

**American National Government 21:790:201:60**  
**Professor Todd M. Galante**

**(SPRING 2022)**

Index No. 02195

Monday Evenings 6:00 to 9:00 PM

**Classroom: Hill Hall 101**

Office: Hill Hall Room 718

Office Hours: Monday 4:30 p.m. to 5:30 p.m. and by Appointment

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### **REQUIRED BOOKS, MATERIALS & ACCESS – NO EXCEPTIONS**

- 1. Revel American Government: Roots and Reform, 2020 Presidential Election Edition, Fourteenth Edition, 2020 -- You Need -- Combo Access Card + Get Loose Leaf Notes Too!**

**Authors: Karen J. O'Connor and Larry J. Sabato**

**eBook with Revel Access AND 3 Hole Binder/Loose-leaf – (YOU MUST GET ALL & Bring Loose-Leaf Book to Class)**

**(DIRECTIONS ON CANVAS OR CONTACT UNIVERSITY BOOKSTORE)**

**(Link through Pearson Publishing -- <https://console.pearson.com/enrollment/peldsv>)**

**ISBN: 978013556053**

- 2. *Nineteen Eighty-Four or 1984* By: George Orwell – Buy Anywhere**

**DO NOT SUBSTITUTE CLIFFS NOTES/SPARKNOTES**

**\*\*\*\*\* YOU MUST READ THE BOOK\*\*\*\*\***

### **COURSE DESCRIPTION**

The goal of this course is to familiarize students with the structures, functions, and processes of American National Government and its politics. **Starting from the premise that students must understand the origins of American government to fully understand the issues facing the United States today, I place particular emphasis on the intersection of history and contemporary politics.** We will explore the philosophical and historical roots of American politics, The Declaration of Independence, U.S. Constitution and Amendments, certain Federalist Papers, the three co-equal branches of government, certain Supreme Court decisions, various economic and social issues, domestic and foreign affairs, political parties, the media, current political events, and much more. By the end of the course, students should have the skills, knowledge, and motivation necessary to be both knowledgeable and engaged citizens/participants in the American polity. **YOU MUST BE PREPARED FOR CLASS – COMPLETE READING + WRITTEN ASSIGNMENTS + BE UP ON CURRENT POLITICAL EVENTS/ISSUES + ETC.**

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By the end of the course you should be able to:

- Assess the importance of major historical events for contemporary politics in the United States;
- Explain how government and politics impacts your daily life;
- Recognize and evaluate the basic debates and issues in American government and American political history;
- Explain and critically assess the formal and informal political institutions and their respective roles in American politics;
- Identify and describe the key functions of the three branches of government; and
- Assess the causes and consequences of different forms of political participation, and outline the ways in which individuals and groups can affect political outcomes in the United States;
- Intelligently debate political issues and positions on a wide array of topics; and
- Critically think and persuasively present all sides of an argument.

#### Recommended/Additional Readings/News/Community

- The Wall Street Journal, The New York Times, The Washington Post, The Star Ledger, Pew Research Center, etc.
- The Quarterly Journal of Economics
- The AP Newsfeeds (Associated Press Politics) & Yahoo Political News
- [www.C-SPAN.org](http://www.C-SPAN.org) or C-SPAN Networks (C-SPAN, C-SPAN2 and C-SPAN3)
- [www.whitehouse.gov](http://www.whitehouse.gov)
- [www.house.gov](http://www.house.gov)
- [www.senate.gov](http://www.senate.gov)
- Bloomberg Radio, CNBC, Fox Business News, POTUS (Politics of the United States), AM Talk Radio
- Fox News, CNN, MSNBC, BBC and other cable and network programming
- [www.Eagleton.Rutgers.edu](http://www.Eagleton.Rutgers.edu) (Eagleton Institute of Politics)

#### Participation Requirement

### **BE PREPARED FOR CLASS**

**Class participation is required as part of my class. Students must be prepared for each class, having read in advance the required materials, timely completing and submitting assignments, being apprised and familiar with current political issues/events, and being able to meaningfully participate and contribute to class discussions and debates.** Students should follow current news every day about national politics, the President, Congress, Supreme Court, foreign affairs, economic issues and conditions, as well as current social/public policy issues and behavior of the American electorate. News should be relevant to the topics of discussion during the semester. Students will be required to present papers and arguments/debate on certain political news items, issues and topics of interests. **STUDENTS WILL BE CALLED ON BY ME -- Failure to be prepared and participate will negatively affect a student's final grade.**

## Attendance Policy

**Experience has demonstrated that students who miss more than one (1) class generally do not perform well on exams, class discussion/participation or final grade. Thus, attendance is required.** If a student has more than one absence his/her grade will be automatically reduced by ½ grade for each absence after the first. **If the student knows in advance that he or she must miss more than one class, I recommend the student register for another course.** While an excusable absence will not count against you, if you have more than one absence and/or an unexcused absence you likely will not do well in the class. (Excusable absences consist of a properly and timely documented: (a) personal illness, (b) illness of a student's child or parent for whom who student is caretaker, or (c) death of a loved one -- immediate family.) If you have an excusable absence you must notify me of same in writing before class and provide proper supporting documentation upon return to class at our next session. Failure to timely comply will result in recordation of an unexcused absence. Doctor's notes are required for excused medical absence. I take attendance at every class and students must be personally present to be marked in attendance. Don't plan on leaving early. I want you to get your money's worth. Students will have no more than one unexcused absence per semester.

## General Rules of Interaction/Respect

**We will debate current political issues/events in class. Students are expected and required to have timely completed assigned reading and other assignments in order to meaningfully contribute to class discussions. Students are also required to be up on current political events and facts. Students are to be respectful of other students, the professor and any guests. Students must also comport themselves in a mature and professional manner. Failure to do so is likely to result in a reduction of your final grade.**

## Exams

Students are responsible for all assigned materials/content presented in the textbook, eBook, lectures, other assigned readings, exhibited or assigned film(s), handouts, class debates, and any other materials disseminated by me during the semester. Everything is fair game, but more importantly, you will see that most of what you learn ties together and should be viewed, understood and presented that way in discussion, papers, exams, answers, etc.

**DO NOT MISS EXAMS.** Also, do not ask to reschedule exams because of travel plans. The exam schedule has been selected to avoid holidays and conflicts. **PROFESSOR MAY MODIFY SCHEDULE. YOU WILL BE NOTIFIED IN ADVANCE.**

**Midterm Exam is scheduled for: FEBRUARY 28, 2022 (DURING CLASS TIME)**

**The Final Exam is scheduled for: MAY 9, 2022 (6:00 p.m. to 9:00 p.m.)**

## Grading/Negative Discretion

Generally, grades are approximately based on the following: Homework and Quizzes (20% total grade); 1984 Paper (25% total grade) Midterm Exam (25% total grade); and Final Exam (30% total grade). **PROFESSOR RESERVES THE RIGHT TO CHANGE THE FOREGOING PERCENTAGES WITHOUT PRIOR NOTICE.**

**Professor's Use of Negative Discretion -- Your overall grade WILL BE REDUCED for each of the following:**

(a) You fail to attend class as required; (b) You fail to be prepared; (c) You fail to meaningfully participate in class discussion/debates; (d) You fail to timely submit or complete homework assignments; (e) You are either disrespectful of others, disruptive or generally not paying attention during class (for example: using electronic devices, social media, shopping on line, watching sports, joking around, distracting Professor or other students, et cetera). **PLEASE COME TO CLASS PREPARED...HAVING DONE THE READING, ETC.**

### Possible Extra Credit Opportunity

Depending on the level of overall class preparedness, participation and effort to succeed in my class (which must be consistently high), I may, in my sole discretion, provide an opportunity for extra credit. I will decide and announce same after the Midterm Exam has been graded, returned to you and discussed. If extra credit is allowed, the assignment must be timely completed and submitted. If timely submitted, reviewed and "accepted" by me as good, high quality original work with proper support and attribution provided, students may be permitted to increase their overall grade by ½ grade level — (i.e. B to B+). Late submissions will not be accepted. Poorly written, poor quality, heavily quoted and/or significant unoriginal work will not be given credit and the submission will be rejected.

### Order of Readings and Lectures

**YOU MUST READ THE ASSIGNED MATERIALS BELOW IN ADVANCE OF EACH CLASS. YOU SHALL ALSO VIEW THE VIDEOS IN EACH CHAPTER AND REVIEW, ANSWER AND STUDY THE QUESTIONS AT THE END OF EACH CHAPTER. YOU SHOULD ALSO TAKE THE PRACTICE TESTS PROVIDED TO TEST YOUR UNDERSTANDING AND RETENTION OF MATERIAL -- CERTAIN POP AND OTHER QUIZ/EXAM QUESTIONS MAY BE TAKEN DIRECTLY FROM THE STUDY QUESTIONS IN TEXT/MATERIALS.**

**I GIVE POP QUIZZES. KNOW THE TERMS/DEFINITIONS FOUND IN THE ASSIGNED CHAPTERS/GLOSSARY AND DO YOUR READING.**

<u>Date</u>	<u>Readings for Completion Ahead of Each Class Date Indicated</u>
Jan. 24	Chapter 13 – News Media, and The Society of Professional Journalists Code of Ethics ( <a href="http://www.spj.org/ethicscode.asp">http://www.spj.org/ethicscode.asp</a> ) & University Academic Integrity Policy (See Canvas @ “Academic Integrity”). Start reading book 1984.  Review of Syllabus, University Academic Integrity Policy, Ch. 13, Journalist Code of Ethics & discuss current political events (Lecture and Discussion)
Jan. 31	Chapter 1 – American Govt., The Declaration of Independence and Federalist Papers 10, 45, 51, 78 (Lecture and Discussion)
Feb. 7	<b>Possible Quiz</b> and Chapter 2 – The U.S. Constitution and The U.S. Constitution and Bill of Rights (First 10 Amendments of U.S. Constitution) & Chapter 11 – Political Parties (Lecture and Discussion)
Feb. 14	Continue Lecture/Review of Above
Feb. 21	<b>Possible Quiz</b> and Chapter 3 – The Federal System (Lecture and Discussion)
<b>Feb. 28</b>	<b>MIDTERM EXAM</b> and Chapter 4 - Civil Liberties
Mar. 07	Continue Chapter 4 – Civil Liberties (Discuss Midterm Exam Results/Lecture and Discussion)
Mar. 14	<b>NO CLASS – Spring Break</b>
Mar. 21	Chapter 5 – Civil Rights and Handouts/Videos “I Have a Dream” and film on Newark Riots– Revolution ’67, et cetera
Mar. 28	Finish Chapter 5 and start Chapter 6 – Congress and Presidential Election (Lecture & Discussion)
Apr. 04	<b>Possible Quiz</b> and finish Chapter 6
Apr. 11	Chapter 7 – The President. Also, 1984 Paper Due Today
Apr. 18	Chapter 8 – The Executive Branch and Fed. Bureaucracy. Start Chapter 9 – The Judiciary and select Supreme Court decisions – Marbury v. Madison (Judicial Review) and others.

- Apr. 25            Finish Chapter 9, start Chapter 10  
(Lecture and Discussion)
- May 02            Chapter 11 – Public Opinion and Political Socialization and Political  
Parties -- (Lecture and Discussion and Review for Exam)
- May 09            **FINAL EXAM 6:00 to 9:00 p.m. if in class. If Take Home – TBD**

**SYLLABUS, ASSIGNMENTS, ET CETERA ARE SUBJECT TO  
MODIFICATION AT PROFESSOR'S DISCRETION**