

American National Government – 2023 Summer A
POS 2041-30
Hybrid: Class Meetings M&W 12:30-2:20

INSTRUCTOR: Jay Thompson
EMAIL: via Canvas.
PHONE: 854-2322 Ext. 1723
OFFICE LOCATION: 8-106B
CLASSROOM LOCATION: TBA
OFFICE HOURS: TBA

EXTENDED EMERGENCY CLOSURE.

“For emergency campus closings (natural disasters, etc.) call 352-291-4499 or 800-831-9244 or check our website www.cf.edu.”

COURSE DESCRIPTION

This is an introductory course of the American Federal government. Particular attention is devoted to the constitution, the three branches of government, parties, pressure groups and current issues.

CREDIT HOURS: 3

TEXTBOOK

Gateways to Democracy: An Introduction to American Government by Geer, et al

Mindtap code purchase is required.

These can be purchased together and the book is available as a lower cost digital book- physical copies are also available.

Purchase of Cengage Unlimited is recommended. This will give you access to all required course material as well as all Cengage material.

SUPPLIES

- An email account and internet access is **necessary**.
- 2 Scantrons available at the bookstore. These will not be provided by the instructor.

POS 2041 American National Government

The following chart offers students a consistent way to see how CF's global learning outcomes are assessed in each class. This is for information only and does not change the grading system used in this class.

Institutional Learning Outcomes	Quiz	Exam	Project/ Paper	Classroom Activity	Service Learning
Critical Reasoning: The student will reflect, analyze, synthesize, and apply critical thinking.					
1. State question at issue.			x		
2. Identify purpose of argument.			x		
3. Identify the ideas and concepts, information and data, and the use of such in the argument.			x		
4. Identify assumptions, bias, and point of view of information presented.			x		
5. Create plausible solutions and implications of solutions.			x		
6. Evaluate (Steps 1-5) and revise if needed.			x		
Communication: The student will read, write, speak, and listen effectively.					
1. Read materials and effectively understand essential facts and concepts.	x	x	x	x	
2. Write an organized document that communicates effectively and appropriately for the situation.			x		
3. Listen actively to comprehend main ideas and essential details.	x	x	x	x	
4. Express clear, well-organized ideas through oral communication.				x	

Global Socio-Cultural Responsibility: The student will be an informed and responsible citizen in social, cultural, and global matters.					
1. Demonstrate an understanding of the values and expressions of other cultures that arise from human experience.	x				
2. Identify scientific principles underlying human influence upon the Earth and its inhabitants.	x				
3. Recognize complex historical, cultural, economic, and political forces that create societies as well as how these forces shape personal identity.	x				
4. Understand the local and global connections among power, knowledge, gender, and class.	x				
Computer & Information Skills: The student will be able to evaluate the importance of technology and its applications.					
1. Organize data or information using appropriate electronic media.	x	x	x		
2. Access, research, and retrieve information using the Internet.	x	x	x		
3. Communicate with others using electronic media.				x	

GRADING POLICY

Module Exams	40%
Mindtap Assignments	35%
Current Event Summaries	20%
Quizzes	5%

FINAL GRADE SCALE

A = 90%-100%

B+ = 87%-89%

B = 80%-86%

C+ = 77%-79%

C = 70%-76%

D = 60%-69%

F = 59% and under

FF = failure due to violation of academic integrity

ATTENDANCE

Punctual and regular attendance is expected in this course. This is a lecture hybrid course, as such failure to attend class will likely result in a lower grade for the course. In addition I reserve the right to restrict access to online components for excessive absences. This includes examinations. As per school policy, attendance will be recorded and reported for each class meeting. This will be done via sign in sheet or roll call. If a sign in sheet is utilized it is your responsibility to make sure your name is on the sign in sheet for that day. Failure to sign the sheet or do so legibly will result in your being marked absent for that class meeting.

***IMPORTANT*- Failure to attend at least 50% of course meetings will result in a failing grade for the class regardless of overall grade.**

HOMEWORK ASSIGNMENTS

Late assignments will not be accepted except at the sole discretion of the instructor. Documentation may be necessary. All assignments must be typed. If a student does not have a word processor on his or her personal computer, he or she is expected to utilize one of the computer labs. No assignments will be accepted after the final class meeting. NOTE- the final exam day is NOT considered a class meeting for this purpose.

CANVAS

This course utilizes the Canvas system available to you via MyCF under the "Academics" tab. All course lectures and examinations will be posted in this system. This system also features a secure email system which will allow you to discuss your grade with the instructor without violating FERPA. This will be the primary method of communicating with me and I with you. Be sure to check your Canvas course site often as this is where important class information will be posted. Any issues regarding the system such as login

etc. should be directed to distance learning ext. 1317. This system can be accessed remotely so you can use it at home. If you do not have internet access you will be expected to utilize the computer labs available on campus.

EXAMINATIONS

All examinations for this class will be administered online via the Canvas system available through MyCF system. Exams must be taken during the time they are available on the course website. No makeup examinations will be given except in extreme circumstances as determined solely by the instructor. All material covered in the course website as well as in the assigned reading is considered "fair game" for the examinations. Exams can be administered in any method I see fit, including multiple choice, matching, short answer, essay etc.

An exam will be administered at the end of each module. You are strongly encouraged to complete the module work before you complete the module exam. You will only be allowed one attempt for each module exam, and you will not be allowed to retake the examination if you decided to take the exam before completing the module's work.

CURRENT EVENT ESSAYS

Each week, you will be expected to submit via an online dropbox a 250 word analysis of a current event topic of your choice. However, these topics will be limited to political issues that are handled by the federal level of government. I expect you to show critical analysis and thought with these. A two hundred word rant is not what is expected. These will be averaged together with the lowest grade being dropped.

QUIZZES

Quizzes will be given throughout the semester. These quizzes will be taken via the Canvas system. Quizzes will be announced in class, and will close no more than two days after they open, and may close the same day that they open. Any course material, including readings and videos, can be used in the quizzes. In addition to the quizzes described above occasional attendance quizzes will also be given. These quizzes will be given on random days during the semester and will consist of one question. They will be given at any time during the class meeting and you must be present in the class when the quiz is given to receive credit for the quiz. These quizzes will be graded on a completion basis. These quizzes cannot be made up. The grades for these quizzes will be averaged together with the regular quizzes for grade calculation purposes.

MINDTAP

Each week's module will contain homework from the Mindtap course shell. You will be able to access this from Canvas, but you must purchase a Mindtap code to be able to do so. All work assigned must be completed by the listed due date. Late work will not be accepted. Work not completed due to a failure to purchase a valid Mindtap code will not be reopened. Purchase of Cengage Unlimited WILL give you access to Mindtap as well as an electronic copy of the course textbook.

CENGAGE UNLIMITED

This course's textbook is from Cengage. If any of your other courses use Cengage material I recommend you consider signing up for Cengage Unlimited. This is a subscription based service for all Cengage material. The cost is \$120 per semester or \$180 per academic year and includes access to all Cengage material. See the bookstore for further information. Please note that while Mindtap access is required for this course, you are not required to purchase Cengage Unlimited for this course if you do not desire to do so.

NOTE ON SOURCES:

It is your responsibility to verify the information in the sources you utilize in your work. Be cautious when using online sources. Wikipedia is not to be used as a source due to its open editing policy. Use of Wikipedia will result in a lower grade for that assignment. This includes using Wikipedia and using their citations (doing this may actually constitute plagiarism).

GRADES

The instructor will post the student's grades in the Canvas course shell. It is the responsibility of the student to keep track of his/her own grades and current course average. Students are encouraged to check their grades under the Reports tab in Canvas for accuracy **before** the last day of classes. Students must contact the instructor before this date if there are questions or potential errors that need adjusting. After the last day of regular class sessions, it may be too late to make any changes to grades posted under the Canvas gradebook.

EXTRA CREDIT

Do not expect extra credit opportunities for this course. In the unlikely event that extra credit is offered it is at the sole discretion of the instructor

and will be offered to the entire class. Individual extra credit will **NOT** be offered. Extra credit, if offered, cannot be made up. Cheating on extra credit will result in the same penalty as cheating on a normal assignment.

COURSE MATERIAL

Audio recording of my lectures is permissible for course purposes only. A student shall not, without my express authorization, make or receive any other type of recording, including but not limited to video recordings, of any class, co-curricular meeting, organizational meeting, or meeting with me. You do not have permission to post recordings on the web. Further you do not have my permission to post my class lectures/course materials on the web.

COMMUNICATING WITH THE INSTRUCTOR

I will have a General Questions discussion board available for you in the course website. This discussion board is also where I will post course announcements. If you have a question about the syllabus, the reading, an assignment or exam, this would be the place to ask it. Likely another student has the same question so it will be available to them as well. However, please keep in mind this is a PUBLIC forum, so anything that is personal in nature that you need to communicate to me should be done via the email system WITHIN Canvas. This is a completely private system, only I can see the message (as long as you send it to just me).

When you send a message either through the General discussion board or through the Canvas email system, please allow 48-72 hours for a response during the week. For messages sent after 12:00 on Thursdays you may not receive a response until the following Monday.

COURSE COMMUNICATION

When communicating with the instructor and fellow students on the discussion boards or email, proper formatting, grammar and spelling are expected. So called internet speak or texting language is not appropriate for these environments. You are expected to treat your fellow students and instructor with respect and proper decorum in these discussion posts and emails. Your posts are not anonymous, and improper conduct will result in a warning and possible further action as necessary.

COLLEGE POLICIES

In the Canvas shell under Navigation there is a section labeled "College Policies". Please reviews those policies as they are considered part of this syllabus.

ACADEMIC INTEGRITY

Please see the "College Policies" section for institutional policies regarding Academic Integrity. In addition to policies listed in that section, you will receive at a minimum a 0 grade for any work that violates academic integrity on the first offense and a failing grade for the semester for any further offenses. The instructor reserves the right to fail a student for the course on the first offense in the case of an egregious violation of academic integrity. This is at the sole discretion of the instructor. The instructor reserves the right to require the use of services such as Turnitin.com and Honorlock to enforce these policies.

CLASSROOM POLICIES

- Proper respect will be given to the instructor and your fellow students.
- Cell phones are not to be used in the classroom. Turn off or silence cell phones before you enter the classroom.
- Texting is not allowed in the classroom.
- Use of "smart phones" is prohibited.
- Drinks are permissible, but must be kept in a bottle or cup with a lid. Food is not permitted.
- When communicating with the instructor via email, proper formatting, grammar and spelling is expected.
- Any visitor to the class must be cleared with the instructor.
- Laptop usage is restricted to class purposes only, and may be restricted further up to and including prohibition if the instructor has determined that this policy has been violated.
- Children are not allowed in classrooms.
- Failure to observe the policies stated in this syllabus, the college handbook and by the instructor will result in removal from the classroom. You will not be allowed to return to the class until you have met with the college administration. Further violations will result in expulsion from the course with the appropriate grade.

RIGHT TO CHANGE SYLLABUS

If necessary, some components of this syllabus may change. However, any such changes will be announced to the students in class and online. The student is responsible for any such announced changes. Absences, excused or unexcused, do not release the student of this responsibility.