

Course Syllabus: American National Government (790:201:01)

Spring Semester 2018

Mon/Wed 10:00-11:20 a.m.; ACK 106

Dr. Norman Samuels

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Textbook: Ford, Bardes, Schmidt, Shelley American Government and Politics Today: The Essentials, (Wadsworth), most recent edition. If you have an older edition, follow the chapter titles for the readings.

You should 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. January 17: Politics and Government in America;
(Text chapters 1 and 2)
2. January 22, 24: The Constitution; Federalism;
(Text chapters 2 and 3; read The Constitution)
3. Jan. 29, 31: Public Opinion; Political Socialization; the Media;
(Text chapter 6 and 10)
4. February 5, 7: Interest Groups;
(Text chapter 7)
5. February 12: Civil Rights Movements;
(Text chapter 5)
6. February 14, 19: Political Parties;
(Text chapter 8)
7. February 21, 26, 28: Campaigns and elections;
(Text chapter 9)

March 5 – Review and Questions

March 7 – Midterm Exam

(Note: March 10 – 18 is Spring Break)

8. March 19, 21: Congress;
(Text chapter 11)
9. March 26, 28: The President;
(Text chapter 12)
10. April 2: The Bureaucracy;
(Text chapter 13)

April 4: Project Due

11. April 4, 9: The Courts;
(Text chapter 14)
12. April 11, 16, 18: The Bill of Rights;
(Text chapter 4)
13. April 23, 25: Domestic and Foreign Policy Issues;
(Text chapter 15, 16, 17)

April 30 : Course Review Session

May 7 - Final Exam, 8:30 am

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.
- 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!

NS