Syllabus for American National Government PSI 103 - 01

Fall 2019

Class Time and Location: Mondays & Wednesdays 8:00 – 9:15, Rm 249
Instructor Name: Penny Lunsford
Office Location: Spencer 242
Office Hours: Monday – Thursday 11:00 – 12:00, 1:00 – 3:00
Friday 9:00 – 12:00
Office Phone: 479-394-7622, ext. 1332.
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Prerequisite: None

Resources: Required text - *AM GOV,* author: Losco Baker, copyright 2015, McGraw-Hill Publishing Company, ISBN: 978-1-259-28426-7

Course Description: This course studies the structure, principles, and functions of the United States government and requires at least one paper using a documentation format.

Program Outcomes:

- Students will increase competencies in writing, reading, speaking, and listening.
- Students will increase their understanding of the human condition, as well as the culture and society of both the nation and the world in which they live.
- Students will apply technological and research skills to identify, locate, and process information.

Rationale: This course provides the means by which students will accomplish the program outcomes outlined in the college catalogue as evidenced by the listed course objectives. This course will allow the student to gain knowledge and skills that will help them in future college endeavors and will make the student a better-informed citizen.

Course Objectives: Upon completion of this course, the student will:

- Describe the history of the American Government and Constitution and identify how it functions.
- Demonstrate knowledge of independent research
  Components:
  Proper sources
  Proper grammar

- Share and defend his or her stance on an issue by participating in a group debate project.
  - Components:
    - Collaboration skills
    - Scholarly research
    - Logical arguments

Course Schedule:

August 19 – Introduction
August 21 – History of US Government (Ch. 1)
August 26 – History of US Government (Ch. 2)
August 28- History of US Constitution (Ch. 2)
September 2 – No classes – Labor Day Holiday
September 4 – History of US Constitution & Federalism (Ch. 3)
September 9 - Branches of Government: Judicial (Ch. 14)
September 11 – Test
September 16 - Bill of Rights Cases – 1 – 3 Amendments (case briefs)
September 18 – Bill of Rights Cases - 1 - 3 amendments (case briefs & Ch. 4)
September 23 – Branches of Government: Legislative (Ch. 11 & 13)
September 25 - Work on Class projects
September 30 – Branches of Government: Executive (Ch. 12 & 13)
October 2 - Elections (Ch. 7, 8, & 9)
October 7 – Test
October 9 – Bill of Rights Cases - 4 - 8 amendments (case briefs)
October 14 – Bill of Rights Cases - 4 - 8 amendments (case briefs & Ch. 4)
October 16 - Civil Rights (Ch. 5)
October 21 - Civil Rights & Voting Rights (Ch. 5, 6, & 7)
October 23 - Civil Rights & Voting Rights (Ch. 5, 6, & 7)
October 28 - Current Controversy / review for test
October 30 - Test
November 4 - Budget (Ch. 15)
November 6- Foreign Policy (Ch. 16)
November 11 - Political Parties (Ch. 9)
November 13 - Media (Ch. 10)
November 18 – Media (Ch. 10)
November 20 - No Class – Thanksgiving Break
November 25 - Work on Bills/ Review for test
November 27 - Test
December 2 – Work on Project
December 4 – Work on Project
Week of December 9 - Final Project

This syllabus is a work in progress. The dates, number of tests, and other items may change throughout the semester.

Course Conduct:
The majority of this class will be lecture oriented. However, there will be group activities, oral presentations and other "hands on" activities throughout the semester.

You are encouraged to form study groups to help in this class. You may also seek assistance from Student Support for help understanding the material or writing the paper. If you are having extreme difficulty, please make an appointment with me to discuss it.

UA Rich Mountain Credit Hour Calculator: For every course credit hour, you should expect to spend at least three clock hours per week of concentrated attention on course-related work, including but not limited to time attending class, as well as out-of-class time spent reading, reviewing, organizing notes, preparing for upcoming quizzes/exams, research, writing papers, working with your team, and other activities that enhance learning. For a three-hour course, a typical student should expect to spend at least nine hours per week dedicated to the course. This includes the time spent in class.

Course Requirements/Evaluation:
Grades will be based on four tests, short research papers, and a final project. Grades are based on the standard grading scale: 90-100 (A), 80 – 89 (B), 70 – 79 (C), 60 – 69 (D), below 59 (F).

Tests: The majority of your grade will come from your test scores. Tests will be multiple choice, fill-in-the blanks, short answer, and essay.

Projects and/or papers: There will not be one large research paper for this class. Instead, you will be assigned various projects throughout the semester. These projects will include brief papers and essays (which will require documentation), case briefs, and outside readings. In addition, there will be a major project for your final exam. This project will be discussed later in the semester.

Class Procedures/Student Requirements:
The classroom should be a learning environment, so, out of respect for others, please put your cell phone on silent. If you need to take a call, please step outside the classroom. No texting, playing games, or using social media during class. Cell phones should only be used for legitimate classroom activities. Also, do not take any pictures or videos in class without permission.

Attendance is expected. Make-up tests and scheduled presentations will only be rescheduled if absence is reported and excused beforehand. Make-up tests may be all essay. The paper and team presentation are expected on the date they are due (papers may be turned in ahead of time). Late papers will not be accepted unless there is an emergency or you have cleared it with me beforehand. The same applies to other projects and assignments.

Academic Dishonesty: Academic dishonesty will not be tolerated. This includes plagiarism of papers and cheating on exams. Academic dishonesty will result in an F on the work in question.

Disability Policy: It is the policy of UA Rich Mountain to accommodate students with disabilities, pursuant to state and federal law. Any student with a disability who needs accommodations should contact the Vice Chancellor for Student Affairs Office, 394-7622 ext.1400.

Arkansas Clean Air Act: In compliance with the Arkansas Clean Air Act, UA Rich Mountain is a smoke and tobacco free facility. Students and guests are to refrain from the use of all tobacco products while on campus.

Student Misconduct: Students committing misconduct are subject to disciplinary sanction(s) and or restrictions. Misconduct or prohibited behavior includes, but is not limited to endangerment, harassment, disruption, sexual misconduct, dishonesty, illegal drugs and/or alcohol, fire or safety issues, gambling, property violations, computer violations or other violations as listed in detail in the college catalog.

UA Rich Mountain Mission: UA Rich Mountain exists to provide all residents of the Ouachita Mountain Region with exemplary educational and enrichment opportunities to improve the quality of life and standard of living.

See Something … Hear Something … Say Something
Suspicious behavior should be reported to Deputy on campus at (479) 394-6811 OR through an anonymous email link found on the college webpage. The Deputy Sheriff's office is located in the Spencer Building across from the library.

Crime statistics and information can be located on our webpage at:
http://www.uarichmountain.edu/at-a-glance/disclosures