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

Spring Semester 2021
Mon/Wed 10:00-11:20 a.m.; ONLINE

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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, course materials.
3. **ZOOM:** the online network we will use for meetings and classes; 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 20:** Politics and Government in America;
   (Text chapters 1 and 2)

2. **January 25, 27:** The Constitution; Federalism;
   (Text chapters 2 and 3; read The Constitution)

3. **February 1, 3:** Public Opinion; Political Socialization; the Media;
   (Text chapter 6 and 10)

4. **February 8, 10:** Interest Groups;
   (Text chapter 7)

5. **February 15:** Civil Rights Movements;
   (Text chapter 5)

6. **February 17, 22:** Political Parties;
   (Text chapter 8)

   **February 24 – Midterm Exam**
7. March 1, 3, 8: Campaigns and Elections;  
   (Text chapter 9)

8. March 10, 22: Congress;  
   (Text chapter 11)

   (March 13 – 21 : Spring Recess)

9. March 24, 29: The President;  
   (Text chapter 12)

10. March 31: The Bureaucracy;  
    (Text chapter 13)

   **April 5: Project Due**

11. April 5, 7: The Courts;  
    (Text chapter 14)

12. April 12, 14, 19: The Bill of Rights;  
    (Text chapter 4)

13. April 21, 26: Domestic and Foreign Policy Issues;  
    (Text chapter 15, 16, 17)

   **April 28 : Course Review Session**

   **May 10 - Final Exam, 8:30 am** (tentative)
**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