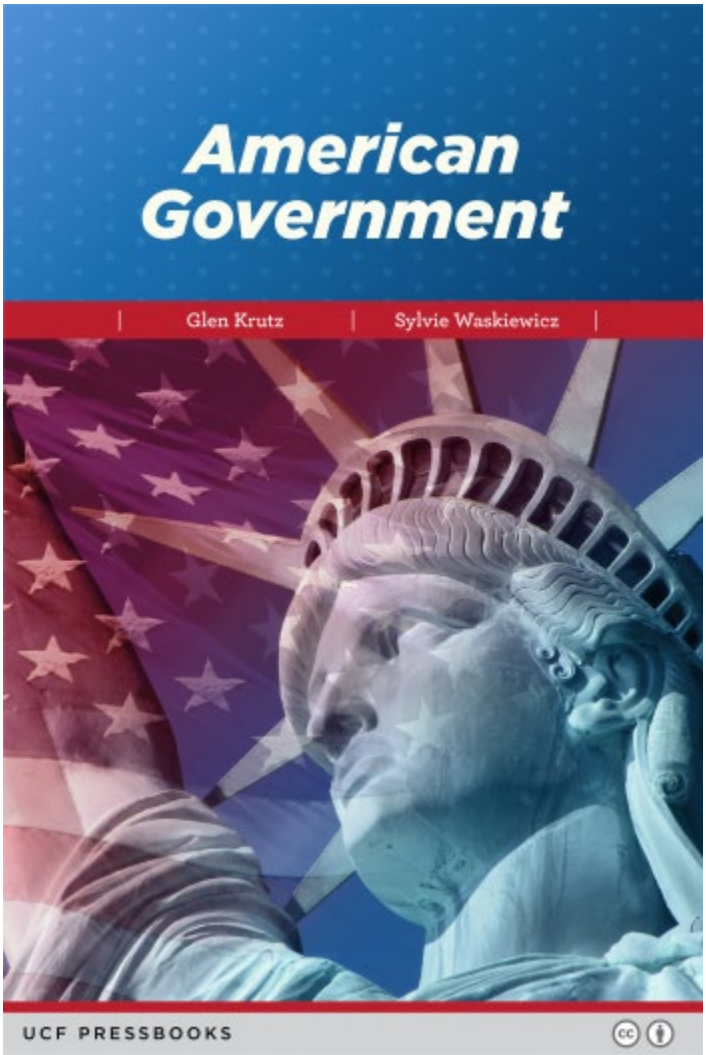
POS2041-20Summer C602

POS2041 American National Government

Dr. Annabelle Conroy



Instructor Information

- Instructor: Dr. Annabelle Conroy
- Office Location: HPH 302
- Office Hours: Monday-Thursday: 8:00 AM - 9:00 AM and by appointment
- Phone: (407) 823-2608
- Digital Contact: Please use the Webcourses@UCF messaging to contact me. I aim to respond within 48 hours.

Course Information

- Term: Summer 2020
- Course Number & Section: POS2041-C602
- 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.

Course Materials and Resources

Required Materials/Resources

The textbook for this class is:

OpenStax and Lumen Learning: *American Government (2e)*, https://pressbooks.online.ucf.edu/pos2041ac/

This textbook is an OpenStax/Pressbooks textbook which means it is free to view and download. 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. In addition, if you wish to download the whole book at time and begin looking through it, click on the title and then click on the "Download PDF" link on the right of the screen.

In addition to the textbook, you will need the following materials:

- Webcam
- Reliable access to the internet

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 in-class 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. 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.

Classwork

Each week we will have class discussions and written assignments to be completed in class. The assignments will generally be based on questions derived from the week's topic. This classwork will also serve as preparation for the exams. In order to do well in these class assignments, it is important that you come well prepared for class. This means that you should keep up with the readings, review the previous lecture before coming to class and prepare the questions presented in each module.

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 or you will miss the points for that session.

Make-up Exam and 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 (10 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: May 11	Introduction: American Government and Civic Engagement	Week 1 Module
Week 2: May 18	The Constitution and its Origins	Week 2 Module
Week 3: May 25	American Federalism	Monday: No class (Memorial Day) Week 3 Module
Part II: Individual Agency and Action		

Week 4: June 1	Civil Liberties	Week 4 Module
Week 5: June 8	Civil Rights	Week 5 Module
Week 6: June 15	Public Opinion	Week 6 Module
Week 7: June 22	Voting and Elections	Week 7 Module
Part III: Toward Collective Action: Mediating Institutions		
Week 8: June 29	The Media	Week 8 Module Withdrawal Deadline: Monday, June 29, 2020 Friday: No class (Independence Day)
Week 9: July 6	Political Parties	Week 9 Module
Week 10: July 13	Interest Groups and Lobbying	No Assignments
Part IV: Delivering Collective Action: Formal Institutions		

Week 11: July 20	Political Institutions	Week 11 Module
Week 12: July 27	Review	Week 12 Module **Final Exam:** Friday, July 31

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.

Academic Integrity

Course Accessibility Statement

Campus Safety Statement

Deployed Active Duty Military Students

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