Course Syllabus: American National Government (790:201:02)
Fall Semester 2020
Mon/Wed 10:00-11:20 a.m.; Online
Dr. Samuels
E-mail: samuelsn@scj.rutgers.edu

We will be using three primary resources for this course:

2. **Blackboard,** the Rutgers Newark academic interface which we will use for communications, exams, grades and course materials;
3. **ZOOM,** the network we’ll use for class meetings and lectures.

In addition, you should keep up with the 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 2:** Politics and Government in America;
   (Text chapters 1 and 2)
   (No Class on Monday, Sept. 7, – Labor Day)
   (Class on Tuesday, Sept. 8, follows the Monday class schedule)

2. **September 8, 9:** The Constitution; Federalism;
   (Text chapters 2 and 3; read The Constitution)

3. **September 14, 16:** Public Opinion; Political Socialization; the Media;
   (Text chapters 6 and 10)

4. **September 21, 23:** Interest Groups;
   (Text chapter 7)

5. **September 28, 30:** Political Parties;
   (Text chapter 8)

   *** October 5 – Review Session
   *** October 7 - First Quizz

6. **October 12:** Civil Rights Movements
   (Text chapter 5)
7. October 14, 19, 21: Campaigns and elections;  
   (Text chapter 9)

8. October 26, 28: Congress;  
   (Text chapter 11)

   *** October 28 – Project Due

9. November 2, 4: The President;  
   (Text chapter 12)

10. November 9: The Bureaucracy;  
    (Text chapter 13)

   *** November 11 – Second Quizz

11. November 16, 18: The Courts;  
    (Text chapter 14)

    (Text chapter 4)

    (No Class Wed., Nov. 25 – follows Friday schedule)  
    (Thanksgiving Recess Nov. 26 – 29)

13. December 7: Domestic and Foreign Policy Issues;  
    (Text chapter 15, 17)

   *** December 9: Course Review Session

   FINAL EXAM: December____(TBD)________________
Course Process and Requirements:

This course will be **ONLINE, SYNCHRONOUS**, on **ZOOM**.

- That means we are all going to meet together on Zoom every Monday and Wednesday at 10:00 am, and try our best to make it as nearly as possible a “normal”, “live” college class. Before each class, I will send you an **Invite** on which you can click. I will ask you to have “video on” on Zoom so we can see each other’s faces, and to wave your hand or use the “chat” function to make comments or ask questions; we can also schedule one-on-one email or Zoom sessions to further pursue your questions and interests. Don’t worry if you are not familiar with these terms - we will get you up to speed once we begin.

- You will need a device connected to the internet – computer or tablet with camera, or at least a cell phone. You should also purchase or have access to the text book listed at the beginning of this syllabus. Contact your Dean’s Office if you have a financial or other problem. Become familiar with Blackboard.

- 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. I will distribute brief “study guides” for more complex topics.

- Your grade for the course will be based on (dates listed in syllabus) :
  - **2 quizzes**, each worth 20% of your grade;
  - **1 Project**, worth 20% of the grade;
  - **A final exam**, worth 40% of the grade.

Please do not ask for make-up exams or deadline extensions unless you have 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.

- 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; we will find a time and method which suit your needs.