Fall 2020

POS 2041 - 0W65 American National Government

School of Politics, Security, and International Affairs, College of Science

3 credit hours

August 24-December 12, 2020

Instructor: Debidatta A. Mahapatra
Credit hours: 3
Mode of Teaching: W (asynchronous)
Office Hours: Email or appointment
Instructor E-mail: Debidatta.Mahapatra@ucf.edu.

UCF Catalogue Description
Prerequisite(s): None. Corequisite(s): None. Prerequisite(s) or Corequisite(s): None.
A study of the dynamics of American national government, including its structure, organization, powers, and procedures.

Course Objectives

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 Design
This course is a combination of academic activities involving zoom lectures, discussions, readings, quizzes, audiovisuals, and exams. It is designed to introduce you to theory, organization, principles and functions of national government, stressing relationships of individuals to all levels of government in the political system. Each activity serves a purpose, be it information transmission and retention, promoting rigorous analysis, or encouraging the development of new ideas. Failing to engage will adversely impact your grade. For this reason, pre-class preparation is essential for this course. Students are expected to have read the assigned material prior to the class and be prepared to discuss the same in the class.

Assignments

Quizzes: 20%

There will be 10 chapter quizzes in total. Quiz questions will be available on the Canvas on Saturday. There will be 25 multiple choice questions with each question having one 1 point. You will have one attempt, one hour, to do the quiz in this period. The quiz questions will be based on the reading material of that week. During the midterm and final exam weeks, there will be no separate quizzes. The quiz questions will be part of the exams. Quizzes will be available at the Quizzes section of the Canvas. Please read the instructions before you start the quiz. Make up work is not accepted. The students who complete all the quizzes will have their lowest quiz grade dropped.

Discussion: 20%

There will be 10 discussions. You will post your discussion essays on the Discussion forum in the Canvas. You are also required to make at least one comment per week on another student's essay on this forum. The discussion question will be available on Monday of the discussion week and cover its various aspects during the class discussion of that week. The essay and comments are due by 11:59 PM of Saturday of that week. The essay must connect the reading material and class discussion in a meaningful way. The students who complete all the essays and comments will have their lowest discussion grade dropped.

Midterm Exam, October 10: 30%

The midterm examination will consist of 25 multiple choice questions and three essay type questions (150 words each, 5 words more or less are fine). The word limit will be strictly followed, and violation of this rule will result in reduced points. All the multiple-choice questions will come from the chapters covered before the exam. Each quiz is worth 1 point, and each essay is worth 25 points. The first twenty-five questions will be multiple-choice questions, and the last three questions will be essay questions. While grading essays, I will follow the essay grading rubric posted on the Canvas.

I am interested to see the analytical skills of students, how they offer their perspectives – not quotations from books or articles or online resources. No plagiarism will be tolerated. You will have one attempt, two hours thirty minutes, to complete the exam on October 10. The exam will be available in the Quizzes section of the Canvas. Please read the instructions before you start the exam.

Final Exam, December 12: 30 %

The final examination will be in the final week of the semester. It will consist of 25 multiple choice questions and three essay type questions (150 words each, 5 words more or less are fine). The word limit will be strictly followed, and violation of this rule will result in reduced points. All the multiple-choice questions will come from the chapters covered after the midterm exam. Each quiz is worth 1 point, and each essay is worth 25 points. The first twenty-five questions will be multiple-choice questions, and the last three questions will be essay questions. While grading essays, I will follow the essay grading rubric posted on the Canvas.

I am interested to see the analytical skills of students, how they offer their perspectives – not quotations from books or articles or online resources. No plagiarism will be tolerated. You will have one attempt, two hours thirty minutes, to complete the exam on December 12. The exam will be available in the Quizzes section of the Canvas. Please read the instructions before you start the exam.

Grades
The grade scale I use is below.

100>g≥94: A	89>g≥88: B+	79>g≥78: C+	69>g≥68: D+	59>g≥0: F
93>g≥ 90: A-	87>g≥ 84: B	77>g≥ 74: C	67>g≥64: D	
	83>g≥ 80: B-	73>g≥ 70: C-	63>g≥60: D-	

Academic Integrity
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

1. 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.
2. 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.
3. 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.
4. Falsifying or misrepresenting the student's own academic work.
5. 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.
6. Multiple Submissions: Submitting the same academic work for credit more than once without the express written permission of the instructor.
7. Helping another violate academic behavior standards.

For more information about Academic Integrity, consult the International Center for Academic Integrity <http://academicintegrity.org>.
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
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>.

Turnitin.com statement

In this course we will utilize turnitin.com, an automated system which instructors can use to quickly and easily compare each student's assignment with billions of web sites, as well as an enormous database of student papers that grows with each submission. Accordingly, you will be expected to submit assignments through the Canvas Assignment Tool in electronic format. After the assignment is processed, as an instructor I receive a report from turnitin.com that states if and how another author's work was used in the assignment. For a more detailed look at this process, visit http://www.turnitin.com.

Course Accessibility Statement.

The University of Central Florida is 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/AEDlocations-UCF> (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 <https://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>).

Make-Up Assignments for Authorized University Events or Co-curricular Activities
Students who represent the university in an authorized event or activity (for example, student-athletes) and who are unable to meet a course deadline due to a conflict with that event must provide the instructor with documentation in advance to arrange a make-up. No penalty will be applied. For more information, see the UCF policy at <http://policies.ucf.edu/documents/4-401.1MakeupAssignmentsForAuthorizedUniversityEventsOrCocurricularActivities.pdf>
In other cases, there will be no make-up assignments.

Extra-credit
I do not provide extra credit. There are multiple assignments to do well in the course.

Accessibility
The University of Central Florida considers the diversity of its students, faculty, and staff to be a strength and critical to its educational mission. UCF expects every member of the university community to contribute to an inclusive and respectful culture for all in its classrooms, work environments, and at campus events. Dimensions of diversity can include sex, race, age, national origin, ethnicity, gender identity and expression, intellectual and physical ability, sexual orientation, income, faith and non-faith perspectives, socio-economic class, political ideology, education, primary language, family status, military experience, political beliefs, cognitive style, and communication style. The individual intersection of these experiences and characteristics must be valued in our community.

Title IX prohibits sex discrimination, including sexual misconduct, sexual violence, sexual harassment, and retaliation. If you or someone you know has been harassed or assaulted, you can find resources available to support the victim, including confidential resources and information concerning reporting options at https://letsbeclear.ucf.edu/
If there are aspects of the design, instruction, and/or experiences within this course that result in barriers to your inclusion or accurate assessment of achievement, please notify the instructor as soon as possible and/or contact Student Accessibility Services. Disability Accommodation – Student Accessibility Services - http://sas.sdes.ucf.edu/ & sas@ucf.edu

University Writing Center
Colbourn 105
407-823-2197
http://uwc.ucf.edu/
The University Writing Center (UWC) offers writing support to UCF students from first-year to graduate in every discipline. Trained peer consultants provide help at every stage of the writing process, including understanding assignments, researching, drafting, revising, incorporating sources, and learning to proofread and edit. The UWC's purpose is not merely to fix papers or to make better writers, but to teach writers strategies to navigate complex situations for writing, both in and outside the University. Consultations are available for individuals and small groups.

To make the best use of the UWC, visit far enough before your due date to allow yourself time to revise after your consultation, browse the writing resources on our website, and arrange a regular weekly appointment if you'd like long-term help. You may schedule a 45-minute appointment by phone or by using the TutorTrac scheduler on our website; walk-in consultations are also available. In addition, the UWC seeks graduate and undergraduate tutors from all majors; contact the UWC to learn more about peer writing consulting and ENC 4275/5276: Theory & Practice of Tutoring Writing, our three-credit tutor-education course.

Religious Observances
Students must notify their instructor in advance if they intend to miss class for a religious observance. For more information, see the UCF policy at <http://regulations.ucf.edu/chapter5/documents/5.020ReligiousObservancesFINALOct17.pdf>.

Deployed Active Duty Military Students
Students who are deployed active duty military and/or National Guard personnel and require accommodation should contact their instructors as soon as possible after the semester begins and/or after they receive notification of deployment to make related arrangements.

STATEMENT REGARDING COVID-19

University-Wide Face Covering Policy for Common Spaces and Face-to-Face Classes
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.

Notifications in Case of Changes to Course Modality
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.

Email policy
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. It is the student's responsibility to check the "coursemail" tool frequently. You may also wish to create a Knight's Email account at www.knightsemail.ucf.edu for separate official communication from the university.

Changes to the Syllabus
In the event that there is a need for any changes to the syllabus, an e-mail will be sent to all students through Canvas email and Announcements.

Readings
You should purchase Ginsberg et al, *We the People* (Norton, 2019, 12th Core Edition): https://www.amazon.com/People-Core-Twelfth-Andrea-Campbell-ebook/dp/B07MQVV4N8
It is available in the campus bookstore and from a variety of online vendors. I will provide additional material from time to time.

Important dates

Semester Begins	August 24
Withdrawal deadline	October 30
Labor Day	September 7
Veterans Day	November 11
Thanksgiving	November 26-28

Assignment due dates

Quizzes	
Syllabus quiz	August 28
First quiz	September 12
Second quiz	September 19
Third quiz	September 26
Fourth quiz	October 3
Fifth quiz	October 17
Sixth quiz	October 24
Seventh quiz	October 31
Eighth quiz	November 7
Ninth quiz	November 14

Tenth quiz	December 5
Discussion	
First discussion	September 5
Second discussion	September 12
Third discussion	September 19
Fourth discussion	September 26
Fifth discussion	October 17
Sixth discussion	October 24
Seventh discussion	October 31
Eighth discussion	November 7
Ninth discussion	November 14
Tenth discussion	November 21
Midterm Exam	October 10
Final Exam	December 12

Course Schedule

First week, August 24-29
Introduction to the course

Second week, August 31-September 5
The Citizen and Government
We the People, Chapter 1

Third week, September 7-12
The Founding and the Constitution
We the People, Chapter 2

Fourth week, September 14-19
Federalism
We the People, Chapter 3

Fifth week, September 21-26
Civil Liberties and Civil Rights
We the People, Chapter 4

Sixth week, September 28-October 3
Public Opinion
We the People, Chapter 5

Seventh week, October 5-10
Midterm Exam

Eighth week, October 12-17
The Media
We the People, Chapter 6

Ninth week, October 19-24
Political Parties, Participation, and Elections
We the People, Chapter 7

10th week, October 26-31
Interest Groups
We the People, Chapter 8

11th week, November 2-7
Congress
We the People, Chapter 9

12th week, November 9-14
The Presidency
We the People, Chapter 10

13th week, November 16-21
Bureaucracy
We the People, Chapter 11

14th week, November 23-28
The Federal Courts
We the People, Chapter 12

15th week, November 30-December 5
The Foreign Policy
We the People, Chapter 14

16th week, December 7-12
Final Examination