

INSTRUCTOR

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COURSE DESCRIPTION

This course is designed to introduce American National Government, its historical foundations, institutions, and political processes. This course focuses on institutions, practices, and the history of politics and government in the United States. This course will cover a great deal of ground as we will discuss the Constitution, the three branches of the federal government, interest groups, public opinion, campaigns, elections, and political parties. For each subject, we will examine some of the leading perspectives in political science and incorporate current events and our personal experiences.

Overarching Goals

- To examine the historical and philosophical foundations of the U.S. Political System
- To sharpen the students' ability to think critically about the American political system by reading contemporary and classic materials from various sources that encompass both objective and opinion-based points of view.
- To understand the structures and processes of American government and politics.
- To discuss the concepts of federalism and intergovernmental relations
- To explore contemporary political debates.
- To examine constitutional principles, institutional structures, and political practices, including interest groups, political parties, voting, and elections.
- To discuss the functions and purposes of major governmental and non-governmental institutions.
- To examine how laws are made, enforced, and have changed
- To explore the role and impact of the media and other private sectors on the U.S. political system.

Learning Outcomes and Core Competencies

1. Identify and explain the basic principles and practices of American democracy and how they are applied in our republican form of government
2. Outline and summarize the United States Constitution and its application
3. List and explain the founding documents and how they have shaped the nature and functions of our institutions of self-governance
4. Identify and discuss landmark Supreme Court cases, landmark legislation, and landmark executive actions and their impact on law and society ** *Civic Literacy Competencies***

5. Describe the concepts of separation of powers and checks and balances.
6. Identify and describe the roles and responsibilities of the executive, legislative, and judicial branches of government.
7. Identify and explain the various ways framers designed and place limits on government
8. Describe the policy-making process
9. Identify the role(s) of interest groups
10. Identify the role(s) and responsibilities of the citizen in America's Republican democracy

REQUIRED TEXT:

Text: GOVT - 11 (FAMU Bookstore)

- Publisher: Cengage
- Author(s): Sidlow/Henschen
- eBook: ISBN-10: 0357709896 | ISBN-13: 9780357709894
- Paperback: ISBN-10: 0357459792 | ISBN-13: 9780357459799

Text: Choices: American Government Reader (Custom)

- Author(s) Wright, Larry L. (9780536816337)
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ASSIGNMENTS:

Late Assignments and or exams will not be accepted without prior approval from the instructor and or an excuse from the Office of the Dean of the College of Social Sciences, Arts and Humanities.

INSTRUCTIONAL METHOD - This is an online course, and **all work** must be submitted via CANVAS. Each week's assigned reading is pre-posted on CANVAS. The course will require that you keep up with assigned readings and other assignments. Students enrolled in the course should be knowledgeable about CANVAS.

First day of Class – Attendance holds Will NOT be removed until the following information is received from the student. Submit your work via the Assignment Section of CANVAS, not e-mail.

- All students are to complete the following assignment with the following:
 - Full name
 - Major
 - Classification
 - Contact phone number
 - FAMU e-mail address (I will not send e-mails to personal e-mails)
- Students should acknowledge the following:
 - That you are actively enrolled in the course
 - That you have reviewed the syllabus
 - That you have access to a fully operational computer and has access to a reliable internet service.

Discussion Questions - Synchronous discussions will take place each week throughout the semester. Students are required to participate in a minimum of eight (8) throughout the semester. A percentage of your overall grade is based on your participation and written comments. Discussion questions are located among your course materials located in CANVAS, which also contain dates, times, and the grading rubric for the discussion posts.

Your written submission should be no less than 150 words but no more than 200 (1/2 Page) and be typed and double-spaced. Student responses are to be submitted by 11:59 PM each Friday night. Do not wait until the last minute; late assignments will not be accepted, and technical problems may occur.

- Students can earn up to three (3) points for the required synchronous participation and an additional three (3) points) for your written comments. In brief, a total of six (6) points can be earned for this assignment.
- Discussion topics will be posted for review on Mondays at 8:00 AM
- Student responses must be entered by 11:59 PM on Fridays
- A total of 48 points can be earned from this assignment(s).

Readings - In addition to the required text, five additional readings will come from *Choices: An American Government Reader*. A percentage of your grade is based on your responses to questions associated with the reading assignment. The dates, times and the grading rubric for each assignment will be posted in Canvas. Each reading assignment is worth 10 points or a total of 50 points.

Guest speakers – Workshops During the semester, guest speakers and or workshops addressing topics relating to topics covered in American Government will be sponsored by the department, its Centers, and faculty. Attendance at these virtual select events may be required for this course. No more than four events will be required to attend. A short-written assignment in connection with the speakers and/or events or workshops will be required. Each written submission is worth 5 points each or a total of 20 points.

Exams - There will be seven exams covering the text and the readings from the – The exams are designed to test your familiarity with the lecture material, reading assignments, and vocabulary.

Topics and Due Dates:

Module 1	
CH 1 -- America in the 21st Century	Exam - Chapter 1
Module 2	
CH 2 – The Constitution	
CH 3 -- Federalism	Exam - Chapters 2 and 3
Module 3	
CH 4 -- Civil Liberties	

CH 5 -- Civil Rights	Exam - Chapters 4 and 5
Module 4	
CH 6 – Interest Groups	
CH 7 -- Political Parties	
CH 9 – Campaigns and Elections	Exam – 6, 7, and 9
Module 5	
CH 10 – Politics and the Media	
CH 13 – The Bureaucracy	
CH 14 – The Judiciary	Exam - Chapters 10, 13 and 14

GRADING:

Assignment / Exam /	Points
Exam #1	50
Exam #2 - #5 (100 pts. Each – total 500 pts)	400
Discussions (synchronous)	24
Discussions (asynchronous)	24
Readings (Articles) (10 points each)	50
Guest Speakers or Workshops (5 points each x 4)	40
Total	588

Total Points -	90% -100%	80% - 89%	70%-79%	60%-69%	59% - Below
Grade	A	B	C	D	F

Incomplete Grade Policy - Due to extenuating circumstances beyond the control of the student, an incomplete grade may be assigned if the student was passing as determined by the Instructor. A student who is passing a course but has not completed all of the required work due to extenuating circumstances by the end of the term may, with the permission of the Instructor, be assigned a grade of "I." Grades of "I" are not assigned to any course that a student fails to attend.

Academic Honesty / Plagiarism - Students will be expected to adhere to standards of academic honesty and integrity, as outlined in the Student Academic Honesty Policy. All assignments must be original work, clear and error-free. All ideas/material that is borrowed from other sources must have appropriate references to the original sources.

FAMU's Academic Honesty Policy & Procedures - All members of, and participants in, the academic life of the University are to be governed by academic honesty in all of their endeavors. Students and faculty are expected to uphold academic integrity and combat academic dishonesty. "Read more about FAMU's [Academic Honesty Policy & Procedures](#)

Accommodations - If you have a documented disability and verification from the [Center for Disability Access and Resources](#) (CEDAR) and wish to discuss academic accommodations, please contact your Instructor as soon as possible. It is the student's responsibility to provide documentation of disability to CEDAR and meet with a CEDAR counselor to request special accommodation *before* classes start. CEDAR is located at 667 Ardelia Court, Tallahassee, FL 32307 and can be contacted by phone at 850.599-3180.

Technical Assistance If you need technical assistance or to report a problem with Canvas you can:

- *Visit the [Office of Instructional Technology](#) (www.famu.edu/it) page
- *Contact the Office of Instructional Technology at 850-599-3460 or oit@famu.edu
- *View [tutorials](#) to learn more about using Canvas

*******I reserve the right to amend the syllabus (assignments, due dates, and exams) as appropriate/needed*******

Disclaimer: This syllabus is intended to provide student guidance on the type of content and activities that will be covered in this course throughout the semester. It will be followed to the extent possible. However, modifications may be made to supplement and/or enhance student learning.