POS2041 (82532), American National Government

Fall Term 2023 Syllabus

(August 21 – December 9)

(Traditional/Lecture Course Format)

(Mon. & Wed., 10:30 – 11:50 P.M. MSB(0360))

(3 Credit hours)

Part 1: General Course Information.

Instructor: Alvin (AJ) Quackenbush

Email: alvin.quackenbush@ucf.edu

Office Hours: Fall 2023, **online via Webcourses:**

Monday, Tuesday, Wednesday, and Thursday from 3:00 – 4:00 P.M and by appointment.

Political Science Department Office: Howard Phillips Hall, Room 302

Phone: (407) 823-2608

Website: http://politicalscience.cos.ucf.edu/

Required Materials: *We The People, An Introduction to American Politics, Essentials* 14th *Edition* (Ginsburg, Lowi, Weir, and Tolbert). ISBN: 9781324034797

Course Description: (3 Credits)

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

Major Course 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.

Topics and Discussion:

Please keep in mind that in this course we will be analyzing and debating topics that are current, relevant, political, and sometimes controversial. Some students may find that certain topics hard to discuss and there may be a level of discomfort. Please keep in mind that the intent is to promote critical thinking, present alternative ideas, challenge preconceptions, and deepen important conversations.

It is natural for students to sometimes feel overwhelmed. If this happens, please advise me in class or afterwards via email. As always, the goal is to maintain a safe space for learning.

Time will be dedicated every other week for in-class discussion. Please see the course schedule at the bottom of the syllabus.

Part 2: Classroom Policies.

Grading: Please keep in mind that all students are graded according to the same standards. My goal is to be fair and consistent. As a result, I do not make special exceptions for students that are not given to the entire class. Also, students are not given special assignments that are not offered to everyone. This would be unfair to the class. Additionally, written assignments are graded according to course rubrics and assignment directions; points are NEVER taken off because of someone's political ideology, party preference, or my personal views. Any comments in that regard are not deductions. They are designed to invoke critical thinking, present alternative ideas, suggest other narratives, challenge your arguments, etc.

Attendance: Regular class attendance is expected. There is a direct correlation between class attendance and overall success in the course. All instructors/faculty are required to document students' academic activity at the beginning of each course. In order to document that you began this course, please complete the Syllabus Quiz assessment by the end of the first week of classes or as soon as possible after adding the course. Failure to do so may result in a delay in the disbursement of your financial aid. There will be a 10 point syllabus quiz due on Friday, August 25th during the first week of the semester to ensure student attendance in the course.

Tardiness: Students who are coming to class are expected to be on time. Students who are tardy disrupt other students and the overall learning environment, so tardiness is not acceptable. Students who habitually disturb the class by talking, arriving late, *etc*., and have been warned may suffer a reduction in their final class grade.

Email: It is the policy of this professor to communicate with you via UCF email or the Webcourses message system. Failure to check for e-mail messages will not be accepted as an excuse for missed work.

Cell Phone**:** Students are required to turn off all cell phones and electronic devices before the beginning of class because they can disrupt the learning environment. This means no text messaging! If a cell phone vibrates or is audible, the student may be asked to leave for the remainder of the class. If there is an emergency situation warranting the use of a cell phone during class time, the student must notify the professor in writing prior to the beginning of class. During a testing situation, if a cell phone vibrates or is audible, the student's test or examination will be collected and the student will be asked to leave without an option for completion.

Laptop Computers: Students may use their laptop, tablet, or "mini-computer' (smart phone) during class to take notes or to access the Internet for research. A student who uses this freedom in an inappropriate fashion may be asked to leave the class for that day or to turn off their laptop or phone.

Protected Course Learning Materials: Please keep in mind that students are not permitted to take personal video in class. Also, all course learning materials are protected information and cannot be shared via social media or outside of the class canvas page. In order to maintain a comfortable and private learning environment, students should not take screen shots of the course website. This is to protect the privacy rights of you and your fellow students. Such conduct may be determined to be a violation university policy and the student code of conduct. Please see the "University Policies" section below for more information.

Part 3: Assignments.

Quizzes: There will be 15 Chapter quizzes throughout the semester that you will take online using UCF Webcourses. Although these quizzes are taken outside of class you are expected to

do your own work. The quizzes are available for 1 week, so you are encouraged to take the quiz before the due date. See the course schedule for all quiz due dates

Discussion Posts: During the semester there will be 6 discussion posts related to current events in American National Government. In your post you should answer the questions and reply to at least two other students. Please see the discussion rubric for additional information. Due dates will be indicated in the posts and in the course schedule at the bottom of the syllabus.

Examinations: There will be 3 exams in this course during the semester. The tests will consist of fill in the blank, multiple choice and true/false questions. The dates are listed in the schedule at the bottom of the course syllabus. Any student not completing the examination will receive 0 of those possible points, and this will impact the final average in the course.

Extra Credit: There will **NOT** be any specific assignments for extra credit; however, attendance will be taken from time to time and points will be added for extra credit. Thus, missing regular class will not hurt your grade but you may miss out on valuable extra credit opportunities.

Late Work Policy: You can access the quizzes and discussions on the dates indicated in the syllabus. The quizzes and discussions are available for 1 week, so you are encouraged to take the quiz before the due date. However, you can cam submit quizzes late with a 20% penalty per day. See the course schedule for all quiz due dates.

The examinations should be taken in class on the date indicated in the syllabus. No makeups are allowed without the explicit consent of the instructor, which shall only be granted in cases of documented emergences. Please note that all make up exams will be short answer and essay format only.

All graded materials in this course will be returned individually only by request. You can access your scores at any time using the Grades section of Webcourses@UCF. Please note that scores returned mid-semester are unofficial grades.

Part 4: Basis for Grade.

Evaluation: Your grade will be determined by grades on a Syllabus Quiz, 15 Quizzes, 6 Discussion Posts, and 3 Exams.

- Syllabus Quiz: 10 points.
- Quizzes: 20 points each (300 Total)
- Discussion Posts: 20 points each (120 Total)
- Exams: 150 points each (450 Total)

  (880 Total Points)

Grading Scale:

90 - 100 = A

80 - 89 = B

70 - 79 = C

60 - 69 = D

59 and below = F

Part 5: University Policies.

University Policies: The UCF Golden Rule Student Handbook is at http://goldenrule.sdes.ucf.edu/ and UCF policies and procedures can be found at http://policies.ucf.edu/.

Withdrawal Policy: Withdrawal for each term begins after "Late Registration and Add/Drop" ends. Students may withdraw from a class and receive the notation of "W" until the date noted in the "Academic Calendar" of the *Schedule Web Guide*. A student may withdraw from courses using myUCF at https://my.ucf.edu, or by visiting the Registrar's Office (Millican Hall 161), certain college advising offices, or a Regional Campus records office. For a complete policy more information on withdrawals please go tohttps://www.academicservices.ucf.edu/

Student Code of Classroom Conduct: UCF is dedicated not only to the advancement of knowledge and learning, but is concerned with the development of responsible personal and social conduct. By enrolling at the university, a student assumes the responsibility for becoming familiar with and abiding by the general rules of conduct. The primary responsibility for managing the classroom environment rests with the professor. Students who engage in any prohibited or unlawful acts that result in disruption of a class may be directed by the professor to leave the class. Violation of any UCF policies/procedures or classroom rules may lead to disciplinary action up to and including expulsion from the University. Disciplinary action could include being withdrawn from the class, disciplinary warning, probation, suspension, expulsion, or other appropriate and authorized actions. So, act mature, treating others with respect, verbally or online. The UCF Student Code of Conduct is in the current Student handbook and more information can be found at http://osc.sdes.ucf.edu/.

Ethics: As reflected in the UCF creed, integrity and scholarship are core values that should guide our conduct and decisions as members of the UCF community. Plagiarism and cheating contradict these values, and so are very serious academic offenses. Penalties can include a failing grade in an assignment or in the course, or suspension or expulsion from the university. Students

are expected to familiarize themselves with and follow the University's Rules of Conduct (see http://www.osc.sdes.ucf.edu/).

Academic Integrity/Plagiarism: Plagiarism and Cheating of any kind on an examination, quiz, or assignment will result at least in an "F" for that assignment (and may, depending on the severity of the case, lead to an "F" for the entire course) and may be subject to appropriate referral to the Office of Student Conduct for further action. See the UCF Golden Rule for further information. 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. In other words, don't cheat by giving answers to others or taking them from anyone else. 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.

Turnitin.com: In this course we may 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 may be expected to submit assignments in both hard copy and 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 (Links to an external site.).

Religious Observances: Students are expected to notify their instructor in advance if they intend to miss class to observe a holy day of their religious faith. For a current schedule of major religious holidays, see the Faculty Center's main web page under "Calendars," and for additional information, contact the Office of Diversity Initiatives at 407-823-6479.

Course Accessibility: It is my goal that this class be an accessible and welcoming experience for all students, including those with disabilities that may impact learning in this class. If anyone believes the design of this course poses barriers to effectively participating and/or demonstrating learning in this course, please meet with me (with or without a Student Accessibility Services (SAS) accommodation letter) to discuss reasonable options or adjustments. During our discussion, I may suggest the possibility/necessity of your contacting SAS (Ferrell Commons 185; 407-823-2371; sas@ucf.edu) to talk about academic accommodations. You are welcome to talk to me at any point in the semester about course design concerns, but it is always best if we can talk at least one week prior to the need for any modifications.

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.

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.

Disclaimer: Changes in the syllabus and/or schedule may be made at any time during the term by announcement of the professor. It is your responsibility to stay informed of any changes.

Diversity and Inclusion: One way to promote a safe and caring classroom community is to encourage each student's unique voice, perspective, and presence. The following diversity statement gives professors language for explaining how students' contributions will be valued:

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, 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 www.shield.ucf.edu and http://cares.sdes.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.

For more information on diversity and inclusion, Title IX, accessibility, or UCF's complaint processes contact:

- Title IX – OIE – http://oie.ucf.edu/ & askanadvocate@ucf.edu
- Disability Accommodation – Student Accessibility Services – http://sas.sdes.ucf.edu/ & sas@ucf.edu
- Diversity and Inclusion Training and Events – www.diversity.ucf.edu
- Student Bias Grievances – Just Knights response team – http://jkrt.sdes.ucf.edu/
- UCF Compliance and Ethics Office – http://compliance.ucf.edu/ & complianceandethics@ucf.edu
- Ombuds Office – http://www.ombuds.ucf.edu

Part 6: 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 (<You CAN Survive an Active Shooter>).

Part 7: University COVID Policies.

UCF Health and Wellbeing Services: UCF is no longer participating in COVID contact tracing or required notifications. All are encouraged to follow the guidance of their physician. If you have questions, please email covid19questions@ucf.edu

- UCF Student Health Services – 407/823-2701 or https://studenthealth.ucf.edu/
- UCF CARES – 407/823-5607 or https://cares.sdes.ucf.edu/ – student services for safety, wellbeing, mental health
- UCF's Health and Wellness Resources (including information about the Employee Assistance Program (EAP) that provides 24/7 personal support)– https://hr.ucf.edu/current-employees/benefits/health-wellness-resources/

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.

Should this course shift to remote-only instruction, the university has provided several resources to assist students with learning: https://digitallearning.ucf.edu/newsroom/keeplearning/

Technology Access**:** Depending upon modality, this course might need to shift to remote or fully online instruction based on medical guidance. This course also could be fully online and thus it may require access to additional technology. If students do not have proper access to technology, including a computer and reliable Wi-Fi, please let the instructor know as soon as possible. Information about technology lending can be found at https://it.ucf.edu/techcommons/ and https://library.ucf.edu/libtech.

Part 8: Course Schedule.

Fall 2023, August 21 – December 9, Traditional, Face-to Face Course Format

Course Schedule: (UCF Calendars are at https://calendar.ucf.edu/2023/fall)

All the dates and assignments listed below are tentative and can be changed at the discretion of the professor with proper notification via UCF email.

Week 1: (August 21 – 27), **Drop Refund Deadline, August 25.**

Chapter 1: Americans and their Political Values

Syllabus Quiz due by 5:00 pm, on Friday, August 25th at 5:00 P.M.

Chapter 1 quiz due August 27.

Week 2: (August 28 – September 3)

Chapter 2: The Founding and the Constitution

Chapter 2 Quiz and Discussion 1 due September 3.

Week 3: (September 4 – 10), **No Class Monday, 9/4, Labor Day Holiday.**

Chapter 3: Federalism

Chapter 3 Quiz due September 10.

Week 4: (September 11 – 17)

Chapter 4: Civil Liberties

Chapter 4 Quiz and Discussion 2 due September 17.

Week 5: (September 18 – 24)

Chapter 5: Civil Rights

Chapter 5 Quiz due September 24.

Week 6: (September 25 – October 1)

Exam 1: Chapters 1 - 5, Monday, September 25 in class.

Chapter 6: Public Opinion

Chapters 6 quiz due October 1.

Week 7: (October 2 – 8)

Chapter 7: The Media and Political Information

Chapter 7 Quiz and Discussion 3 due October 8.

Week 8: (October 9 – 15)

Chapter 8: Political Parties and Interest Groups

Chapter 8 Quiz due October 15.

Week 9: (October 16 – 22)

Chapter 9: Participation, Campaigns, and Elections

Chapter 9 Quiz and Discussion 4 due October 22.

Week 10: (October 23 – 29), **10/27 Withdrawal Deadline.**

Chapter 10: Congress

Chapter 10 Quiz due October 29.

Week 11: (October 30 – November 5)

Exam 2: Chapters 6 - 10, Monday, October 30 in class.

Chapter 11: The Presidency

Chapter 11 Quiz due November 5.

Week 12: (November 6 – 12), **No Classes Friday, 11/10, Veteran's Day Holiday.**

Chapter 12: The Bureaucracy

Chapter 12 Quiz and Discussion 5 due November 12.

Week 13: (November 13 – 19)

Chapter 13: The Federal Courts

Chapter 13 Quiz and due November 19.

Week 14: (November 20 – 26)**, No classes 11/22 – 11/25, Thanksgiving Holiday.**

Chapter 14: Domestic Policy

Chapter 14 Quiz due November 26.

Week 15: (November 27 – December 3)

Chapter 15: Foreign Policy

Chapter 15 Quiz and Discussion 6 due December 3.

Week 16: (December 4 – 10) **Final Exam Period.**

Examination 3: Tuesday, December 5, in class from 10:00 am. – 12:50 pm. Chapters 11 - 15.