Instructor Information

Instructor: Mike Leach  
Office Hours: By appointment  
Phone: 501-773-0968  
Email: mleach@uaptec.edu  

*All emails and telephone calls will receive a response within two business days.*  

Chair: Michael Loya  
Phone: 501-812-2776  
Email: mloya@uaptec.edu  

Dean: Christy Oberste  
Phone: 501-812-2869  
Email: coberste@uaptec.edu  

*If your emails and telephone calls do not receive a response within two business days, the appropriate chain of command is above.*

Course Information

POLS 1310: American National Government  
Sec 63- Online

Catalog Description

POLS 1310. American National Government ACTS # PLSC 2003  
This course is an introduction to the principles, structure, processes and functions of the United States federal government and other related political activities. (3 credit hours)

Course Materials

Required textbooks:  
The textbook is Ginsberg, et. al., We The People (11th Essentials Edition)  
ISBN-10: 039328364X

Mission Statement

University of Arkansas – Pulaski Technical College provides access to high-quality education that promotes student learning and enables individuals to develop to their fullest potential.

Institutional Learning Outcomes and General Education

UA-PTC supports a college-wide institutional learning assessment program which concerns effective instructional methods and promotes student learning achievement by assessing:

1. Communication  
2. Critical Thinking
3. Cultural Awareness
4. Information Literacy
5. Professionalism
6. Quantitative Literacy
7. Technology Literacy

For more information, please consult the following website: https://uaptc.edu/sla

**Department / Program Learning Outcomes**
The Social Sciences Department, consistent with the College’s mission and the Division’s objectives, encourages the success of its students in all technical fields and academic disciplines by promoting:

PLO #1
Students will examine a given political event, issue, or individual to identify and discuss the impact of intellectual, political, religious, social, or cultural factors.

PLO #2
Students will compare and contrast political ideas, time periods, religions, governments, economic systems or ideologies.

**Student Learning / Course Outcomes**

PLSC 2003: American National Government
General Description:
The introduction to the principles, structure, processes and functions of the United States federal government and other related political activities.

Expected Student Learning Outcomes:
The student will be able to explain, discuss, recognize, and/or apply knowledge of the following topics:

- Three branches of the American government (Executive, Judicial, Legislative)
- Constitution
- Political parties and interest groups
- Campaigns and elections
- Civil liberties and civil rights
- Federalism
- Public opinion

**Policies**

**Report a Complaint or Concern**

UA-PTC takes very seriously complaints and concerns regarding the institution. Most complaints or concerns of a specific nature should be initiated and resolved at the campus level through normal college processes whenever possible. UA - Pulaski Technical College receives and resolves complaints using a variety of methods. To report a complaint or concern, please follow the link below.

https://www.uaptc.edu/report-a-concern-complaint
UA-PTC Attendance Policy

Education at UA-PTC requires students’ active involvement in the learning process. Thus, students are expected to attend all classes and actively engage in all learning assignments and/or opportunities provided in their classes. Class attendance should be treated as mandatory by all students as attendance will be taken by all instructors during the first two weeks of class. Additionally, a written policy on student attendance that is tied to course objectives and included in a course syllabus will be provided for each course by instructors.

Departmental Attendance Policy

Although you have a certain amount of freedom in deciding when you will complete the assigned materials, there is a timetable and deadlines for their completion and for responding to the discussion questions posted on the discussion board. If you experience significant personal difficulties that prevent you from meeting these deadlines, you will need to contact your instructor prior to the deadline for assignments and quizzes. There are no late assignments accepted and no make-ups for missed quizzes.

Attendance and Participation are both required for this class and are tracked using course login records and assignment and/or test submissions. The instructor may drop students if you miss two submission requirements such as an assignment or quiz.

If you do not log into Blackboard and/or complete the first assessment (Pre-assessment) within the first week of class you may be administratively dropped by your instructor. If that happens the instructor will not allow you back into the class.

Course Policies

The UA-PTC Catalog rules and regulations will be enforced in this course at all times. Please consult the following website for more information: https://www.uaptc.edu/catalog

Professional behavior is required. Punctual attendance and intelligent participation are expected. Particulars as determined by the instructor are detailed in the paragraph below.

Appropriate behavior is expected for all communications, including any notes, email messages, or telephone conversations. Some guidelines for communication are included in this syllabus to help you.

Expectations: Students are expected to be active participants in the class by engaging in class discussions and activities. Students are expected to be respectful to the instructor and classmates at all times. You can always disagree but make sure you do it respectfully, and you will have a great time in this class.

Email policy:

The best way to get a hold of me is through email. If you want to receive a reply, please make sure to 1) put an informative subject in the subject line, 2) address the email to Mike Leach and 3) close with your name and phone number. Please feel free to ask me any questions about the
course, but out of courtesy please check the syllabus or blackboard to see if the answer is already available.

If you want to make any special arrangements or for any reason want me to remember something, please send it in an email.

Grading Policy

Letter grades will be based on the following scale:

- 90 to 100%  A
- 80 to 89%  B
- 70 to 79%  C
- 60 to 69%  D
- 0 to 59%  F

This course will cover most of the textbook (depending upon time limitations). You will be required to read the text.

Assignments and point values (subject to change). See Course schedule for due dates.

1. Two tests and a final at 100 points each (300 total)
2. Federalism Short Paper Assignment: 25 points
3. Personal Opinion Short Paper Assignment: 25 points
4. Media Short Paper Assignment: 25 points
5. Elections Short Paper Assignment: 25 points
6. Chapter quizzes and other weekly assignments: up to 300 total points.

*Instructors have one week to provide feedback and post grades for all assignments unless otherwise noted by a departmental policy that has been approved by the Dean of the School.

In an online class, eligibility for Financial Aid is based on student participation. Logging into the course does not constitute participation. For purposes of roster certification, students must complete a gradable attendance artifact.
Academic Integrity

It is expected that all students who attend UA-PTC conduct themselves in a manner appropriate for the college experience. Academic integrity is a vital component of collegiate behavior. The UA-PTC catalog states, “The gaining of knowledge and the practice of honesty go hand-in-hand.”

The catalog also states, “The responsibility and authority of initiating discipline arising from violations of the rules against dishonesty during the process of the course are vested in the instructor of that course.”

The complete Academic Integrity Policy is in the UA-PTC code of conduct.

"It is important for all scholars to acknowledge clearly when they have relied upon or incorporated the work of others. … It is expected that all homework assignments, projects, lab reports, papers, theses, and examinations and any other work submitted for academic credit will be the student’s own. Students should always take great care to distinguish their own ideas and knowledge from information derived from sources. The term ‘sources’ includes not only primary and secondary material published in print or online, but also information and opinions gained directly from other people. Quotations must be placed properly within quotation marks and must be cited fully. In addition, all paraphrased material must be acknowledged completely. Whenever ideas or facts are derived from a student’s reading and research or from a student’s own writings, the sources must be indicated."

- If you have plagiarized you will not be given credit for the assignment. If you plagiarize more than once you will be reported to the Dean of Students.
- If you aren’t sure if you’ve plagiarized, please send me a copy of your paper or discussion in advance of the due date and I will look it over with you and we can fix any issues that arise before you turn in the paper or assignment.
- Once you’ve turned the paper into me, it will be checked for plagiarism using Safe Assign.

Accommodation Policy

Services for Students with Disabilities: UA-PTC is committed to fulfilling all federal requirements as stated in the Rehabilitation Act of 1973, the Americans with Disabilities Act of 1990, and the American with Disabilities Amendments Act (ADAAA) of 2008. Accommodations are available to students who have documented disabilities. Students who request accommodations must register with the Disability Services Office (Main Campus: 501-812-2738 or South Campus: 501-812-2862) and must provide current and relevant documentation.

Students requesting accommodations should inform the instructor at the beginning of the course or as soon as accommodations are approved. It is the student's responsibility to provide their Accommodation Letter to the instructor. Accommodations are not retroactive and will only be provided once your instructor receives the Accommodation Letter.

1 https://handbook.fas.harvard.edu/book/academic-integrity
Student Code of Conduct

All students are expected to abide by the UA-PTC Student Code of Conduct. For the full Student Code of Conduct, access the most current version of the UA-PTC Academic Catalog. http://uaptc.azurewebsites.net/docs/default-source/course-catalog/2017-18-academic-catalog.pdf?sfvrsn=a08a3038_2

Sexual Misconduct

No person at Pulaski Technical College will, on the basis of gender, be excluded from participation in, be denied benefits of, or be subjected to sex discrimination, sexual harassment or sexual misconduct under any education program or activity. All college administrative policies and procedures regarding sex discrimination, sexual harassment, and sexual misconduct are in compliance with Title IX. Students who feel they are victims of sexual misconduct should contact the UA-PTC Title IX Deputy Coordinator for Students:

Michelle Anderson, Director of Student Life and Leadership
Campus Center Building Room 216
501-812-2756
manderson@uaptc.edu

Course Evaluations

Students may be asked to evaluate their instructor and course near the end of the semester. These student evaluations are very important to the improvement in the quality of instruction and course materials. All results are anonymous and shared with the faculty only after the semester is over and grades have been posted.

Information Literacy

UA-PTC is committed to the Information Literacy Competency Standards for Higher Education as established by the Association of College and Research Libraries and endorsed by the National Forum on Information Literacy. Therefore, all courses will incorporate an information literacy component so that, by graduation, all students will be able to recognize the need for information, then locate, evaluate, synthesize, and communicate information in an ethical manner. Information literacy encompasses critical thinking, research, media, technology, health, business, and visual literacy skills to produce lifelong learners who can make informed decisions in the workplace and in their personal lives.
## Tentative Course Schedule

<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th>Week</th>
<th>Assignment/Activity</th>
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<tbody>
<tr>
<td>2 01/14</td>
<td>Chapter 2, Part 1-The Founding and the Constitution pgs. 29-41 Quiz on Chapter 2, Part 1 due Sunday at 11:59pm. All other assignments for Week 2 due Sunday at 11:59pm.</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>3 01/21</td>
<td>Chapter 2, Part 2-The Founding and the Constitution pgs. 41-60 Quiz on Chapter 2, Part 2 due Sunday at 11:59pm. All other assignments for Week 3 due Sunday at 11:59pm.</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>4 01/28</td>
<td>EXAM 1 on Chapters 1 and 2 due Sunday at 11:59pm. All other assignments for Week 4 due Sunday at 11:59pm.</td>
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<tr>
<td>5 02/04</td>
<td>Chapter 3- Federalism pgs. 63-70 Quiz on Chapter 3 due Sunday at 11:59pm. Federalism Short Paper Due at 11:59pm Sunday (25 points).</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>6 02/11</td>
<td>Chapter 4, Part 1 - Civil Liberties pgs. 93-110 Quiz over Chapter 4, Part 1 due on Sunday at 11:59pm. All other assignments for Week 6 due Sunday at 11:59pm.</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>7 02/18</td>
<td>Chapter 4, Part 2 - Civil Liberties pgs. 110-117 Quiz over Chapter 4, Part 2 due on Sunday at 11:59pm. All other assignments for Week 7 due Sunday at 11:59pm.</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>8 02/25</td>
<td>Chapter 4, Part 3 - Civil Rights 118-134 Quiz over Chapter 4, Part 3 due on Sunday at 11:59pm. All other assignments for Week 8 due Sunday at 11:59pm.</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>9 03/04</td>
<td>Exam 2 on Chapter 4 due 11:59pm on Sunday.</td>
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<tr>
<td>10 03/11</td>
<td>Chapter 5, Public Opinion Quiz on Chapter 5 due Sunday at 11:59pm. Personal Opinion Short Paper Due at 11:59pm Sunday (25 points).</td>
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<tr>
<td>Date</td>
<td>Tasks</td>
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<tr>
<td>03/18</td>
<td>SPRING BREAK</td>
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<tr>
<td>03/25</td>
<td>Chapter 6 – Media</td>
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<td></td>
<td>Quiz on Chapter 6 due Sunday at 11:59pm</td>
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<tr>
<td></td>
<td><strong>Media Short Paper Due at 11:59pm on Sunday (25 points).</strong></td>
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<tr>
<td>04/01</td>
<td>Chapter 7 – Political Parties, Chapter 8 – Campaigns and Elections</td>
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<td></td>
<td>Quiz on Chapter 7 and Chapter 8 due Sunday at 11:59pm</td>
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<tr>
<td></td>
<td><strong>Elections Short Paper Due at 11:59pm on Sunday (25 points).</strong></td>
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<tr>
<td>04/08</td>
<td>Chapter 9 - Congress</td>
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<td></td>
<td>Quiz on Chapter 9 due Sunday at 11:59pm</td>
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<td></td>
<td>All other assignments for Week 14 due Sunday at 11:59pm.</td>
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<tr>
<td>04/15</td>
<td>Chapter 10 - President</td>
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<td></td>
<td>Quiz on Chapter 10 due Sunday at 11:59pm</td>
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<td></td>
<td>All other assignments for Week 15 due Sunday at 11:59pm.</td>
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<tr>
<td>04/22</td>
<td>Chapter 12 – Federal Courts</td>
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<td></td>
<td>Quiz on Chapter 12 due Sunday at 11:59pm</td>
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<tr>
<td></td>
<td>All other assignments for Week 16 due Sunday at 11:59pm.</td>
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<tr>
<td>04/29</td>
<td>Review for Final Exam</td>
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</tbody>
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**Final Exam Schedule:** *TBA – Will cover Chapters 9, 10 and 12*

Disclaimer: This schedule is a guide for the semester. The instructor reserves the right to amend the schedule as necessary.

**Course Agreement Form:** Complete Online