POS 2041 - American National Government

Section: BW60

College of Sciences

School of Politics, Security, and Intl Affairs

Course Information

Term: Summer 2024
Class Meeting Location:
Modality: WW
Credit Hours: 3.00

Instructor Information

Annabelle Conroy
Title: SPSIA Undergraduate Coordinator
Office Location: HPH 0302
Office Hours:
Tuesdays: 9:00 AM - 11:00 AM

Wednesdays: 9:00 AM - 11:00 AM

Or by appointment

Phone: 407-823-5902
Email: Please use the Canvas inbox for messaging

Course Description

POS 2041 COS-POLS 3(3,0) American National Government: In this course, students will investigate how the national government is structured and how the American Constitutional Republic operates. It covers the philosophical and historical foundations of American government, including but not limited to the Declaration of Independence, the United States Constitution and all its amendments, and the Federalist Papers. The course examines the branches of government and the government's laws, policies, and programs. It also examines the ways in which citizens participate in their government and ways their government responds to citizens.

General Education Program (GEP)

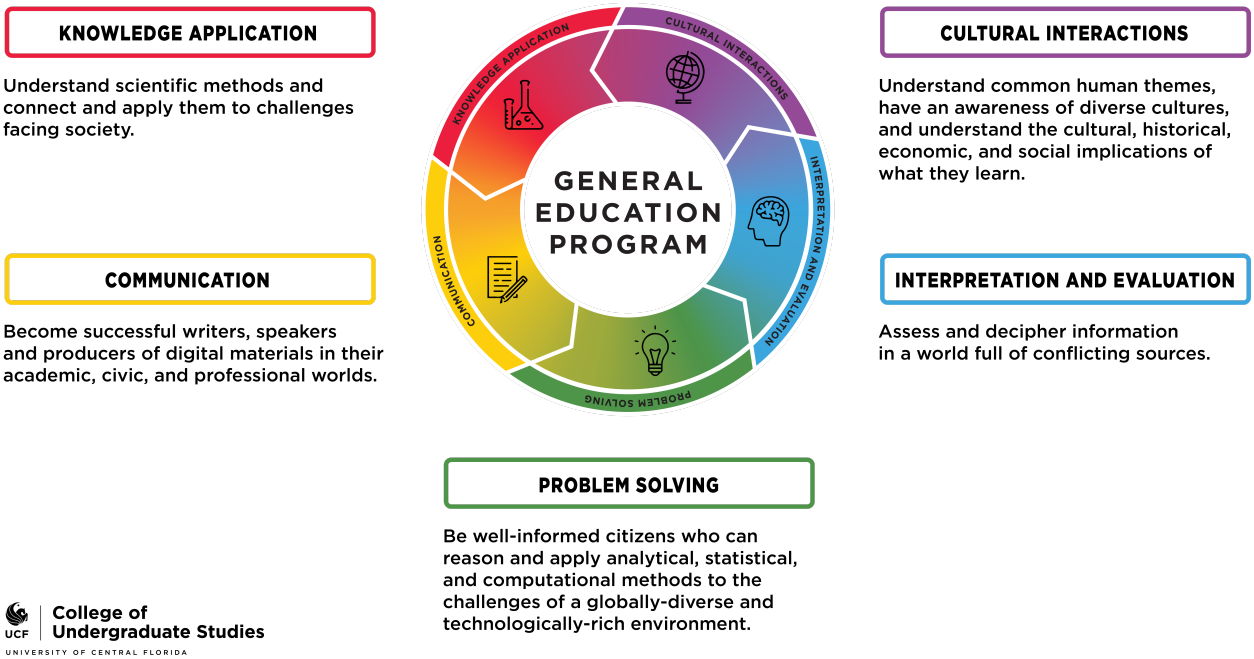
POS2041 American National Government forms part of the "Interpretation & Evaluation" Foundation. As such it focuses on developing the skills to assess and decipher information in a world full of conflicting sources.

This learning foundation is designed to assist students in formulating models to determine what information is valid and useful, encouraging them to be knowledgeable and productive members of academic and real world communities. Courses will stress how to evaluate, interpret, and support conclusions drawn from multiple theoretical and practical perspectives in order to equip students to explain content, determine its usefulness, and offer productive explanations.

Students who complete requirements for the Interpretation and Evaluation foundation will be able to:

1. Demonstrate mastery of discipline specific vocabulary and concepts.
2. Recognize social, political, or economic problems and evaluate solutions to those problems.
3. Understand how to collect, evaluate, or interpret data to draw conclusions.
4. Recognize and interpret the impact of social, economic, and political institutions on the wellbeing of individuals in a country.
5. Employ social science principles, techniques, or concepts to identify, explain, or address challenges facing society.

The secondary foundation incorporated in this course is "Knowledge Application" but, of course, all of the Foundations are incorporated in some way or another. See if you can identify the Foundation for your own major!

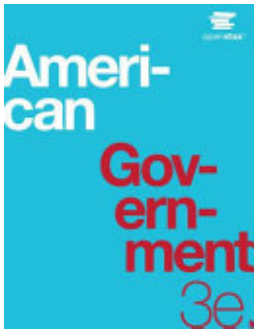


Student Learning Outcomes

After successful completion of this course, students will learn to:

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

Course Materials and Resources



American Government 3e
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Edition: Third

Course Assessment and Grading Procedure

Academic Engagement for Financial Aid Activity

All 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 academic activity indicated in the Week 1 Module by the end of the first week of classes or as soon as possible after adding the course, but no later than Friday of the first week of class (11:59 pm). Failure to do so may result in a delay in the disbursement of your financial aid. Please open Module 1 to see what you need to do to complete this requirement.

Weekly Discussions - Yellowdig (25%)

In this class, we will use the Yellowdig tool to as the online discussion platform. Unlike typical ***Canvas*** discussions where everyone responds to the same prompt, Yellowdig lets you share and discuss real-world content (articles, videos, etc.) that YOU feel is relevant to lectures and readings. As you create posts and make comments, and as other students react to or comment on your posts, you will automatically receive participation points. To be clear, using Yellowdig is a required part of the course, and the points you acquire will account for ***15%*** of your course grade.

Please consult the Yellowdig page in the Modules section for more information and instructions on how to log in.

Chapter Quizzes (25%)

Each chapter will have its own quiz. Although there are 10 quizzes, only the top 9 will count (so the lowest score will be dropped). The quizzes will test your knowledge of the assigned chapter and will serve

Section Case Study (10%)

Each section will present 2-3 case studies which examine a specific question or issue related to that section's topics. The case study will require you to analyze and research a particular issue and write about your findings. The paper should be between 2-3 pages (750 words minimum) and each paper will be worth 10 points. Although each section will have case studies, only the highest case study score will count towards the final grade. Thus, if you don't do as well as you wished on the first paper, you have other opportunities to improve your grade. However, if you are happy with the grade you obtained in your first case study paper, you do not need to submit a second paper.

Case studies can be done individually or by a team. Teams can have a maximum of 3 people. If submitting as a team, the same grade will apply to all the members of the team, so make sure that everyone contributes equally to the paper. You do not need to decide now if you want to work with a team. This can wait until the week in which decide to do your paper. **However, please make sure to inform me at least 5 days before the paper is due that you will be working in a team.**

Examinations (40%)

There will be four examinations in this course - three midterms and a final exam. The final examination will be cumulative. Although there will be 4 exams (10 points each), only the highest 3 will count. Thus, if you are satisfied with your grade in the first 3 exams, you do not need to take the final exam. Please refer to the respective modules for instructions regarding each exam.

Grading Scale

Letter Grade	Percentage
A	94-100%
A-	90-93%
B+	87-89%
B	84-86%
B-	80-83%
C+	77-79%
C	74-76%
C-	70-73%
D+	67-69%
D	64-66%
D-	61-63%
F	0-60%

The plus/minus system will be used for calculating final grades. Zeros for unsubmitted assignments may not be entered on webcourses. The number of points earned, not the webcourses "average" determines grade.

Policies for Course Grade

Makeup Work Policy

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.

Other than the situations listed above, makeup assignments will not be available since the lowest grades will be dropped, thus allowing to miss some assignments without penalty.

Attendance

Attendance is mandatory. You are allowed to miss two classes without penalty. If you miss 5 or more classes for any reason without a valid excuse and/or discussing this with your professor, you will fail the class. Thus, please make sure that you keep up with the readings and assignments.

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

In accordance with state requirement, there will be regular opportunities to engage in "political discussions and civil debates." I will signal these opportunities during class.

Course Accessibility

The University of Central Florida is committed to providing access and inclusion for all persons with disabilities. Students with disabilities who need access to course content due to course design limitations should contact the professor as soon as possible. Students should also connect with Student Accessibility Services (SAS) (Ferrell Commons 185, sas@ucf.edu, phone 407-823-2371). For students connected with SAS, a Course Accessibility Letter may be created and sent to professors, which informs faculty of potential course access and accommodations that might be necessary and 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. Further conversation with SAS, faculty and the student may be warranted to ensure an accessible course experience.

Academic Integrity

Students should familiarize themselves with UCF's Rules of Conduct at Student Conduct and Integrity Office. 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 mans: The presentation of material which has not been studied or learned, but rather 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.
8. Soliciting assistance with academic coursework and/or degree requirements.

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*. UCF faculty members have a responsibility for students' education and the value of a UCF degree, and so seek to prevent unethical behavior and respond to academic misconduct when necessary. Penalties for violating rules, policies, and instructions within this course can range from a zero on the exercise to an "F" letter grade in the course. In addition, an Academic

Misconduct report could be filed with the Office of Student Conduct, which could lead to disciplinary warning, disciplinary probation, or deferred suspension or separation from the University through suspension, dismissal, or expulsion with the addition of a “Z” designation on one’s transcript.

Being found in violation of academic conduct standards could result in a student having to disclose such behavior on a graduate school application, being removed from a leadership position within a student organization, the recipient of scholarships, participation in University activities such as study abroad, internships, etc.

Let’s avoid all of this by demonstrating values of honesty, trust, and integrity. No grade is worth compromising your integrity and moving your moral compass. Stay true to doing the right thing: take the zero, not a shortcut.

Title IX

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 Let's Be Clear and UCF Cares.

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

- Title IX – OIE – Office of Institutional Equity & askanadvocate@ucf.edu
- Disability Accommodation – Student Accessibility Services – Student Accessibility Services & sas@ucf.edu
- Diversity and Inclusion Training and Events – Office of the VP for Diversity, Equity & Inclusion
- UCF Compliance and Ethics Office – Compliance, Ethics, and Risk Office & complianceandethics@ucf.edu
- The Ombuds Office is a safe place to discuss concerns.

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.

Campus Safety

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 Safety
- 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 AED Locations.
- To stay informed about emergency situations, students can sign up to receive UCF text alerts by going to RAVE Mobile Safety and logging in. On the "My Account" tab, fill out the information, including e-mail address and cell phone number.
- 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 from the UCF Police Department, You CAN Survive an Active Shooter.

Campus Safety Statement for Students in Online-Only Courses

Though most emergency situations are primarily relevant to courses that meet in person, such incidents can also impact online students, either when they are on or near campus

to participate in other courses or activities or when their course work is affected by off-campus emergencies. The following policies apply to courses in online modalities.

- To stay informed about emergency situations, students can sign up to receive UCF text alerts by going to RAVE Mobile Security and logging in. On the “My Account” tab, fill out the information, including e-mail address and cell phone number.
- Students with special needs related to emergency situations should speak with their instructor outside of class.

Financial Aid Accountability

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 this activity 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.

Class Schedule

Week	Topic
1	Introduction / Orientation / The US Constitution and its Origins
2	American Federalism / First Exam
3	Civil Liberties and Civil Rights
4	Voting & Elections / Political Parties / Interest Groups / Second Exam
5	Institutions: The Congress and the Presidency
6	Institutions: The Courts / Final Exam