

American National Government 21:790:201:61
Professor Todd M. Galante

(FALL SEMESTER 2018)

Index No. 11875
Tues. Evenings 6:00 pm to 9:00 pm
Classroom: 107 – Hill Hall
Office: Hill Hall Room 718
Office Hours: Tues. 4:30 p.m. to 5:30 p.m. and by
Appointment

University Office Phone: 973-353-5105
Law Office: 973-661-0710
Cell Phone: 201-315-6444
[Email: Todd.Galante@Rutgers.edu](mailto:Todd.Galante@Rutgers.edu)
[Emer: Tgalante@PiroZinnaLaw.com](mailto:Tgalante@PiroZinnaLaw.com)

2 Required Texts and Revel Access (No Exceptions)

American Government, Roots and Reform - 2016
Presidential Election Edition, (13th Ed. - 2018 Copyright) --

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

eBook with Revel Access AND 3 Hole Binder/Loose-leaf -- (YOU MUST GET ALL)

ISBN FOR THE ACCESS CARD/CODE: 9780134649375.

PURCHASE & ACCESS OPTIONS

Barnes and Noble at Rutgers University (Immediate Pickup/Access) or
Pearson Publishing –<https://console.pearson.com/enrollment/fwx8ao>
(Pearson has a 2 to 3-day delivery delay for the hard-loose-leaf text)

Nineteen Eighty-Four or 1984

Author: George Orwell
You Can Buy Anywhere

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 three co-equal branches of government, U.S. Constitution and Amendments, 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 in the American polity.

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 both sides of an argument.

Recommended/Additional Readings/News/Community

- The Wall Street Journal, The New York Times, The Washington Post, The Star Ledger, TIME, The Drudge Report, Pew Research Center
- The Quarterly Journal of Economics
- The AP Newsfeeds (Associated Press Politics) & Yahoo Political News
- www.C-SPAN.org or C-SPAN Networks (C-SPAN, C-SPAN2 and C-SPAN3)
- www.whitehouse.gov
- www.house.gov
- www.senate.gov
- Bloomberg Radio, CNBC, Fox Business News, POTUS (Politics of the United States), AM Talk Radio
- www.Eagleton.Rutgers.edu (Eagleton Institute of Politics)
- Fox News (cable), CNN, MSNBC, Bloomberg & Network News (compare and contrast)

Participation Requirement

Class participation is required as part of my class. Students must be prepared for each class, having read in advance the required materials, 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. 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 unexcused absence his/her grade will be automatically reduced by ½ grade for each unexcused absence after the first. If the student knows in advance

that he or she must miss more than one class, it is recommended that 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 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 absence. I take attendance at every class and you must be present to be marked in attendance. Don't plan on leaving early. I want you to get your money's worth.

General Rules of Interaction/Respect

We will debate current political issues/events in class. Thus, 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.

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.

The Midterm Exam is given during class time and on the date scheduled below.

Midterm Exam is scheduled for: OCTOBER 9, 2018

The Final Exam is scheduled for: DECEMBER 18, 2018 -- 6:20 p.m. to 9:20 p.m.

Grading/Negative Discretion

Grades are based on the following: written/graded assignments (designated as such by me during the semester)(15% total grade); In-class quizzes (15% total grade); Midterm Exam (30% total grade); and Final Exam (40% total grade).

Negative Discretion -- Your overall grade will be reduced for each of the following: You (a) fail to attend class as required; (b) fail to be prepared; (c) fail to meaningfully participate in class discussion/debates; (d) fail to timely submit or complete homework assignments; (e) are disrespectful of others, disruptive or generally not paying attention during class (for example: using social media, shopping on line, watching sports, et cetera).

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 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 can 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.

- Oct. 23 Chapter 5 – Civil Rights and Handouts/Video “I Have a Dream” and film on Newark Riots – Revolution ‘67
(Lecture and Discussion)
- Oct. 30 Chapter 6 – Congress and Presidential Election
(Lecture & Discussion)
- Nov. 6 Chapter 7 –The Presidency
(Lecture and Discussion)
- Nov. 13 Chapter 8 – The Executive Branch and Fed.
Bureaucracy
(Lecture and Discussion)
- Nov. 27 Chapter 9 – The Judiciary and select Supreme Court decisions – Marbury v. Madison (Judicial Review) and others. (Lecture and Discussion)
- Dec. 4 Chapters 10 and 11 – Public Opinion and Political Socialization and Political Parties -- (Lecture and Discussion and Review for Exam)
- Dec. 11 To Be Assigned and
Last class department exam & Final Exam Review.
(Lecture and Discussion)
- Dec. 18 FINAL EXAM 6:20 to 9:20 p.m.**

SYLLABUS SUBJECT TO MODIFCATION AT PROFESSOR’S DISCRETION

© August 5, 2018 -- TODD M. GALANTE -- COPYRIGHT NOTICE – ALL RIGHTS RESERVED. No part of this work which is protected by the copyrights herein may be reproduced, transmitted, stored, published or used in any form or by any means or by any person, entity or others, except under Section 107 or 108 of the U.S. Copyright Act, without the express prior written consent of Todd M. Galante, Esq.