POS 2041 - American National Government

Section: C602

College of Sciences

School of Politics, Security, and Intl Affairs

Course Information

Term: Summer 2025
Class Meeting Days: MW
Class Meeting Time: 01:00PM - 02:50PM
Class Meeting Location: NSC O209
Modality: P
Credit Hours: 3

Instructor Information

Léa Faure
Office Hours
Monday 3pm - 5pm or by appointment
Office Location: HPH 215A
Email: lea.faure@ucf.edu / Please use the Webcourses@UCF Inbox for messaging

Office Hours

Office hours are on a first come, first served basis. If you wish to meet outside my office hours, please send me an email to schedule an appointment.

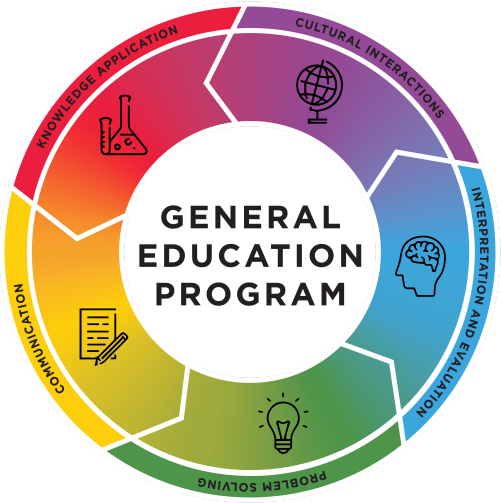
You can also email me through Webcourses@UCF Inbox for written questions or concerns at any time. I will do my best to respond to you as soon as possible within 48

hours. If you send a message and do not receive a response within this time frame, please send it again. I never intentionally ignore messages.

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 governments laws, policies, and programs. It also examines the ways in which citizens participate in their government and ways their government responds to citizens.Student Learning Outcomes: Students will demonstrate an understanding of the basic principles and practices of Americas constitutional republic. Students will demonstrate knowledge of the nations founding documents, including the declaration of independence, the U.S. constitution and its amendments, and the federalist papers. Students will demonstrate knowledge of landmark U.S. supreme court cases, landmark legislation, and landmark executive actions. Students will demonstrate knowledge of the history and development of the American federal government and its impact on law and society. Students will demonstrate an ability to apply course material to contemporary political issues and debates. Students will demonstrate the ability to engage in discussion and civil debate on American politics that are associated with multiple points of view. Fall, Sum, Spr.

General Education Program (GEP)



UCF's General Education Program (GEP) provides a cohesive learning experience across five key areas. Each course is designed to help students build essential skills and knowledge that connect across disciplines, preparing them for success in their academic, civic, and professional lives. This foundation equips students to make informed decisions and navigate a rapidly changing world.

Specifically, the GEP is intentionally designed to:

- Introduce students to a broad range of foundational knowledge.
- Provide students the opportunity to explore potential academic majors, minors, and careers.
- Equip students with the analytic and expressive skills required to engage in chosen pursuits.
- Develop critical thinking skills.
  Encourage lifelong learning.

POS 2041 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.

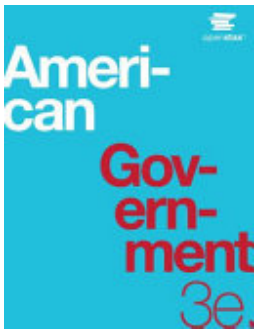
The secondary foundation incorporated in this course is "Knowledge Application" but, of course, all of the Foundations are incorporated in some way or another. See if you can identify the Foundation for your own major!

Student Learning Outcomes

After successful completion of this course, students will be able 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.

Required Course Materials and Resources



American Government 3e
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Authors: Glen Krutz
Publisher: Openstax
Publication Date: 2021-07-28
Edition: Third

Course Format

This course will be delivered in-person, two times a week, on Monday and Wednesday, from 1PM to 2:50PM (1 hour 50 minutes class sessions each) in room NSC O209 (Nicholson School of Communication and Media – Room 209). It will last for 12 weeks, from May 12, 2025 to August 1, 2025. As such, in-person course attendance is expected for this course.

This course will use Webcourses primarily as a platform for housing our course syllabus, accessing class material and assignment as well as potential additional material, posting course announcements, using email for communication, and submitting some assignments. To do so, you will need access to a computer and adequate Internet bandwidth. You can contact Webcourses@UCF Support at https://cdl.ucf.edu/support/webcourses/ if you have any technical problems. Once you access the course from Dashboard in Webcourses, please check out the course home page and the Announcements from the navigation column to the left of the center of your screen.

To prepare for every class, please look at the associated module for each week which will contain any information you might need to prepare for the class and the assigned readings. During class time, please take notes during lectures and activities as any point discussed can appear in the graded assignments and exams.

Course Assessment and Grading Procedure

Student Academic Engagement Quiz for Financial Aid Activity

All faculty members are required by UCF to document students' academic activity at the beginning of each course. In order to document that you began this course, you should complete the academic activity quiz that is due by Friday, May 16th at 11:59pm, or as soon as possible for those who add the course late. Failure to do so will result in a delay in the disbursement of any financial aid. To do this task, go to the myUCF portal (https://my.ucf.edu) and select the Webcourses@UCF button on the left side of the screen. Log in with your NID and NID password and access the course from the Dashboard. From the course homepage, click on the Assignments tab to left, click on the Academic Activity Quiz under the Class Engagement banner, complete the quiz, and submit it. Please complete this in a timely manner!

Professional Points: 2 points

Professional 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 2 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 professional 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.
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 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 the professional points, other disciplinary actions will ensue.

Attendance, Preparation, and In-Class Participation: 5 points

Class participation is very important because it is a measure of your engagement with the course material. Participation also enables the instructor to know whether students are understanding the material and if there needs to be more support in certain areas. To earn attendance and participation points, students must attend every session of the class, come prepared by having done the appropriate assigned readings, offer meaningful contributions to class discussions and activities, and respectfully engage in dialogue with their colleagues. To measure participation, please try to participate actively in the discussions and activities at the very least once per class session. If you are concerned about your ability to actively speak in class dialogues, please come talk to me early in the semester.

If you will need to miss a class/assignment due to a university-approved reason, you must let me know by the second week of class. Failure to give notice will result in a loss of points for any assignment missed. ***Please keep in mind that 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.***

Classwork and Activities: 18 points

Modules list and describe the topic(s) and the assignments for each week. Modules will open on Friday of each week at 12 AM so you can begin preparing for the next week's class. To assess your engagement with the material, each class will start with a short-answer graded question worth 1 point. These questions will be derived from the week's topic. This classwork will ensure knowledge of the material as a preparation to the Midterm and Final Exams. As such, questions will be close-book and without notes. In order to do well in these class assignments, it is important that you complete all the readings assigned in each week's module prior to arriving to class. This requires you to be very disciplined and organized.

A good strategy is to log into the course as soon as it opens to see what will be covered that week and start reading the assigned material. This will enable you to plan and prepare for the class activities and assignments. If you have to miss a module due to a university approved excuse, you need to inform the instructor as soon as possible. ***Note that every student is allowed to miss two classes for any reason (and as such can***

miss two of these 1-point graded in-class activities) without any penalty except for the Exams and Final Project Presentation classes. This also mean that the lowest two in-class graded assignment grades will be dropped.

There will be no 1-point graded assignment on the days of the exams and on the day of the final project presentation: Week 4 Wednesday, Week 7 Wednesday, Week 11 Wednesday, and Week 12 Monday and Wednesday.

Final Collaborative Group Project: 15 points

To help bridge the gap from education to employment, the students will engage in a collaborative group project. To read more about the project and what will be required of you, go to Module 1 and click on the Final Collaborative Project link. The project will account for 15 points of your final grade, but these will be divided into several components (Research Proposal, Final Project Report, and Final Project Presentation) each worth 5 points. The project is about choosing a topic/issue that is currently in the news and that you would like to know more about. The project will then require you to compare the chosen issue to what is happening in a minimum of two other countries (including potentially your home country). Groups will be composed of 3 to 4 people. Below are the due dates for each component of the project:

Component	Due Date
Research Proposal	June 11, 2025 at 11:59 PM
First Team Draft / Project Report (OPTIONAL)	Anytime during the semester
Final Project Report	July 25, 2025 at 11:59PM
Final Project Presentation	July 28, 2025 during class

Examinations: 60 points

There will be four exams in this course - three midterms and a final exam. Each exam is worth 20 points. Although there will be 4 exams, 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. This also allows for you to miss an exam if needed. If you decide to take all four exams, the lowest grade will be dropped.

Below are the dates of all three exams which will take place on Wednesdays of weeks 4, 7, 11 and 12:

Exam	Date	Material Covered
Midterm Exam 1	Week 4 - Wednesday June 4, 2025 1PM to 2:50PM	Weeks 1 to 3 (included)
Midterm Exam 2	Week 7 - Wednesday June 25, 2025 1PM to 2:50PM	Weeks 5 to 6 (included)
Midterm Exam 3	Week 11 - Wednesday July 23, 2025 1PM to 2:50PM	Weeks 8 to 10 (included)
Final Exam	Week 12 - Wednesday July 30, 2025 1PM to 2:50PM	All semester (cumulative)

The exams will consist of concepts, vocabulary, multiple choice, short-answer and essay questions on readings and lectures throughout the course. The point weight for each question will be indicated on the exam. All exams will be closed-book but open-note with each student allowed one side of page of note (normal US Letter format), either handwritten or typed. No electronic devices will be allowed during the exams so print out your electronic notes if you wish to use them during the exams. Students will need to procure a **brown** scantron (see what it looks below) for the day of the exams. Brown scantrons can be purchased at the Bookstore or in vending machines across campus. You can also claim your free scantrons through the Student Government Office (see https://studentgovernment.ucf.edu/services/academic/scantrons/). These will be used to write your answers on exam days. Your answers will need to be written in **#2 pencil only** so think about brining one as well as an eraser and pencil sharpener. If you arrive late, you will not be given extra time and you will lose professional points.

Assignments	Final Grade (Points)
Professional Points	*2*
Attendance, Preparation, and In-Class Participation	*5*
Classwork and Activities	*18 x 1 = 18*
Final Collaborative Group Project	*15*
Examinations	*3 x 20 = 60*
TOTAL	**100**

Policies for Course Grade

Errors/Grade Omissions

Students should make sure to review the grades once they are posted to make sure they are accurate. If there has been an error, it is the student's responsibility to contact the professor with the exact details of the mistake/omission. The student has one week from the moment the grades are posted to contact the professor about the error/omission. A week after the grades have been posted, ***the grade becomes final***, even if there was a mistake or omission. Grades will not be changed after that time.

Makeup Work Policy

Per university policy, make-ups for exams or quizzes will be given for documented circumstances of illness, official college activities or university-sponsored events,

religious observances, and legal obligations (such as jury duty). If you know you will have any of these, it is your responsibility to inform the instructor **by the end of the first week of class.**

If you are unable to take an exam due to a university-approved scheduling conflict, you must let me know as soon as possible and provide the relevant documentation. In case of an university-approved emergency, please notify me at the latest within 48 hours after missing the exam or quiz. In these instances, students are also excused from class without penalty. Make-up exams should be taken within one week of the original exam date and will not be given before the exam date. The instructor reserves the right to modify the make-up exam or quiz.

Other than the situations listed above, makeup assignments will not be available. Indeed, the lowest exam grade will be dropped and for in-class graded assignment, the lowest two grades will be dropped. This allows you to miss one exam and two classes without penalty.

Grade Rounding

Final grades will be rounded up to the nearest whole number if and only if the grade is within 0.5 points of the next highest whole number. For example, a grade of 89.5 will be rounded to 90, but a grade of 89.49 will not be.

Attendance

As mentioned, 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.

Violations of Academic Integrity

Academic integrity is a very important requirement for this course. Please familiarize with the UCF Creed, the Golden Rule and the academic integrity policies described in the section below.

Keep in mind that in this class, the first violation of academic integrity (cheating, plagiarism, and other violations of the Gordon Rule) will result in a 0 for that assignment and the second violation will result in a grade of "F" for the class. In addition, this incident(s) will be reported to the Office of Student Conduct and Academic Integrity. This may result in a Z designation being added to your transcript.

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-	60-63%
F	0-59%

The plus/minus system will be used for calculating final grades. The number of points earned, not the Webcourses "average" determines the grade.

Assignment Schedule

Due Date	Assignment Name	Assignment Type	Points

Due Date	Assignment Name	Assignment Type	Points
	Roll Call Attendance	Assignment	100
5/12/25	Week 1 Monday	Assignment	1
5/14/25	Week 1 Wednesday	Assignment	1
5/16/25	Week 1 Introduction Post	Discussion	1
5/16/25	Week 1 Quiz Academic Engagement Activity	Quiz	1
5/19/25	Week 2 Monday	Assignment	1
5/21/25	Week 2 Wednesday	Assignment	2
5/28/25	Week 3 Wednesday	Assignment	3
5/28/25	Week 3 Wednesday Kahoot	Assignment	1
6/2/25	Week 4 Monday	Assignment	2
6/2/25	Week 4 State Presentation Evaluations (optional extra credit)	Assignment	0
6/4/25	First Exam	Assignment	20
6/9/25	Week 5 Monday	Assignment	2
6/16/25	Week 6 Monday	Assignment	2
6/18/25	Week 6 Wednesday	Assignment	2
6/23/25	Week 7 Monday	Assignment	2
6/25/25	Second Exam	Assignment	20

Due Date	Assignment Name	Assignment Type	Points
6/27/25	EC Presidential Debate	Assignment	0
6/30/25	Week 8 Monday	Assignment	2
7/2/25	Week 8 Wednesday	Assignment	2
7/7/25	Week 9 Monday	Assignment	2
7/9/25	Week 9 Wednesday	Assignment	2
7/11/25	Case Study Research Proposal	Assignment	5
7/14/25	Week 10 Monday	Assignment	2
7/16/25	Week 10 Wednesday	Assignment	1
7/21/25	Third Exam	Assignment	20
7/25/25	Final Project	Assignment	5
7/28/25	Final Project Presentation	Assignment	5
7/28/25	Week 12 Monday	Assignment	1
7/30/25	Final Examination	Assignment	20
7/30/25	Participation	Assignment	5
8/1/25	Professional Points	Assignment	3

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 Code of Conduct at Student Conduct and Integrity Office. According to Section 1, "Academic Misconduct," students are prohibited from engaging in:

a. Academic misconduct is defined as any submitted work or behavior that obstructs the instructor of record's ability to accurately assess the student's understanding or completion of the course materials or degree requirements (e.g., assignment, quiz, and/or exam). Examples of academic misconduct include but are not limited to: plagiarism, unauthorized assistance to complete an academic exercise; unauthorized communication with others during an examination, course assignment, or project; falsifying or misrepresenting academic work; providing misleading information to create a personal advantage to complete course/degree requirements; or multiple submission(s) of academic work without permission of the instructor of record.
b. Any student who knowingly helps another violate academic behavior standards is also in violation of the standards.
c. Commercial Use of Academic Material. Selling of course material to another person and/or uploading course material to a third-party vendor without authorization or without the express written permission of the University and the instructor of record. Course materials include but are not limited to class notes, the instructor of record's slide deck, tests, quizzes, labs, instruction sheets, homework, study guides, and handouts.
d. Soliciting assistance with academic coursework and/or degree requirements. The solicitation of assistance with an assignment, lab, quiz, test, paper, etc., without authorization of the instructor of record or designee is prohibited. This includes but is not limited to asking for answers to a quiz, trading answers, or offering to pay another to complete an assignment. It is considered Academic Misconduct to solicit assistance with academic coursework and/or degree requirements, even if the solicitation did not yield actual assistance (for example, if there was no response to the solicitation).

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 and Academic Integrity, 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 access and community engagement, 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
- Access and Community Engagement (including the Ginsberg Center for Inclusion and Community Engagement, Military and Veteran Student Success, and HSI Initiatives)
- UCF Compliance and Ethics Office – Compliance, Ethics, and Risk Office & complianceandethics@ucf.edu
- The Ombuds Office is a safe place to discuss concerns.

Reporting an Incident or Issue

If you believe you have experienced abusive or discriminatory behavior by any faculty or staff member, contact the Office of Institutional Equity online or at 407-823-1336. You can also choose to report using the UCF Integrity Line and can report anonymously or as yourself at 1-855-877-6049 or

using the online form. UCF cares about you and takes every report seriously. For more information see the Reporting an Incident or Issue Webpage.

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

At UCF Public Safety and Police, safety is the top priority. Emergencies on campus are rare, but if one should arise, it's important to be familiar with some basic safety and security concepts.

- In an emergency, always dial 911.
- Every UCF classroom has an **Emergency Procedure Guide** posted on a wall near the door, which will show you how to respond to a variety of situations. This guide can also be found online here.
- In the event of an active threat, remember **AVOID, DENY, DEFEND**. Choose the best course of action and act immediately. Watch the video here to learn more.
    - **AVOID**. Pay attention to your surroundings and have an exit plan. Get as much distance and as many barriers between you and the threat as quickly as possible.
    - **DENY.** When avoiding is difficult or impossible, deny the threat access to you and your space. Lockdown by creating barriers, turning the lights off and remaining quiet and out of sight. Make sure your cell phone is silenced, but do not turn it off.
    - **DEFEND.** When you are unable to put distance between yourself and the threat, be prepared to protect yourself. Commit to your actions, be aggressive and do not fight fairly. Do whatever it takes to survive.
- For emergencies on campus, UCF will utilize the UCF Alert system. All UCF students, faculty and staff are automatically enrolled to receive these email and text alerts, however, it's a good idea to frequently ensure your contact information is up to date.

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
2	The U.S. Constitution and its Origins
3	American Federalism
4	**Review and First Exam (June 4)**
5	Civil Liberties
6	Civil Rights
7	**Review and Second Exam (June 25)**
8	Voting, Campaigns and Elections
9	Political Parties and Interest Groups
10	Institutions: Congress, The Presidency, and the Courts
11	**Review and Third Exam (July 23)**
12	**Final Project Presentations and Final Exam (July 30)**

Change to the Syllabus

Note: *This syllabus is subject to change at instructor's discretion if necessary. Changes to the syllabus, if any, will be announced in class and the updated syllabus will be posted on Webcourses.*