

American National Government
Rutgers University - Newark
Fall 2021
Monday & Thursday, 1:00 p.m - 2:20 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 September 27 (5%)**
 - **Quiz #2 November 8 (5%)**
- **Two Exams (55%)**
 - **Exam #1 Monday, October 18 (25%)** – Will cover material from September 9 – October 14
 - **Exam #2 Thursday, December 9 (30%)** – Will cover material from October 21 – December 6
- **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. 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://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
<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 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.

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		Introduction
	September 2	Overview of syllabus and course requirements
Week 2		No Class September 6
Gateways Chapter 2	September 6	
	September 9	Foundations of American Government
Week 3		
Gateways Chapter 4	September 13	Civil Liberties
	September 16	
Week 4		
Gateways Chapter 3	September 20	Federalism
	September 23	
Week 5		
Gateways Chapter 12	September 27	Quiz #1 – September 27
	September 30	Congress
Week 6		
Gateways Chapter 13	October 4	Presidency
	October 7	

Week 7 Gateways Chapter 15 (pp 499-519)	October 11 October 14	Judiciary
Week 8 Gateways Chapter 14	October 18 October 21	Exam #1 – October 18 Bureaucracy
Week 9	October 25 October 28	Political Parties
Week 10 Gateways Chapter 9	November 1 November 4	Interest Groups
Week 11 Gateways Chapter 8 (pp. 245-265)	November 8 November 11	Quiz #2 – November 8 Campaigns and Elections No Class November 11
Week 12 Gateways Chapter 10	November 15 November 18	Voting and Participation
Week 13 Gateways Chapter 11	November 22 November 25	Thanksgiving No Class
Week 14 Gateways Chapter 12	November 29 December 3	Public Opinion
Week 15 Gateways Chapter 7	December 6 December 9	News and Social Media Exam #2 – December 9
Week 16	December 13	Inequality