

## American National Government

PLS 141.C1

Winter 2021: 2/1/21 – 5/1/21 (13 weeks)

**Number of Credits:** 3

**Days Class Meets:** Tuesday / Wednesday

**Meeting Times:** N/A

**Location/Venue:** Cotton

**Instructor:** Professor Timothy Speck

**Contact Phone:** please contact me by JC email

**Contact Email:** specktimothyd@jccmi.edu

**Online Office Hours:**

None at this time

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### Course Description

Develops a systematic framework for the interpretation of political activity in the United States. Numerous models explain the theoretical foundations of government and the decision making process.

### Prerequisite(s)

Prerequisites: ENG 085\* and ENG 090\*

### Course Goals

To explore the role of internal and external institutions with regard to US domestic and foreign policy

To document how US values (e.g. liberty, equality, democracy) serve to complement and compete against one another and thereby, lead constituents and political parties to pursue diverse policy initiatives

To explore how US residents from diverse backgrounds experience life in the US and as a result, arrive at different expectations of government, notions of inclusivity, and perceptions of equity

### Course Objectives

The course goals and objectives incorporate specific General Education Outcomes (GEOs) established by the JC Board of Trustees, administration, and faculty. These goals are in concert with four-year colleges and universities and reflect input from the professional communities we serve.

GEOs guarantee students achieve goals necessary for graduation credit, transferability, and professional skills needed in many certification programs. The GEOs and course objectives addressed in this class include the following:

The GEOs and course objectives addressed in this class include the following (GEO 5):

### **Meaning /Understanding**

Recognizes factors that determine and govern human behavior. Acknowledges the interaction of personal and social factors.

### **Analysis and Interpretation**

Articulates the methods of analysis and interpretation used by behavioral sciences. Begins to use appropriate terms and concepts.

### **Engagement**

When prompted, engages in discussion of the relevant issues, reflecting knowledge of behavior and systems.

### **Evaluation of Methodology**

Identifies the critical assumptions involved in behavioral science research and the limitations of each research method.

### **Systems Thinking**

Identifies at least two social systems designed to regulate human behavior and the limitations of each

## **Textbook**

### **Required**

Ginsburg, Benjamin, Theodore J. Lowi, and Margaret Weir. [We The People: An Introduction to American Politics](#). FULL 12<sup>th</sup> edition. W.W. Norton & Company. ISBN: 978 0 393 67957 1 (note: this is NOT the brief version of the text book. Make sure you have chapters 16-18). This book comes in multiple, including digital, formats.

The textbook is available at the JCC Bookstore. This text is also available in a digital format from the book store.

**Text Book Zero!** This text is available in a digital format. Please see the links posted on our class Jet Net site. This text is available to rent or purchase in digital format through the JC Bookstore.

## **Grading Procedure**

Please note that each assignment is graded in terms of points (not percentages). This means, when you calculate your current or final grade, you will have to figure out your percentage.

To do this, take the total points you have earned, and divide that number by the total points possible. From there, multiple this number by 100 and you will have a percentage you can then cross-reference against this chart.

**Grading Scale (points must be converted into percentages to use this chart)**

<b>GPA</b>	<b>GRADE RANGE</b>
4.0	92-100%
3.5	86-91%
3.0	80-85%
2.5	76-79%
2.0	70-75%
1.5	66-69%
1.0	60-65%
0.5	55-59%
0.0	0-54%

<b>ASSIGNMENT/ASSESSMENT</b>	<b>POINTS</b>
Topic/Module/Chapter Assignments	<b>90 Points Total</b> / 9 assignments worth 10 points each. Assignments are located in the course packet
Unit Assignments	<b>60 Points Total</b> / 2 assignments at 30 points each Please see the Pacing Chart for deadline. Assignment are located in your Course Packet
Total Points available this term	<b>150 Points</b>

**Calendar**

This syllabus is designed to work in tandem with the Course Pacing Chart located at the top of your JetNet home page. Please see the Pacing Chart for details, deadlines etc. Thank you.

## **Academic Honesty Policy**

Academic Honesty is defined as ethical behavior that includes student production of their own work and not representing others' work as their own, by cheating or by helping others to do so.

**Plagiarism is defined as the failure to give credit for the use of material from outside sources.**

**Plagiarism includes but is not limited to:**

- Submitting other's work as your own
- Using data, illustrations, pictures, quotations, or paraphrases from other sources without adequate documentation
- Reusing significant, identical or nearly identical portions of one's own prior work without acknowledging that one is doing so or without citing this original work (self-plagiarism)

**Cheating is defined as obtaining answers/material from an outside source without authorization. Cheating includes, but is not limited to:**

- Plagiarizing in any form
- Using notes/books/electronic material without authorization
- Copying
- Submitting others' work as your own or submitting your work for others
- Altering graded work
- Falsifying data
- Exhibiting other behaviors generally considered unethical

Allowing your work to be submitted by others

## **Course Management**

The instructor will communicate with all students using his/her email. Please make sure to check this email whenever possible.

When emailing the instructor, please indicate in the subject line what class you are in. Many instructors are teaching multiple sections of the same and different classes. Thank you.

If you are having difficulty or require assistance, then please contact me with any concerns/questions as the course progresses. If you let me know early about any issues you may be having understanding the course content, then I can make an effort to help you succeed. Thank you.

## **Incomplete Policy**

According to the JCC Student Handbook, "The incomplete is designed for passing students with extenuating circumstances to allow them to complete the course requirements after the semester or

session has ended. You may receive an "I" if, in the opinion of the instructor, your work is sufficient in quality but is lacking in quantity to meet the course objectives specified in the course syllabus. The course objectives must be satisfactorily completed during the next full-length semester or within a shorter period of time as designated by the instructor. If you have not finished the course within the designated time period, the "I" will remain permanently on your transcript. You will then have to register and repeat the course to receive a grade and credit for degree purposes.

The grade of "I" is not awarded to students who did not attend or seldom attended, or to those who simply are not pleased with their final grades. An "I" grade may be changed only upon the written request of the instructor who awarded the Incomplete."

### **Student Responsibilities**

Students are responsible for completing their assignments per the Pacing Chart as well complying with any protocol established by MDOC and Jackson College.

### **Attendance- Participation Policy**

In compliance with Federal Title IV funding requirements, as well as college initiatives, I will be monitoring student participation on a regular basis and officially reporting student activity throughout the term to assure compliance with college policy and federal regulations. It is imperative that you progress per the Pacing Chart and complete assignments to validate your enrollment in the course.

### **Extra Credit:**

Extra credit is offered at the discretion of the instructor and will only be considered when a student has completed all other course work and this course work, for specified reasons, does not represent the effort and work the student is putting into the course. In short, extra credit is not intended to replace other work in the class, but rather, it is intended for RARE situations that have been discussed with the instructor. Please feel free to contact your instructor about extra credit towards the end of the semester and only if you have completed 100% of the assignments to date.

### **Caveat**

Please note that the syllabus and Pacing Chart are subject to change due to school/facility closing policies, instructor illness and other procedural improbabilities. Please continue to monitor your JC email and JetNet for updates.

### **Where is the Calendar of Assignments?**

This syllabus is designed to work in tandem with the Course Pacing Chart located in the Course Packet. Please see the Pacing Chart for details, deadlines etc. Thank you.

## Unit Reading and Assignment Summary

### Unit 1 Introduction / Syllabus / American Political Culture

- Introduction and goals
- Lecture video
- Required reading:
  - Syllabus
  - Pacing Chart
  - *We the People*, Ginsberg et al, Ch. 1, American Political Culture
- Supplemental reading:
  - The Constitution, *We the People*, Appendix
- Test: American Political Culture

### Unit 2 Topic: Civil Liberties

- Lecture video
- Required reading:
  - *We the People*, Ginsberg et al, Ch. 4, Civil Liberties
- Supplemental reading:
  - *We the People*, Ginsberg et al, Ch. 2, The Founding and the Constitution
  - (Optional) The Declaration of Independence, *We the People*, Appendix
- Test: Civil Liberties

### Unit 3 Topic: Civil Rights

- Lecture video
- Required reading:
  - *We the People*, Ginsberg et al, Ch. 5, Civil Rights
- Supplemental reading:
  - *We the People*, Ginsberg et al, Ch. 3, Federalism (for Unit A Assignment)
- Test: Civil Rights

### Unit 4 Topic: Public Opinion / The Media

- Lecture video
- Required reading:
  - *We the People*, Ginsberg et al, Ch. 6, Public Opinion
  - *We the People*, Ginsberg et al, Ch. 7, The Media
- Supplemental reading:
  - *Federalist Paper #10* (Appendix)
- Test: Public Opinion / The Media

**Unit 5            Topic: Political Parties**

- Lecture video
- Required reading:
  - *We the People*, Ginsberg et al, Ch. 9, Political Parties
- Supplemental reading:
  - *Federalist Paper #51*. (Appendix)
- Test: Political Parties
- Unit A Assignment, *The Constitution*

**Unit 6            Topic: Congress**

- Lecture video(s)
- Required reading:
  - *We the People*, Ginsberg et al, Ch. 12, Congress
- Supplemental reading:
  - *N/A*
- Test: Congress

**Unit 7            Topic: The Presidency**

- Lecture video(s)
- Required reading:
  - *We the People*, Ginsberg et al, Ch. 13, The Presidency
- Supplemental reading:
  - *We the People*, Ginsberg et al, Ch. 15, The Federal Courts
- Test: The Presidency

**Unit 8            Topic: Social Policy**

- Lecture Video
- Required reading:
  - *We the People*, Ginsberg et al, Ch. 17, Social Policy
- Supplemental reading:
  - *TBD*
- Test: Social Policy

**Unit 9**            **Topic: Foreign Policy and Democracy**

- Lecture video(s)
- Required reading:
  - *We the People*, Ginsberg et al, Ch. 18, Foreign Policy and Democracy
- Supplemental reading:
  - TBD
- Test: Foreign Policy
- Assignment: Unit B Assignment, reflective Essay

**Unit 10**            **Topic: Course review and Assignment Closure**

- Lecture video
- Required reading: N/A
- Assignment: Unit B Assignment, Reflective Essay

**Your success is my priority.**