

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

Fall Semester 2018

Mon/Wed 10:00-11:20 a.m.; CPS 107

Dr. Samuels

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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 5: Politics and Government in America;
(Text chapters 1 and 2)
2. September 10, 12: The Constitution; Federalism;
(Text chapters 2 and 3; read The Constitution)
3. September 17, 19: Public Opinion; Political Socialization; the Media;
(Text chapters 6 and 10)
4. September 24, 26: Interest Groups;
(Text chapter 7)
5. October 1, 3: Political Parties;
(Text chapter 8)
6. October 8: Civil Rights Movements
(Text chapter 5)
7. October 10, 15, 17: Campaigns and elections;
(Text chapter 9)

(October 22: Review and Questions Session)

October 24 – Midterm Exam

8. October 29, 31: Congress;
(Text chapter 11)
 9. November 5, 7: The President;
(Text chapter 12)
 10. November 12: The Bureaucracy;
(Text chapter 13)
 11. November 14, 19: The Courts;
(Text chapter 14)
- ***Project Due November 19*****
(No class November 21)
12. November 26, 28, December 3: The Bill of Rights;
(Text chapter 4)
 13. December 5, 10: Domestic and Foreign Policy Issues;
(Text chapter 15, 17)

December 12: Course Review Session

December 18: 11:45 to 2:45 am, 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!