



## **COURSE SYLLABUS**

**POS 2041 • American National Government**

**Instructor: Lisa A. Nixon Mabry, MS, BS**

**Fall Semester, A Session, 2023**

**CRN: 82436 • Face-to-Face • Semester Hours: 3 • Prerequisites: None**

**Semester Dates: 8/21/2023 – 12/15/2023**

### **Instructor Information:**

**Lisa A. Nixon Mabry, MS, BS**

**Political Science | Social Sciences (SS) Division**

- MS, Applied American Politics and Policy, Florida State University
- Graduate Certificate, Preparing Future Professionals, Florida State University
- BS, Professional Communication, Florida State University
- AA, Pre-Communication: Advertising/Public Relations, Gulf Coast Community College

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### **Required Textbook:**

- The textbook for this course is titled: *We The People, 13<sup>th</sup> Essentials Edition*
- Authors: Ginsberg, Benjamin, Theodore Lowi, Margaret Weir, Caroline Tolbert, Andrea Campbell, and Robert Spitzer
- ISBN: 978-0-393-53888-5 is the Gulf Coast State College (GCSC) version.
- Copies are made available in the campus bookstore. Visit the bookstore website at <http://doresstore.gulfcoast.edu/>. You may also purchase it via online resources wherever textbooks are sold.
- If you wish to purchase the e-book version of the textbook, you may go directly to the publisher's website: *We The People, 13<sup>th</sup> Essentials Edition*  
<https://www.norton.com/books/9780393538885>
- GCSC, Amazon, and Norton all have rental versions available.

**POS 2041 Catalog/Course Description and Broad Goals:**



This three (3)-credit hour course is 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.

Other relevant topics: The United States Constitution.

### **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 policymaking 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:**

Prior to the award of an associate in arts, associate in science, or a baccalaureate degree, first-time-in-college students entering a Florida College System institution in the 2021-2022 school year, and thereafter, must demonstrate competency in civics literacy by completing (a) and (b) prior to graduation:

**(a)** Successfully passing either POS 2041 American Government or AMH 2020 United States History Since 1877. Each of the courses must include the following competencies:

- (1) Understanding of the basic principles and practices of American democracy and how they are applied in our republican form of government;
- (2) An understanding of the United States Constitution and its application;
- (3) Knowledge of the founding documents and how they have shaped the nature and functions of our institutions of self-government; and



- (4) An understanding of landmark Supreme Court cases, landmark legislation and landmark executive actions and their impact on law and society.

(b) Achieving the standard score on one of the following assessments:

Assessment:	Standard Score:
AP Government and Politics, US	3
AP United States History	4
CLEP: American Government	50
FCLE	60

### **Expectations Statements:**

- Students enrolled in this section of POS 2041 can expect a comprehensive, highly detailed, and balanced study of American National Government from inception to present.
- I've taught American National Government for eight years in the Social Sciences Division at Gulf Coast State College. I worked at the Bay County Supervisor of Elections office from 2006 – 2011, leading the Absentee (Vote by Mail) process, processing voter registrations, and leading community Special Projects, including community voter registration efforts. I currently work as Clerk and Assistant Clerk at polling locations during elections. I've worked on numerous political campaigns, at local and national levels, including two presidential campaigns. My Master of Science focused on Applied American Politics and Policy, where I learned the skills needed to work in multiple facets of political campaigns and government fields, as well as how to run for political office. Please don't hesitate to reach out if you have any problems, issues, or questions. I am always open to questions and to handling any problems you are experiencing with the course.
- This face-to-face course is organized into weekly modules, each consisting of reading assignments, in person lectures, as well as digital lecture links, terms lists, quizzes to help prep students for exams, a semester project, and films/documentaries relevant to the material within each module.
- Students can expect to receive replies to emails to the professor within 24 – 48 hours during the week and 48 hours on weekends.
- Students enrolled in this section of POS 2041 are expected to use Canvas, the textbook, and their GCSC email address for accessing learning materials for this course and for all internet-based communication.
- The primary learning activities in this course will be attending class and taking thorough notes on each of the lectures, reading all of the assigned pages within the textbook, and contributing to class discussion, as well as completing assignments.
- Students enrolled in this course will be required to:
  - Attend class each week, listen to the lecture / class discussion, and take thorough notes – I cannot overstress the importance of class attendance to participate and hear lectures;



- Read all of the textbook pages assigned with each Learning Module;
- Submit all assignments as due;
- Complete all five exams AS SCHEDULED (see the course schedule in Canvas);
- Contact the instructor via email at once with any problems or issues. I cannot handle problems unless you make me aware of them.

### **2022-2023 Social Sciences Policies**

#### **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 850-873-3582. 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](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 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 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.

### **Grading & Assignments:**

#### **Instruments of assessment for POS 2041 include:**

This course will be based on a scale of percentages by section.

The assignments will be weighted as follows:

<b>Grading Rubric</b>		
<i>Amount</i>	<i>Type</i>	<i>Percentage</i>
	(1) Syllabus Quiz	
	(2) General Quizzes	
	(12) Chapter Quizzes	25%
	Participation & Attendance	15%
	Founding Father Project	30%
	Exams (3 chapters each)	30%
		100%

Standard GCSC Grading Scale:	Points	Percent
	90-100=	A
	80-89 =	B
	70-79 =	C
	60-69 =	D
	59 & Below =	F