



**21 Fall Semester**

**Course Name: American National government**

**Course number and section: PLS 141.I50**

**Course Dates:** Aug 30 – Oct 18 (7 weeks)

**Number of Credits:** 3

**Days Class Meets:** Online

**Meeting Times:** None except for Zoom session outlined in Pacing Chart and Peer Engagement Assignment at the top of the JetNet home page

**Location/Venue:** Online

**Instructor:** Shirin Kambin

**Contact Phone:** 517-796-8646

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

**Online Office Hours:**

Mondays 9-11am Live Online (see Zoom link in JetNet)

Tuesdays 1-4pm on Central Campus (JM 132)

Wednesdays 9am -1pm Live Online (see Zoom link in JetNet) or via email

Thursdays: 10:30-11:30am Live Online (see Zoom link in JetNet) or via email

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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 13<sup>th</sup> edition. W.W. Norton & Company. 2021 (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.

**☒ Digital Format:** This text is available in a digital format to rent or purchase through the JC Bookstore.

Please review the cost of your required materials to determine the best option for you to purchase your materials.

Please note, your opt out selection is for your *entire* semester schedule. You cannot opt out/opt into individual courses. And you must opt out by the due date of your first class, which is the 3<sup>rd</sup> day after the start of your earliest course.

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## Grading Procedure

All grades will appear in JetNet. At any point in the term a student can log onto JetNet and view his/her gradebook.

Please note that the gradebook is set up as points. It adds each assignment you do in terms of points (not percentages). This means, when you calculate your current or final grade, you will have to figure out your percentage in the class.

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

GPA	GRADE RANGE
4.0	94-100%
3.5	89-93%
3.0	84-88%
2.5	78-83%
2.0	72-77%
1.5	66-71%
1.0	60-65%
0.5	55-59%

ASSIGNMENT/ASSESSMENT	POINTS
Topic/Module/Chapter Quizzes	<p><b>90 Points Total</b> / 9 quizzes with 10 questions each</p> <p>Quizzes are open book and can be attempted twice. JetNet logs your highest grade. All quizzes <b>MUST</b> be done the week they are assigned per the Pacing Chart.</p>
Discussion Forum	<p><b>20 Points Total</b> / 1 assignments at 20 points</p> <p>Please see the Pacing Chart for deadline. Assignment will appear on JetNet the week it is assigned.</p>
Peer-to-Peer Engagement Activity through Zoom	<p><b>10 Points Total</b> / 10 points per session</p> <p>This assignment will consist of a one hour live Zoom session accompanied by a typed paper. Please see JetNet for Zoom date and time (top of home page near the syllabus &amp; Pacing Chart). The assignment will be emailed to your JC email address the week prior to the Zoom session and also appear in JetNet.</p>
Writing Assignment / Short Answer Assignment	<p><b>10 points</b></p> <p>Please see JetNet the week this is assigned per the Pacing Chart.</p>
Total Points available this term	<p><b>130 Points</b></p> <p>Note: to find out your percentage you will have to take the total points you earned in the class (available in JetNet) and divide this number by 130. From there you can check your percentage against the grading chart</p>

## 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

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

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

## Accessibility

Jackson College understands that cultivating a broadly diverse community is crucial to our educational mission and to our foundational commitment to leadership and service. Jackson College is fully committed to ensuring our courses are accessible to everyone including those with disabilities. We are currently working to increase accessibility and usability of our course materials in order to meet or exceed the requirements of Section 508 of the Rehabilitation Act of 1973, the Americans with Disabilities Act of 1991

and Web Content Accessibility Guidelines (WCAG) 2.0. For more information about Jackson College's efforts to ensure accessibility please visit the [Jackson College accessibility web page](#).

If you have an accessibility need in any of our classes please e-mail the Center for Student Success at [JCCSS@jccmi.edu](mailto:JCCSS@jccmi.edu) or visit the [Center for Student Success web page](#).

At the Center for Student Success (CSS), we are committed to providing all students the opportunity to achieve academic success by providing a variety of support services free of charge to Jackson College students. This includes, but is not limited to, peer and faculty tutoring, mental health referral, temporary assistance with transportation, various workshops/seminars, and the TRIO program.

In addition, the CSS staff is committed to adapting the College's general services to meet the individual needs of otherwise qualified students with disabilities, for the purpose of providing equal access to all programs and facilities.

## **Makeup Policy**

Students are expected to complete quizzes the weeks they are assigned in the Pacing Chart (first attempts). Students not completing quizzes will be marked absent for that week and after two weeks of absences, can be dropped from the course. Second attempts at quizzes can be completed by the final deadline outlined in JetNet.

Other assignments are expected to be done by the deadline outlined in the Pacing Chart. A student may request an extension prior to the deadline but rarely will students be able to hand in work after the deadline appearing in the Pacing Chart.

## **Help**

For tutoring assistance please contact the Center for Student Success at: <https://www.jccmi.edu/center-for-student-success/tutoring-center/>

## **Academic Advising**

It is important to contact a Center for Student Success professional prior to the start of the semester in order to receive accommodations in a timely manner. While we will make every effort to coordinate accommodations in a timely manner, failure to self-identify prior to the start of the semester may delay notification to instructors and timeliness of acquiring accommodations. Accommodations do not automatically carry over to the next semester. Please e-mail [JCCSS@jccmi.edu](mailto:JCCSS@jccmi.edu) or visit the [Accommodations for Students with Disabilities](#) web page

## **Student Responsibilities**

Students may be asked to participate in a Peer-to-Peer activity while enrolled in the class. Please see the Pacing Chart for details..

## **Attendance- Participation Policy**

Regular class participation and keeping up on the reading and assignments is strongly correlated with survival in college. It is my recommendation that you plan to do your assignments and take your exams BEFORE the last day they are due. If problems occur, there is time to fix them before the deadline.

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 log in to the course and actively participate within the first couple of days of the term to validate your enrollment in the course. After that, not actively participating in class may result in you being withdrawn from the course. Being withdrawn from a course can have an impact on financial aid, billing, athletic eligibility, and housing status. As a college student you are responsible for how your participation impacts your academic progress; the accountability lies with you.

### **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.

On another note, I also recommend making use of the all the resources JC has to offer. The *Center for Student Success* not only offers peer tutoring in political science, but also provides assistance with internet research, writing and study skills.

### **Office Hour Forum:**

Any time of day or night a student can log on to the Discussion Forum called "office hours" and ask questions about the class. To speed up the response process, the first person who answers a student's question correctly will earn two extra credit points. This will help all of us work together to meet each other's needs and for those of us who are not up a 3AM to answer questions, maybe there is someone out there who is! :) )

One request - - when you submit a question please provide a subject title so someone looking for information can easily scan the threads and find the information he/she is looking for.

Finally, in your grade book you will see a pool of 50 points for this forum. Please know these points do NOT work against you. They are there in reserve for this forum.

Thanks in advance to all of you willing to answer your classmates' questions!

## **Caveat**

Please note: The format and timing of this course may need to change due to unforeseen circumstances. In particular: school closings, instructor illness, weather, or other situations that may arise.

If you are taking an in -person class, you will be required to complete a Reintegration Video Training course in JetNet prior to being admitted to campus.

All COVID safety protocols in place are based on current guidelines and will be enforced while students are on campus.

## **Calendar**

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

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.

### **Important Dates:**

<b>MONDAY 09/06/2021</b>	<b>LABOR DAY HOLIDAY-NO CLASSES</b>
<b>WEDNESDAY 11/24- SUNDAY 11/28/2021</b>	<b>THANKSGIVING HOLIDAY-NO CLASSES</b>
<b>SATURDAY 12/18/2021</b>	<b>END OF FALL SEMESTER</b>