

SUPPLEMENTAL COURSE INFORMATION

POS 2041

U.S. Government

Spring 2024

Instructor: Feliberto Tua

The Online Course: This is a writing extensive course, so please ensure that you keep up with all the lectures, reading assignments, writing assignments and quizzes.

The course material.

This course will provide an analysis of the organization, structure, and operational dynamics of the U.S. national government, both past and present, and an examination of the U.S. Constitution, including principles and theories supporting it. If you have limited knowledge of how the American Republic operates, then please take the time to read the extra reading materials that I provide on my faculty website, as well as the weekly videos that will be included in the announcements.

Required Text:

The textbook for this class is *We the People*, Essentials 14th edition, by Ginsberg, Lowi, Weir, Tolbert, Campbell, Francis, Spitzer. Having the textbook is a requirement of the course, so please do not wait until the last minute to purchase the textbook.

Attendance:

Attendance is a requirement of the college and the responsibility of the student. Attendance will be based on the student's weekly participation in the online discussion post and completion of all quizzes. Due to the online format, missing class sessions and participation can have serious repercussions on your final grade. Expect to lose a minimum of 2 % of your final grade per week missed. If you miss a class session or failed to participate in any of the online activities, there will be **NO** opportunity to make-up the work that was missed.

“No Show” Status

Class attendance is required beginning with the first day of class. Start the class by introducing yourself to your fellow students. If you do not complete and submit the first assignment(s) required in the course, you may be withdrawn from the class as a “no show”. If you are withdrawn as a “no show,” you will be financially responsible for the class and a final grade of

“WN” will appear on your transcript for the course. **The no show period is from January 18th till January 27th of 2024.**

Students with Disabilities:

Students with disabilities who qualify for academic accommodation must provide a letter from the Office for Students with Disabilities (OSD) and discuss specific needs with their professor, preferably during the first week of class.

Withdrawal Policy:

As per Valencia policy 6Hx28:4-07, a student who withdraws from class before the withdrawal deadline of **March 15th, 2024**, will receive a grade of “W”. A student is not permitted to withdraw from a class after the withdrawal deadline. Exam #2 will fall during the withdrawal deadline period and will help you to determine whether to stay in the course. If after you take Exam #2 you decide to withdraw or stop participating in class, it will then be **Your Responsibility** to withdraw from this course. After the withdrawal deadline only your instructor or the college will be able to withdraw students. If you choose to stop participating in the class after the withdrawal deadline you will still be held responsible for all missed work (i.e., test, quizzes, assignments) which if not completed by the appropriate deadline will receive a grade of zero.

Make-up work:

Due to the 16-week online course format, and the amount of material that will be covered, **there will be NO allowance for make-up work.** The course assignments will require interaction with your fellow students, so if assignments are not completed when they are due, you will not be able to interact with your fellow students and as such will not get credit for completing the assignment.

All exams must be taken during the week they are available.

Please take the exams as soon as they are available and do not wait until the last minute. You will not be allowed to take any exam once the time frame has passed. **If you wait until the very last minute to take the exam and it times out, I will not reset it for you and your exam grade will reflect the questions that were answered at the time the test timed out.**

Communication:

When communicating with me I expect a certain level of formality and professionalism. All emails should address me as Mr. Tua, and include your name, class CRN and VID number in the body of the message. I will respond to most emails within 24 hours that are sent through your

Atlas account. If you need to meet with me in person, please contact me to schedule an appointment.

If you want to meet with me via Zoom, please schedule an appointment with me and understand that:

“Our class sessions will all be audio-visually recorded for students in the class to refer back and for enrolled students who are unable to attend live. Students who participate with their camera engaged or utilize a profile image are agreeing to have their video or image recorded. If you are unwilling to consent to have your profile or video image recorded, be sure to keep your camera off and do not use a profile image. Likewise, students who un-mute during class and participate orally are agreeing to have their voices recorded”.

Plagiarism:

Plagiarism is the act of taking another individual’s writings or ideas and passing them off as your own. This includes directly copying even a small portion of the text, indirectly taking thoughts by paraphrasing ideas without correctly attributing to the source (meaning both with signal phrases and in-text parenthetical citations), using papers written in previous courses (self-plagiarism), and using another individual’s research without the correct attribution. Any act of plagiarism or academic dishonesty will result in an automatic failing grade on the assignment, no matter how small the infraction: to clarify, this means the assignment will receive no points. Additional action may be taken with the college’s administrative offices. Do not endanger your academic career: If there is a severe issue, you are confused about what constitutes plagiarism, or you feel dishonesty is your only solution, contact me immediately and we will discuss the matter. Remember, once the assignment has been submitted, there is no distinction between unintentional plagiarism and intentional plagiarism – it’s just intentional in my eyes. Students’ work will be submitted through Canvas’s Unicheck system.

Internet Research Statement:

Because of the variety of sources, ease of publication, lack of central control, and proliferation of commercial information on the free Internet, it is often hard to tell if information obtained online is reliable. Many sites contain research and information of high quality; however, unlike traditional print publications or library-based electronic resources, there is usually no process of peer review, nor is there an editor verifying the accuracy of information presented on the Internet. There are an increasing number of sites containing information that may be incomplete, anonymously written, out-of-date, biased, fraudulent, or whose content may not be factual. Students should, therefore, use caution in use of the free Internet for their research needs. For academic topics that are addressed in scholarly literature, use of electronic databases or visiting the library may better meet your needs. However, each professor makes the final determination of what is, or is not, accepted as a valid source, so review the syllabus for specific guidelines from your professor.

What I Expect From Each Student:

- You are expected to log onto Canvas at least twice a week.
- You are expected to read your Canvas and Atlas email on a regular basis.
- You are expected to read the weekly announcements that are posted in the announcement section of Canvas. I normally post announcements on Sunday night.
- You are expected to acknowledge the weekly announcement for weeks that there is no assigned discussion question.
- You are expected to read the assigned chapters, read the course lecture, view all videos, and complete the quizzes when they are due, finally post your response to the weekly discussion question.
- Failure to post your response to the weekly discussion question will be graded as zero and no credit for attendance will be given for the week.
- You are expected to post at least **two** (2) substantive responses to your fellow student's discussion question post.
- You are expected to post all your responses during the week they are due.
- You are expected to post all your responses in a timely manner and before the window for uploading the assignment onto canvas times out.
- You are to keep track of all due dates and deadlines for turning in assignments.
- You are expected to take the exam 1, 2 and 3 during the week they are due. Please do not wait till the last minute to take any of the exams, because if the exam times out, I will not reset it for you. Manage your time appropriately.
- You are expected to be an active participant in your own success, so if you do not understand some of the concepts and themes of the course, then it is your responsibility to research the issue, ask a fellow student, get some tutoring, or schedule a time with me and I will help you in any way I can.
- You are expected to be the manager of your own time, consider that there are 168 hours in the week, and in a 16-week semester, there exists the possibility of spending 6-9 class/study hours each week. Budget your time accordingly in order to ensure that you have enough time during the week to complete all the assignments. The learning and grade you achieve in this course is a result of the effort you put into it. Manage your time appropriately, because 16 weeks goes by very, very fast.

What you can expect from me:

- I check my email messages throughout the day (Monday through Sunday) and I will respond to you within 24 hours.
- On weekends, please feel free to call me if there is an issue that cannot wait till Monday.

- The weekly discussion questions will be available on Sunday morning, as well as any extra reading material that may pertain to the course materials.
- I will not accept any work turn past midnight the week it is due. For example, the discussion post schedule for the week of January 8th till January 14th will not be accepted past midnight (11:59 PM) on January 14th. Remember that all your canvas activities and emails are time stamped, so emailing me your work after midnight will still give you a grade of zero.
- I will monitor the students' discussions and will comment and offer insight on what you have posted.
- I will do my best to keep up with grading but expect at least a two-week waiting period before a submitted assignment receives a grade. Please be patient.
- If at any time you have any questions or concerns, do not hesitate to contact me via email.

Course Format:

In order to be successful in the course you will need to **complete 11 chapters** from the textbook and its corresponding lectures that will be provided in PDF format in the module section of Canvas. You will need to **complete 8 discussion posts** including responding to your fellow classmates. Each discussion post is worth 5 points and comprises of the discussion post and the interaction with your fellow students. You will not get full credit for your discussion post if it is less than **500 words** and you failed to interact with your fellow students.

To get full credit for your post, you must engage with at least TWO (2) of your fellow students by posting a response to what they have written. This response must be an actual substantive response and NOT a single word statement of agreement like *"I agree"*, *"Good points"*, or *"Nice post"*.

Do proper research on the question being asked, and do not be tempted to copy material from online sources or use someone else's work as your own.

Also, be very careful not to inadvertently copy one of your fellow students' work because if your discussion post looks too much to what another student wrote in an earlier post, then I will let you know of the possibility of plagiarism.

Please be careful in what data you use in your discussion post because if you use a lot of percentages and quotation without providing the appropriate reference for that data, then I will tell you that it looks like a cut and paste job and I will deduct point from your discussion post grade. The same goes if your discussion post is disconnected and disjointed in some areas making it a very hard read.

If references are used ensure your sources are from scholarly sources such as academic journals, books, reports, or other scholarly publications. Information from blogs, questionable websites or

Wikipedia are not acceptable. A great resource for The APA formatting and citations can be found at the Valencia College Atlas Library tab

<https://valenciacollege.edu/students/library/mla-apa-chicago-guides/>

The Rubric for grading the essays is as follows:

- **Critical Thinking** - Effectively analyze, evaluate, synthesize, and apply information and ideas from diverse sources and disciplines.
- **Cultural and Historical Understanding** - The student understands the historical background and cultural background of founding ideas and philosophies that led to the establishment of the American Republic.
- **Essay Question Addressed** - The student answered the essay question as asked.
- **Essay Length** - The essay is at least 500 words and shows clear logical thought, proper grammar usage and a mastery of the material.
- **Student Interaction** - The student interacted with two or more of their fellow students.

Note: Essays NOT turned in on time will NOT be accepted past their due date.

Have fun with these writing assignments and consider them an opportunity to expand your horizons.

Tests:

There will be 3 exams each worth 20% toward final grad. The format for each test will consist of 50 multiple-choice questions. The first Exam #1 will cover chapters 1, 2, 3 and 10 and will be available until **midnight on February 17th**. Exam #2 will cover chapters 11, 13 and 12 and will be available until **midnight on March 16th**. Exam #3 will cover chapters 4, 5, 14, 15 and will close on **midnight of April 27th**.

Please schedule your time accordingly because if you do not take the exams when they are available, you will receive a grade of zero. You will not be allowed to take the exam once the answers are publicly available.

Grading and Grading Scale:

The grading for this course is based on the following areas:

Learning Activity	Percentage of Final Grade
Discussion Post (8 questions at 5 points)	40%
Exam # 1	20%
Exam # 2	20%
Exam # 3	20%
Total	100%

Final Grades will be earned as follows:

Grading Scale used in this course	90 – 100 = A 80 – 89 = B 70 – 79 = C 60 – 69 = D 00 – 59 = F
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How Grade is Determined:

- Discussion Post is worth 40% of grade.
- The three exams are each worth 20% toward your final grade.

For example, if during the semester Joe Student does well in the class and gets a 70% on the first test, 80% on the second test, and a 75% on the third test. If the student completes all writing assignments and gets all 40% for the discussion posts.

Discussion Post is worth 40% or 8 essays at 5 points for maximum total of 40 points.

Exam #1 at 70% = 20% or $70 \times 0.20 = 14$ points

Exam #2 at 80% = 20% or $80 \times 0.20 = 16$ points

Exam #3 at 75% = 20% or $75 \times 0.20 = 15$ points

Joe Student adds all his acquired points and gets a total of 85 points or a letter grade of **B**.

Accessing the on-line course.

To successfully access the online course and the Canvas learning management system you will need the following:

- Operating system -windows 10, MacOS 10.14+, Chrome OS
- Browser – google Chrome (93+)
- Internet speed - Speed: 1.5 Mbps download, 750 Kbps upload

To take the exams, you need a functioning webcam and microphone and the Honorlock Chrome extension. You don't need to download any software to use Honorlock test proctoring services. Taking the exams is simple—all you need to do is log into Canvas, go to the course, find the test, and click to start. For best results download the Honorlock program to your computer and once it is completed the program will ask you to login to canvas again and it will take you straight to the test. If you have any issues, contact Honorlock Support - support@honorlock.com

Please note, if you encounter any issue with accessing Canvas or have problems taking the exams, the issue is with your computer.

Every semester I take the exam as a student to ensure that the Canvas system can be accessed by the students and that the course is working correctly. If you cannot access the Canvas system, then I suggest that you restart your computer and try again. If your internet is not working correctly or your internet speed is not sufficient to have a strong connection, then try plugging your computer directly into the router. If you are still having issues, use another computer.

In order to understand the problem, I ran an experiment. I have an old Dell Inspiron 570 computer running 2009 Windows 7 Home Edition that is used as a server for my other computers. I was able to easily download the Honorlock program and complete the exam using google chrome and a hardwire connection to the router. I suspect that all of you have modern computers and should not have any problems with completing the course work or taking any of the exams.

If you are still having issues make sure you are operating Windows 10, using google Chrome with an adequate internet speed. If you are using wireless internet and it is not letting you download the browser, then try connecting your computer directly to your home router.

Remember, if you are having difficulty accessing Canvas, the issue is on your end.

Starting the Course

1. Log on to Canvas and read all announcements.
2. Read and study the Syllabus and the Supplemental Course Material.
3. Introduce yourself to the class.
4. Read the chapter readings and watch any video that may be attached to the weekly announcements.
5. Read the chapter lecture in the Module Tab of Canvas.
6. After completing all chapter material, go the Assignment Tab in Canvas and complete the chapter discussion post.
7. Feel free to contact me if you have any questions or concerns.
8. Good Luck.

TENTATIVE CLASS SCHEDULE

WEEK	CHAPTER	TOPICS TO BE COVERED
01/08		Class introduction Semester overview
01/15	Chapter 1	Americans & Their Political Values
01/22	Chapter 2	The Founding and the Constitution
01/29	Chapter 3	Federalism
02/05	Chapter 10	Congress
02/12		Exam 1
02/19	Chapter 11	The Presidency
02/26	Chapter 13	The Federal Courts
03/04	Chapter 12	The Bureaucracy
03/11		Exam 2
03/18		Spring Break College Closed
03/25	Chapter 4	Civil Liberties
04/01	Chapter 5	Civil Rights
04/08	Chapter 14	Domestic Policy
04/15	Chapter 15	Foreign Policy
04/22		Exam 3
04/28		End Of Classes

WEEK	CHAPTER AND TOPICS TO BE COVERED
01/15	Chapter 1
01/22	Chapter 2 The Constitution The Declaration of Independence The Constitution How our laws are made Legal definitions in the constitution The Declaration of Independence Explained Articles of Confederation The English bill of Rights The Magna Carta Unalienable Rights The Virginia Declaration of Rights The Founding Fathers Federalist 10, 51, 54
01/22	Chapter 2 The Constitution The formation of the constitution James Madison and the role of the architect Letters between the Danbury Baptists and Thomas Jefferson Meaning of the Commerce Clause The three fifth compromise
01/29	Chapter 3 Federalism What is Federalism?
02/05	Chapter 10 Congress Federalist 39 and 45
02/19	Chapter 11 The Presidency George Washington as Commander and Chief Impeachment Proceedings Election of Hayes v. Tilden Thomas Jefferson and Aaron Burr election James Madison Veto Presidential Succession Act The electoral College the enlightened democracy The Impeachment trial of Andrew Johnson Federalist No 68 – the mode of Electing the President. Federalist No 69 – The real Character of the Executive
02/29	Chapter 13 The Judiciary Federalist 78 Dred Scott fight for Freedom Gibbons V. Ogden Marbury v. Madison – case brief Marbury v. Madison – How the constitution was changed. Plessy V. Ferguson case brief McCulloch v. Maryland case brief

03/04	Chapter 12 The Bureaucracy
03/25	Chapter 4 Civil Liberties Original meaning: Freedom of speech and the press
04/01	Chapter 5 Civil Rights History of EO10925 and Affirmative Action Executive Order 10925 –Affirmative Action
04/08	Chapter 14 Domestic Policy
04/15	Chapter 15 Foreign Policy

Note. All supplemental reading materials can be found in my faculty website located at: <http://frontdoor.valenciacollege.edu/?ftua>

Disclaimer:

The syllabus, assignments, and due dates are subject to change at the discretion of the professor.