

# AMER NATL GOVERNMENT

**Syllabus Fall 2023 - POS 2041E**

## **American National Government**

- **Instructor:** Dr. Ashley Milton
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- **Office Hours:** Virtual By Appointment, **schedule a session** [here](#)
- **Attend Virtual Lectures** [here](#)

## **COURSE DESCRIPTION**

This course is designed to introduce students to the American National Government, its historical foundations, institutions, and political processes. The course focuses on institutions, practices, and the history of politics and government in the United States. It covers 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 political systems of the U.S.
- To sharpen the students' ability to think critically about the American political system by reading contemporary and classic materials from various sources encompassing both objective and opinion-based points of view.
- To discuss the concepts of federalism and intergovernmental relations
- 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 sector participants on U.S. politics.

## **Learning / Civic Literacy - Core Competencies and Outcomes**

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
5. Identify and describe the roles and responsibilities of the executive, legislative, and judicial branches of government.
6. Identify and explain the various ways framers designed and placed limits on government
7. Describe the policy-making process
8. Identify the role(s) of interest groups
9. 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: **The Great Migration and the Democratic Party: Black Voters and the Realignment of American Politics in the 20th Century**

- Author(s) Grant, Keneshia (9781439917459)
- Temple University Press

### **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 readings are listed on CANVAS. The course will

require that you keep up with the 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. Submit your work via the Assignment Section of CANVAS, not e-mail.

- All students are to complete the Attendance Hold Quiz:
  - Full name
  - Major
  - Classification
  - Contact phone number
  - FAMU e-mail address (I will not send e-mails to personal e-mail addresses)
- 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 have access to a reliable internet service.

**Virtual Lectures & Discussions** – **Students are required to participate** in synchronous discussions and or forums occurring via ZOOM eight (8) times throughout the semester. A percentage of your overall grade is based on your participation and written comments. Virtual Lectures & Discussions are graded based on attendance and participation. Pre and Post Test are worth 2 points each and attendance is worth 2 points for a total of 6 points for each session or 48 points overall.

If you miss the Virtual Lecture because of a schedule conflict, please find the appropriate Virtual Lecture Module and follow the instructions for missing a VL.

**Discussion Questions** – Students are required to complete 6 reading discussions worth 6 points. Some discussions will require responding to a classmate and therefore the scoring will be 3 points for the initial response and 3 points for classmate engagement. In brief, a total of six (6) points can be earned for each discussion assignment for a total of 36 points.

- Discussion topics will be posted for review on Mondays at 8:00 AM
- Student responses must be entered by 11:59 PM on Fridays

Your written submission should have word requirements, please confer with a question prompt to receive full credit. Student responses are to be submitted by 11:59 PM on Friday night of the assigned week. Do not wait until the last minute; late assignments will not be accepted, and technical problems may occur.

**Readings** - In addition to the required text, additional readings will come from *The Great Migration and the Democratic Party: Black Voters and the Realignment of American Politics in the 20th Century*. 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 60 points.

**Exams** - There will be five 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 / September 14, 2023

#### **Module 2**

CH 2 – The Constitution

CH 3 -- Federalism Exam - Chapters 2 and 3 / Oct. 5, 2023

#### **Module 3**

CH 4 -- Civil Liberties

CH 5 -- Civil Rights Exam - Chapters 4 and 5 / Oct. 19, 2023

## **Module 4**

CH 6 – Interest Groups

CH 7 -- Political Parties

CH 9 – Campaigns and Elections      Exam – 6, 7, and 9 / Nov. 9, 2023

## **Module 5**

CH 10 – Politics and the Media

CH 13 – The Bureaucracy

CH 14 – The Judiciary      Exam - Chapters 10, 13 and 14 / Nov. 30

Final      December 7, 2023

## **VIRTUAL DISCUSSION SESSIONS:**

**American Government a the Global Perspective**

**Virtual Lecture & Discussion 1- Exposure**

Date      Questions

- 8/31/2023**
- What exposure does the American Government provide to the world?
  - How does the American Government deploy exposure tools?
  - When did the American Government exposure become important to the global perspective?
  - Who benefits from the global exposure to American governance?
  - Why is global exposure important to the American Government?
  - Where does the exposure to the American Government globally take place?

## **Virtual Lecture & Discussion 2 - Engagement**

Date            Questions

- 9/14/2023**
- How does the American government engage the world?
  - What tools does the American Government use to engage in foreign policy?
  - Why does global engagement matter to the American Government?
  - Why does the American Government engage in global policy?
  - When does the American Government engage in global diplomacy, defense, and/or development?
  - Who does the American Government engage in the geopolitical sphere?

### Virtual Lecture & Discussion 3 - Education

Date            Questions

- 10/5/2023
- What education have you received from the American National Government?
  - When was this education provided?
  - Who perspective was it provided from?
  - Why does the educational perspective of the American National Government matter?
  - How did education play a role in the growth and development of the American Government?
  - Where are the majority of American National Government leaders educated?

### Virtual Lecture & Discussion 4 - Empowerment

Date            Questions

10/19/202

3

- Who does the American National Government empower?
- What type of empowerment does the American Government provide its constituents?
- When does the American Government executive power in global governance?
- Where does the American Government execute its power in global governance?
- Why does the power of the American National Government matter to global perspectives?
- How does the American Government execute its power?

## Virtual Lecture & Discussion 5 - Employment

Date            Questions

11/2/2023

- What employment opportunities are available in the American Government?
- Where do employees of the American Government work?
- How does upward mobility work in the American Government?
- Who does the American Government hire?
- Why is the American Government one of the largest employers of African Americans?
- When did the American Government start to employ African Americans?



## Virtual Lecture & Discussion 6 - Entrepreneurship

Date            Questions

11/16/2023 - What are the innovation features of the American National Government?

- Who are the innovators of and within the American Government system, then and now?

- Why is innovation important to the American Government?

- When does the American Government support innovations in the private sector?

- Where can the innovations of the American National Government be extrapolated to?

- How does the American National Government benefit from the intellectual property of its citizens?

## Virtual Lecture & Discussion 7 - Evolution

Date            Questions

- 11/30/2023 - How did the evolution of the American National Government system change the world?
- What positive and negative evolutionary changes have occurred because of the American governance system?
  - Who benefits from the positive contributions of the American National Government evolution and who loses from the negative attributes of the System's evolution?
  - Why is this important to assess the evolution of the American National Government?
  - When does the evolution of the system peak and plateau?
  - Where can lessons learned from failures of the American Government be beneficial for other global governing bodies and institutions.

**GRADING:**

Assignment/Exam	Points
Exam #1	50
Exam #2 - #5 (100 pts. Each – total 500 pts)	400
Online Discussions	36
Virtual Lectures & Discussions	48

Readings (*Choices*) (10 points x 6 articles) 60

Final Exam 100

**Total 694**

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](#)

[Links to an external site.](#)

**Accommodations** - If you have a documented disability and verification from the [Center for Disability Access and Resources](#)

[Links to an external site.](#)

(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](#)

[Links to an external site.](#)

([www.famu.edu/it](http://www.famu.edu/it)) page

\*Contact the Office of Instructional Technology at 850-599-3460 or [oit@famu.edu](mailto:oit@famu.edu)

\*View [tutorials](#)

[Links to an external site.](#)

to learn more about using Canvas

If you need an official excuse please email: [CSSAHEXCUSE@FAMU.EDU](mailto:CSSAHEXCUSE@FAMU.EDU)

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