G&D 1 Politics (quiz due) G&D 2 Political Culture	R	10/24	G&D 11 President quiz due CQ The Presidency 11/16/18
T	9/3	G&D 2 Political Culture quiz due G&D 3 The Constitution CQ Universal Basic Income 9/8/17	T	10/29	G&D 11 President
R	9/5	G&D 3 The Constitution quiz due CQ Social Security 6/3/16	R	10/31	**Midterm Exam 2**
T	9/10	G&D 4 Federalism quiz due CQ Federal State Relations 4/27/18	F	11/1	**Withdrawal Deadline 11:59 pm.** Last day to withdraw without grade penalty
R	9/12	G&D 4 Federalism & G&D 5 Opinion & Participation	T	11/5	G&D 13 Courts quiz due
T	9/17	G&D 5 Opinion and Participation quiz due CQ Reparations for Slavery 8/23/19	R	11/7	G&D 14 Civil Liberties quiz due CQ High Tech Policing 4/21/17
R	9/19	G&D 6 Mass Media quiz due	T	11/12	G&D 14 Civil Liberties
T	9/24	G&D 6 Mass Media CQ Local News Under Stress 12/14/18	R	11/14	G&D 15 Civil Rights quiz due CQ Affirmative Action and College Admissions 11/17/17
R	9/26	**Midterm Exam 1**	T	11/19	G&D 15 Civil Rights & G&D 16 Economy
T	10/1	G&D 7 Political Parties quiz due	R	11/21	G&D 16 Economy quiz due CQ U.S. Trade Policy 3/30/18
R	10/3	G&D 7 Political Parties CQ Climate Change and National Security 9/22/17	T	11/26	G&D 17 Social Welfare quiz due CQ Domestic Violence 11/15/13
T	10/8	G&D 8 Campaigns & Elections quiz due	R	11/28	**Thanksgiving Holiday**
R	10/10	G&D 8 Campaigns & Elections CQ The Electoral College 8/30/19	T	12/3	G&D 18 National Security quiz due CQ Cyberwarfare Threat 10/6/17
T	10/15	G&D 9 Interest Groups quiz due CQ Think Tanks in Transition 9/29/17	T	12/10	**Final Exam 10:00 am – 12:50 pm**
R	10/17	G&D 10 Congress quiz due			

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.