Syllabus for American National Government PSI 103 - 02

Fall 2023

Class Time and Location: Tuesdays and Thursdays, 9:30-10:45, Rm 249
Instructor Name: Penny Lunsford
Office Location: Spencer 242
Office Hours: Monday – Thursdays 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 their:

- writing, reading, speaking, and listening skills.
- understanding of different cultures and societies across the globe and how both have changed over time.
- technological and research skills.

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 make the student a better-informed citizen.

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

- Be able to explain the history of the American Government and the Constitution and identify how the government functions
  - including the branches of government, the election process, political parties, federalism, civil rights, and civil liberties.

- Demonstrate knowledge of independent research
  Components:
  Proper sources
  Proper grammar
  Scholarly research

- Share and defend their stance on an issue
    - Components:
        - Collaboration skills
        - Logical arguments

Course Schedule:

August 22 – Introduction
August 24 – History of Governments
August 29 – History of US Government (Ch. 1)
August 31 - History of US Government (Ch. 2)
September 5 - History of US Constitution (Ch. 2)
September 7 - History of US Constitution (Ch. 2)
September 12 – History of US Constitution & Federalism (Ch. 3)
September 14 – Test
September 19 – Branches of Government: Legislative (Ch. 11 & 13)
September 21 - Branches of Government: Legislative (Ch. 11 & 13)
September 26 – Branches of Government: Executive (Ch. 12 & 13)
September 28 - Elections (Ch. 7, 8, & 9)
October 3 – Branches of Government: Judicial (Ch. 14)
October 5 - Test
October 10 – Bill of Rights Cases – 1 – 3 Amendments (case briefs & Ch. 4)
October 12 - Bill of Rights Cases – 1 – 3 Amendments (case briefs & Ch. 4)
October 17 – Bill of Rights Cases – 1 – 3 Amendments (case briefs & Ch. 4)
October 19 – Bill of Rights Cases - 4 - 8 amendments (case briefs & Ch. 4)
October 24 – Bill of Rights Cases - 4 - 8 amendments (case briefs & Ch. 4)
October 26 - Civil Rights (Ch. 5)
October 31 - Civil Rights & Voting Rights (Ch. 5, 6, & 7)
November 2 – Test
November 7 – Budget & Public Policy (Ch. 15)
November 9 - Budget & Public Policy (Ch. 15)
November 14 – Foreign Policy (Ch. 16)
November 16- Political Parties (Ch. 9)
November 20-24 - No Class – Thanksgiving Break
November 28 - Media (Ch. 10)
November 30 - Media (Ch. 10)
December 5 – Test
December 6 – 12 – Finals Week – Project Due

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 papers and other projects 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 and research projects. 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 be various papers and projects assigned throughout the semester. These projects will include brief papers and essays (which will require documentation). The topics of these projects will be announced later.

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 an absence is reported and excused beforehand. Make-up tests may be all essay. The paper and other assignments are expected on the date they are due (they 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 assignments and cheating on exams. Plagiarism also includes using paraphrasing tools and anti-plagiarism generators and the use of AI to write essays or answer assignments. Academic dishonesty will result in an F on the work in question. Recording a class or reposting, copying, or distributing material found on the Student Portal, Blackboard, or any class materials is expressly forbidden unless the instructor has given written permission. Students who violate Academic Integrity will face disciplinary sanctions that could result in suspension or expulsion from the college.

Title IX Sexual Harassment: If there is an issue of this nature, it should be reported immediately to the Title IX Director, Terry Francis at (479) 394-7622, Ext. 1460. To report a concern, or to learn more about UA RICH MOUNTAIN's Title IX and Non-Discrimination Policies, visit https://www.uarichmountain.edu/title-ix-policy

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 provides transformative education to all learners.

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

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.