



Course Syllabus

Course Description

Designed to give students a more in-depth understanding of how the federal government works, the course will cover the U.S. Constitution, the structure and power of the federal government including the legislative, executive and judicial branches, as well as federalism and the relationship between the state and federal governments, political participation and modern day challenges of governing.

Course participants will be required to complete assigned readings and homework assignments, participate actively in class discussions, keep track of current events and successfully complete quizzes and exams.

Lecturer

Pete P. Gallego
Office Hours: By Appointment
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Class Plan

Our class will meet daily on from 9:50am - 11:25am in Lawrence Hall, Room 300. Class participants will be expected to arrive on time.

As our textbook, we will be using *American Government* by Timothy O. Lenz & Mirya Holman. It is available online at http://ufdcimages.uflib.ufl.edu/AA/00/01/62/98/00001/9781616101633_LenzHolman.pdf. No other textbook will be necessary. All readings assigned will be available online.

Prior to class, you will be expected to have completed your readings and any homework assignments and to be aware of current events involving the federal government. This is crucial to success in the class.

Homework assignments must be turned in on a timely basis. Your homework grade will be lowered by a full letter grade for each day that your homework assignment is late.

Finally, in addition to a final exam, periodic exams on our readings and classroom discussions will occasionally be administered. These periodic exams will be administered (probably every other week) to be sure that you are understanding the readings and deriving something from the class discussions.

Basis of Grading

You will be graded on attendance and participation in the class discussions, the homework assignments you have submitted, and your performance on the exams. Our final exam will be cumulative. If you are interested in supplementing your grade with additional work, please see me.

Your homework assignments will cumulatively account for 25% of your grade. Class participation will account for 25% of your grade. Your performance on exams will cumulatively account for 25% of your grade while your performance on the final exam will account for the remaining 25% of your grade.

The exams will be a combination of true/false questions, fill in the blank questions and short-answer essay exams. The short answer essay questions will will account for 50% of your score.

Class Discussions and Readings	
July 6th-7th (Week 1) Note: No class on Friday, July 7th	Organizational meeting; Preliminary discussions on federal government and politics, the U.S. Constitution. (<i>American Government</i> , Chapters 1 & 2)
July 10th-14th (Week 2)	The U.S. Constitution; the Congress (<i>American Government</i> , Chapters 2 & 3)
July 17th-21 (Week 3)	The Presidency; The Supreme Court & the Judicial Branch (<i>American Government</i> , Chapters 4 & 5)
July 24th-28th	Federalism; The Role of the Media (<i>American Government</i> , Chapters 6 & 7)

<p>July 31st-Aug 4th (Week 5)</p>	<p>Public Opinion; Political Ideologies; Public Participation; Political Parties (<i>American Government</i>, Chapters 8, 9, & 11)</p>
<p>Aug 7th-Aug 10th (Week 6)</p>	<p>Political Participation; Interest Groups (<i>American Government</i>, Chapters 10 & 12); Semester Review</p>
<p>Aug 10th</p>	<p>Final Exam</p>