

POS 2041-10093

Course Syllabus

Spring 2023 - A Session (5 January to 3 May)

American National Government

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

Contact Information

Instructor Contact Information:

Dr. Steven L. Neely
Social Sciences Division
(850) 319-4290
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

Course Objectives

By the end of this course, you will be able to:

- 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; and,**
- 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).**

Technology Requirements

Canvas is where course content, grades, and communication will reside for this course.

For Canvas, passwords, or any other computer-related technical support contact the IT Service Help Desk. Technical support is available by phone 24 hours a day 7 days per week by calling (850) 913-3303.

Textbook & Reading Materials

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 or you may buy an e-copy of the 13th edition at wwnorton.com.

Syllabus Policy

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.

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.

Course Policies:

Student Expectation Statement:

1. Students enrolled in this course will be required to: Participate and take thorough notes on videos and lectures.
2. Read all textbook assignments and assigned materials BEFORE the lecture.
3. Complete all assignments AS SCHEDULED.
4. Contact the instructor via email at once with any problems or issues.
5. Do your own work.
6. ASK QUESTIONS!

Method of Evaluation:

Attendance	5%
Introduction	5%
Quizzes	30%
Mid-Term Exam	25%
Final Exam	25%
Capstone Project	10%

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:

Multiple choice quizzes/tests, essays, projects, discussions

Attendance Policy:

Students are expected to be in class every day. Attendance is graded. Attendance is a valuable facet of learning. Class activities supplement readings with lectures, group projects, and individual exercises.

Make-Up Work Policy:

All work is expected to be turned in on time. In the case of absences, make-up work must be scheduled with the instructor within one week of the due date for missing work.

Institutional Policies

Academic Integrity

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. GCSC 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 the 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.

Withdrawal Policy and "I" Grade Policy

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. 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 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.

Students with Disabilities

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.

Classroom Recording

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.

Social Sciences Division Policies

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6A-10.02413-1 Civic Literacy Competency

Civic Literacy, Course Competencies, and Outcomes: The State of Florida recently adopted a new rule regarding Civics Literacy. The old 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 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 follow link: <https://gcsc.instructure.com/enroll/FNC8GL>

NOTE: the FCLE is not part of the grading scheme for this 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 and their impact on law and society.

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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.

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