



**AMERICAN NATIONAL GOVERNMENT
University of Central Oklahoma
Department of Political Science**

POL 1113 : American National Government, Spring 2018 online:

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Office phone: (405) 974-5524; Contact Information: you may call me, but the best way to contact is through D2L mail tool. In case when D2L does not work, you may contact me at: yshin@uco.edu (this is only for an emergency situation).

About your instructor: Dr. Shin earned her PhD in Political Science from the University of Washington in Seattle. Since joining UCO, she has published numerous articles and published three books (one in Korea). She is a frequent invited speaker at universities around the world. Her latest book, *Protest Politics and the Democratization of South Korea*, published in Dec 2014, received a wide acclaim and is being used at many universities around the world for courses in Asian Politics, Women and Politics, and Religion and Politics. She was a Fulbright Scholar to Ukraine and has been reviewer for Fulbright scholars' applications in Political science (mostly Europe and Latin America) and Phd Student applications for Asia.

How to access your course: Go to UCONNECT and click my course. If there is a problem with accessing D2L or have other technological issues, **you need to contact IT: support@uco.edu, or call them 405-974-2255. I cannot help you with any technological issues for the course. And you need a high speed internet in order to access the course. Your own internet problems are not the responsibility of the instructor and I cannot solve it or take it into consideration for your performance on this course.**

Students should be familiar with the use of D2L system before taking my on line courses and are encouraged to take tutorial on how to use D2L. It is your responsibility to know how to use and navigate the D2L system. Go to the following link for tutorial.

<http://www.uco.edu/technology/trc/learningtech/learn/students/index.asp>

Communication Methods: All of communication should be done within D2L, yshin@d2lmail.uco.edu and all other forms of communications cannot be guaranteed that you would receive my responses. I will respond to your questions and concerns within 48 hours during weekdays (excluding holidays). On weekends (beginning Friday 12 Noon to Monday 8AM), I will respond within 72 hours, but no later than Tuesday 10 AM. Before you ask

questions, consult the syllabus first **and if you ask questions that are already written in the syllabus, the chances are that you will not get my response.** One example of such questions would be: Is there a way to do an extra work? Or can I do a make-up since I missed quiz or discussion? These questions will not be answered since it is clearly stated that there is no extra credit work or makeup. I have this policy to force you to read the syllabus and make you a responsible student.

Course Description: This class is an introductory analysis of the origin, structure, and functions of the United States national government.

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.

Student Learning Objectives - given your conscientious reading of the text and other assigned material, regular class attendance, and active participation in class discussions, you will be able to:

- 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 and decision processes.
- 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.

What is most important to your achieving the above objectives is that you take responsibility for your own education!

For Academic Affairs Student Information Sheet (SIS) click the following link. <http://www.uco.edu/academic-affairs/>

Course Requirements, Attendant Policy, and Evaluation: While I cannot see you in person, your attendance will be evaluated by your weekly assignments such as quizzes and discussions, etc. Students that miss more than four weekly assignment in each category (that is missing four weeks of class in the regular class settings), will be asked to drop the course. There will be almost weekly quizzes in this class, each covering the readings for the specific weeks. The cumulative performance on the quizzes 2700 points; and the test on the constitution is worth 750 points.

Class participation, as measured by your participation in discussions, counts for 150 points maximum (15 points each for at least ten discussions. The final 200 points of the class grade will be earned by a short paper (2-3 pages, double spaced with size 12 fonts and with 1 inch margins, and should have at least 4 academic journal articles included, not online sources such as Wikipedia and newspaper articles on the topic provided by the professor (see below for the paper topic). Any articles found in JSTOR or EBSCO are considered academic articles. There is no midterm or final exam, so doing well on weekly quizzes is vital for good grade. **The quizzes are due at 5 PM on Friday of the assigned week and the discussion posting is due at 5 PM on Sunday.**

Always check the course tab and see what needs to be done for that week. For instance, quizzes and tests, go to quiz tab; and for discussions, go to discussion tab, and for paper, go to drop box. This is important since the syllabus may not have all the assignment listed, especially discussions. If there is any discrepancies on due dates (since not all dates are automatically synchronized, go by the dates on the tab).

No Makeup, No extra credit: there is no makeup or extra credit for this course.

Paper due at 5 PM on Nov 17 (Friday). As are for quizzes and discussions, when the deadline for the paper is over, you cannot submit (see drop box for the assignment): You need to write a 2-3 page (size 12 font, double-spaced with 1 inch margins) with a minimum of four academic sources. Any articles found in JSTOR or EBSCO are considered academic articles. Use the American Political Science Association Format (Parenthetical citation-UCO library has the book by Drs. Greg Scott and Steve Garrison, *The Political Science Student Writing Manual*) or use the Chicago Manual of Writing. This is **credit and no credit** assignment, and as long as you write in your own words and with enough research and

substance, you will get the full credit for the assignment, provided that you did follow the instruction including no plagiarism. By the same token if you simply spit out your opinion without any research or documentation that shows your research, **you will get no credit. The worst case would be to plagiarize and submit as your own work. In this situation, you will not only get no credit for the portion of assignment, I will also follow the University's policy on academic integrity. While it is an opinion paper, your logic should be supported by academically accepted sources. You need to submit it in the drop box. I will not accept any paper or discussions sent to me via email.**

Paper Topic: What do you think is the **Most Critical Political Issue** for America now and what are the reasons for it?

Grade: Quizzes and test: 3450 (2700 quizzes and 750 for Constitution test)

Discussions Maximum: 150 (15 points each—so you need to post at least your original 10 discussion views)

Paper: 200

Total points: 3800

Grade: A: 3300; B: 2900; C: 2500; D:2000; F: Below1999.

All quizzes are multiple choices. Class participation is measured by at least 10 meaningful postings by students to discussion questions. The paper will be graded on a satisfactory (200 points /unsatisfactory (0 point) basis.

Text and Other Source Material

The class text is Volkomer, *American Government, 13th edition*. If you cannot find the 13th edition, you may use the 14th edition (which is much more expensive), but make sure that the chapters are the same. Students are responsible for the contents of the book, as well as the contents of all on-line lecture notes, outside materials, and posted class discussions.

Attendance Policy

Attending class regularly is a good way of getting a better grade. Attendance for this course will be measured by your participation in, and contribution to, on-line discussions (see “course requirements and evaluation,” above).

Late and Make-Up Work Policy

The quiz and exam schedule set for this on-line course cannot be altered. There is no make-up for this course. It is a must that you feel competent enough to deal with IT: I cannot help you if you have issues accessing the course, or you missed the deadline. Your personal

computer problems will not be accepted as a legitimate excuse for missing quizzes or discussions. If technological problem occurs you need to contact 405-974-2255.

Summary of due dates: I suggest you always work ahead of the deadline to allow enough time to fix technical issues with your computer, or any other unforeseen contingencies that often happens to our lives. The class is assumed to begin on Monday and ends on Sunday at 5 PM of the week, unless otherwise noted.

The weekly quizzes must be completed by **5 PM (Central Time) on Friday** of each week. **Discussions are due at 5 PM on Sunday.** Discussion posting for the last week is due at 5 PM on **Friday** not on Sunday.

The constitution test must be taken at a time specified in the module.

Paper for this class must be submitted electronically to D2L by 5 PM on April 21. **No late Submission** is accepted under any circumstances, but early submission is encouraged and accepted. It is essential that you check your weekly course module at least four times a week.

Keeping Track of Your Coursework

Your responsibilities are spelled out in each module. Please pay attention to this file as guide to your responsibilities for this course. You are encouraged to print this page out for easier reference.

Course Outline: there are quizzes almost every week in addition to Constitution Test.

Note that there are two modules for the same week on Chapter 5 (modules 6 and 7)

MODULE ONE : Introduction: the Nature of Government.

On-line discussion & materials

READ Volkomer, chapter 1

Quiz #1

MODULE TWO : Background to the Founding

On-line discussion & materials

READ Volkomer, chapter 2; the Declaration of Independence

Quiz #2

MODULE 3: Principles of American Government

On-line discussion & materials

READ Volkomer, chapter 3; Appendix B (The Articles of Confederation); The Constitution (pp 42-61)

Quiz #3

MODULE 4 : The History and Logic of Federalism

On-line discussion same as Module 3, but read this new materials

READ Volkomer, chapter 3 (cont.)

CONSTITUTION TEST—DUE 9/16 (Saturday) at 5 PM

MODULE 5 : Public Opinion and the Media

On-line discussion & materials

READ Volkomer, chapter 4

Quiz #4

MODULE 6 : Political Parties—note that Modules 6 & 7 are on Chapter 5

On-line discussion & materials

READ Volkomer, chapter 5

Quiz #5 on Chapter 5.

MODULE 7 : Interest Groups continue on Chapter 5, know that there are two quizzes on

Module 7 on political parties and interest group

On-line discussion and materials

READ Volkomer, chapter 5 (cont.)

QUIZ #5-2 on Chapter 5-Interest Groups

MODULE 8 : Campaigns and Elections

On-line discussion & materials

READ Volkomer, chapter 6

Quiz #6

MODULE 9: Congress

On-line discussion & materials

READ Volkomer, chapter 7

No quiz this week—questions on Congress will be combined with chief executive

MODULE 10: The Chief Executive

READ Volkomer, Chapter 8

Quiz # 8

MODULE 11 : The Bureaucracy

On-line discussion & materials

READ Volkomer, chapter 9

Quiz # 9

Last day to drop in person, Nov 3.

MODULE 12: The Judiciary

On-line discussion & materials

READ Volkomer, chapter 10

Quiz #10

MODULE 13 : Civil Liberties

On-line discussion & materials
READ Volkomer, chapter 11
Quiz #11

MODULE 14 : Civil Rights
READ Volkomer, chapter 12
Quiz #12

Paper due on 4/13 at 5 PM—no late submission accepted but early submission is encouraged and accepted/

MODULE 15 : public policy
On-line discussion & materials
READ Volkomer, chapter 13
Quiz #13

MODULE 16 (12/4-12/10): Foreign Policy
On-line discussion & materials
READ Volkomer, chapter 14
Quiz #14