


 Appalachian State University


PS 1100: American National Government & Politics | Fall 2018

 Anne Belk Hall 110

 MWF 9:00am-9:50am

 Dr. William Pollock

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 Office: Belk Hall 352 D

 Office Hours: MWF 11:15am-12:45pm

Course Description and Learning Objectives

This class will cover the fundamental aspects of American national government. It will provide a broad outline of various sub-fields, and lay the groundwork for more advanced study in future classes. Upon completion of this course, students will have the ability to identify and explain the key concepts underlying the American form of government, and relate these ideas to present and future governmental actions. In addition, students should be able to integrate the founding principles of the Constitution with subsequent developments to discuss how the nature of government has changed through the country's history. Finally, students will be able to evaluate government actions from a prospective of knowledge concerning its procedures.

Course Readings

There is one required book for this course:

- *Geer, Schiller, Segal, Herrera, and Glencross. 2017. Gateways to Democracy. Fourth edition. ISBN: 133709773X* (The “MindTap” software included with some versions of the book is unneeded for this class).

Additionally, I will assign news articles of relevance as readings throughout the semester. These readings will be linked via AsULearn.

Course Requirements

Reading

All readings listed on the syllabus are required. Readings must be completed before the class sessions for which they are assigned.

Attendance and Participation

Students are expected to attend every class session. Some test/quiz questions may concern lecture or in-class discussion material that is not covered in the assigned readings. Attendance is important to earning a passing grade.

Class meetings will include both lecture content and class discussions. Student participation in classroom discussions is highly encouraged, and required if our discourse is to be useful toward achieving the learning objectives. Discussion participants will be respectful and tactful toward others in any comments made during class.

☞ If class attendance, preparation, or participation are unsatisfactory, I reserve the right to administer unannounced quizzes, which will count toward your final quiz average.

Exams

There will be three midterm exams, as well as a final exam (non-cumulative, December 10th 8:00am-10:30am). Each of the four tests will count for 20% of one’s final grade. Students are expected to arrive on time for scheduled exams. I will stop handing out exams after the first student has completed his or her test and has left the room. Bring a #2 pencil to each exam.

Make-up exams will only be allowed due to a legitimate, documented reason for absence. Excused absences from tests must be discussed with the instructor on a case-by-case basis. **You must notify me of your circumstances prior to the original test date in order to receive a make-up exam.** Exceptions will only be made if prior notification is impossible.

Quizzes

There are a total of six quizzes scheduled throughout the semester. These assignments will generally cover key topics of the day’s assigned chapter (e.g., Quiz 1 covers Chapter 4, Quiz 2 covers Chapter 12, etc.).

Quizzes will typically be administered during the first fifteen minutes of class. Students who arrive late to class after quizzes have been turned in will not be permitted to take the quiz, and will receive a grade of zero. Make-up quizzes will be permitted based on the criteria described in the previous section (i.e., you must give me prior notification of a legitimate reason for absence).

Grading

Students' final course average will be calculated based on the following assignment weights:

Test 1:	20%
Test 2:	20%
Test 3:	20%
Final Exam:	20%
Quiz Average:	20%

Course grades will be assigned on the following scale:

93% or higher:	A
90	A-
88	B+
83	B
80	B-
78	C+
73	C
70	C-
68	D+
60	D
63	D-
Less than 60%:	F

These percentages represent the minimum score required for each grade. Final course averages will not be rounded up or down. Grades are not negotiable based on personal circumstances. Extra credit will not be awarded.

Course Schedule

Week 1

Wednesday, 8/22: Course Introduction and Review of Syllabus

Friday, 8/24: Introduction to American Democracy I, Chapter 1

Week 2

Monday, 8/27: Introduction to American Democracy II, Chapter 1

Wednesday, 8/29: The Constitution I, Chapter 2

Friday, 8/31: The Constitution II, Chapter 2

Week 3

Monday, 9/3: No class (Labor Day)
Wednesday, 9/5: Federalism I, Chapter 3
Friday, 9/7: Federalism II, Chapter 3

Week 4

Monday, 9/10: Civil Liberties I, Chapter 4
Wednesday, 9/12: Civil Liberties II, Chapter 4, **Quiz 1**
Friday, 9/14: Review Session for Test 1

Week 5

Monday, 9/17: **Test 1**
Wednesday, 9/19: Civil Rights I, Chapter 5
Friday, 9/21: Civil Rights II, Chapter 5

Week 6

Monday, 9/24: Congress I, Chapter 12
Wednesday, 9/26: Congress II, Chapter 12, **Quiz 2**
Friday, 9/28: Congress III, Chapter 12

Week 7

Monday, 10/1: The Presidency I, Chapter 13
Wednesday, 10/3: The Presidency II, Chapter 13, **Quiz 3**
Friday, 10/5: The Presidency III, Chapter 13

Week 8

Monday, 10/8: Review session for Test 2
Wednesday, 10/10: **Test 2**
Friday, 10/12: No class (Fall Break)

Week 9

Monday, 10/15: The Judiciary I, Chapter 15
Wednesday, 10/17: The Judiciary II, Chapter 15
Friday, 10/19: The Bureaucracy I, Chapter 14

Week 10

Monday, 10/22: The Bureaucracy II, Chapter 14
Wednesday, 10/24: Interest Groups, Chapter 8, **Quiz 4**
Friday, 10/26: Political Parties I, Chapter 9

Week 11

Monday, 10/29: Political Parties II, Chapter 9
Wednesday, 10/31: Economic and Domestic Policy I, Chapter 16
Friday, 11/2: Economic and Domestic Policy II, Chapter 16

Week 12

Monday, 11/5: Review for Test 3

Wednesday, 11/7: **Test 3**

Friday, 11/9: Foreign Policy I, Chapter 16

Week 13

Monday, 11/12: Foreign Policy II, Chapter 16

Wednesday, 11/14: Public Opinion I, Chapter 16

Friday, 11/16: Public Opinion II, **Quiz 5**

Week 14

Monday, 11/19: TBD

Wednesday, 11/21: No class (Thanksgiving)

Friday, 11/23: No class (Thanksgiving)

Week 15

Monday, 11/26: The Media I, Chapter 7

Wednesday, 11/28: The Media II, Chapter 7

Friday, 11/30: Elections, Campaigns, and Voting I, Chapter 10

Week 16

Monday, 12/3: Elections, Campaigns, and Voting II, Chapter 10, **Quiz 6**

Wednesday, 12/5: Review Session for Final Exam

Finals Week

Monday, 12/10: **Final Exam** (8:00am-10:30am)

Statement on Student Engagement with Courses

In its mission statement, Appalachian State University aims at “providing undergraduate students a rigorous liberal education that emphasizes transferable skills and preparation for professional careers” as well as “maintaining a faculty whose members serve as excellent teachers and scholarly mentors for their students.” Such rigor means that the foremost activity of Appalachian students is an intense engagement with their courses. In practical terms, students should expect to spend two to three hours of studying for every hour of class time. Hence, a fifteen hour academic load might reasonably require between 30 and 45 hours per week of out-of-class work.

Academic Integrity

As a community of learners at Appalachian State University, we must create an atmosphere of honesty, fairness, and responsibility, without which we cannot earn the trust and respect of each other. Furthermore, we recognize that academic dishonesty detracts from the value of an Appalachian degree. Therefore,

we shall not tolerate lying, cheating, or stealing in any form and will oppose any instance of academic dishonesty. This course will follow the provisions of the Academic Integrity Code, which can be found on the Office of Student Conduct Web Site: www.studentconduct.appstate.edu.

Disability Services

Appalachian State University is committed to making reasonable accommodations for individuals with documented qualifying disabilities in accordance with the Americans with Disabilities Act of 1990, and Section 504 of the Rehabilitation Act of 1973. Those seeking accommodations based on a substantially limiting disability must contact and register with The Office of Disability Services (ODS) at [http://www.ods.appstate.edu/](http://www.ods.appstate.edu) or 828-262-3056. Once registration is complete, individuals will meet with ODS staff to discuss eligibility and appropriate accommodations.