Political Science 2041.BW61 American National Government

University of Central Florida

Fall 2021

Instructor: John Hanley

Syllabus

Location: Online (no required face-to-face meetings, however there are semi-monthly optional discussions via Zoom)

3 Credit hours

Instructor: Dr. John Hanley

Logistics

Class Meetings: Online

Pre-requisites: None.

Office Hours: Zoom, by appointment (Links to an external site.) (Links to an external site.) (use passcode "citronaut"); or by appointment.

Email via webcourses Phone: 407-823-3329

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

Required Text

Textbook: Glen Krutz and Sylvie Waskiewicz. OpenStax American Government, Second Edition. https://openstax.org/details/books/american-government-2e (Links to an external site.)

This is a free, open-source, online textbook. There are links through the OpenStax website to obtain a print copy should you wish (approximate cost $48).

Catalog Description

A study of the dynamics of American national government, including its structure, organization, powers, and procedures.

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.

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.

Validation and Grading

The maximum points available for assignments will be as follows:

Syllabus & Intro Quiz	15 points (completion)
Writing Assignments	80 points each, 560 points
Crossword Puzzles	10 points each, 60 points (lowest grade dropped)
Short Quizzes	10 points each, 60 points (lowest grade dropped)
Final Quiz	15 points (completion)
TOTAL	710 points

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

A > 662 points	B+ > 615	C+ > 544	D > 426
A- > 639	B > 591	C > 521	F < 426
	B- > 568	C- > 498	

Optional Final Exam

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

Incomplete grades, changes in exam dates, and extensions of written assignments will be approved only by the instructor, and only upon evidence of extenuating circumstances.

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).

Optional Synchronous Political Discussions

The State of Florida requires this course to provide "opportunities to engage synchronously in political discussions and civil debates with multiple points of view." These discussions will take place every other Friday from 1:30-3pm, and can be accessed via the Zoom link for office hours above. Participation is optional and will not affect your grade. The agenda for these sessions will be indicated in advance.

Schedule

Module Dates Topic/Module Readings

PART I: INTRODUCTION TO AMERICAN NATIONAL GOVERNMENT

August 23-September 2

Module #1: American Government, Civic Engagement, and the Constitution

Read Chapters 1-2

8/27, 1:30-3pm: Optional Class Discussion

September 2-16

Module #2: Federalism and Congress

Read: Chapters 3 & 11

Adam Liptak. "At Center of Health Care Fight, a 1942 Case of a Farmer's Wheat." *New York Times*, March 19, 2012.

9/3, 1:30-3pm: Optional Class Discussion

September 16-30

Module #3: The Presidency and the Bureaucracy

Read: Chapters 12 & 15

Michael Moss. "While Warning About Fat, U.S. Pushes Cheese Sales." *New York Times.* November 7, 2010.

9/17, 1:30-3pm: Optional Class Discussion

September 30-October 14

Module #4: The Courts and Civil Liberties

Read: Chapters 13 & 4

Jess Bravin. "Supreme Court Ruling Ducks Conflict Between Religious, Gay Rights." *Wall Street Journal.* June 4, 2018.

October 1, 1:30-3pm: Optional Class Discussion

October 14-28

Module #5: Political Parties and Civil Rights

Read: Chapters 9 & 5

Summer Sewell. "There Were Nearly a Million Black Farmers in 1920. Why Have they Disappeared?" *The Guardian*. April 29, 2019.

October 15, 1:30-3pm: Optional Class Discussion

October 28-November 12

Module #6: Public Opinion, Voting. Campaigns and Elections

Read: Chapters 6 & 7

Neil MacFarquhar. "Sweet Cherries, Bitter Politics: Two Farm Stands and the Nation's Divides." *New York Times.* June 6, 2021.

October 29, 1:30-3pm: Optional Class Discussion

November 12-December 1

Module #7: Interest Groups and the Media

Read: Chapters 8 & 10

Jane Zhang. "What's in a Name: Crabless Crab Legs No Longer Imitation." *Wall Street Journal.* December 13, 2006.

November 12, 1:30-3pm: Optional Class Discussion

December 1-7

Optional Module: Optional Final Exam

December 3, 1:30-3pm: Optional Class Discussion

Read: all chapters in eTextbook

1. Full deadlines details are available in each module instructions (and in the live schedule below).

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/ (Links to an external site.)

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 (Links to an external site.)> 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 acknowledging 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 appropriately.

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/zgradeLinks to an external site..
For more information about UCF's Rules of Conduct,
see http://www.osc.sdes.ucf.edu/Links to an external site..

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

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.

COVID-19

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 (Links to an external site.))

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 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/AEDlocations-UCFLinks 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 (You CAN Survive an Active Shooter (Links to an external site.)) 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.