PSI 103 - 01
American National Government
Spring 2020

Class Time and Location: Tuesdays & Thursdays 9:30 – 10:45, Rm 249
Instructor Name: Penny Lunsford
Office Location: Spencer 242
Office Hours: Monday - Thursday 11:00 – 12:00, 1:00 – 3:30
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.
- Students will be prepared to compete academically upon transfer to a four-year institution.

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:
January 16 – Introduction
January 21 – History of our Government (Ch. 1)
January 23 – History of our Government (Ch. 2)
January 28 - History of our Constitution (Ch. 2)
January 30 – History of our Constitution & Federalism (Ch. 3)
February 4- Branches of Government: Judicial (Ch. 14)
February 6 – Test
February 11 - – Bill of Rights Cases – 1 – 3 Amendments (case briefs)
February 13 – Bill of Rights Cases - 1 - 3 amendments (Ch. 4)
February 18 – Branches of Government: Legislative (Ch. 11 & 13)
February 20 - Passage of Bills - class projects
February 27 - Branches of Government: Executive (Ch. 12 & 13)
March 3 – Elections (Ch. 7, 8, & 9)
March 5 – Test
March 10 – Bill of Rights Cases - 4 - 8 amendments (case briefs)
March 12 – Bill of Rights Cases - 4 - 8 amendments (case briefs)
March 17 – Civil Rights
March 19 - Civil Rights (Ch. 5)
March 23-27- No Class – Spring Break
March 31 - Civil Rights & Voting Rights (Ch. 5, 6 & 7)
April 2 – Current Controversy / review for test
April 7 - Test
April 9 - Budget (ch 15)
April 14 – Foreign Policy (Ch. 16)
April 16 – Political Parties (Ch. 9)
April 21 – Media (Ch. 10)
April 23 – Media (Ch. 10)
April 28 - Test
April 30 - Work on Bills
Week of May 4 - 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 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. You also have the option of Tutor.com, an online 24/7 tutoring service provided by UA Rich Mountain at no charge to students. If you are having extreme difficulty, please make an appointment with me to discuss it.

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, the final exam, a short research papers, and team 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: Tests will be multiple choice, fill-in-the blanks, short answer, and possible 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 be accepted but not for full credit, 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 this college 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. Contact the Deputy Sherriff on campus, located in the Spencer Building across from the library or through an anonymous email link found on college's webpage (bottom left hand corner).

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