Political Science 2041: American National Government
University of Central Florida
Summer 2019, Session B
Instructor: John Hanley
Syllabus

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

Instructor: Dr. John Hanley
Office 306 Howard Phillips Hall
Office Hours: via email & by appointment.
Email: via webcourses
Phone: 407-823-3329

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

Required Text
American Government Textbook

The eTextbook edition https://openstax.org/details/books/american-government-2e is available free-of-charge.

If you desire to purchase a print version of the original edition of the textbook, you may do so via Amazon: OpenStax American Government, American Government. OpenStax CNX. Oct 27, 2017 http://cnx.org/contents/5bcc0e59-7345-421d-8507-a1e4608685e8@15.12

Course Summary
This is a survey course is designed to provide students with a foundation for understanding and critically assessing American political processes, institutions, and public policies. The course proceeds in four major sections: first, we will situate the institutions of American government in the context of their creation and understand the objectives of the Founders and the tradeoffs inherent in institutional design. Second, we will observe and evaluate the performance of governmental institutions. Third, we will examine the relationships between government and individuals, groups, and corporate entities. Finally, we will consider American public policy. Throughout the course, but with particular attention at the end, we will assess the outcomes generated by American government both at home and abroad. [Tl;dr (UCF Catalog): "A study of the dynamics of American national government, including its structure, organization, powers, and procedures."]

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

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

Course Requirements
Assignments
You are responsible for:

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

<u>Validation and Grading</u>
The maximum points available for assignments will be as follows:

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

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

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

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

Late, and make-up work

- Late work (initial discussion postings and essays) will be penalized at a rate of 10% per day late (including weekend days and holidays unless otherwise noted in the module).
- BUT--Because discussion postings cannot be made after the discussion is closed - there is no late option for final discussion postings.
- No work will be accepted more than three days after the deadline (or after the deadline for the final exam).

Schedule
Module Dates Topic/Module Readings

PART I: INTRODUCTION TO AMERICAN NATIONAL GOVERNMENT
June 24-July 1 (Monday)
Module #1: American Government, Civic Engagement, and the Constitution
Read Chapters 1-2

June 29-July 5 (Friday)
Module #2: Federalism and Congress
Read: Chapters 3 & 11

July 5-10 (Wednesday)
Module #3: The Presidency and the Bureaucracy
Read: Chapters 12 & 15

July 10-16 (Tuesday)
Module #4: The Courts and Civil Liberties
Read: Chapters 13 & 4

July 16-22 (Monday)
Module #5: Political Parties and Civil Rights
Read: Chapters 9 & 5

July 20-26 (Friday)
Module #6: Public Opinion, Voting. Campaigns and Elections
Read: Chapters 6 & 7

July 26-August 1 (Thursday)
Module #7: Interest Groups and the Media
Read: Chapters 8 & 10

July 30-August 2 (Friday)
Optional Module: Optional Final Exam

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

Attendance Policy
Because this is a completely online class with no face-to-face meetings, there is no attendance policy. **You need to keep up** with the pace of the class and participate in all parts of each of the modules. This course packs the content of 14 weeks into a 6 week block. So, really, the

workload for this course is equivalent to that of 2.5 regular courses (for a shorter time) and taking two courses is the commitment equivalent of a full courseload during the semester. Taking three or more courses, or two courses plus a significant work commitment, or course plus work plus a mid-July vacation—or the like—is a recipe for disaster.

Note that each module contains several deadlines; that is, not all work for a module is due on the last day listed on the Schedule. You must read each module's instructions for a list of deadlines for the various assignments and deadlines. It is your responsibility to check these deadlines as soon as a module opens so you won't miss any due dates.

The federally-mandated attendance reporting policy requires you to complete an assignment before the end of the first week (before 5 pm on Friday). I will use a short pre-test for this purpose. It does not matter what score you receive on this quiz, but you must complete it before the deadline.

Academic Honesty

Plagiarism and cheating of any kind on any examination or assignment will result in an "F" for that assignment and may be subject to appropriate referral to the Office of Student Conduct for further action. See the updated UCF Golden Rule for further information. Any module that contains any material that is identified by the professor as plagiarized will not be eligible to be dropped as your lowest grade. Please do not plagiarize!

I will assume for this course that you will adhere to the academic creed of this University and will maintain the highest standards of academic integrity.

I will also adhere to the highest standards of academic integrity, so please do not ask me to change (or expect me to change) your grade illegitimately or to bend or break rules for one person that will not apply to everyone.

All your work must be done on your own; you are not allowed to collaborate on discussion postings, essays, or exams. In short, all your written work and work submitted for grading must be your own, original work.

Sexual Harassment

Title IX makes it clear that violence and harassment based on sex that interferes with educational opportunities is an offense subject to the same penalties as offenses based on other protected categories such as race, national origin, etc. 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 shield.ucf.edu. Perpetrators are subject to expulsion or termination and may also be subject to criminal penalties.

Accessibility Statement

The University of Central Florida is committed to providing reasonable accommodations for all persons with disabilities. This syllabus is available in alternate formats upon request. Students with disabilities who need accommodations in this course must contact the professor at the beginning of the semester to discuss needed accommodations. No accommodations will be provided until the student has met with the professor to request accommodations. Students who need accommodations must connect with Student Accessibility Services, Ferrell Commons, 7F, Room 185, phone (407) 823-2371, TTY/TDD only phone (407) 823-2116, before requesting accommodations from the professor.

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.