

Instructor
PSCI 2306 American National Government

Learning Objectives:

This course will support the development of the following state mandated core learning objectives: Critical Thinking, Communication Skills, Social Responsibility, and Personal Responsibility.

Course Objectives and Description: This class will acquaint you with the institutions of American government, the historical development of governmental procedures, actors and policies, and who governs in the United States and to what end. Although this course will require you to learn facts, and how way that things work, the purpose of this course is to present you with insightful responses to problems of modern constitutional democracy.

Assignments and Grading: Your grade will be calculated based on five class exams worth 15% each and five writing assignments worth 5% each.

Your final grade will be calculated based on this scale:

100-90: A

89-80: B

79-70:C

69-60-D

59-50-F

Reading Assignments: You must read the assignment material in advance of each class. Come ready to class ready to participate. I will call randomly call on students throughout the semester.

Required Books:

Edward Sidlow and Beth Henschen. 2010. *GOVT*, 2010 edition. Boston: Wadsworth/Cengage Learning.

The Federalist Papers (Signet Classics) [Mass Market Paperback]

Alexander Hamilton, James Madison, John Jay, Clinton Rossiter (Author), Charles R. Kesler (Editor)

During the course of the semester I will assign additional readings, which will be available to you through the Angel Website in the Lessons tab.

Week 1 August 25

- Introduction to the Course
- **Core Assessment Assignment Part I**

Week 2 August 30, September 1

- Chapter 1, Federalist 1

Week 3 September 6,8

- The Constitution
- Chapter 2, Federalist 10, 51
- Reaction Paper 1

Week 4 September 13, 15

- Federalism
- Chapter 3, Federalist 32, 33, 44
- Exam 1

Week 5 September 20, 22

- Civil Liberties
- Chapter 4

Week 6 September 27, 29

- Civil Rights
- Chapter 5
- Reaction Paper 2

Week 7 October 4, 6

- Interest Groups
- Chapter 6
- Exam 2

Week 8 October 11, 13

- Political Parties
- Chapter 7

Week 9 October 18, 20 Mid-Semester Break

- Public Opinion and Voting
- Chapter 8
- Reaction Paper 3
- No Class October 20th.

Week 10 October 25, 27

- Campaigns and Elections, Politics and the Media
- Chapter 9, Chapter 10

Week 11 November 1, 3

- Exam 3
- The Congress Chapter 11, The Federalist 41, 42, 43

Week 12 November 8, 10

- Continue Congress
- The Presidency
- Chapter 12, The Federalist 39, 70, 71
- Reaction Paper 4

Week 13 November 15, 17

- Continue Presidency

Week 14 November 22, 24

- The Judiciary, Federalist 78, 79, 80,
- Chapter 14
- Reaction Paper 5

Week 15 November 29, December 1

- Continue Judiciary
- **Core Assessment Assignment Part II**

Week 16 December 6

- Exam 4