

POS 2041—80156

AMERICAN NATIONAL GOVERNMENT

Instructor: Dr. Steven L. Neely

Course Syllabus

A Session, Fall Semester, 2023

Term Dates: 21 August 2023 – 15 December 2023

For any syllabus posted prior to the beginning of the term, the instructor reserves the right to make minor changes prior to or during the term. The instructor will notify students via e-mail or Canvas announcement when changes are made in the requirements and/or grading of the course.

This is a face-to-face course. This course utilizes the Canvas Learning System. Students should read all information presented in the Canvas course site and should periodically check for updates--at least every 48 hours- as a guide to what will be happening in class.

Remember: This course is not one in which students may work at their own pace. Each week there are learning modules, assignments, and/or online exams with due dates. Refer to the schedule within this syllabus for more information.

Instructor Contact Information:

Dr. Steven L. Neely

Social Sciences Division Office 224

(850) 769-1551, ext 4302

sneely@gulfcoast.edu

Please include your name and course title in the subject line of any e-mails sent to the instructor. I ask that you do not send me an email as if you are sending a text. Common courtesy dictates that you tell me who you are.

Social Sciences Office Contacts:

Dr. Robert Saunders, Chair

Social Sciences Division

Office 211 Social Sciences Building

(850) 769-1551, ext. 3826

rsaunder2@gulfcoast.edu

Ms. Jody Walton

Senior Administrative Assistant

Social Sciences 210

850-872-3825

jwalton1@gulfcoast.edu

Instructor Education:

BS, Biology, Methodist College, Fayetteville, North Carolina, 1974

MS, Government, Campbell University, Buies Creek, North Carolina, 1984

ABD, International Relations, University of Utah, Salt Lake City, UT, 1990

EdD, Education, University of Phoenix, Phoenix, Arizona, 2014

Office Hours: My office hours 8-9 am T-Th. You can walk in, but you may have to wait if I have an advisee appointment ongoing. Alternatively, just send me an e-mail and I will get back to you within 24 hours usually, 48 hours on a weekend. I will use Zoom or Canvas Conferences depending on your access and I can also do telephone.

Technology Requirements for this Course: This section of POS 2041 requires that students have regular and open access to a computer and that they maintain reliable internet service.

Technical Assistance:

• **Technical support is available by phone 24 hours a day 7 days per week by calling (850) 913-3303.**

- **Technicians are available on the Panama City Campus from 8:00 am to 4:00 pm Monday through Friday.**

POS 2041 Catalog Description: A comprehensive examination of the theory, practice, ideals, and realities of government and politics in the United States. Major areas of study include behavior and participation, the legislative process, the presidency, the judicial process, and the administrative state.

Credit hours: 3

Prerequisites: None

Student Learning Outcomes:

The successful POS 2041 experience will result in each student's ability to correctly describe, analyze, and evaluate the following concepts as demonstrated by student performance in written assignments, research, collaborative learning projects, objective and/or subjective test questions designed to gauge and reinforce critical thinking and communication skills.

- 1. Describe and analyze the foundations and development of the US government by examining historical events leading up to the Revolutionary War, the failure of the Articles of Confederation, and evaluating the content of the United States Constitution and its primary principles;**
- 2. Discuss the political significance of civil rights protections and individual liberties in the US by describing the content and relevance of the Bill of Rights and other Constitutional Amendments, and by applying Constitutional principles to historical and contemporary issues;**
- 3. Describe and evaluate the structure, roles, and powers of the institutions of American government, including contemporary public policy-making in economic, domestic, and foreign policy domains;**
- 4. Describe and analyze relationships between the people and the government, specifically the role of civil society and political processes like elections, and identify one's own ideological perspective(s).**

6A-10.02413-1 Civics Literacy Competency

The Florida Civic Literacy Requirement. The State of Florida recently adopted a new rule regarding Civic Literacy. The previous Civic Literacy rule required all students to successfully complete either AMH 2020 or POS 2041.

The new rule requires students to successfully pass AMH 2020 or POS 2041 AND achieve a passing score on a Department of Education-approved civics exam—including the Florida Civics Literacy Exam (FCLE).

The new rule applies for students who entered college beginning Fall Semester 2021. If you were continuously enrolled at Gulf Coast State College prior to Fall 2021, you will not need to complete the exam. This exemption does not, however, apply for dual-enrolled high school students.

The Division of Social Sciences has created a Preparation Module for students wishing to prepare for the Florida Civics Literacy Exam. The module is housed within a designated Canvas page. You can self-register for the Canvas Prep Module via the following link: <https://gcsc.instructure.com/enroll/FNC8GL>.

There also is a link within the module for you to register for the FCLE.

One last note: the FCLE is not part of your grade in POS 2041—it is entirely separate from your overall grade in our course.

The four competencies as required with the FCLE include:

- **An understanding of the basic principles of American democracy and how they are applied in our republican form of government.**
- **An understanding of the U.S. Constitution.**
- **Knowledge of the founding documents and how they have shaped the nature and functions of our institutions of self-governance.**
- **An understanding of landmark Supreme Court cases, landmark legislation, and landmark executive actions and their impact on law and society.**

Course Requirements. Students enrolled in this course will be required to:

- **Participate and take thorough notes on video lectures assigned with each weekly Learning Module—I cannot overstate the importance of participation;**
- **Read all of the textbook pages assigned with each Learning Module;**
- **Complete both exams AS SCHEDULED (see the course schedule below).**
- **Contact the instructor via email at once with any problems or issues. I cannot handle problems unless you make me aware of them.**

Required Textbook:

The textbook for this course, titled *We The People*, 13th Essentials Edition, ISBN-13: 978-0-393-42702-8, is available in the College Book Store.

Authors

Benjamin Ginsberg, The John Hopkins University

Theodore J. Lowi, Cornell University

Margaret Weir, Brown University

Caroline J. Tolbert, University of Iowa

Andrea Campbell, Massachusetts Institute of Technology

Robert J. Spitzer, SUNY Cortland

Student Expectation Statement: The student is expected to participate in the course via e-mail exchanges with the instructor, by participating and taking thorough notes on all lectures on Canvas, by reading the assigned readings, by submitting the Introduction, by submitting as due the Capstone Project, and by completing both exams as scheduled.

Method of Evaluation:

Attendance	5%
Introduction	5%
MidTerm Exam	20%
Final Exam	20%
Assignments	30%
Capstone Project	20%

Assignment of Grades: All grades will be posted in the student grade book in Canvas and will be assigned according to the following scale:

- A 90%-100%**
- B 80%-89%**
- C 70%-79%**
- D 60%-69%**
- F 59% and below**

Assessment Instruments:

I. Exams (20% each = 40% of the final grade):

- Exams will be comprised of discussion, multiple-choice and fill-in-the-blank questions.
- Each exam will be available for a specific time period. See the Course Schedule in this syllabus for the dates during which time the exams will be available.
- The exams will be timed; each is strictly closed book and closed notes.

II. Attendance (5% of the final grade). You should be in every class. What I lecture is not always in the book. This grade will be calculated as days present/33.

III. Introduction (5% of the final grade): The Introduction should be submitted as a Word document directly into Canvas no later than 10:00 pm on 7 January 2022. This brief assignment requires you to draft a 250-300 word essay about yourself, being certain to include items such as career aspirations, educational background, previous college-level history courses, etc. **All students in this course will be able to see this.** Feel free to respectfully respond to individual introductions as you see.

IV. Assignments (30% of the final grade): Assignments submissions should be completed on time. These include tests.

V. Capstone Project (20% of final grade): Capstone project is a special project assigned based on current events and must be completed by 11 December 2022.

Attendance Policy: Attendance at all class sessions is expected.

Make-Up Work Policy: Missing any part of this schedule may prevent completion of the course. If you foresee difficulty of any type (i.e., an illness, employment change, etc.) which may prevent completion of this course, notify the instructor as soon as possible. Failure to do so will result in failure for an assignment and/or failure of the course. If I have not heard from you by the deadline dates for assignments, exams, or forums, no make-up work will be allowed (unless extraordinary circumstances exist). Requests for extensions must be made in advance and accompanied by appropriate written documentation. “Computer problems” is not an acceptable excuse.

Social Sciences Policies

2023-2024

**The following policies apply to all GCSC Social Sciences courses
and should be included on all course syllabi.**

Division Policies Regarding COVID-19: The health and safety of students and faculty are a priority. If you are sick with COVID symptoms, please stay home to protect others. Notify your professor of your condition by phone or email. If you test positive for the COVID virus, please inform your instructor(s) to make arrangements for course requirements and David Thomasee, Campus Safety & Security, at 873-3582. You will receive additional instructions at that time. Confidentiality will be maintained.

This information is subject to change. For the most recent information, please refer to the Gulf Coast State College website regarding COVID-19: <https://www.gulfcoast.edu/covid-19-coronavirus.html>.

Academic Integrity Policy - Honest participation in academic endeavors fosters an environment in which optimal learning can take place and is consistent with the college’s mission. Academic misconduct, including cheating or plagiarism, is destructive to the spirit of an educational environment. Social Science professors report every instance of student academic misconduct to the college for inclusion on the student’s records. “Cheating” includes but is not limited to use of any unauthorized assistance in completing course work. “Plagiarism” includes, but is not limited to, the use by paraphrase or direct quotation of the published or unpublished work of another person without full and clear acknowledgment as well as the purchase of papers or projects. “Self-plagiarism” occurs when a student submits the same or considerably similar document to fulfill requirements in different classes. For example, if a student submits a term paper in Religion they originally wrote for an English class, this is self-plagiarism. Once a paper receives a grade in one class, it cannot be submitted again for another class. Sanctions for incidences of academic misconduct, depending on the severity of the incidence and/or its repetition, may range from receiving an F grade (or 0) for the test, assignment, or activity, to failure of the course, to suspension or dismissal from the college.

Student Accessibility Statement - Gulf Coast State College supports an inclusive learning environment for all students. If there are aspects of the instruction or design of this course that hinder your full participation, reasonable accommodations can be arranged. Prior to receiving accommodations, you must register with Student Accessibility Resources. Appropriate academic accommodations will be determined based on the documented needs of the student. For information regarding the registration process, email sar@gulfcoast.edu or call 850-747-3243.

Recording Lectures - In accordance with federal and state privacy laws, students may record class lectures for their own personal educational use, in connection with a complaint to the college, or as evidence in internal or external legal proceedings. Students may not publish or upload the recordings or any components thereof without the knowledge and written permission of the faculty member. Failure to obtain permission to publish could lead to the students' having to pay damages, attorney fees, and court costs. For more information about what can be recorded, please see the guidelines on pages 36-38 in the GCSC Student Handbook: <https://www.gulfcoast.edu/current-students/student-handbooks/2021-2022-student-handbook.pdf>

Email & Voicemail Response Time - Instructors will check and respond to messages sent to their gulfcoast.edu email within 48 hours during scheduled workdays, barring illness or emergencies. The instructor may not check email during holidays or weekends. This policy also applies to messages sent via Canvas, as well as voicemails left on a provided phone number.

Attendance - Regular class attendance and participation are significant factors that help to promote success in college. In face-to-face courses, students are required to be in class at the beginning of each class session, as attendance will be taken at this time. If a student arrives late, it is his/her responsibility to inform the instructor after class of his/her presence. Failure to do so may result in the student being marked as "Absent." Attendance in an online/hybrid CANVAS class is defined as submission of complete written assignments prior to their posted deadline.

Withdrawals - Students may withdraw themselves from any course until the published withdrawal deadline for that term in the Gulf Coast State College catalog. Students wishing to withdraw from a course and receive a "W" must complete a withdrawal form and submit this to the Office of Enrollment Services prior to the scheduled withdrawal date as published on the college calendar. Social Sciences instructors do not withdraw students from their individual courses under any circumstances. If you feel you have a unique situation that warrants removal from all of your courses for a term after the withdrawal deadline has passed, you may contact the Vice President of Student Affairs to discuss your situation.

Consequences of Withdrawals - Two withdrawals are permitted per credit course. After that, a grade will be assigned. Please be concerned about withdrawals. When admitting students into certain programs, universities may calculate withdrawals as grades. It is your responsibility to verify the effects of enrollment and/or withdrawal upon your financial assistance (financial aid, scholarships, grants, etc.).

Incomplete Grades - Grades of Incomplete in any Social Sciences course can only be assigned to students who have an emergency arise during the last two weeks of the course.

To receive an Incomplete, students must:

- **Submit a written request to the instructor prior to the last face-to-face class meeting. For online courses, a written Incomplete request must be received no later than the week before the Final Exam period begins.**
- **Have completed no less than 60 percent of the course requirements and be passing the course at the time the request for an Incomplete is submitted.**

Important Note: The Incomplete option provides 30 days from the date grades are due to make up any missing work; if work is not submitted during this period, the grade will automatically change to an "F" in Lighthouse.