



**POS 2041—80165—Online**  
**American National Government**  
**Instructor: Professor Teresa Thurtle**

**Course Syllabus**

**Fall Semester 2023—B Session**  
**Term Dates: 8/21/2023 – 10/13/2023**  
**3 Credit Hours—Pre-requisites: None**

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.

Online Courses at Gulf Coast State College: All online courses at GCSC utilize 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.

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

**Instructor:**

Professor Teresa Thurtle  
Social Sciences Division  
[tthurtle@gulfcoast.edu](mailto:tthurtle@gulfcoast.edu)

**Instructor Education:**

BA, Criminal Justice, University of Nevada Reno, 2008  
BA, Women's Studies, University of Nevada Reno, 2008  
MA, Organizational Behavior, University of Texas, 2019  
MPA, Masters of Public Administration, American Military University, 2011  
PhD, Public Policy and Administration, Walden University, 2020

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institution. Please use common courtesy as I often times will not respond to students who are not respectful. I generally respond to messages within 24 to 48 hours.

**Social Sciences Office Contacts:**

Dr. Robert Saunders, Chair  
Social Sciences Division  
Office 211 Social Sciences Building  
(850) 769-1551, ext. 3826—[rsaunder2@gulfcoast.edu](mailto:rsaunder2@gulfcoast.edu)

**Division Senior Administrative Assistant:**

Ms. Jody Walton  
Social Sciences 210  
850-872-3825  
[jwalton1@gulfcoast.edu](mailto:jwalton1@gulfcoast.edu)

**Required Textbook:**

Ginsberg, B., Lowi, T., Weir, M., Tolber, C. (2021). *We The People*, 13<sup>th</sup> Edition. New York. Norton and Company Inc. ISBN: 978-0-393-42702-8

**Office Hours:** No set office hours. Just send me a message and we can set up a time to video chat.

**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.

**Teaching Techniques:** The primary means of content delivery for this online course includes instructor-generated lectures, textbook readings, PowerPoint presentations, the Discussion Board, and weekly synchronous study sessions. Each of these techniques support the broad goals

of students learning the American political system in its most broad aspects and understanding the functions, processes, policies, and philosophical foundations of that system.

### **Student Learning Outcomes:**

The successful POS 2041 experience will result in the 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 subjective test questions designed to gauge and reinforce critical thinking and communication skills. To facilitate your learning & prepare for exams, please get in the habit of reviewing this list every week to ensure you understand and remember the main ideas.

- 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;
- 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;
- 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;
- 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).

### **Civic Literacy, Course Competencies, and Outcomes: (As required by the State of Florida Legislature and the Florida Department of Education):**

- 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 and their impact on law and society.

**Student Expectation Statement:** The student is expected to participate in the course listening to and taking thorough notes on all digital lectures, by reading the assigned readings, by participating in the weekly discussion boards, and by completing all exams as scheduled. The students should understand that this course is delivered via the Canvas LMS.

**Instructor Availability:** The best way to contact me is through **Canvas messages**. I ask that you do not send me a message as if you are sending a text. This is a professional, academic setting. Please respect the institution. Please use common courtesy as I often times will not respond to students who are not respectful. I generally respond to messages within 24 to 48 hours.

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

- Listen to and take thorough notes on the digital lectures assigned with each weekly Learning Module—**I cannot overstress the importance of the digital lectures;**
- Read all of the textbook pages assigned with each Learning Module;
- Contribute to the weekly discussion boards
- Complete all four exams AS SCHEDULED (see the course schedule below).
- Contact the instructor via Canvas messenger at once with any problems or issues. I cannot handle problems unless you make me aware of them. I do not open up

### **COURSE OUTLINE OF LEARNING MODULES**

| <b>Week of:</b> | <b>MOD</b> | <b>Module Assignments</b>  |
|-----------------|------------|--|
|                 | <b>1</b>   | <b>Introduction, Chapter 1 Chapter 2, lecture videos, knowledge checks, discussion boards</b>          |
|                 | <b>2</b>   | <b>Chapter 3, Chapter 4, Chapter 5, lecture videos, knowledge checks, discussion boards, Quiz 1</b>    |
|                 | <b>3</b>   | <b>Chapter 10, Chapter 11, Chapter 12, lecture videos, knowledge checks, Quiz 1, discussion boards</b> |
|                 | <b>4</b>   | <b>Midterm Exam</b>  |
|                 | <b>5</b>   | <b>Chapter 13, Chapter 14, lecture video, knowledge check discussion board</b>                         |
|                 | <b>7</b>   | <b>Chapter 15, Chapter 6, lecture video, knowledge check, discussion board, Quiz 2</b>                 |
|                 | <b>8</b>   | <b>Chapter 7, Chapter 8, Chapter 9, lecture video, knowledge check, discussion board</b>               |
|                 | <b>9</b>   | <b>Final Exam</b>  |

**Attendance Policy:** Although physical class meetings are not part of this course, you are required to participate in the weekly discussion boards to show your understanding of the lectures. This is counted as posting a 250 initial post, and a 100-word post to another student.

**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, such as hospitalization). **Requests for extensions must be made in advance and accompanied by appropriate written documentation.** “Computer problems” is not an acceptable excuse.

### **Social Sciences Policies**

**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 it 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](mailto: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 in the GCSC Student Handbook.

**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.

- assignments after the due date. Be sure to complete your assignments on time.

**Method of Evaluation:**

| Type of Assignment           | # Of Questions | Points | Total                |
|------------------------------|----------------|--------|----------------------|
| Quizzes (Q)                  | 25             | 2      | 2 Quizzes x 50 = 100 |
| Mid-Term                     | 50             | 4      | 200                  |
| Final                        | 50             | 4      | 200                  |
| Lecture Knowledge Check (KC) | 5              | 1      | 16 x 5 Points =80    |
| Discussion Boards            |                | 5      | 5 x 16 required = 80 |
| Points Possible              |                |        | 660                  |
| Extra Credit                 | Essay          | 25     |                      |

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

|           |        |     |
|-----------|--------|-----|
| 660 – 594 | 90-100 | = A |
| 593 - 528 | 80-89  | = B |
| 527 – 462 | 70-79  | = C |
| 461 – 396 | 60-69  | = D |
| > 395     | 50-0   | = F |

**Assessment Instruments: Students will be evaluated based on the following:**

- Weekly Discussion Board (DB): Participation and discussion demonstrating the understanding of assigned reading and lectures.
- Lecture Knowledge Check (KC): Short test of your knowledge and understanding of the weekly lecture.
- Quizzes (Q): This will test your knowledge and understanding of assigned reading and lectures between the mid-term and final exams.
- Mid-Term: Multiple-choice examination. Testing your knowledge and understanding of assigned reading and lectures for the first half of the semester.
- Final: Multiple-choice examination. Testing your knowledge and understanding of assigned reading and lectures for the second half of the semester.
- Extra Credit (EC): Opportunities for students to earn additional points demonstrating their understanding of the required matter to current events.