

## AMERICAN NATIONAL GOVERNMENT

Course: 21:790:201:60 Spring 2018  
Location: Hill Hall 101, Mondays 6 – 9 PM  
Instructor: Theodora Leontaridis  
Office Hours: Mondays 5 – 6 PM or by appointment, Hill Hall 7<sup>th</sup> floor, room TBD  
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### Course Description

This course is an introduction to the American political system. We will examine the structural foundations, key institutions, players, and themes that will help us understand and analyze how government works. We will also discuss public opinion, interest groups, political parties, and the media as elements of our democracy. Finally, we will focus on the interaction between government and citizens as the framework for political processes. As we make the connection between government and our every-day lives, we'll also keep a keen eye on current events. The goal of this course is to enable students to gain deeper understanding, stimulate critical thinking, and form their own informed opinions about the forces that shape American politics.

### Required Textbook (choose one of the formats below):

|          |  |  |
|----------|--|--|
| Title:   | <b>By the People</b>   | Publisher: Oxford University Press     |
| Authors: | James A. Morone & Rogan Kersh<br>Brief <u>Third Edition</u> , 2016 | <b>ISBN: 978-0-19-0298890</b>          |
|          |  | Paperback: 978-0-19-029889-0: \$74.95  |
|          |  | Loose-leaf: 978-0-19-065459-7: \$52.99 |
|          |  | eBook: 978-0-19-029894-4: \$37.95      |

Used books and rentals can be found at around half the price online.  
All other readings (articles, video clips, etc.) will be posted on Blackboard.

### Grading Policy

- There will be three exams, **two midterms** and a **final exam**, accounting for 50% of your overall grade. Exams consist of multiple choice, short answer, and essay questions. The material for the exams is drawn from the textbook, supplemental readings, and class lectures. Make-up exams are worth fewer points, and are only made available to students who provide legitimate reasons and appropriate documentation for their absence. The final exam will be split into two parts, a multiple-choice part and an essay/ short answer part.
- Two **quizzes** will focus on concepts and key terms of one specific chapter, contributing 20% to your overall grade.
- There will be regular **homework** assignments, preparing for class discussions and relating to current events. The homework grade makes up 20% of your grade.
- **Attendance** and participation accounts for the remaining 20%. You are expected to arrive on time and attend all classes. Arriving more than 20 minutes late or leaving early will be marked as an absence. If you cannot attend class, you should notify me by Email. It is your responsibility to get notes from a class mate and stay informed about materials discussed during your absence. If you miss class for religious reasons, please provide timely notification, and speak with me about making up work.
- You are expected to submit all your work **on time!**
- All assignments, quiz, and exam dates will be posted on **Blackboard**. Please check Blackboard often for updates.

## **Course Evaluation**

| <b>Item</b>                  | <b>Percent</b> |
|------------------------------|----------------|
| Exams 1, 2, 3                | 50%            |
| Quizzes 1, 2                 | 20%            |
| Homework Assignments 12 - 14 | 20%            |
| Attendance and Participation | 10%            |
| <b>Total</b>                 | <b>100%</b>    |



### **Electronic devices:**

Phones must be silent and laptops/tablets should only be used for accessing e-books or other course resources. Read this: <https://www.scientificamerican.com/article/a-learning-secret-don-t-take-notes-with-a-laptop/>

### **Academic Integrity:**

Plagiarism will be reported and referred to the dean's office. Plagiarism is defined by the university as "the deliberate use and appropriation of another's work without any indication of the source and the passing off of such work as the student's own. Any student who fails to give credit for ideas or materials taken from another is guilty of plagiarism".

<http://academicintegrity.rutgers.edu/academic-integrity-policy/>

### **How to give credit and cite correctly**

<http://guides.libraries.psu.edu/apaquickguide/intext>

### **Disability Services:**

Rutgers University welcomes students with disabilities into all of the University's educational programs. For more information, please contact the Office of Disability Services (ODS) Suite 219, Paul Robeson Campus Center (973) 353-5315 [odsnewark@rutgers.edu](mailto:odsnewark@rutgers.edu)

### **Learning Resources:**

- Rutgers Learning Center (tutoring services) Room 140, Bradley Hall (973) 353-5608  
<http://www.ncas.rutgers.edu/rlc>
- Writing Center (tutoring and writing workshops) Room 126, Conklin Hall (973) 353-5847  
[nwc@rutgers.edu](mailto:nwc@rutgers.edu) <https://www.ncas.rutgers.edu/writingcenter>

Tentative Schedule: (see below)

**Tentative Class Schedule** (changes will be announced on Blackboard)

| <u>Session</u> | <u>Date:</u> | <u>Topic/Chapter</u>   | <u>supplemental readings on BB</u> |
|----------------|--------------|--|------------------------------------|
| 1              | Jan 22       | Syllabus, textbook, introduction to content<br>History, Declaration of Independence, Constitution (ch.2) |                                    |
| 2              | Jan 29       | Ideas that shape American Politics (ch.1)  |                                    |
| 3              | Feb 5        | Civil Liberties (ch.4)   |                                    |
| 4              | 12           | Civil Rights (ch.5)  |                                    |
| 5              | 19           | Public Opinion and Political Participation (ch.6)  | <b>Test 1</b>                      |
| 6              | 26           | Media, Technology, and Government (ch.7)   |                                    |
| 7              | Mar 5        | Campaigns and Elections (ch.8)   |                                    |
|                | 12           | <b>Spring Break – no class</b>   |                                    |
| 8              | 19           | Congress (ch.10)   |                                    |
| 9              | 26           | The Presidency (ch.11)   | <b>Test 2</b>                      |
| 10             | Apr 2        | Interest Groups and Political Parties (ch.9)   |                                    |
| 11             | 9            | Bureaucracy (ch.12)  |                                    |
| 12             | 16           | The Judicial Branch (ch.13)  |                                    |
| 13             | 23           | Domestic Policy (ch.14)  |                                    |
| 14             | 30           | Foreign Policy (ch.14)   |                                    |
| 15             |              | <b>Final Exam TBD</b>  | <b>Test 3</b>                      |