

## **Course Syllabus: American National Government (790:201:02)**

Spring Semester 2022: Mon/Wed 10:00-11:20 a.m.;  
on ZOOM January 19,24,26; at HILL HALL 101 January 31 forward ...

**Dr. Norman Samuels**

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We will be using three primary resources for this course: `

1. **Textbook:** Ford, Bardes, Schmidt, Shelley, American Government and Politics Today: The Essentials, (Cengage), any recent edition. If you have an older edition, follow the chapter titles for the readings.
2. **CANVAS:** the Rutgers-Newark academic interface which we will use for communications and course materials.
3. **ZOOM:** the online network we will use for meetings and classes in January; you will need a device with reliable internet access.

Follow the political news every day, through a major newspaper or TV channel.

Other course requirements are listed on page 3 of this syllabus.

### **Course Outline:**

1. January 19: Politics and Government in America;  
(Text chapters 1 and 2)
2. January 24, 26: The Constitution; Federalism;  
(Text chapters 2 and 3; read The Constitution)
3. January 31, February 2: Public Opinion; Political Socialization; the Media;  
(Text chapter 6 and 10)
4. February 7, 9: Interest Groups;  
(Text chapter 7)
5. February 14: Civil Rights Movements;  
(Text chapter 5)
6. February 16, 21: Political Parties;  
(Text chapter 8)

7. February 23, 28, March 2: Campaigns and Elections;  
(Text chapter 9)

**Review Class March 7**

**Midterm Exam March 9**

**(March 12 – 20 : Spring Recess)**

8. March 21, 23: Congress  
(Text chapter 11)
9. March 28, 30: The President;  
(Text chapter 12)
10. April 4: The Bureaucracy;  
(Text chapter 13)

**\*\*\* Project Due April 6 \*\*\***

11. April 6, 11: The Courts;  
(Text chapter 14)
12. April 13, 18, 20: The Bill of Rights;  
(Text chapter 4)
13. April 25, 27: Domestic and Foreign Policy Issues;  
(Text chapter 15, 16, 17)

**May 2 : Course Review Session**

**May - Final Exam**

## Course Requirements:

- Your grade for this course will be calculated as follows:  
midterm exam - 30%  
project - 20%  
final exam - 50%
- Class lectures and discussions are based on the assumption that you have done the assigned reading beforehand, and are prepared to participate. You will get much more out of this course, and you will be better prepared for the exams, if you attend every class.
- Do not ask for make-up exams or deadline extensions unless you can provide documentation of a serious medical emergency, a court order, or the equivalent.
- Cheating and plagiarism violate the fundamental values of a University, and will be dealt with strictly and swiftly.
- There are very helpful resources available to you on campus if you are having personal or learning problems; consult the Rutgers website or your professor.
- Your professor's goal is for every student to learn, to succeed, and to enjoy this course. PLEASE make an appointment, or e-mail me, if you have questions or problems, or if you want to go into any topic in greater depth. Talk to me after class, or e-mail me, and we will find a time to meet which fits your schedule. I look forward to getting to know you!

NS