

SYLLABUS

POS 110: American National Government (Section 12718)

Spring 2019

Instructor Terri Desai

Email: terri.desai@gccaz.edu

Phone: 818-696-0349

Office Location: 05-105

Office Hours: MW: 12:00-1:00 pm; T/Th: 1:00-2:00 pm

Class Location: Glendale Community College; HTA-105

Hybrid Class Meets: 1/14-5/2; M/W 10-10:50

Required Textbook: *Keeping the Republic*, Barbour and Wright (7th Brief Edition CQ Press 2017)

ISBN 978-1-5063-4995-4

Course Description:

Study of the historical backgrounds, governing principles, and institutions, of the national government of the United States. Prerequisites: None.

Course Objectives:

The government set up by the framers of the United States Constitution was the first of its kind. Over two hundred years later, American government remains unique in both its structures and its outcomes. A better understanding of the distinctive nature of American government enables more meaningful political participation. Thus, this course has three main objectives. First; familiarization with the unique nature of the American system set out by the U.S. Constitution including how principles such as federalism; separation of powers; and checks and balances operate to create a governmental system which is adversarial in nature. Second; in-depth examination of the three branches of government and their often contentious relations with one another. Third; analysis of the power and influence of individuals, interest groups, political parties and the media on American life. Official course competencies can be found here

<https://aztransmac2.asu.edu/cgi-bin/WebObjects/acres.woa/wa/freeForm2?id=55520>

Grading

The final course grade will be determined based on the following point system:

Discussion board Postings (10 at 10 points each)	100 points
Chapter Quizzes (10 at 10 points each)	100 points
Chapter Reflections	100-140 points
Paper	100 points
Unit One Exam (Chapters 1-5) - taken online	100 points
Unit Two Exam (Chapters 6-9) - taken online	100 points
Final exam (Covering Unit Three only: Chapters 10-14)	100 points

The grading scale is: A = 90%; B = 80-89%; C = 70-79%; D = 60-69%; F = below 60%

Reading Assignments

It is imperative that students complete the assigned readings prior to class in order to participate in the discussions.

Discussion Board Postings

There will be a discussion question posted for each chapter of the course. You are expected to complete 10 of the posted discussion questions. You may complete more than ten to receive extra credit. You will need to make one paragraph length comment or response to the question prompt. After you have posted, you will be able to read your classmate's posts and you will need to reply to at least one of those posts. In order to get full credit for this assignment, you should carefully read and answer all parts of the question asked; do so using proper grammar and sentence composition; and thoughtfully respond to the post(s) of your classmates. Be sure to stay on top of the due dates for these posts. There will be no late posting allowed.

Chapter Reflections

Chapter Reflections are based upon the materials presented in each module. They will consist of a 2-3 paragraph reflection on a question posed by me.

Attendance and Participation

Because a significant portion of the course will be presented by lecture and during class discussions, regular attendance is crucial to success. If you need to miss a class, it is your responsibility to check Canvas for any changes or assignments. I reserve the right to withdraw any student who misses 3 consecutive days without contacting me. Strong classroom participation and attendance will also be recognized in computing final grades.

Paper

The Paper will be addressed in a separate handout.

Extra Credit

It will be possible for students to earn extra-credit points through completion of assignments to be distributed throughout the semester. Extra credit is designed to help boost a borderline grade; not to replace missed assignments. Please do not ask for individual consideration.


Classroom Policies

- Minimum Expectations for number of hours spent out-of-class to complete coursework is *six hours of out-of-class student work each week. See 34CFR 600.2 (11/1/2010)*
- Once an exam begins, you cannot leave the classroom until you are finished and have turned in the exam. Should you leave, I will assume you have finished and your test will be collected. Cell phones, IPODs, etc. are **not** allowed on the desk or in your ears during exams.
- Failure to appear for the Final Exam will result in a grade of zero on the exam.
- Late assignments have become an epidemic. All assignments are due on or before their due dates. Late work will be accepted at my discretion and only if you have contacted me **prior** to the assignment's due date or you have a verifiable medical or other verifiable excuse. Not getting home on time from work or forgetting about assignments are not valid excuses.

- “Disruptive behavior” means conduct that materially and substantially interferes with or obstructs the teaching of learning process in the context of a classroom or educational setting. Students engaging in disruptive behavior **Disruptive behavior is subject to disciplinary sanction under the procedures established in the Glendale Community College Student Handbook.** Examples of disruptive behavior in the classroom include, but are not limited to:
 - Monopolizing classroom discussions
 - Talking when the instructor or others are speaking
 - Using cell phones, pages, iPads, or any other personal electronic device
 - Inappropriate or inordinate demands for time and attention
 - Exhibiting erratic, irrational behavior
 - Persisting in speaking without being recognized
 - Refusal to comply with faculty direction
 - Repeatedly leaving and entering the classroom during class without authorization
 - Making hostile remarks to or about other students in the class, other groups of people or the instructor
 - Targeting individuals with disparaging comments because of their membership in a particular group.
- Sexual harassment is any unwelcome, verbal or physical conduct of a sexual nature that is sufficiently severe, persistent or pervasive that it alters working conditions and creates a hostile environment or reasonably interferes with, limits, or deprives a student of the ability to participate in or benefit from any educational program or activity. Sexual harassment and discrimination in any college education program or activity are prohibited. Sexual Harassment may include hostile environment harassment, sexual assault, inducing incapacitation for sexual purposes, sexual exploitation or dating violence and stalking. Students should report any discrimination and/or harassment they experience and/or observe to the [GCC Office of Student Life](#) in the Student Union. Phone (623) 845-3525. To view the full Sexual Harassment Policy refer to the Student Handbook, [Sexual Harassment Policy for Students \(AR 2.4.4\) \(see also 5.1.8\)](#).
- All assignments, exams and extra-credit projects are to be the exclusive work product of the individual student. **Academic dishonesty (plagiarism, cheating, etc.) will not be tolerated and will be resolved under the procedures established in the Glendale Community College Student Handbook.**
- Students are responsible for the information contained in this syllabus; Students will be notified by the instructor of any changes in course requirements or policies.
- Every student is expected to know and comply with all current published policies, rules and regulations as printed in the college catalog, class schedule, and/or student handbook.
- Taping is not permitted without my prior permission.
- If you have a documented disability, including a learning disability, and would like to discuss possible accommodations, please contact the GCC Disabilities Resources and Services office at 623.845.3080 or email drsfrontdesk@gccaz.edu.
- Please keep a copy of all of your work until you have received your final grade.

Course Schedule

	UNIT ONE: THE AMERICAN SYSTEM
Monday 1/14	Introduction
Wednesday 1/16	Power and Citizenship in American Politics <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Read Chapter 1
Monday 1/21	No Class - Presidents' Day
Wednesday 1/23	The Politics of the American Founding <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Read Chapter 2
Monday 1/28	The Politics of the American Founding
Wednesday 1/30	Federalism <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Read Chapter 3
Monday 2/4	Federalism
Wednesday 2/6	Fundamental American Liberties <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Read Chapter 4
Monday 2/11	Fundamental American Liberties
Wednesday 2/13	The Struggle for Equal Rights <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Read Chapter 5
Monday 2/18	<i>No Class - Presidents' Day</i>
Wednesday 2/20	The Struggle for Equal Rights
Friday 2/22	Online Exam One Due by 11:59pm

	UNIT TWO: THE INSTITUTIONS OF GOVERNMENT
Monday 2/25	Congress <ul style="list-style-type: none"> Read Chapter 6
Wednesday 2/27	Congress
Monday 3/4	The Presidency <ul style="list-style-type: none"> Read Chapter 7
Wednesday 3/6	The Presidency
3/11-3/15	No Class – Spring Break 
Monday 3/18	The Bureaucracy <ul style="list-style-type: none"> Read Chapter 8
Wednesday 3/20	The Bureaucracy
Monday 3/25	The American Legal System and the Courts <ul style="list-style-type: none"> Read Chapter 9
Wednesday 3/27	The American Legal System and the Courts
Friday 3/29	Online Exam Two due by 11:59 pm

	UNIT THREE: OTHER IMPACTS
Monday 4/1	Public Opinion <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Read Chapter 10
Wednesday 4/3	Public Opinion
Monday 4/8	Parties and Interest Groups <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Read Chapter 11
Wednesday 4/10	Parties and Interest Groups
Monday 4/15	Voting, Campaigns and Elections <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Read Chapter 12
Wednesday 4/17	Voting, Campaigns and Elections
Monday 4/22	Media, Power and Political Communication <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Read Chapter 13
Wednesday 4/24	Media, Power and Political Communication
Monday 4/29	Domestic and Foreign Policy <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Read Chapter 14
Wednesday 5/1	Domestic and Foreign Policy
Monday 5/6 10:00 am	<i>Final Exam - Taken in-class</i>