

**University of New Mexico, Valencia- Political Science 1120**  
**American National Government**  
**Summer 2021**  
**Online, Section 501**

**Name:** Dr. Sara Furnal  
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**Office Hours**

**Campus Office Hours:**

N/A

**Online Office Hours:**

Mon. 1-2 p.m. or by appointment  
(we will set up Zoom meeting for office hours)

**About Your Instructor:** Born in Hobbs, NM, I grew up in Texas and have lived all over the United States since then. I obtained my BA and MA from the University of Houston and then obtained my PhD in Political Science at the University of California, Davis, with specialization in American Politics and Political Theory.

**Preferred Method of Communication:** I am an off-campus distance instructor, so email is the best way to get in touch with me.

*E-mail:* [sfurnal@unm.edu](mailto:sfurnal@unm.edu)

**Expectations for Engagement for Instructor:**

As an instructor, I understand the importance of clear, timely communication with my students. In order to maintain sufficient communication, I will

- provide my contact information at the beginning of the syllabus;
- respond to all messages within 24 hours if received Monday through Thursday, and within 48 hours if received Friday through Sunday; and,
- notify students of any extended times that I will be unavailable and provide them with alternative contact information (for me or for my supervisor) in case of during the time I am unavailable.

As an instructor, I understand that my students will work to the best of their abilities to fulfill the course requirements. In order to help them in this area, I will

- provide clear information about grading policies and assignment requirements in the course syllabus, and
- communicate any changes to assignments and/or to the course calendar to students as quickly as possible.

## Course Communication:

Important course announcements will be communicated via the Announcements tool on Blackboard Learn. This will forward an email to your campus (registered) email address. Be sure to check the Announcements tab on the course home page regularly.

## Textbook:

*American Government: Stories of a Nation, Second Edition*, Scott Abernathy (ISBN: 9781544327617). You can find this book online via the publisher (Sage), or through other online stores like Amazon (where it is significantly less expensive). It is also possible to rent the textbook from the publisher (Sage) or Amazon for a greatly reduced cost (the e-book is \$22 to rent on Amazon currently).

## Recommended resources for additional exploration:

The *American Government* student companion website (free supplementary and study resources for students) <https://edge.sagepub.com/abernathy2e/student-resources>

## Hardware:

The online course content will work better the more up to date your computer is. Please try to do what you can to make these updates happen. Make sure that your system meets the requirements specified on Blackboard before signing up for an online course. A **functional computer** with speakers is **necessary for success in this course**, and you will need to use your computer quite frequently. You will also need frequent internet access. If this is a problem, please consider taking the course in the traditional, campus-based manner.

**Software:** *None.*

## Technical Support Information:

UNM Learn Support/ Create a Support Ticket - For help with UNM Learn

<http://online.unm.edu/help/learn/support/>

IT Customer Support Services - Note: IT Customer Support handles username/ password issues.

Phone: 505-277-5757

<http://it.unm.edu/support/>

## Course Description:

POLS 1120: American National Government. This course explains the role of American national government, its formation and principles of the Constitution; relation of state to the national government; political parties and their relationship to interest groups. This course also explains the structure of the legislative, executive, and judicial branches.

*POLS 1120: Survey of American politics, including political behavior of the American electorate, the theory of democracy, the structure and function of American political institutions, and contemporary issues. (C) Meets New Mexico Lower-Division General Education Common Core Curriculum Area IV: Social/Behavioral Sciences.*

**COURSE ASSIGNMENTS:** Located under **Course Information** tab on left hand side of **Blackboard**. You can find the weight of each assignment for your total course grade under the next section of the syllabus.

**Discussion Questions:** You will need to post a total of six (6) discussion posts. The due dates for these are posted in the course schedule. Each week when there is a discussion question in the syllabus, there will be a question posted on the discussion boards that you will need to explore with a thoughtful answer. Your answer will need to be at least 250 words for full credit. These discussion posts count for course credit and will altogether comprise 25% of your final grade, so be thoughtful in your posts. I suggest doing these mid-week after you have read the chapters so that you have time to read the discussion boards. Worth 100 points each. The discussion questions can be found (as they open up each week) under the **Coursework and Assignments** tab.

**Exams:** There will be two (2) exams, a Midterm and a Final, and they can be found under the **Coursework and Assignments** tab (click on the corresponding unit to find the exam inside). Each exam will be worth 100 points and will contain multiple choice questions.

**Course Project:** Worth 100 points. In this project, you will be responsible for a research project culminating a term paper of 3-6 pages. Instructions for this project will be listed under **Course Project** under the **Coursework and Assignments** tab on the left-hand side of Blackboard. Get started on this project as soon as possible- you will need to get your topic approved by me.

**GRADING:** All course assignments will be graded within one week.

<i>Quantity</i>	<i>Description</i>	<i>Weight</i>
2	Exams	50%
6	Discussion Posts	20%
1	Project	30%

<b>Total</b>	<b>100%</b>
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### **Grading Scale:**

A+: 97-100, A: 93-96, A-: 90-92, B+: 87-89, B: 83-86, B-: 80-82, C+: 77-79, C: 73-76, C-: 70-72, D+: 67-69, D: 63-66, D-: 60-62, F: 59 or below

### **Course Learning Objectives:**

Upon successful completion of this course, students should be able to:

1. Explain the historical and political foundations of the government of the United States;
2. Explain the precursors to, and the development and adoption of the United States Constitution;
3. Explain the United States federal system, the basics of federalism, and the changing relationship of state and federal power;
4. Describe the power, structure and operation of the main institutions of government, namely the legislative, executive, judicial, and the federal bureaucracy;
5. Explain the development and role of political parties and interest groups;
6. Identify the constitutional basis of civil rights and civil liberties and their changing interpretation; and
7. Describe the role of demographics, public opinion and the media in American politics.

**Unit 1 (The Constitution and Political Participation): Articulate the foundations of American government, including its history, critical concepts, and important documents and achievements. (Course learning outcomes 1, 2, 3, 6)**

**Unit 2 (Political Behavior and the Branches of Government): Describe the roles and relative importance of major entities and influences in American political life and behavior. Explain the main institutions of American government, including their roles and interrelationships. (Course learning outcomes 1, 2, 4, 5, 7)**

Learning objectives for *each week* can be found under the Coursework and Assignments tab in the weekly modules.

### ***Course Topics:***

*Chapter 2: The Constitution of the United States*

*Chapter 3: Federalism*

*Chapter 4: Civil Liberties*

*Chapter 5: Civil Rights*

*Chapter 6: Political Participation*

*Chapter 7: Public Opinion*

*Chapter 8: The Media*

Chapter 10: Campaigns and Elections  
 Chapter 11: Interest Groups and Social Movements  
 Chapter 12: Congress  
 Chapter 13: The American Presidency  
 Chapter 15: The Federal Judiciary

**Course Schedule:**  
**(Tentative and Subject to Change)**

<b>Date</b>	<b>Topic</b>	<b>Assignment</b>	<b>Assignment Submission</b>
Week 1 6/7- 6/13	Introduction to Course/ The Constitution	- Read Syllabus - Get Textbook - Watch videos (link in welcome announcement) - Read chapter 2 - Watch lectures (links in Blackboard modules)  <b><u>Discussion Question 1</u></b>	Due June 13 by 11:59 p.m.
Week 2 6/14- 6/20	Federalism/Civil Liberties	-Read chapters 3 and 4 - Watch lectures (links in Blackboard modules)  <b><u>Discussion Question 2</u></b>	Due June 20 by 11:59 p.m.
Week 3 6/21- 6/27	Civil Rights/ Political Participation	-Read chapters 5 and 6 - Watch lectures (links in Blackboard modules)  <b><u>Discussion Question 3</u></b>	Due June 27 by 11:59 p.m.
Week 4 6/28- 7/4	Review Session, Extra Credit, and Midterm Exam	<b><u>Extra Credit Discussion Question</u></b>  <b><u>Midterm Exam</u></b>	Due July 2 by 11:59 p.m. (note this is Friday night)
Week 5 7/5- 7/11	Public Opinion/ Campaigns and Elections	- Read chapter 7 and 10 - Watch lectures (links in Blackboard modules)	Due July 11 by 11:59 p.m.

		<b><u>Discussion Question 4</u></b>	
Week 6 7/12- 7/18	Congress/ The Federal Judiciary	- Read chapters 12 and 15 - Watch lectures (links in Blackboard modules)  <b><u>Discussion Question 5</u></b> -	Due July 18 by 11:59 p.m.
Week 7 7/19- 7/25	The American Presidency/ Media	- Read chapters 13 and 8 - Watch lectures (links in Blackboard modules)  <b><u>Discussion Question 6</u></b>  <b><u>Course Project Due</u></b>	Due July 25 by 11:59 p.m.
Week 8 7/26- 7/31	Interest Groups and Social Movements/  Final Exam Week (shortened week)	-Read chapter 11 - Watch lectures (links in Blackboard modules)  <b><u>Final Exam</u></b>	<b><i>Due July 30 by <u>11:59 p.m.</u></i></b> <i>Note this is Friday, not Sunday night</i>

### **Expectations for Student: Course Participation:**

**As a student, I understand that I am responsible for keeping up with the course. To help with this, I will**

- identify alternative computer and internet access in case my primary computer crashes or my internet service is unavailable;
- recognize that the college provides free wi-fi and computer labs during regular campus hours to help me with accessing my course; and,
- understand that my instructor does not have to accept my technical issues as a legitimate reason for late or missing work if my equipment or service is unreliable.

**As a student, I understand that it is my responsibility to communicate quickly with the instructor any issue or emergency that will impact my involvement with or performance in the class. This includes, but is not limited to**

- getting “kicked off” of the system during tests or quizzes;
- having trouble submitting assignments;

**As a student, I understand that it is my responsibility to understand course material and requirements and to keep up with the course calendar. While my instructor is available for help and clarification, I will**

- seek out help from my instructor and/or from tutors;
- ask questions if I don't understand; and
- access my course several times during the week to keep up with assignments and announcements.

### **Course Policies:**

#### **Disclaimer:**

This syllabus is tentative and subject to change in any part at the discretion of the instructor. Students will be notified of changes, if any, in a timely manner.

#### **Original Effort:**

The work submitted for this course must be original work prepared by the student enrolled in this course.

#### **Digital Protocol:**

For online submissions, the electronic recording of the time on Blackboard will be considered the time of assignment submission. Take necessary steps to ensure that your assignments are submitted on "Blackboard" time. Back-up and/or additional copies of all assignments submitted is encouraged. Assignments submitted electronically need to follow the file-type requirements provided by the instructor.

#### **Attendance Policy:**

Please keep in mind that this is **not** a self-paced or an open entry course. It is an internet course that is conducted in much the same way as an on-campus, face-to-face class with regard to deadlines, etc. You will need to be able to access the course often in order to succeed, as well as see vital course announcements. Please see Student Handbook for UNM attendance policy beyond this.

#### **Drop Policy:**

Instructors may drop students from their classes for reasons of excessive absences. The student is responsible for the completion of every course for which the student has registered; if the student drops a course at any time without completing the official change of program procedures, a grade of F may be assigned even though the student may be passing when she or he stopped attending classes.

#### **Grade Inquiry:**

It is the responsibility of the student to keep track of assignment submissions and grades. At any point, you are welcome to meet with the instructor to discuss your academic progress. Contact the instructor to schedule an appointment.

#### **General Course Requirements:**

1. Attend class (login regularly) and participate.
2. Respond to emails within 48 hours.
3. Contribute and cooperate with civility.
4. **Submit assignments on time.**

#### **Netiquette:**

Make sure to treat other course members (e.g. students, the instructor, teaching assistants) with respect. The instructor will address any instances of harassment and pursue repercussions according to the University's policy on harassment.

**Netiquette Ground Rules:**

- “In following with the UNM Student Handbook, all students will show respect to their fellow students and instructor when interacting in this course. Take Netiquette suggestions seriously. Flaming is considered a serious violation and will be dealt with promptly. Postings that do not reflect respect will be taken down immediately.” (Rebecca Adams, OLIT 535)
- “This course encourages different perspectives related to such factors as gender, race, nationality, ethnicity, sexual orientation, religion, and other relevant cultural identities. The course seeks to foster understanding and inclusiveness related to such diverse perspectives and ways of communicating.”

**Late Assignment/Make-up Policy:**

No extensions will be given for any assignment or examination without a written medical excuse or approval from me. Please email me to discuss any concerns or conflicts.

**Accommodation Statement:**

In accordance with University Policy 2310 and the Americans with Disabilities Act (ADA), academic accommodations may be made for any student who notifies the instructor of the need for an accommodation. It is imperative that you take the initiative to bring such needs to the instructor's attention, as he/she are not legally permitted to inquire. Students who may require assistance in emergency evacuations should contact the instructor as to the most appropriate procedures to follow. Contact Accessibility Resource Center at 277-3506 for additional information.

**Copyright Issues:**

All materials in this course fall under copyright laws and should not be downloaded, distributed, or used by students for any purpose outside this course. (<http://www.unm.edu/~counsel/general/copyright.htm>)

**Academic Misconduct:**

You should be familiar with UNM's Policy on Academic Dishonesty and the Student Code of Conduct (<http://pathfinder.unm.edu/policies.htm#studentcode>) which outline academic misconduct defined as plagiarism, cheating, fabrication, or facilitating any such act.

**Title IX Statement:**

In an effort to meet obligations under Title IX, UNM faculty, Teaching Assistants, and Graduate Assistants are considered “responsible employees” by the Department of Education (see pg 15 - <http://www2.ed.gov/about/offices/list/ocr/docs/qa-201404-title-ix.pdf>). This designation requires that any report of gender discrimination which includes sexual harassment, sexual misconduct and sexual violence made to a faculty member, TA, or GA must be reported to the Title IX Coordinator at the Office of Equal Opportunity ([oeo.unm.edu](http://oeo.unm.edu)). For more information on the campus policy regarding sexual misconduct, see: <https://policy.unm.edu/university-policies/2000/2740.html>

**Academic Integrity Statement:**

Each student is expected to maintain the highest standards of honesty and integrity in academic and professional matters. The University reserves the right to take disciplinary action, up to and including dismissal, against any student who is found guilty of academic dishonesty or otherwise fails to meet the standards. Any student judged to have engaged in academic dishonesty in course work may receive a

reduced or failing grade for the work in question and/or for the course. Academic dishonesty includes, but is not limited to, dishonesty in quizzes, tests, or assignments; claiming credit for work not done or done by others; hindering the academic work of other students; misrepresenting academic or professional qualifications within or without the University; and nondisclosure or misrepresentation in filling out applications or other University records.

### **Valencia Student Services/Resources:**

Valencia Campus Resources Directory:

<https://valencia.unm.edu/campus-resources/>

The Learning Center (tutoring, computers, and study resources):

<https://valencia.unm.edu/campus-resources/the-learning-center/index.html>

Accessibility:

<https://valencia.unm.edu/about/accessibility.html>

UNM Valencia Library:

<https://valencia.unm.edu/library/index.html>

If you need to talk to someone:

AGORA Crisis Center:

<http://www.agoracares.org/>

Option for online chat.

Phone numbers for AGORA Hotline:

**505-277-3013**

**866-HELP-1-NM**

**800-273-TALK**