Spring 2021

POS 2041 - 0W62 American National Government

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

3 credit hours

January 11-May 4, 2021

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, essays, 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 and be prepared to use them while doing assignments.

National Association of Colleges and Employers (NACE) Competencies
This course will provide you knowledge and skills related to this NACE Competency: Professionalism/Work Ethic. These skills will help prepare you in securing internship or employment opportunities. This is also a great opportunity to take what you are learning in this class and see how it will help you in your chosen career!
You can learn more about these competencies and how to include them in your resume at UCF Career Services: career.ucf.edu | 407.823.2361

Required text
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.

Assignments

Quizzes: 10%
There will be 12 chapter-quizzes in total. There will be 25 multiple choice questions with each question having one 1 point. The quiz will be available from Monday to Friday of the week. You will have one attempt, one hour, to do the quiz in this period. The quiz questions will be based on the book chapter covered in that week.
Please read the instructions before you start the quiz. Make up work is not accepted.

Discussion: 20%
There will be 5 Discussions. For this assignment, the class is divided into 9 groups. Each group will discuss the same question/issue separately.
You will make an initial posting (150-200 words) on the Discussion forum in the Canvas. You are also required to make at least two comments (100-150 words each) per week on another student's essay in your group.
The discussion will be available from Monday to Friday of the week. The discussion will cover the subject of the week. You will study the material I upload for the discussion and you have to refer to that material in your discussion. You can bring ideas from outside sources, but no plagiarism will be allowed. Plagiarized discussion posts and comments will receive a zero grade.
Please read the instructions before you start the discussion. Make up work is not accepted.

Short essays: 20%
There will be 5 short essays.
The essay (200 – 250 words) will cover the subject of the week. You will study the book chapter of the week and/or the material I upload for that week. You can bring ideas from outside sources, but no plagiarism will be allowed. Plagiarized essays will receive a zero grade.
There is no provision of writing comments on another essay in this assignment.
The essay assignment will be available from Monday to Friday of the week. But it will remain open till Sunday for late submission, but the late submissions will not receive my comments.
Please read the instructions before you start the essay. Make up work is not accepted.

Midterm Exam, March 5: 24%

The midterm examination will consist of 25 multiple choice questions and three essay type questions (200 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 be related to the chapters covered before the exam. Each quiz is worth 1 point, and each essay is worth 25 points.
Please read the instructions before you start the exam.

Final Exam, April 28: 24 %
The final examination will consist of 25 multiple choice questions and three essay type questions (200 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 and essay questions will be related to the chapters covered after the midterm exam. Each quiz is worth 1 point, and each essay is worth 25 points.
Please read the instructions before you start the exam.

Miscellaneous: 2 %
Attendance quiz – in the first week of the semester
NACE quizzes (2) – one in the first week of the semester and another in the last week of the semester
Plagiarism quiz – in the first week of the semester

Grades
The grade scale I use is below. All grades having .5 or higher will be rounded. There will be no exceptions.

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

Important dates

Semester Begins	January 11
Martin Luther King Jr. Day	January 18
Withdrawal Deadline	March 26

Spring Break	April 11-18
Midterm Exam	March 5
Final Exam	April 28
Semester Ends	May 4

For the details of the Spring academic calendar click this weblink:
https://calendar.ucf.edu/2021/spring

Course Schedule

First week, January 11-15
Introduction to the course
Attendance quiz and NACE quiz and Plagiarism check quiz

Second week, January 19-22
The Citizen and Government
We the People, Chapter 1
Chapter quiz and Discussion

Third week, January 25-29
The Founding and the Constitution
We the People, Chapter 2
Chapter quiz and Essay

Fourth week, February 1-5
Federalism
We the People, Chapter 3
Chapter quiz and Essay

Fifth week, February 8-12
Civil Liberties and Civil Rights
We the People, Chapters 4 and 5
Chapter quiz and Discussion

Sixth week, February 15-19
Public Opinion
We the People, Chapter 5
Chapter quiz and Essay

Seventh week, February 22-26
The Media
We the People, Chapter 6
Chapter quiz

Eighth week, March 1-5
Midterm Exam

Ninth week, March 8-12
Political Parties, Participation, and Elections
We the People, Chapter 7
Chapter quiz and Discussion

Tenth week, March 15-19
Interest Groups
We the People, Chapter 8
Chapter quiz and Essay

Eleventh week, March 22-26
Congress
We the People, Chapter 9
Chapter quiz and Discussion

Twelfth week, March 29-April 2
The Presidency
We the People, Chapter 10
Chapter quiz and Essay

Thirteenth week, April 5-9
Bureaucracy
We the People, Chapter 11
Chapter quiz and Discussion

Fourteenth week, April 12-16
Spring Break

Fifteenth week, April 19-23
The Federal Courts
We the People, Chapter 12
Chapter quiz

Sixteenth week, April 26-30
Final Examination