

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

Fall Semester 2021

Mon/Wed 10:00-11:20 a.m.; CPS 105

**Dr. Samuels**

Office: CLJ 541; office hours by appointment or see me after class.

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Required textbook: Bardes/Shelley/Schmidt, American Government and Politics Today (Cengage), any recent edition, available at the Rutgers Bookstore.

Keep up with the national political news every day, preferably through The New York Times. Other course requirements are listed on page 3 of this syllabus.

**Course Outline:**

1. September 1: Politics and Government in America;  
(Text chapters 1 and 2)
2. September 8, 13: The Constitution; Federalism;  
(Text chapters 2 and 3; read The Constitution)
3. September 15, 20: Public Opinion; Political Socialization; the Media;  
(Text chapters 6 and 10)
4. September 22, 27: Interest Groups;  
(Text chapter 7)
5. September 29, October 4: Political Parties;  
(Text chapter 8)
6. October 6: Civil Rights Movements  
(Text chapter 5)
7. October 11, 13, 18: Campaigns and elections;  
(Text chapter 9)

(October 25: Review Session)

**October 27 – Midterm Exam**

8. November 1, 3: Congress;  
(Text chapter 11)
9. November 8, 10: The President;  
(Text chapter 12)
10. November 15: The Bureaucracy;  
(Text chapter 13)
11. November 17, 22: The Courts;  
(Text chapter 14)

**\*\*\*Project Due November 22\*\*\***

**( Thanksgiving Recess Nov. 24 to Nov. 28 )**

12. November 29, December 1, 6: The Bill of Rights;  
(Text chapter 4)
13. December 8: Domestic and Foreign Policy Issues;  
(Text chapter 15, 17)

**December 13: Course Review Session**

**FINAL EXAM:**

## **Course Requirements:**

- Your grade for this course will be calculated as follows:  
midterm exam - 30%  
quiz/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.
- Please show courtesy to your classmates and to the professor: be in the classroom before 10:00 am so that we may begin on time; latecomers create distracting interruptions, so consider missing the class if you must be more than a few minutes late; turn off cell phones, pagers, etc., before entering the classroom.
- 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.
- 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!

## **Addendum:**

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. 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.