# SYLLABUS AND COURSE INFORMATION
# FOR
# AMERICAN NATIONAL GOVERNMENT
# Fall 2020

**Location:** Rm. 201

**Instructor:** Reggie Fryar – B.S.E., M.S.E. in Social Sciences with a specialization in American History and World History, Henderson State University, certification in Library Science, Southern Arkansas University
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**Course:** American National Government (Concurrent Credit Cossatot River Schools) PSI 103

**RESOURCES:** *READINGS comprise the following required text: *Am Gov* by Joseph Losco and Ralph Baker, 2011.

**COURSE DESCRIPTION AND PROCEDURES**

This course studies the structure, principles, and functions of the United States government and requires at least one paper using a documentation format. (ACTS: PLSC2003)

*CLASS ACTIVITIES stress critical thinking skills and include Lectures, multimedia presentations, discussions, and small group activities. Since students tend to learn in different ways, this class accommodates different learning styles.

**Nature of the Course:** The course will be taught using a combination of lecture, discussion, group interaction, questions and answers, assigned readings, projects, and independent study.

The following course of study will be used:

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| Chapter 2 | The Constitution: The Foundations of Citizens' Rights |
| Chapter 3 | Federalism: Citizenship and the Dispersal of Power |
| Chapter 11 | Congress: Doing the People's Business |
| Chapter 12 | The Presidency: Power and Paradox |
| Chapter 14 | The Courts: Judicial Power in a Democratic Setting |
| Chapter 4 | Civil Liberties: Expanding Citizens' Rights |
| Chapter 5 | Civil Rights: Toward a More Equal Citizenry |
| Chapter 7 | Political Participation: Equal Opportunities and Unequal Voices |
| Chapter 8 | Parties and Political Campaigns: Citizens and the Electoral Process |

**PROGRAM OUTCOMES:**

Students will increase competence 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 we live.
Students will apply technological and research skills to identify, locate, and process information.
Students will prepare to compete academically upon transfer to a four-year institution.

**LEARNING OBJECTIVES**

**By the end of this course, you should understand the following objectives:**

1. The nature of the American constitution, its creation, amendments, and operation in times of war, peace, and emergency, and in the manner in which it has been interpreted by the Supreme Court and the other branches of government.
2. The federal structure of our national government, and the powers devolving to the various subdivisions, including states, counties, municipalities, and regional authorities.
3. The three branches of government – legislative, executive, and judicial – and how they serve to check each other, both successfully and unsuccessfully.
4. The operation of elites, pressure groups, public interest organizations, big business, organized labor, and foreign governments and organizations in shaping our institutions and political practices.
5. The meanings of the terms "republic" and "democracy," and how they have shaped our politics.
6. Political parties, the electoral system, political campaigns, and political polls.
7. Comparison of the American political system with that of other countries.
8. Attempts to mold public opinion by governmental and nongovernmental agencies, and the effect of public opinion on the operation of those agencies and American politics in general.
9. The functions and limitations of political power at the national level.
10. The balance between order and liberty, as represented in the evolution of American civil liberties.
11. Attempts at inclusion, exclusion, protection, and co-option of diverse political, economic, racial, ethnic, gender, and religious populations in the American political landscape, and the specific role and operation of civil rights legislation and its enforcement.
12. The functions and operations of the national government, through regulatory agencies, executive authority, and congressional organizations.
13. How the various branches of the government operate in relation to the economy, foreign relations, internal and external security, the

legal system, and attempts to improve the quality of life of Americans (the shift from minimalist to interventionist government as the dominant philosophy of American government.)
14. Evaluating the reliability of several different types of evidence.
15. Writing essays that critically evaluate evidence and present arguments.
16. Working with a small group to answer questions or defend a position.
17. Small group presentation techniques and practice.

**Credit Hour Syllabus Statement:**
For every course credit hour, the typical student 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, problem solving, developing and completing projects, and other activities that enhance learning. Thus, for a three hour course, a typical student should expect to spend at least nine hours per week dedicated to the course.

**Grading:** Grades will be based on all work that is done. Homework, classwork, group activities, projects, and test will vary in value and will be averaged with all other grades. Every attempt should be made to be present on test day. Projects of various types will be assigned during the term and reports will be a part of the class regimen. At various times, the class will be divided into groups and assignments will be given. Each member will be expected to take part and participate fully in any activity.

Grades are assigned on the basis of the following percentages:

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|---|---|
| 90-100 | A |
| 80-89 | B |
| 70-79 | C |
| 60-69 | D |
| 0-59 | F |

**Attendance:** Attendance will count as 10% of the final grade. Make-up exams will be given the day following the absence unless other arrangements have been made. The student is responsible for instruction missed during class by studying the material in the book, seeking help from the teacher and peers, and by getting class notes from the teacher or another student.

**Academic Dishonesty:** Any suspicion of academic dishonesty will result in no credit for the paper in question.

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

**Arkansas Clean Air Act:** In compliance with the Arkansas Clean Air Act, UARM 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 UARM catalog.

**Face Mask Policy:** As per the Executive Order from the governor of Arkansas, all students are required to wear a proper face covering that completely covers the nose and mouth while on campus and in class. Masks with holes or masks that do not completely cover nose and mouth are not acceptable. Any student that does not have a proper mask will leave class and be referred to the Vice Chancellor for Student Affairs for possible disciplinary action.

**Food and Drink:** Food and drinks, including water are not allowed in the classroom at any time.

**UARM Mission:** The University of Arkansas Rich Mountain exists to provide exemplary educational and enrichment opportunities to improve the quality of life and standard of living.

**Cell Phones:** The use of cell phones in the classroom is prohibited. Turn cell phones off.

Syllabus is subject to change.