

**American National Government**  
**Rutgers University - Newark**  
**Spring 2022**  
**Tuesday & Thursday, 11:30 a.m.- 12:50 p.m.**  
**Life Science Center 130**

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**Covid-19 Statement from Rutgers University**

In order to protect the health and wellbeing of all members of the Rutgers-Newark community, masks must be worn by all persons inside campus buildings when in the presence of others, and in buildings in non-private enclosed settings (e.g., common workspaces, workstations, meeting rooms, classrooms, etc.). Masks should securely cover the nose and mouth. Masks must be worn during class meetings. Each day before you arrive on campus or leave your residence hall, you must complete the brief survey on the My Campus Pass symptom checker self-screening app found at: [myRutgers Portal](#).

**Course Description**

This course is designed to be an introduction to the study of American politics. We will cover topics including but not limited to: Constitution, Federalism, Civil Rights, Civil Liberties, Public Opinion, Media, Interest Groups, Political Parties, Campaigns and Elections, Voting, Congress, Presidency, Bureaucracy, and the Judiciary. The main objective of the course is to provide students with a framework to think critically about the institutions, ideas, and issues in American politics.

**Course Format and Requirements**

This course will meet twice a week. Attendance and active participation are important aspects of your class experience and evaluation. The course meetings will consist of a combination of lectures, discussions, and group work. In addition to reading the assigned materials, students must come prepared to discuss current events as well. Each class will begin with a discussion of current events in American politics.

**Course Assessment**

- **Two Quizzes (10%)**
  - **Quiz #1 February 15 (5%)**
  - **Quiz #2 March 29 (5%)**
- **Two Exams (55%)**
  - **Exam #1 Thursday, March 3 (25%)** – Will cover material from January 18 – March 1
  - **Exam #2 Tuesday, April 26 (30%)** – Will cover material from March 8 – April 21
- **1 Paper Due on Final Exam Day (20%)**
  - Paper topic, guidelines, and submission instructions will be posted on course website and discussed in class.
- **Participation (15%)**

Our class will benefit greatly from active participation from all class members. The unique analysis and personal experiences that each of you contributes to the discussions will help educate the rest of us. Class participation consists of the following components: (1) attending class; (2) Be prepared by doing the required readings; (3) engaging regularly in class discussions

## COURSE POLICIES

***Communications Inside and Outside of Class:*** Each student is responsible for all communications made during our class meetings as well as via e-mail. Periodically, the instructor will find it necessary to convey information to the class outside of our in-class sessions. In general, I will post any class announcements via e-mail to your Rutgers e-mail address.

### ***Accommodations:***

Rutgers University Newark (RU-N) is committed to the creation of an inclusive and safe learning environment for all students. RU-N has identified the following resources to further the mission of access and support:

- **Students with Disabilities:** Rutgers University welcomes students with disabilities into all of the University's educational programs. The Office of Disability Services (ODS) is responsible for the determination of appropriate accommodations for students who encounter barriers due to disability. In order to receive consideration for reasonable accommodations, a student with a disability must contact ODS, register, have an initial appointment, and provide documentation. Once a student has completed the ODS process (registration, initial appointment, and documentation submitted) and reasonable accommodations are determined to be necessary and appropriate, a Letter of Accommodation (LOA) will be provided to the student. The student must give the LOA to each course instructor, followed by a discussion with the instructor. This should be completed as early in the semester as possible as accommodations are not retroactive. More information can be found at [ods.rutgers.edu](http://ods.rutgers.edu). Contact ODS: (973) 353-5375 or [ods@newark.rutgers.edu](mailto:ods@newark.rutgers.edu).
- **Religious Holiday Policy and Accommodations:** Students are advised to provide timely notification to instructors about necessary absences for religious observances and are responsible for making up the work or exams according to an agreed-upon schedule. The Division of Student Affairs is available to verify absences for religious observance, as needed: (973) 353-5063 or [DeanofStudents@newark.rutgers.edu](mailto:DeanofStudents@newark.rutgers.edu).
- **Counseling Services:** Counseling Center Room 101, Blumenthal Hall, (973) 353-5805 or <http://counseling.newark.rutgers.edu/>.
- **Students with Temporary Conditions/Injuries:** Students experiencing a temporary condition or injury that is adversely affecting their ability to fully participate in their courses should submit a request for assistance at: <https://temporaryconditions.rutgers.edu>.
- **Students Who are Pregnant:** The Office of Title IX and ADA Compliance is available to assist students with any concerns or potential accommodations related to pregnancy: (973) 353-1906 or [TitleIX@newark.rutgers.edu](mailto:TitleIX@newark.rutgers.edu).
- **Gender or Sex-Based Discrimination or Harassment:** Students experiencing any form of gender or sex-based discrimination or harassment, including sexual assault, sexual harassment, relationship violence, or stalking, should know that help and support are available. To report an incident, contact the Office of Title IX and ADA Compliance: (973) 353-1906 or [TitleIX@newark.rutgers.edu](mailto:TitleIX@newark.rutgers.edu). To submit an incident report: [tinyurl.com/RUNReportingForm](http://tinyurl.com/RUNReportingForm). To speak with a staff member who is confidential and does NOT have a reporting responsibility, contact the Office for Violence Prevention and Victim Assistance: (973) 353-1918 or [run.vpva@rutgers.edu](mailto:run.vpva@rutgers.edu).

### ***Learning Resources:***

- Rutgers Learning Center (tutoring services)  
Room 140, Bradley Hall  
(973) 353-5608  
<https://sasn.rutgers.edu/student-support/tutoring-academic-support/learning-center>
- Writing Center (tutoring and writing workshops)  
Room 126, Conklin Hall  
(973) 353-5847  
[nwc@rutgers.edu](mailto:nwc@rutgers.edu)  
<https://sasn.rutgers.edu/student-support/tutoring-academic-support/writing-center>

### ***Code of Conduct and Academic Integrity:***

As an academic community dedicated to the creation, dissemination, and application of knowledge, Rutgers University is committed to fostering an intellectual and ethical environment based on the principles of academic integrity. Academic integrity is essential to the success of the University's educational and research missions, and violations of academic integrity constitute serious offenses against the entire academic community. The entire Academic Integrity Policy can be found here: <http://academicintegrity.rutgers.edu/academic-integrity-policy/>

### ***Electronic Devices***

Cell phones should be off while students are in class.

### ***Contacting the Professor***

Students are encouraged to make an appointment by email to discuss course material, assignments and other academic concerns.

### **COURSE MATERIALS**

There is 1 required book for this course.

John G. Geer, Wendy J. Schiller, Richard Herrera, and Jeffrey A. Segal. 2015. *Gateways to Democracy: An Introduction to American Government*, 3rd Edition Wadsworth Cengage Learning.

### **CLASS SCHEDULE AND ASSIGNMENTS**

The class readings may change slightly as salient policy issues may evolve over the course of our class. I will let you know about changes to the syllabus at least a week in advance.

<b>Week - Readings</b>	<b>Date</b>	<b>Topic</b>
<b>Week 1</b>	Tuesday, January 18	<b>Introduction</b> Overview of syllabus and course requirements
	Thursday, January 20	<b>American Political Culture</b>
<b>Week 2</b>		
Gateways Chapter 1	Tuesday, January 25	<b>No Class</b>
Gateways Chapter 2	Thursday, January 27	<b>Foundations of American Government</b>
<b>Week 3</b>		
Gateways Chapter 4	Tuesday, February 1	<b>Civil Liberties</b>
Gateways Chapter 3	Thursday, February 3	<b>Federalism</b>
<b>Week 4</b>		
	Tuesday, February 8	<b>Congress</b>
Gateways Chapter 12	Thursday, February 10	
<b>Week 5</b>		
Gateways Chapter 13	Tuesday, February 15	<b>Quiz #1 – February 15</b>
	Thursday, February 17	<b>Presidency</b>

<b>Week 6</b>		
Gateways Chapter 15 (pp 499-519)	Tuesday, February 22	<b>Judiciary</b>
Gateways Chapter 14	Thursday, February 24	<b>Bureaucracy</b>
<b>Week 7</b>		
Gateways Chapter 14	Tuesday, March 1	<b>Bureaucracy</b>
	Thursday, March 3	<b>**Exam #1**</b>
<b>Week 8</b>		
Gateways Chapter 9	Tuesday, March 8	
	Thursday, March 10	<b>Political Parties</b>
<b>Week 9</b>		
	Tuesday, March 15	
	Thursday, March 17	<b>Spring Break</b>
<b>Week 10</b>		
Gateways Chapter 8 (pp. 245-265)	Tuesday, March 22	
	Thursday, March 24	<b>Interest Groups</b>
<b>Week 11</b>		
Gateways Chapter 10	Tuesday, March 29	
	Thursday, March 31	<b>Campaigns and Elections Quiz #2 – March 29</b>
<b>Week 12</b>		
Gateways Chapter 11	Tuesday, April 5	
	Thursday, April 7	<b>Voting and Participation</b>
<b>Week 13</b>		
Gateways Chapter 6	Tuesday, April 12	
	Thursday, April 14	<b>Public Opinion</b>
<b>Week 14</b>		
Gateways Chapter 7	Tuesday, April 19	
	Thursday, April 21	<b>News and Social Media</b>
<b>Week 15</b>		
	Tuesday, April 26	<b>**Exam #2**</b>
	Thursday, April 28	<b>Inequality</b>