

University of New Mexico, Valencia- Political Science 200
U.S. Government
Summer 2019
Online, Section: 501

Name: Dr. Sara Furnal

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Office Hours

Campus Office Hours:

N/A

Online Office Hours:

Thurs. 12-2 p.m. or by appointment

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

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.

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.

Course Description:

POLS 200: American Politics. 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 (NMCCN 1123)

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 9: Political Parties

Chapter 10: Campaigns and Elections

Chapter 11: Interest Groups and Social Movements

Chapter 8: The Media

Chapter 12: Congress

Chapter 13: The American Presidency

Chapter 15: The Federal Judiciary

COURSE ASSIGNMENTS: 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 seven (7) discussion posts, one for each week except the final week. The due dates for these are posted in the course schedule. Each week, 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 20% 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. Do not wait until the exam is due and try to do both in one day. Give yourself time to do each assignment well. Worth 100 points each. The discussion questions can be found (as they open up each week) under the **Coursework and Assignments** tab.

Unit Exams: There will be three (3) unit exams, and they can be found under the **Coursework and Assignments** tab (click on the corresponding unit to find the exam inside). The chapters for each exam are listed in the course schedule. 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 at least two weeks before the due date.

Final Exam: Worth 100 points. There will be a comprehensive final exam on the last week of the course. The Final Exam can be found under the **Coursework and Assignments** tab.

GRADING:

| <i>Quantity</i> | <i>Description</i> | <i>Weight</i> |
|-----------------|--------------------|---------------|
| 3 | Exams | 45% |
| 7 | Discussion Posts | 20% |
| 1 | Project | 20% |
| 1 | Final Exam | 15% |
| | Total | 100% |

Course Learning Objectives:

Learning objectives for each chapter can be found under the Coursework tab. Each chapter has a section that outlines the learning objective for that chapter.

Course Schedule:

(Tentative and Subject to Change)

| Date | Topic | Assignment | Assignment Submission |
|---------------------|--|---|---|
| Week 1 6/3-6/9 | Introduction to Course | Read Syllabus Get Textbook Watch videos (link in welcome announcement) <u>Discussion Question 1</u> | Due June 9 by 11:59 p.m. |
| Week 2 6/10-6/16 | The Constitution and Federalism | Read chapters 2 and 3 <u>Discussion Question 2</u> | Due June 16 by 11:59 p.m. |
| Week 3 6/17-6/23 | Civil Rights and Liberties | Read chapters 4 and 5 <u>Discussion Question 3</u> <u>Unit 1 Exam</u> | Due June 23 by 11:59 p.m. |
| Week 4 6/24-6/30 | Political Participation and Political Parties | Read chapters 6 and 9 <u>Discussion Question 4</u> | Due June 30 by 11:59 p.m. |
| Week 5 7/1-7/7 | Campaigns and Elections/ Interest Groups and Social Movements | Read chapters 10 and 11 <u>Discussion Question 5</u> <u>Unit 2 Exam</u> | Due July 7 by 11:59 p.m. |
| Week 6 7/8-7/14 | The Media/ Congress | Read chapters 8 and 12 <u>Discussion Question 6</u> <u>Course Project Due</u> | Due July 14 by 11:59 p.m. |
| Week 7 7/15-7/21 | The American Presidency/ The Federal Judiciary | Read chapters 13 and 15 <u>Discussion Question 7</u> <u>Unit 3 Exam</u> | Due July 21 by 11:59 p.m. |
| Week 8 7/22-7/27 | Exam Week (shortened week) | <u>Final Exam</u> | Due July 25 by <u>11:59 p.m.</u> <i>Note this is Thursday, not Sunday night</i> |

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.

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. Contribute and cooperate with civility.
3. **Submit assignments on time.**

Make-up Policy:

No extensions will be given for any assignment or examination without a written medical excuse or prior approval from me. There are no make-ups for missed assignments.

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.

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). 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.