



UNIVERSITY OF CENTRAL OKLAHOMA
Spring 2018-CRN 27720
POL 1113: American National Government
College of Liberal Arts
Department of Political Science

Instructor: Erick W. Harris, JD.
Class Meets: Online
Office: Liberal Arts Building 102K
Phone: (405) 974-5513 (Political Science Office Main Number)
Office Hours: By appointment, online only.
Email: eharris19@uco.edu

About the Instructor

I currently serve the University of Central Oklahoma as an Adjunct Professor of Political Science. Besides my teaching responsibilities, I am an Associate at the law firm, Dyer, Coatney & Schroeder. Previously, I was as an Assistant Attorney General for the State of Oklahoma. I received a Juris Doctorate from the University of Oklahoma College of Law. Additionally, I received a Master of Public Administration degree from the University of Oklahoma with a concentration in Educational Administration and a Bachelor of Arts degree in Political Science from Tuskegee University in Alabama. Some of my research interests include public administration and policy, religion and politics, state and local government, and voting behavior.

Required Texts

Geer, John. Schiller, Wendy. Segal, Jeffrey. Glencross, Dana. 2016. *Gateways to Democracy: Essentials*. Cengage Learning.

Powerpoint presentation posted online on Oklahoma state government.

Reading assignment posted online on Oklahoma state government.

Course Descriptions and Objectives

- Identify the essential elements of the US political system (the Constitution, Congress, the Presidency, the Judiciary), and the powers allocated to each.

- Identify the political actors (Political Parties, the Public, Media, & Interest Groups) that seek to influence the electoral process.
- Identify important civil liberties and civil rights, and how these act as a check on unwarranted governmental powers.
- Recognize the salience of ideology and political culture, and of selected present-day policy debates.
- Essentially, this class will provide you with the basic information needed to understand American National Government(federal, state, local).

Teaching Methods

Students will be exposed to lectures, powerpoint presentations, group discussions, and possibly guest speakers. Lectures will serve as the primary method of instruction which will focus on daily readings from the text, supplemental materials distributed as I see fit, and powerpoint presentations. Though powerpoint presentations will be used, you are expected to be fully acquainted with the text in case it is not covered during the lecture.

Classroom Expectations and Participation Delivery Method

This course will be 100% online via the internet. Lectures will be posted at the beginning of each week.

Students should maintain the original copy of all graded work until the end of the semester. Should a student believe that there is a grading error; the burden of proof rests on the student to provide previous work that supports his or her claim.

Email Policy

UCO email will serve as the primary method of communication between the instructor and students. Class updates, cancellations, and other pertinent information will be distributed by the instructor primarily through UCO email. This being the case, students should check their UCO email throughout the week as time sensitive information may be distributed. UCO email is also the method to contact the instructor. When emailing the instructor, please include your name, question or concern, and be sure to reference any assignment or other text as it relates to your concern. Allow the instructor enough time to respond to your email. Please keep in mind that I have other obligations outside of the classroom, however, I will respond to your email as quickly as possible. **Only messages sent from your UCO email address will receive a response. Emails will receive a response within 48 hours. Emails sent over the weekend (Friday at 5:00pm-Monday at 8:30pm) will receive a response the following Monday.**

Cheating/Plagiarism Policy

The University has adopted a strong anti-cheating and plagiarism policy which will be followed in the class. Unless clearly specified, all work is to be performed on an individual basis. Should a student cheat, plagiarize, or turn in the same assignment as another student I reserve the right to assign a zero for the assignment and/or lower your final grade. Additionally, you will be reported to Academic Affairs for further action in accordance with university policy.

Attendance Policy

Attending class is a necessary component of successfully completing this class. There will be material that will be covered in class that will not be in the text. There is also a direct correlation between attending class and successful learning outcomes. In order to help foster successful outcomes, this course will adhere to a

strict attendance policy. Students are expected to be present, online, and participate throughout the week and semester through the methods and assignments detailed in this syllabus.

Evaluation Methods and Grading

The grade a student earns in this course will be determined by the following scale:

Grading Scale			Grading Components	
90–100	Mastery of all material	A	Final exam	30%
80–89	Good and above average	B	Mid-term exam	20%
70–79	Average	C	Quizzes (3 total)	30%
60–69	Sub-par comprehension	D	Current Event Summary(3 total)	20%
59–0	Failure to comprehend	F		

Note—Each quiz is worth 10%. The first current event is worth 6% with the next two current events being with 7% each.

Note—All times referenced in this syllabus or subsequent communications are Central Standard Time (CST).

Exams

There will be two exams that will be administered for this course. The first being a mid-term and the second being the final exam. All questions will come from assigned texts, lectures, and other materials assigned by the instructor. Exams must be taken on the date prescribed in the syllabus. **There will be no make-ups for the midterm and final exams. The exams will be held on the date specified below.**

There will be two exams that will be administered for this course. The first being a mid-term and the second being the final exam. All questions will come from assigned texts, lectures, and other materials assigned by the instructor. Exams must be taken on the day prescribed in the syllabus. **There will be no make-ups for the midterm and final exams.** Exams will be given at the designated time. **During the exam, students may not consult any material. Further, students are prohibited from discussing the contents of the exam before the deadline that exams must be completed.** Failure to adhere to these instructions may result in a grade reduction, voiding of an exam, and/or referral to UCO Academic Affairs.

Quizzes

Throughout the semester there will be three (3) quizzes that will be given at random. Questions will be based off the previous week's assigned reading as well as the material that is required for that day's class and lecture. The primary purpose of the quizzes is to ensure that you are keeping up with the assigned reading and lecture materials. Students will be allotted 15 minutes. At the end of the semester, I will take the highest quiz grade and replace your lowest quiz grade. **Under no circumstance will there be a makeup quiz if one is missed.** If a student misses a quiz, I will use the highest quiz grade for the missed quiz.

When I distribute a quiz, I will send an email notifying you when the quiz will be available. Students are prohibited from consulting any material during the quiz and are further prohibited from discussing the contents of the exam before the deadline that the quiz must be completed.

Current Event Summary

American government has multiple factors that contribute to the overall understanding of our system of government. To acquaint students with the various aspects of American government, there are three current event summaries that each student must write and present to the class. The paper should include a general summary of the event that the student is writing about. **The first summary** should summarize a current issue in American federal government (i.e. budget negotiations, gay marriage, health care). **The second summary** should summarize a foreign affairs event that involves the United States (i.e. drug problems in Mexico as they relate to the US, Libyan conflict, war in Iraq); while **the third summary** must summarize a current event in Oklahoma state or local government (i.e. education budget, economic development, MAPS). The examples above are merely examples. It is your responsibility to ensure you have selected an appropriate current event. **The event that is the subject of the paper must have occurred within the past month.**

The assignment must be submitted using D2L by 7:30pm (Central Standard Time) on the date due as listed below. Assignments must be uploaded using as a Word or PDF document. Failure to submit using the right format will result in a zero grade. Summaries must be written in the style suggested by the American Psychological Association (APA). **Additionally, they should be exactly two pages, double spaced, written in 12 Times New Roman font, and should include a reference page.** Please review the university's stance on plagiarism which will be adopted by this class. The first page should include your name, date, class, and assignment title. No cover page is necessary. Your paper will be graded on your ability to identify and summarize your selected issue, spelling and grammar, and the ability to properly follow the above instructions.

In order to receive full credit, students must submit a paper that conforms to the instructions listed above. Failure to adhere to a requirement will result in a deduction of 25% of the percentage points available for each violation. I do not provide any makeup opportunities for late current events.

Note-you are asked to summarize an event, not write a policy paper. To qualify as an event, something must actually happen. Do not write a policy paper on a subject where no event has occurred. For example, it would be appropriate to summarize something that actually happened (i.e. a court ruling, etc) as this is a current event. However, it would not be appropriate to provide a summary on marriage rights generally as this is an issue. If you write a paper that is not a current event, the paper will not be graded and you will automatically receive a zero.

Extra Credit

There could be several opportunities throughout the semester for students to accumulate that will be added to your final grade. It will be available to all students, if offered. These opportunities will be spontaneous and there will be no makeup opportunities (no exceptions). Extra credit could be given for anything from attendance to current-event knowledge but it is at the sole discretion of the instructor.

Course Schedule-Spring 2018
(May be revised as needed by the instructor without notice)

Week	Date	Topic	Readings	Assignments
1	01/08	Introduction/ Syllabus Review		
2	01/15	Declaration of Independence/US Constitution	Chapters 1 & 2/Supplemental	
3	01/22	Congress	Chapter 10	
4	01/29	The Presidency	Chapter 11	Current Event 1 Due
5	02/05	Judiciary	Chapter 13	
6	02/12	Federalism	Chapter 3	
7	02/19	Bureaucracy/Mid-term review	Chapter 12	Review material from 01/08-02/19 for mid-term exam
8	02/26	No class-Midterm exam study week		
9	03/05	Mid-term Exam		Details as to when the exam will be open will be provided later in the semester.
10	03/12	Elections/Political Parties	Chapters 9 & 8	
11	03/19	NO CLASS-Spring Break		
12	03/26	Interest Groups/Media	Chapters 7 & 6	Current Event 2 Due
13	04/02	Feature Presentation: Primary Colors		
14	04/09	State & Local Government	State government powerpoint and reading packet	
15	04/16	Civil Rights/ Civil Liberties/Final Exam review session	Chapters 5 & 4	Current Event 3 Due
16	04/23	Study week		Review material from 03/26-04/16 for final exam
17	04/30	Final Exam		Details as to when the exam will be open will be provided later in the semester.

Note-all material may be found under the "Content" section of the course page on d2l.

Communications Policy

In order to facilitate a proper and respectful learning environment, the following constitutes a communications policy that will be used in this class.

1. Before sending an email, review the syllabus and/or previous emails.
2. Check your email for errors and redundancy by conducting a thorough review before sending.
3. Typing in all caps indicates shouting and should be avoided in all communications.
4. Do not send multiple emails. Your email will be answered in due time. No email will receive an expedited review and/or response under any circumstances.
5. If there is a need to supplement the email, the item should be attached to the email.
6. Consider whether your email is emotional in nature or whether the message should be sent.
7. Use a proper salutation. For myself, the following are appropriate when sending an email to me: Mr., Dr., or Professor. Do not send an email to me with "Hey, Yo, etc."
8. Send only necessary emails.
9. Only send emails from your university account.
10. See #4 above.

Failure to adhere to the above policy may result in some and/or all of the following: (1) No response will be provided to an email that does not adhere to the above, (2) Possible academic and/or student conduct violations, and (3) point reduction on the assignment that is the subject of the communication.

Transformative Learning Goals

Please note that the Political Science Department is committed to furthering the academic mission, vision, goals, values, and philosophy of the University community as outlined in its Academic Mission/Vision 2009.

See: <http://www.uco.edu/academicaffairs/MissionVision2009.pdf>

This course directly incorporates the following **Transformative Learning Goals:**

- **Discipline Knowledge** – of Government/Political Science by a thorough review of the structures and processes of American government.
- **Leadership** – by examining the leadership styles and challenges faced by American presidents and other political leaders.
- **Research, Scholarly and Creative Activities** – by requiring the critical analysis of current political, social, and economic issues confronting the American polity, and demonstrating the written ability to integrate course material on essay questions and/or short papers.
- **Service Learning and Civic Engagement Activities** – by acquiring the knowledge to become an informed voter, and the motivation to become an active participant in one's community.
- **Global and Cultural Competencies** – by examining the ways in which the United States relates with the world, and is challenged to react to global issues, such as the increasingly globalizing economy.

UCO Disability Statement

The University of Central Oklahoma complies with Section 504 of the Rehabilitation Act of 1973 and the Americans with Disabilities Act of 1990. Students with disabilities who need special accommodations must make their requests by contacting Disability Support Services, at [\(405\) 974-2516](tel:4059742516). The DSS Office is located in the Nigh University Center, Room 305. Students should also notify the instructor of special

accommodation needs as soon as possible. Per Title IX of the Education Amendments of 1972 (“Title IX”), pregnant and parenting students may request adjustments by contacting the Title IX Coordinator, at [\(405\) 974-3377](tel:4059743377) or TitleIX@uco.edu. The Title IX Office is located in the Lillard Administration Building, Room 114D.

UCO Academic Affairs

Please take the time to view an important document provided by UCO Academic Affairs via this website address.

<http://sites.uco.edu/academic-affairs/files/aa-forms/StudentInfoSheet.pdf>

Revisions

The professor reserves the right to amend the syllabus at any time and without warning. Participation in this class constitutes your acceptance of the above terms.