American National Government
Rutgers University - Newark
Spring 2021
Course is Asynchronous
Optional Meeting Date Thursdays 6:00pm-7:00pm
Zoom
https://rutgers.zoom.us/j/98625242912?pwd=cEhXSjN4cEVldERZT0lydmlJSmiZz09

Professor: Domingo Morel, PhD
Office Hours: By Appointment
E-Mail: domingo.morel@rutgers.edu

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 be taught remotely asynchronously. However, we will have an optional meeting date to discuss American politics, any questions students have about the course material, and where the instructor will provide additional class instruction. The meetings will be held on Thursdays between 6:00pm – 7:00pm on Zoom and will be recorded and made available to students on Blackboard. Participation in the meetings are optional and students’ grades will not be affected by an absence from the class meetings.

Course Assessment

- 5 Short Papers 20% each (100%)
  
  Due Dates:
  - Paper #1: February 14
  - Paper #2: March 7
  - Paper #3: March 28
  - Paper #4: April 18
  - Paper #5: May 2

Short Papers:
Students are expected to submit five short papers (2 pages in length) throughout the semester (see Due Dates above). The paper topics will be provided in advance and will be based on a mix of current events, readings, PowerPoint slides, and recorded lectures. Each paper prompt will provide the topic and paper guidelines. Papers will be submitted via Turnitin on Blackboard.

COURSE POLICIES

Communications: As a remote course, the primary method of communication will be through email and Blackboard. Each student is responsible for all communications made each week throughout the semester via email and Blackboard.

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/
COURSE MATERIALS
There is 1 required book for this course.


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.

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<thead>
<tr>
<th>Week - Readings</th>
<th>Date</th>
<th>Topic</th>
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<tbody>
<tr>
<td>Week 1</td>
<td>January 19-21</td>
<td>Introduction Overview of syllabus and course requirements</td>
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<tr>
<td>Week 2</td>
<td>January 26-28</td>
<td>Foundations of American Government</td>
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<td>Week 3</td>
<td>February 2-4</td>
<td>Civil Liberties</td>
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<td>Week 4</td>
<td>February 9-11</td>
<td>Federalism</td>
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<td>Week 5</td>
<td>February 16-18</td>
<td>Congress</td>
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<td>Week 6</td>
<td>February 23-25</td>
<td>Presidency</td>
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<td>Week 7</td>
<td>March 2-4</td>
<td>Judiciary</td>
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<td>Week 8</td>
<td>March 9-11</td>
<td>Bureaucracy</td>
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<td>Week 9</td>
<td>March 16-18</td>
<td>Spring Break</td>
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<td>Week 10</td>
<td>March 23-25</td>
<td>Political Parties</td>
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***Paper #1 Due***

***Paper #2 Due***

***Paper #3 Due***
<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th>Week 11</th>
<th>Gateways Chapter 8  (pp. 245-265)</th>
<th>March 30/April 1</th>
<th>Interest Groups</th>
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<tbody>
<tr>
<td>Week 12</td>
<td>Gateways Chapter 10</td>
<td>April 6-8</td>
<td>Campaigns and Elections</td>
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<td>Week 13</td>
<td>Gateways Chapter 11</td>
<td>April 13-15</td>
<td>Voting and Participation</td>
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<td><em><strong>Paper #4 Due</strong></em></td>
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<tr>
<td>Week 14</td>
<td>Gateways Chapter 12</td>
<td>April 20-22</td>
<td>Public Opinion</td>
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<td>Week 15</td>
<td>Gateways Chapter 7</td>
<td>April 27-29</td>
<td>News and Social Media</td>
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<td><em><strong>Paper #5 Due</strong></em></td>
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