POS 2041.0604: American National Government

Department of Political Science, College of Sciences

3 Credit Hours

Course Syllabus

Instructor:	Dr. Gary Smith	Term:	Summer 2019
Office Location:	302N Howard Philips Hall	Class Meeting Days:	Tuesday/Thursday
Office Hours:	Friday 10:00AM – 12:00PM and by appointment.	Class Meeting Time:	1:00PM-2:50PM
Phone:	407-823-2608	Class Location:	BA 1 – 126
Email:	Gary.smith@knights.ucf.edu or Webcourses@UCF messaging	Course Modality:	Lecture

Course Description

POS 2041: American National Government: A study of the dynamics of American national government, including its structure, organization, powers, and procedures.

The structure and actions of the U.S. national government play a central role in the lives of most of us. The effects of government policy can be quite clear to us – in the form of tax law and healthcare legislation – or the effects can be more indirect – for example in the adjustments of interest rates by the federal reserve. Regardless of how it affects us, the government and its policies are all around us at any given moment. Therefore, it is necessary that we all possess a solid understanding of why our government was structured the way that it was, why that structure has persisted, how that structure compares of other countries, and what that structure means for the future of the United States.

This course presents challenges that may be somewhat unique to many early career college students. First, the structure of the U.S. government can be complex and difficult to wrap one's head around. Second, and most importantly, there is not always one right answer to the questions that are posed in this course. Two perfectly reasonable people can be presented with the same problem and come up with two completely different answers. Therefore, while some of the assignments in this course will ask black-and-white questions, many of the questions posed in your assignments are open-ended and will ask you to offer the "best" solution a propose problem. Through in-class discussion, critical thinking questions, and dutiful reading, I hope that many of you will become comfortable making competing arguments with the goal of addressing the same potential challenges that are a result of social changes in the face of an inflexible government structure.

Now, a little bit about me! I'm an Orlando native and a recent graduate of UCF's Security Studies Ph.D. program (December 2018). I completed my M.A. in Political Science here in August of 2014 and received my B.A. in Political Science from Louisiana State University in the Summer of 2012. When I'm not conducting research in the field of conflict studies and political psychology, or teaching undergraduate courses here and at Valencia College – Osceola, I'm growing veggies and tending to my butterfly gardens while playing with our dog Mildred and our three cats Bastilla, Soban, and Amber. I

love, love teaching undergraduate courses in political science and I'm very happy to help anyone who is struggling in the course. Please do not hesitate to ask me to make appointments or stop me in class if I'm going too fast, I don't want anyone left behind!

Student Learning Outcomes

By the end of this course:

- 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.
- Students will develop and demonstrate an understanding of the United States Constitution and its application.
- 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.
- 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.
- Students will develop and demonstrate the ability to critically analyze current news events relevant to U.S. law & politics.
- Students will develop and demonstrate the ability to critically develop and assess individual arguments.
- Students will develop and demonstrate to propose logically constructed solutions to policy problems.
- Students will improve their oral and written communication skills.

Enrollment Requirements

This course does not have prerequisites.

Course Activities

Current Events Requirement

In order to adequately see the information we're learning in practice, you will need to stay engaged in current events that are happening around the U.S. Therefore, you will need to read the news headlines and details daily. In order to ensure uniformity, everyone should get their key news resources from the Associated Press (AP) Newswire services. There will be current events questions on both the midterm and final exams and they will be drawn from this service. You are, of course, welcome to continue to gather news information from multiple sources, but make sure that you are using this service to track key news of the day for exam purposes. We will start each class with a brief (approx.. 5-10 minute) discussion of current events. During this discussion, simply reading a headline will not be sufficient for getting participation points. You should be able to discuss some of the details of the news story or ask questions about those details. Link: AP Newswire

Attendance (5%)

Students are expected to attend class regularly in order to succeed. Our class meets every Tuesday and Thursday from 1:00PM to 2:50PM. Roll call attendance will be taken at the beginning of every class and will be worth 5% of your overall grade.

Participation (10%)

Though attendance is a necessary component of success in this course, it is not sufficient. Simply being present does not mean that you are critically engaging in the material. Therefore, in order to demonstrate that you're following the assigned readings and following current events, you will need to take part in the in-class discussions. In order to get credit for participation, at the end of each class you will need to submit a slip of paper (preferably a 3x5 notecard) with your name, the date, and a brief description of

your contribution to the class discussion. In order to get full credit, you must submit **10** total slips. You can only submit one slip per class.

Webcourses Discussions (10%)
Each week, you will be expected to take part in discussions in Webcourses. You have all been placed into discussion groups that will debate and discuss issues relevant to our class materials. Each student will be expected to make his or her own original post addressing the prompt and at least one reply to a classmate's post. In order to get credit, replies should be substantive and relevant to the topic. You will be ineligible for full credit if you fail to complete both parts of this discussion assignment. These are due by 11:59PM each Sunday.

Unit Quizzes (20%)
At the end of each chapter, you will need to complete a unit quiz in Webcourses. These quizzes will vary in length (depending on the amount of material covered that week) and be a mixture of multiple-choice and short-answer questions. These quizzes will cover individual chapters as they are completed. Therefore, it is possible that students may have more than one chapter quiz in a given week. These quizzes cover, almost exclusively, the material in the textbook in order to make sure you are following the assigned readings. These quizzes **cannot be made up if missed for any reason**.

Midterm Exam (25%)
The midterm exam will include 20 current events questions (worth 0.5 points each) and two essay questions (45 pts. each). The exam will be taken on the Webcourses platform, at home or in the library. You will be given a wide time window to complete this exam. Students will be expected to work on this midterm alone and each exam will have different questions (meaning no two exams may ask the same question).

Final Exam (30%)
The final exam will be cumulative and include 20 current events questions (worth 0.5 pts. each) and three essay questions (30 pts. each). The exam will be given on the Webcourses platform. The final location of the exam will be announced approximately two weeks before the final exam.

Important Dates

- Classes begin: May 13th, 2019
- Last day to drop without "W": May 16th, 2019
- Add deadline: May 17th, 2019
- Memorial Day (no class): May 27th, 2019
- Spring Break: March 11th – March 16th, 2019
- Independence Day (no class): July 4th, 2019
- Withdrawal deadline: July 5th, 2019

Assignment Submission
All assignments (except exams) will be submitted and tracked in Webcourses. Demonstrations will be made during the first day of class.

Assessment and Grading Procedures

Grading Methods

A: 90% - 100%

B: 80% - 89%
C: 70% - 79%
D: 60% - 69%
F: <59%

Make-up Exams and Assignments

Per university policy, students must be allowed to turn in make-up work (or an equivalent, alternate assignment) for university-sponsored events, religious observances, or legal obligations (such as jury duty).

The Undergraduate Catalog states, "Reasons for acceptable absences may include illness, serious family emergencies, special curricular requirements (e.g., judging trips, field trips, and professional conferences), military obligations, severe weather conditions, and religious holidays." However, you **must let me know prior to the absence in these situations in order to guarantee you receive credit.**

Grade Dissemination

To comply with the Family Educational Rights and Privacy Act (FERPA), grades must not be released to third parties, which includes posting grades by name, SSN, or UCFID. While students may sign documents allowing their educational records to be released to a particular third party, it is the policy of this instructor that I do not discuss academic records with third parties unless the circumstance is a documentable emergency. To ensure students have prompt feedback, and knowledge of their progress, faculty members must record all grades in Webcourses@UCF and follow student data classification and security standards.

Course Materials and Resources

Required Textbook

Krutz, Glen and Sylvie Waskiewicz. 2016. *American Government*.

This textbook does not need to be purchased, it is free, and is available through OpenStax. You can download the text in multiple formatss through their website (link below) and will be provided as a PDF in Webcourses.

Link: Textbook Website

Policy Statements

Attendance Expectations

While attendance is not going to be enough to guarantee success in this course, it is a necessary condition for you to succeed. In addition to being present, you are expected to arrive **on time**. I understand that occasionally a late arrival cannot be avoided, but students who make a habit of arriving to class late may be asked to leave and return at the start of the next class. I will, of course, speak to a student whose attendance is becoming problematic before resorting to any disciplinary action.

Technology Policy

Laptops and Tablets
Most, if not all, of course materials will be made available through the Webcourses platform. As a result, students are welcome to bring laptops and/or tablets to class in order to take notes or interact with the material. However, if it becomes apparent that these technology tools are becoming disruptive, I reserve the right to disallow access to such technologies.

Cell Phones
Students should place their cellular phones on “silent” or “vibrate” modes. Students may not use cell phones to record or photograph lecture materials or notes without the express permission of the instructor. Students whose cellular devices disrupt the class may be asked to excuse themselves for the remainder of the class and may forfeit any participation points for the class period. In the event you are encountering a personal issue that requires you to be able to access your cell phone, please inform me at the beginning of class and seat yourself near an exit so you can step out of class with minimal disruption.

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 acknowledg-ing 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 appropri-ately.

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
Faculty have reported errors in class notes being sold by third parties, and the errors may be contributing to higher failure rates in some classes. The following is a statement appropriate for distribution to your classes or for inclusion on your syllabus:
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.

Course Schedule

This schedule provides a comprehensive list of work required for adequate class preparation. This means that the readings assigned for a given day should be read **before** class begins and assignments should be completed **by the deadline listed**.

SECTION 1: THE ORIGINS OF THE U.S. SYSTEM OF GOVERNMENT

Week 1 (Week ending May 17th, 2019):

Tuesday May 14th, 2019
- Required Readings:
  - Read the syllabus thoroughly
  - Textbook Chapter 1 "American Government and Civil Engagement"
- Required Listening:
  - The "Civics 101" podcast episode titled, "Declaration of Independence"
- Required Assignment:
  - **Chapter 1 Unit Quiz (due Wednesday, May 14th, 2019 by 11:59pm)**

Thursday May 16th, 2019
- Required Readings:
  - Textbook Chapter 2 "The Constitution and Its Origins"
- Required Listening:
  - The "Civics 101" podcast episode titled, "Articles of Confederation"
  - The "Civics 101" podcast episode titled, "The Constitution"
  - The "Civics 101" podcast episode titled, "The Federalist and Anti-Federalist Papers"
- Required Assignment:
  - **Chapter 2 Unit Quiz (due Friday, May 17th, 2019 by 11:59pm)**
  - **Week 1 Discussion Topic (due Sunday, May 19th, 2019 by 11:59pm)**
- Suggested Readings:
  - Founding Documents (link in Webcourses)

Week 2 (Week ending May 24th, 2019):

Tuesday May 21st, 2019
- Required Readings:
  - Textbook Chapter 3 "American Federalism"
    - Read sections 3.1, 3.2, 3.3 only.
- Required Listening:
  - The "Civics 101" podcast episode titled, "Federalism"

Thursday May 23rd, 2019

- Required Readings:
  - Textbook Chapter 3 "American Federalism" continued
    - Read sections 3.4 and 3.5.
- Required Film:
  - Watch the *PBS Frontline* documentary "Separate and Unequal." (Link provided in Webcourses).
- Required Assignment:
  - **Chapter 3 Unit Quiz (due Friday, May 24th, 2019 by 11:9pm)**
  - **Week 2 Discussion Topic (due Sunday, May 26th, 2019 by 11:59pm)**

Week 3 (Week ending May 31st, 2019)

Tuesday May 28th, 2019

- Required Readings:
  - Textbook Chapter 11: "Congress"
    - Sections: 11.1, 11.2, 11.3.
- Required Listening:
  - The "Civics 101" podcast episode titled, "Speaker of the House"
  - The "Civics 101" podcast episode titled, "Impeachment"
  - The "Civics 101" podcast episode titled, "Gerrymandering"
- Required Video:
  - *Last Week Tonight* clip titled "Gerrymandering"

Thursday May 30th, 2019

- Required Readings:
  - Textbook Chapter 11: "Congress"
    - Sections 11.4 and 11.5
- Required Listening:
  - The "Civics 101" podcast episode titled, "Midterm Election: House vs. Senate"
  - The "Civics 101" podcast episode titled, "Congressional Investigations"
  - The "Civics 101" podcast episode titled, "How a Bill Becomes a Law"
  - The "Civics 101" podcast episode titled, "Government Shutdowns"
- Required Video:
  - *Last Week Tonight* clip titled "Congressional Fundraising"
- Required Assignments:
  - **Chapter 11 Unit Quiz (due Friday, May 31st, 2019 by 11:59pm)**
  - **Week 3 Discussion Topic (due Sunday, June 2nd, 2019)**

Week 4 (Week ending June 7th, 2019)

Tuesday June 4th, 2019

- Required Readings:
  - Textbook Chapter 12: "The Presidency"
    - Sections 12.1 and 12.2
- Required Listening:
  - The "Civics 101" podcast episode titled, "Who Gets to Run for President?"
  - The "Civics 101" podcast episode titled, "The Electoral College"
  - The "Civics 101" podcast episode titled, "Presidential Pardons"

Thursday June 6th, 2019

- Required Readings:

    - Textbook Chapter 12: "The Presidency"
        - Sections 12.3, 12.4, and 12.5
- Required Listening:
    - The "Civics 101" podcast episode titled, "Presidential Transitions"
    - The "Civics 101" podcast episode titled, "Executive Orders"
    - The "Civics 101" podcast episode titled, "Veto"
    - The "Civics 101" podcast episode titled, "The Cabinet"
    - The "Civics 101" podcast episode titled, "Commander-in-Chief"
- Required Assignments:
    - **Chapter 12 Unit Quiz (due Friday, June 7th, 2019 by 11:59pm)**
    - **Week 4 Discussion Topic (due Sunday, June 9th, 2019 by 11:59pm)**

Week 5 (Week ending June 14th, 2019)

Tuesday June 11th, 2019

- Required Readings:
    - Textbook Chapter 13: "The Courts"
        - Sections 13.1, 13.2, and 13.3
- Required Listening:
    - The "Civics 101" podcast episode titled, "Federal Courts"
- Required Video:
    - U.S. Law Essentials: "What are Federal and State Court Systems?"

Thursday June 13th, 2019

- Required Readings:
    - Textbook Chapter 13: "The Courts"
        - Sections 13.4 and 13.5
    - Supreme Court majority opinion *Foster v. Chatman* (2016)
        - Pages 1-4
- Required Listening:
    - The "Civics 101" podcast episode titled, "How a Case Gets to the Supreme Court"
    - The "Civics 101" podcast episode titled, "Overturning a Supreme Court Ruling"
    - The "In the Dark" podcast episode titled, "Before the Court"
    - The "In the Dark" podcast episode titled, "Oral Arguments"
- Required Assignments:
    - **Chapter 13 Unit Quiz (due Friday, June 14th, 2019 by 11:59pm)**
    - **Week 5 Discussion Topic (due Sunday, June 16th, 2019 by 11:59pm)**

Week 6 (Week ending June 21st, 2019)

Tuesday June 18th, 2019

- Required Readings:
    - Chapter 4: "Civil Liberties"
        - The entire chapter
- Required Listening:
    - The "Civics 101" podcast episode titled, "Founding Documents: The Bill of Rights"
    - The "Civics 101" podcast episode titled, "The First Amendment – Freedom of Speech"
    - The "Civics 101" podcast episode titled, "The First Amendment – Freedom of Assembly"
    - The "Civics 101" podcast episode titled, "The 1st Amendment – Freedom of the Press"
    - The "Civics 101" podcast episode titled, "The 2nd Amendment"
    - The "Civics 101" podcast episode titled, "The Fourth Amendment"

- Required Video:
    - "Why wasn't the Bill of Rights Originally included in the US Constitution?" by TEDEd
- Required Assignment:
    - **Chapter 4 Unit Quiz (due Wednesday, June 19th, 2019 by 11:59pm)**

Thursday June 20th, 2019

- Required Readings:
    - Textbook Chapter 5: "Civil Rights"
        - The entire chapter
- Required Listening:
    - The "Civics 101" podcast episode titled, "The Thirteenth Amendment"
    - The "Civics 101" podcast episode titled, "The Fourteenth Amendment"
    - The "Civics 101" podcast episode titled, "The Fifteenth Amendment"
    - The "Civics 101" podcast episode titled, "Voting Rights"
    - The "Civics 101" podcast episode titled, "The Americans with Disabilities Act"
- Required Assignments:
    - **Chapter 5 Unit Quiz (due Friday, June 21st, 2019 by 11:59pm)**
    - **Week 6 Discussion Topic (due Sunday, June 23rd, 2019 by 11:59pm)**

Week 7 (Week ending June 28th, 2019)

Tuesday June 25th, 2019

- Required Readings:
    - Textbook Chapter 6: "The Politics of Public Opinion"
        - Sections 6.1 & 6.2
- Required Listening:
    - The "Civics 101" podcast episode titled, "Understanding the Public Comment Period"
    - The "Make Me Smart" podcast episode titled, "Should you Trust Polling?"
- Required Video:
    - "Pros and Cons of Public Opinion Polls" by TEDEd.

Thursday June 27th, 2019

- Required Readings:
    - Textbook Chapter 6: "The Politics of Public Opinion"
        - Sections 6.3 & 6.4
- Required Listening:
    - The "Civics 101" podcast episode titled, "Approval Ratings"
- Required Videos:
    - "Public Opinion" by PBS Crash Course Government and Politics Series
    - "Shaping Public Opinion" by PBS Crash Course Government and Politics Series
- Required Assignments:
    - **Chapter 6 Unit Quiz (due by Friday June 28th, 2019 by 11:59pm)**
    - **Week 7 Discussion Topic (due by Sunday, June 30th, 2019 by 11:59 pm)**

THE MIDTERM EXAM WILL OPEN IN WEBCOURSES. THIS EXAM WILL BE COMPLETED AT HOME AND WILL BE DUE BY SUNDAY, JULY 7TH, 2019 BY 11:59PM

Week 8 (Week ending July 5th, 2019)

Tuesday July 2nd, 2019

- Required Readings:
    - Textbook Chapter 7: "Voting and Elections"

        - Sections 7.1, 7.2, and 7.3
- Required Listening:
    - The "Civics 101" podcast episode titled, "How we Vote"
    - The "Civics 101" podcast episode titled, "The Two-Party System"

Thursday July 4th, 2019
NO CLASS: INDEPENDENCE DAY

Week 9 (Week ending July 12th, 2019)
Tuesday July 9th, 2019

- Required Readings:
    - Textbook Chapter 7: "Voting and Elections"
        - Sections 7.4 & 7.5
- Required Listening:
    - The "Civics 101" podcast episode titled, "Super PACs"
    - The "Civics 101" podcast episode titled, "U.S. Voting Systems"
- Required Video:
    - "Political Campaigns" by PBS Crash Course Government and Politics Series
- Required Assignments:
    - **Chapter 7 Unit Quiz (due Wednesday, July 10th, 2019 by 11:59pm)**

Thursday July 11th, 2019

- Required Readings:
    - Textbook Chapter 8: "The Media"
        - Entire Chapter
- Required Listening:
    - The "Civics 101" podcast episode titled, "White House Press Corps"
- Required Videos:
    - *Last Week Tonight* "Journalism"
    - *Last Week Tonight* "Sinclair Broadcast Group"
    - *Last Week Tonight* "Native Advertising"
    - "Media Institution" by PBS Crash Course Government and Politics Series
    - "Media Regulation" by PBS Crash Course Government and Politics Series
- Required Assignments:
    - **Chapter 8 Unit Quiz (due Friday, July 12th, 2019 by 11:59pm)**
    - **Week 8 Discussion topic (due Sunday, July 14th, 2019 by 11:59pm)**

Week 10 (Week ending July 19th, 2019)
Tuesday July 16th, 2019

- Required Readings:
    - Textbook Chapter 9: "Political Parties"
        - The entire chapter
- Required Listening:
    - The "Civics 101" podcast episode titled, "The Two-Party System"
    - The "Civics 101" podcast episode titled, "Party Whips"
- Required Videos:
    - "Political Parties" by PBS Crash Course Government and Politics Series
    - "Party Systems" by PBS Crash Course Government and Politics Series
- Required Assignments:

- **Chapter 9 Unit Quiz (due Wednesday, July 17th, 2019 by 11:59pm)**

Thursday July 18th, 2019

- Required Readings:
  - Textbook Chapter 10: "Interest Groups and Lobbying"
    - Entire chapter
- Required Listening:
  - The "Civics 101" podcast episode titled, "Lobbying"
- Required Videos:
  - "Interest Groups" by PBS Crash Course Government and Politics Series
  - "Interest Group Formation" by PBS Crash Course Government and Politics Series
  - *Last Week Tonight* "State Legislatures and ALEC"
- Required Assignments:
  - **Chapter 10 Unit Quiz (due Friday, July 19th, 2019 by 11:59pm)**
  - **Week 10 Discussion Topic (due Sunday, July 21st, 2019 by 11:59pm)**

Week 11 (Week ending July 26th, 2019)

Tuesday July 23rd, 2019

- Required Readings:
  - Textbook Chapter 16: "Domestic Policy"
    - Sections 16.1, 16.2, and 16.3
- Required Listening:
  - The "Civics 101" podcast episode titled, "How a Bill Becomes a Law"
  - The "Civics 101" podcast episode titled, "Welfare"
  - The "Civics 101" podcast episode titled, "The Affordable Care Act"

Thursday July 25th, 2019

- Required Readings:
  - Textbook Chapter 16: "Domestic Policy"
    - Sections 16.4 and 16.5
- Required Listening:
  - The "Civics 101" podcast episode titled, "Budget Basics"
  - The "Civics 101" podcast episode titled, "National Debt and Deficits"
  - The "Civics 101" podcast episode titled, "Government Shutdown"
  - The "Civics 101" podcast episode titled, "The Debt Ceiling"
  - The "Civics 101" podcast episode titled, "DACA"
  - The "Civics 101" podcast episode titled, "Infrastructure – Roads!"
  - The "Civics 101" podcast episode titled, "Infrastructure – Water!"
- Required Assignments:
  - **Chapter 16 Unit Quiz (due Friday, July 26th, 2019 by 11:59pm)**
  - **Week 11 Discussion Topic (due Sunday, July 28th, 2019)**

Week 12 (Week ending August 2nd, 2019)

Tuesday July 30th, 2019

- **No required readings or listening, this class period will be a final exam review day. Therefore, come with questions about concepts that you are unclear about that may appear on the cumulative final exam.**

Thursday August 1st, 2019

- **Final exam day. The final exam will be given on the Webcourses platform. The location where the exam may take place is to be announced depending on student access to laptop computers.**