

American National Government
Rutgers University - Newark
Fall 2019
Tuesday & Thursday, 11:30 a.m.- 12:50 p.m.
Hill Hall 108

Professor: Domingo Morel, PhD
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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 September 26 (5%)**
 - **Quiz #2 November 7 (5%)**
- **Two Exams (55%)**
 - **Exam #1 Tuesday, October 15 (25%)** – Will cover material from September 3 – October 10
 - **Exam #2 Thursday, December 5 (30%)** – Will cover material from October 22 – December 3
- **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

THERE ARE NO MAKEUP EXAMS

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. Contact ODS: (973) 353-5375 or 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.
- **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.
- **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. To submit an incident report: 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.

Learning Resources:

- Rutgers Learning Center (tutoring services)
Room 140, Bradley Hall
(973) 353-5608
<https://sas.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
<https://sas.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 attend office hours to discuss course material, assignments and other academic concerns. Students who cannot attend office hours may email me to schedule an appointment.

COURSE MATERIALS

There is 1 required book for this course. The book is available for purchase at the Bookstore:

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.

Week - Readings	Date	Topic
Week 1 Gateways Chapter 1	Tuesday, September 3	Introduction Overview of syllabus and course requirements
	Thursday, September 5	American Political Culture
Week 2 Gateways Chapter 2	Tuesday, September 10	Foundations of American Government
	Thursday, September 12	
Week 3 Gateways Chapter 4	Tuesday, September 17	Civil Liberties
Gateways Chapter 3	Thursday, September 19	Federalism

Week 4 Gateways Chapter 12	Tuesday, September 24	Congress
	Thursday, September 26	Quiz #1 – September 26
Week 5 Gateways Chapter 13	Tuesday, October 1	Presidency
	Thursday, October 3	
Week 6 Gateways Chapter 15 (pp 499-519)	Tuesday, October 8	Judiciary
Gateways Chapter 14	Thursday, October 10	Bureaucracy
Week 7	Tuesday, October 15	**Exam #1**
	Thursday, October 17	No Class
Week 8 Gateways Chapter 9	Tuesday, October 22	Political Parties
	Thursday, October 24	
Week 9 Gateways Chapter 8 (pp. 245-265)	Tuesday, October 29	Interest Groups
	Thursday, November 31	
Week 10 Gateways Chapter 10	Tuesday, November 5	Campaigns and Elections
	Thursday, November 7	Quiz #2 – November 7
Week 11 Gateways Chapter 11	Tuesday, November 12	Voting and Participation
	Thursday, November 14	
Week 12 Gateways Chapter 6	Tuesday, November 19	Public Opinion
	Thursday, November 21	

Week 13		
Gateways Chapter 7	Tuesday, November 26	News and Social Media
	Thursday, November 28	No Class - Thanksgiving
Week 14		
Gateways Chapter 5	Tuesday, December 3	Civil Rights
	Thursday, December 5	**Exam #2**
Week 15		
	Tuesday, December 10	Conclusion