

# FLORIDA A&M UNIVERSITY

Department of History & Political  
Science



## Course Syllabus Semester: Fall 2022

POS:2041

**Class:** POS 2041 Section 001 – American National Government

**Time:** 12:20PM - 1:10PM MWF

**Instructor:** Dr. Abdul Sharif

**Email Address:** Abdul.Sharif@fam.u.edu

**Location:** BLPC 0101

**Office:** 309 Tucker Hall

**Telephone:** (850) 561-2061

### Course Description

This course is an introduction to American Government, providing knowledge of the ideas and institutions that shape politics in the United States. This course will focus on the procedures and intermingling of the three branches of the U.S. Government: Legislative, Executive, and Judicial. There will be a review of the strategies, roles, and limitations of governmental leaders and citizens, with specific focus on communication channels and interaction within constitutional parameters. This course will reinforce opportunities for debates on subject content and general class discussion. Videos and guest speakers may be utilized to support reading materials.

### Overarching Goal

Ultimately, students will be expected to have a more comprehensive understanding of the forces that shape American Government and Politics.

### Course Objectives

After completion of this course, students should be able to:

1. Examine and analyze modern American political processes.
2. Display an understanding of current events and issues in American politics.

3. Acquire the basic skills of writing, speaking, and critical thinking.
4. Develop a working vocabulary of terms and concepts used by scholars, policymakers, and other political actors.

### **Course Competencies and Outcomes: Florida Department of Education - Postsecondary Civics Literacy**

- A. Understanding of the basic principles and practices of American democracy and how they are applied in our republican form of government
- B. An understanding of the United States Constitution and its application
- C. Knowledge of the founding documents and how they have shaped the nature and functions
- D. An understanding of landmark Supreme Court cases, landmark legislation, and landmark executive actions, and their impact on law and society

### **Course Methodology**

The following techniques will be used during this course: lectures by the instructor, online class discussion, social media, written assignments, and presentations by students.

### **Course Requirements**

1. Students are expected to keep up with the readings in relation to each chapter and be prepared to discuss the readings during class meetings.
2. Students are expected to respect their peers as well as the instructor at all times. Any demonstrations of disrespect during class meetings will not be tolerated. Any student in violation of the disorderly conduct stipulation set forth by the university will be dismissed from class and reported to the proper authorities (according to the student handbook).
3. Students are expected to turn in assignments at the beginning of class on dates specified by the instructor. Make-up and Late assignments will NOT be accepted under any circumstances. Points for missed assignments will be excused with a university approved Official Absence Excuse (according to the student handbook).

### **Attendance/Tardiness/Academic Honesty**

It is the University's policy that students punctually attend all class meetings for courses in which they are enrolled unless officially excused. Students who do not attend class meetings during the first ten (10) class days of the academic term will be dropped from the course by the University Registrar.

Attendance is mandatory and will be recorded on a daily basis. **Six unexcused absences automatically receive zero percentage points for attendance/participation.** If a student Students are expected to be on time. There is **ZERO TOLERANCE** for cheating and plagiarism. Any student in violation of either will be dismissed from class, receive a grade of F for the assignment and/or overall course and reported to the proper authorities.

### Required Textbook

Steffen W. Schmidt, Mack C. Shelley, and Barbara A. Bardes, 2018-2019 American Government and Politics Today: Brief Edition, Belmont, CA: Wadsworth Publishing Company. ISBN: 978-1-3375597-0-6

### Grades

Your grade will be calculated as follows:

#### Categories

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Assignments	5%
Participation and Attendance	10%
Unit Tests (Combined)	20%
Project	25%
Mid-term	20%
Final	<u>20%</u>
	<b>100%</b>

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### SEMESTER SCHEDULE

Please Note: Schedule is Subject to Change

8/22 – Introduction

8/24 – Discussion

8/27 -- Chapter 1- Democratic Republic

8/29 - Chapter 1- Democratic Republic

8/31 - Chapter 2- Constitution

9/2 - Chapter 2- Constitution

9/5 - Labor DAY No Class

9/7 - Chapter 2- Constitution

9/9- Online Assignment

9/12- Chapter 3- Federalism

9/14- Chapter 3 - Federalism

9/16 Overview  
9/19- Chapters 1/2/3 Unit 1 Test  
9/21- Chapter 9- Congress  
9/23- Online Assignment  
9/26- Chapter 9- Congress  
9/28- Chapter 12-Courts  
9/30 - Assignment Submission  
10/3 - Chapter 12- Courts  
10/5- Overview  
10/7- Midterm 9/12  
10/10- Chapter 8- Campaigns and Elections  
10/12 - Chapter 8- Campaigns and Elections  
10/14 – Online Assignment Submission  
10/17- Group Projects  
10/19- Group Projects  
10/21- Group Projects  
10/24- Group Projects  
10/26- Group Projects  
10/28- Overview  
10/31- Unit Test 2: Chapter 8  
11/2- Chapter 4- Civil Liberties  
11/4 - Online Assignment  
11/7 - Chapter 4- Civil Liberties  
11/9 -Chapter 5- Civil Rights  
11/11 - Online Assignment  
11/14 - Chapter 5- Civil Rights  
11/16 - Overview Chapters 4/5  
11/18 Final Exam  
11/30 Discussion/Questions

**I have read, discussed, and understand the information provided in this syllabus  
for POS 2041-001 American National Government.**

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**Name of Student (Print)**

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Student's Signature

*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.*