POS2041 American National Government

Sections 0W68, 0W69, 0W70

School of Politics, Security, and International Affairs

College of Sciences

3 Credit Hours

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Instructor Information

- Instructor: Dr. Annabelle Conroy
- Office Location: HPH 302
- Office Hours: Mondays, Tuesdays, Wednesdays, and Thursdays: 8:00 AM - 9:30 AM (EDT - Orlando time) and by appointment. Regular office hours will be held through Zoom and a link will be provided. For these office hours (8:00 AM - 9:30 AM) you do not need an appointment. Just "join" the Zoom session at any point during that period. If you wish to meet at a different time, send me a message through Webcourses to arrange a meeting.
- Phone: (407) 823-2608 (does not take messages)
- Digital Contact: **Please use the Webcourses@UCF messaging to contact me.** I aim to respond within 24 hours. If you need information on how to do this, please go to the Webcourses site: https://cdl.ucf.edu/support/webcourses/guides/conversations/

Learning Guides:

Kendy Powell

Tyler Williams

Course Information

- Term: Fall 2020
- Course Number & Section: POS2041-0W68, 0W69, 0W70
- Course Name: American National Government
- Credit Hours: 3
- Class Meeting Days: TBA
- Class Meeting Time: TBA
- Class Location: Online
- Course Modality: Online

Enrollment Requirements

Course Prerequisites (if applicable): None
Course Co-requisites (if applicable): None
Other Enrollment Requirements (if applicable): N/A

Course Description

POS2041-American National Government has been designed to provide a comprehensive introduction to the concepts and issues of the United States government. It examines the structure, philosophy, accomplishments, and challenges of the American government. Students will examine and analyze why the American political system operates as it does, who wins and who loses in the process and why this system endures. In addition, this course will provide you with the tools to understand, effectively participate in, and influence the political process in order to address issues of importance to our communities.

The problems that we face as a society are multifaceted and, thus, require that individuals with different backgrounds, training, and perspectives collaborate to elaborate and implement effective solutions. Thus, it is imperative that we learn how to do this effectively. This course includes several assignments geared towards developing teamwork skills and strategies

This course will be taught from a transdisciplinary and comparative perspective. This means that we will examine topics from a variety of angles and determine the linkages that exist between politics, society, culture, science, and the arts. In addition, we will continuously compare and contrast the United States to countries around the world to try to understand why certain patterns and phenomena are present in some contexts and not in others. This is based on the assumption that we can understand our own country better if we compare it against others.

Modality

Due to continued campus classroom closures, this course will be conducted by remote instruction. No in-person classroom attendance is available. However, a synchronous (live) session is required each week and you will be able to choose your preferred session during Week 1. These sessions will require you to have a webcam and microphone so that you can participate in the class. Additional instruction materials will video streamed and/or require substantive interaction online. No distance learning fee is charged. Thus, you will need access to a reliable internet connection, a webcam, a microphone, and, of course, a laptop or desktop.

The weekly schedule for this course will be the following:

Module Schedule	
Modules Open on:	**Tuesdays, 9:00 am**
Modules Close on:	**Mondays, 11:59 pm**

Zoom Sessions

Because of the continued remote instruction requirement due to the COVID-19 pandemic, this course will use Zoom for some synchronous ("real time") class meetings. Meeting dates and times will be scheduled through Webcourses@UCF and should appear on your calendar.

Please take the time to familiarize yourself with Zoom by visiting the UCF Zoom Guides [https://cdl.ucf.edu/support/webcourses/zoom/]. You may choose to use Zoom on your mobile device (phone or tablet).

Things to Know About Zoom:

- You must sign in to my Zoom session using your UCF NID and password.
- The Zoom sessions are recorded.
- Improper classroom behavior is not tolerated within Zoom sessions and may result in a referral to the Office of Student Conduct.
- You can contact Webcourses@UCF Support [https://cdl.ucf.edu/support/webcourses/] if you have any technical issues accessing Zoom.

Course Materials and Resources

Required Textbook

The textbook for this class is:

> OpenStax and Lumen Learning: *American Government (2e)*, https://pressbooks.online.ucf.edu/pos2041ac/ Print: American Government from OpenStax, Print ISBN 1947172654, Digital ISBN 1947172662, https://openstax.org/details/books/american-government-2e

Good news: your textbook for this class is available for free online! Your book is available in web view and PDF for free. You can use whichever formats you want. The web view is recommended -- the responsive design works seamlessly on any device. In addition, the web version may include end-of-chapter review questions not included in the print version. However, if you prefer, you can also get a print version at a very low cost. If you wish to buy a hard copy of the book, you can purchase it on Amazon, but make sure you use the link on your book page on openstax.org so you get the official OpenStax print version (https://www.amazon.com/dp/1947172654). (Simple printouts sold by third parties on Amazon are not verifiable and not as high-quality.)

The link for each chapter is included in each week's module. To access each chapter you just have to click on the link provided in each module. To navigate through the chapter, you may use the "Next" or "Back" buttons located at the top and bottom of each chapter's screen.

Hardware/Software Requirements

The following hardware and software technologies needed to complete assignments:

- Desktop or laptop computer
- Webcam
- Microphone
- Either speakers or headphones
- Reliable access to the internet
- Access to Webcourses@UCF
- Access to ucf.zoom.us with NID and NID password
- Download Respondus LockDown Browser (see instructions below)

LockDown Browser Requirement

This course requires the use of LockDown Browser for online exams.

Watch this video to get a basic understanding of LockDown Browser:

https://www.respondus.com/products/lockdown-browser/student-movie.shtml

Consult the student quick start guide for step by step instructions:

Respondus Quick Start Guide

Download Instructions

Download and install LockDown Browser from this link:

https://download.respondus.com/lockdown/download.php?id=472413933

Once Installed

-
  - Start LockDown Browser
  - Log into Canvas
  - Navigate to the quiz

Note: You won't be able to access a quiz that requires LockDown Browser with a standard web browser. If this is tried, an error message will indicate that the test requires the use of LockDown Browser. Simply start LockDown Browser and navigate back to the exam to continue.

Getting Help

Several resources are available if you encounter problems with LockDown Browser:

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  - The Windows and Mac versions of LockDown Browser have a "Help Center" button located on the toolbar. Use the "System & Network Check" to troubleshoot issues. If an exam requires you to use a webcam, also run the "Webcam Check" from this area
  - To save time and get the help you need, if you need further support, please contact the Webcourses help desk directly:
    - You can contact Webcourses@UCF Support by phone (407-823-0407), email (webcourses@ucf.edu), live chat, or through our Online Support Form.
  - Respondus has a Knowledge Base available from support.respondus.com. Select the "Knowledge Base" link and then select "Respondus LockDown Browser" as the product. If your problem is with a webcam, select "Respondus Monitor" as your product
  - If you're still unable to resolve a technical issue with LockDown Browser, go to support.respondus.com and select "Submit a Ticket". Provide detailed information about your problem and what steps you took to resolve it (Just keep in mind that due to the coronavirus they are overwhelmed right now so it might take a while to get a response).

Practice Test

It is a good idea to take the Practice Test just so you can get used to this tool and troubleshoot any problems there might be. Ideally, you should use the same computer that you will use with the graded quizzes/exams, including the same network/Wi-Fi environment. You can take this practice test unlimited times so you can get used to it.

Before you take the Practice Test, do the following:

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  - Locate the LockDown Browser application or shortcut and manually launch it
  - Select "Help Center" from the toolbar
  - Run the "Webcam Check" and the "System & Network Check" to make sure everything is working properly. If a problem is indicated, you can search for a solution in the Knowledge Base, or seek technical assistance.

Once you take the Practice Test you will be able to make any needed corrections and I can also verify that everything is fine.

Student Learning Outcomes

The main objectives of this course are:

1. To provide students with a comprehensive introduction to the American system of government.
2. To provide students with an understanding of the ways in which the various branches of the government, as well as other political actors, operate in the context of the American political institutions and processes.
3. To show how the main political actors and institutions have changed over time.
4. To develop key skills required for the successful study of political science and for the graduate job market.
5. To provide students with the tools to become active and engaged citizens and to have the ability to make informed political decisions.

By the end of the course students should:

1. 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. Develop and demonstrate an understanding of the United States Constitution and its application.
3. Develop and demonstrate knowledge of the founding documents and how they have shaped the nature and functions of our institutions of self-governance.

4. Develop and demonstrate an understanding of landmark Supreme Court cases, landmark legislation, and landmark executive actions and their impact on law and society.

In addition, this course is designed as an introduction to and preparation for higher-level courses by developing skills such as oral presentation, writing, test-taking and teamwork skills.

Course Activities

This course will consist of a combination of lectures, class discussions, individual research, and short writing assignments. Each week I will post one or more questions which you should consider and prepare for that week's discussion. The questions, readings, and assignments for each week can be found on the modules for each week. To see which module corresponds to each week, please consult the class schedule.

The course activities required in this course are:

Protocol Points:

Protocol points are points that are given to you at the beginning of the course and will remain with you as long as you observe and abide by the class protocols and the UCF student code of conduct. In other words, you start off with 5 points and you will only lose some or all of them if you somehow violate any of the protocols set forth in the syllabus.

You can lose protocol points if you do any of the following:

1. Use rude, disrespectful, intimidating, or unprofessional language in any communication or discussion assignment in this course. Please make sure to review the email protocols in the Course Policies section of the syllabus.
2. Violate the ethical standards set forth by UCF (see http://www.osc.sdes.ucf.edu/).
3. Repeatedly arrive late to class.
4. Fail to turn off or turn to silent your cellphone or other electronic devices during the class and/or use of these devices during class time unless allowed by the professor. If any of this occurs, there will be one warning and after that, the penalty for each additional offense will increase.
5. Ask a question that is obviously already stated either in the syllabus, class modules or in an email that I have sent to the class.
6. You do not answer an email sent by your instructor within 48 hours.
7. Fail to observe the protocols set forth in this syllabus.

Please keep in mind that if you lose all 5 protocol points, other disciplinary actions will ensue.

Modules

There are 14 graded modules and each module is worth 6 points except for the first one which is worth 2 points. Each module will have a set of activities you need to complete so a good strategy is to log into the course as soon as it opens to see what is required for that week. The weekly schedule for this course will be the following:

Module Schedule	
Modules Open on:	**Tuesdays, 9:00 am**
Modules Close on:	**Mondays, 11:59 pm**

If you have to miss a module due to illness you need to inform the instructor as soon as possible to arrange for an alternative assessment.

Classwork

Each week a new module will open. Modules will list and describe the topics for the week, the assignments, and the class sessions we will have. The classwork assignments will generally be based on questions derived from the week's topic. This classwork will also serve as preparation for the quizzes and final exam. In order to do well in these class assignments, it is important that you complete all the work assigned in each week's module. This requires you to be very disciplined and organized.

Please keep in mind that if you miss two weeks of assignments *for any reason*, you will fail the class. Thus, please make sure that you keep up with the readings and assignments.

Final Examination

There will be one final examination in this course. The final examination will be cumulative. You must take this exam. Failure to take the final exam will result in a grade of "F" for the entire course. Please refer to the final module for instructions regarding this exam.

As with any other course, I urge you not to fall behind on the readings. Each week we will be covering a lot of new information and if you do not keep up, it can become overwhelming the day before the exam. In addition, keep in mind that the final examination will be cumulative.

In case of a serious extenuating circumstance that prevents the student from taking the final exam, the student is responsible for contacting the instructor **before** the examination. In addition, please note that the format of any makeup examination may be different from that administered to the rest of the class.

- Extra Credit: There will be no extra credit assignments offered in this course.
- Students should have regular access to the internet and plan on logging into the course at least twice each week in order to get the class assignments.
- In addition, students should plan on at least five hours' worth of homework outside of class each week. This will consist of doing assigned readings and preparing for the in-class assignments.
- Late assignments will not be accepted unless valid medical documentation is presented and only when arrangements have been made before the due date. Make-up assignments will have a different format than those assigned to the rest of the class.
- Make sure to check the "Grades" section in Webcourses often. Please be aware that *no grade will be changed 2 weeks after the grade* for a particular assignment has been posted.
- If you have a particular concern about a grade received, you need to make an appointment by email specifying the specific points which you wish to address. Keep in mind that if you ask me to read the disputed assignment/test again, your grade may go up or down.
- Please do come and see me if you are having trouble understanding a topic or concept. Also, I encourage you to ask questions during class if something is not clear.

Attendance/Participation

You must attend all the weekly sessions. If you have to miss one for any reason, you must reschedule one as soon as possible (within 24 hours) or you will miss the points for that session. Interactive weekly sessions will begin in Week 2 and they will be held through Zoom. The sessions will appear in your calendar when I schedule them next week.

Please keep in mind that if you miss two weeks of assignments *for any reason*, you will fail the class. Thus, please make sure that you keep up with the readings and assignments.

Statement Regarding COVID-19

To protect members of our community, everyone is required to wear a facial covering inside all common spaces including classrooms (https://policies.ucf.edu/documents/PolicyEmergencyCOVIDReturnPolicy.pdf). Students who choose not to wear facial coverings will be asked to leave the classroom by the instructor. If they refuse to leave the classroom or put on a facial covering, they may be considered disruptive (please see the Golden Rule for student behavior expectations). Faculty have the right to cancel class if the safety and well-being of class members are in jeopardy. Students will be responsible for the material that would have been covered in class as provided by the instructor.

Depending on the course of the pandemic during the semester, the university may make changes to the way classes are offered. If that happens, please look for announcements or messages in Webcourses@UCF or Knights email about changes specific to this course.

COVID-19 and Illness Notification – Students who believe they may have a COVID-19 diagnosis should contact UCF Student Health Services (407-823-2509) so proper contact tracing procedures can take place.

Students should not come to campus if they are ill, are experiencing any symptoms of COVID-19, have tested positive for COVID, or if anyone living in their residence has tested positive or is sick with COVID-19 symptoms. CDC guidance for COVID-19 symptoms is located here: (https://www.cdc.gov/coronavirus/2019-ncov/symptoms-testing/symptoms.html)

Students should contact their instructor(s) as soon as possible if they miss class for any illness reason to discuss reasonable adjustments that might need to be made. When possible, students should contact their instructor(s) before missing class.

In Case of Faculty Illness – If the instructor falls ill during the semester, there may be changes to this course, including having a backup instructor take over the course. Please look for announcements or mail in Webcourses@UCF or Knights email for any alterations to this course.

Course Accessibility and Disability COVID-19 Supplemental Statement – Accommodations may need to be added or adjusted should this course shift from an on-campus to a remote format. Students with disabilities should speak with their instructor and should contact sas@ucf.edu to discuss specific accommodations for this or other courses.

Make-up Assignments

Per university policy, you are allowed to submit make-up work (or an equivalent, alternate assignment) for authorized university-sponsored activities, religious observances, or legal obligations (such as jury duty). If this participation conflicts with any of the exams, I will offer a reasonable opportunity for you to complete missed exams. The make-up exams and grading scale will be equivalent to the missed assignment and its grading scale but its format may be different.

Assessment and Grading Procedures*

Grading Item	Points*
Protocol Points	5
Modules (14 graded modules)	80
Final Exam	15
Total	100

Letter Grade	Points
A	94 – 100
A-	90 – 93.9
B+	87 – 89.9
B	84 – 86.9
B-	80 – 83.9
C+	77 – 79.9
C	74 – 76.9
C-	70 – 73.9

D+	67 – 69.9
D	64 – 66.9
D-	61 – 63.9
F	0 - 60.9

Grade Dissemination

In general, grades for each assignment will appear two weeks after the submission deadline. You can access your scores at any time by logging into your course through Webcourses. Mistakes can be made while entering the grades, so you are responsible for monitoring your grades and making sure that they are accurate. You have one week after the grades are posted to challenge or request a correction to your grades. After this time, grades become final.

If you wish to challenge your grade you must make an appointment with the professor and present the evidence to show that your grade is incorrect. Keep in mind that if a review has to be made of your graded assignment, the grade can go up or down depending on the review.

Consult the latest Undergraduate or Graduate catalog for regulations and procedures regarding grading such as Incomplete grades, grade changes, and grade forgiveness.

Course Schedule

Although I make every effort to adhere to the dates set forth in the schedule, unforeseen events may make it necessary to change the dates. If this is the case, I will let you know as soon as possible. Please keep in mind that in case of a natural disaster or another type of emergency you should consult the UCF website for immediate information.

Date	Topic	Assignments/Notes

Part I: The Foundations of the American System		
Week 1: Aug.24	Introduction: American Government and Civic Engagement	Week 1 Module Friday, August 28: Last Day to Drop
Week 2: Sept. 1	The Constitution and its Origins	Week 2 Module **Monday Sept 7: No class (Labor Day)**
Week 3: Sept. 8	The Constitution and its Origins	Week 3 Module
Week 4: Sept. 15	American Federalism	Week 4 Module
Part II: Individual Agency and Action		
Week 5: Sept.21	Civil Liberties	Week 5 Module
Week 6: Sept. 29	Civil Rights	Week 6 Module
Week 7: Oct. 6	The Politics of Public Opinion	Week 7 Module
Week 8: Oct. 13	Voting and Elections	Week 8 Module
Part III: Toward Collective Action: Mediating Institutions		

Week 9: Oct. 20	The Media	Week 9 Module
Week 10: Oct. 27	Political Parties	Week 10 Module Friday, Oct. 30: Withdrawal Deadline
Week 11: Nov. 3	Interest Groups and Lobbying	Week 11 Module
Part IV: Delivering Collective Action: Formal Institutions		
Week 12: Nov.10	Congress	Week 12 Module Veterans Day: Nov. 11
Week 13: Nov. 17	The Presidency and the Bureaucracy	Week 13 Module
Week 14: Nov. 24	The Courts	Week 14-15 Module Thanksgiving Break: Nov. 25-28
Week 15: Dec. 1	Review Week	Week 14-15 Module Friday, Dec. 4: Last Day of Class
Week 16: Dec. 8	Final Exam Week	**Final Exam: Friday, Dec. 11 (exam opens at 9:00 AM and closes at 11:59 PM)**

The following are important UCF guidelines and resources that you should be aware of.

University Services and Resources

Academic Services and Resources

A list of available academic support and learning services is available at UCF Student Services. Click on "Academic Support and Learning Services" on the right-hand side to filter.

Non-Academic Services and Resources

A list of non-academic support and services is also available at UCF Student Services. Click on "Support" on the right-hand side to filter.

If you are a UCF Online student, please consult the UCF Online Student Guidelines for more information about your access to non-academic services.

Policy Statements

Course Policies

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 professor. The Webcourses site will have up-to-date information on topics, class assignments, schedule and so on. In addition, each class module will include useful tools for exam preparation and to add to the material presented in class. My recommendation is to check Webcourses regularly for updates.

Email:

In this class our official mode of communication is through email located inside Webcourses. All communication between student and instructor and between student and student should be respectful and professional. When sending an email be sure to observe the protocols set out in the syllabus. If you are unsure of how to write an email with the proper salutation and closing, you might want to consult the following site: Email Etiquette (by Ali Hale in *Daily Writing Tips*). It is the student's responsibility to check Webcourses frequently. You may also wish to create a Knight's Email account at www.knightsemail.ucf.edu for separate official communication from the university. If for any reason you cannot log into Webcourses, you may use my office email address which is: Annabelle.conroy@ucf.edu. You may also call or come to my office (information provided above) but keep in mind that the office staff do not take messages over the phone.

Electronic devices:

Laptops, tablets and cell phones **may not** be used during class unless indicated by the instructor. Please make sure that they are all either turned off or set to “silent” during class. A violation of this request will result in a loss of protocol points.

Students should familiarize themselves with UCF's Rules of ConductLinks to an external site.. According to Section 1, "Academic Misconduct," students are prohibited from engaging in:

- *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.
- *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.
- *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.
- *Falsifying or misrepresenting* the student's own academic work.
- *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.
- *Multiple Submissions*: Submitting the same academic work for credit more than once without the express written permission of the instructor.
- *Helping another violate* academic behavior standards.

For more information about Academic Integrity, students may consult The Center for Academic Integrity (Links to an external site.).
For more information about plagiarism and misuse of sources, see "Defining and Avoiding Plagiarism: The WPA Statement on Best Practices (Links to an external site.)".

Responses to Academic Dishonesty, Plagiarism, or Cheating

Students should also familiarize themselves with the procedures for academic misconduct in UCF's student handbook, The Golden Rule.Links to an external site.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 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 ServicesLinks to an external site. (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.htmlLinks to an external site..
- 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/workplacesafety.htmlLinks to an external site. (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.eduLinks to an external site. 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 about how to manage an active shooter situation on campus or elsewhere. You CAN Survive an Active Shooter

Deployed Active 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.

Copyright

This course may contain copyright protected materials such as audio or video clips, images, text materials, etc. These items are being used with regard to the Fair Use doctrine in order to enhance the learning environment. Please do not copy, duplicate, download or distribute these items. The use of these materials is strictly reserved for this online classroom environment and your use only. All copyright materials are credited to the copyright holder.

Third Party Software and FERPA

During this course you might have the opportunity to use public online services and/or software applications sometimes called third-party software such as a blog or wiki. While some of these could be required assignments, you need not make any personally identifying information on a public site. Do not post or provide any private information about yourself or your classmates. Where appropriate you may use a pseudonym or nickname. Some written assignments posted publicly may require personal reflection/comments, but the assignments will not require you to disclose any personally identity-sensitive information. If you have any concerns about this, please contact your instructor.