PSI 103 - 01
American National Government
Spring 2024

Class time and location: Online
Instructor Name: Penny Lunsford
Office Location: Spencer 242
Office Hours: Monday - Thursday 11:00 – 12:00, 1:00 – 3:00
Friday 8:30 – 11:30
Office Phone: 479-394-7622, ext. 1332.
Email: plunsford@uarichmountain.edu

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 will 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
- Share and defend student's stance on an issue
  - Components:
    - Collaboration skills
    - Scholarly research
    - Logical arguments

Course Schedule: The assignments, tests, forums, and any other projects will be listed on Blackboard each Monday and will be due the following Sunday evening. Below is the anticipated schedule for each week throughout the semester.

Course Schedule:

Weeks 1 – 4
Introduction
Chapters 2, 3, & 14 and test

Weeks 5 - 8
Chapters 4, 11, 12, & 13 and test

Weeks 9-12
Chapters 13 - 15 and test

Weeks 13-16
Chapters 15, 16, 7, 9, & 10 and test
Final

*Course schedule subject to change

Course Conduct:

This online class will require independent research on the part of the participant. Throughout the semester, the student will engage in several projects such as, but not limited to, weekly reading assignments, essays, involvement in discussion forums, research papers, and online quizzes. Each week, it will be the student's responsibility to log in and view the assignment(s) for that week. Every week, there will be topics covered that the student will need to either read from the textbook or look up online and answer questions to show their understanding of the material. This information will be used when it is time to take the quiz. In addition to the reading, most weeks, there will be an additional assignment, such as a journal entry, brief essay, PowerPoint presentation to view, or commentary on the video, map, or website included in that week's lesson. There may also be outside reading of books other than your textbook. Occasionally, there will be a question for the class forum. All students should read and engage in discussion and debate.

Weekly assignments are posted each Monday and are due by midnight the following Sunday. Assignments are usually graded the Friday following the date they are due.

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: In a typical semester, 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 tests, papers, and projects. Grades are based on the standard grading scale: 90-100 (A), 80 – 89 (B), 70 – 79 (C), 60 – 69 (D), below 59 (F).

Class Assignments:
The student should log in at least once a week to see the assignment for that week and upload the information by the due date. Late admissions will be accepted but not for full credit. **The largest portion of your grade will come from the weekly assignments.**

Tests: You will have various quizzes throughout the semester. These tests will be open book and open notes. The Final Exam will be cumulative. For the Final Exam, you will not be allowed to use your notes or your book and it will be timed.

Projects and/or papers: These projects will include brief papers and essays (which will require documentation), case briefs, and outside readings. These projects will be discussed later in the semester.

Class Procedures/Student Requirements:
The student should log in weekly to check the assignments and complete assignments each week. Late assignments will be accepted; however, points will be taken off. In addition, the points taken off will increase the later the assignment is. For example, an assignment turned in two days late will have points taken off, but not as many as one turned in two weeks late. **If you turn in your assignment after all others have been graded, I will not go back in and grade your assignment until mid-term or at the end of the semester. Therefore, your grade for that assignment will remain a zero until mid-term or the end of the semester.** Once I have graded it, your grade for that assignment will be updated on the portal. **Tests MUST be taken by the deadline; late tests will not be accepted.**

Since email is the primary source of communication with students via Blackboard, all registered students get a college email account. For this class, students must check their **student email accounts and Blackboard regularly to avoid** missing important messages and deadlines. **All grades for this class will be listed only on the Student Portal.** If you are experiencing trouble with your email, the portal, or Blackboard, please contact Lisa Jumper at 479-394-7622 ext. 1625. The excuse that a student has computer or email problems is unacceptable. It is your responsibility as a student to seek out the answers to your problems. Please remember that Rich Mountain has computer labs available to you at no charge at the Mena, Waldron, and Mt. Ida locations.

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. Suspicion of 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.

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.

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

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 the Deputy Sheriff on campus at (479) 394-6811 OR through an anonymous email link found on the college webpage. The Deputy Sheriff's office is located on the Mena campus in the Spencer Building across from the library.