



**POS 2041**  
**American National Government**  
**CRN 14144**

**Course Syllabus**

**Spring Semester 2024, C Session**  
**3 Semester Hours • Pre-requisites: None**  
**29 February 2024 - 3 May 2024**

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 Contact Information:**

Colleen Heeney, MBA, MS  
[cheeney@gulfcoast.edu](mailto:cheeney@gulfcoast.edu)

**Instructor Education:**

BS, Political Science, Florida State University  
MS, Applied American Politics and Policy, Florida State University  
MBA, Public Management, University of Massachusetts-Dartmouth  
MS, Peace and Conflict Studies, Ulster University (In Progress)

**Social Sciences Office Contacts:**

Dr. Robert Saunders, Chair Social Sciences Division Office 211 Social Sciences Building (850) 769-1551, ext. 3826 <a href="mailto:rsaunder2@gulfcoast.edu">rsaunder2@gulfcoast.edu</a>	Ms. Jody Walton Senior Administrative Assistant Social Sciences 210 850-872-3825 <a href="mailto:jwalton@gulfcoast.edu">jwalton@gulfcoast.edu</a>
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**Required Textbook:** Ginsberg, Benjamin, Theodore Lowi, Margaret Weir, Caroline Tolbert, and Robert Spitzer. *We The People*, Gulf Coast State College Custom 13th Essentials Edition, New York: W.W. Norton & Co.; 2018. ISBN: 978-1-324-02268-8. Copies are available in the campus bookstore.

**Technology Requirements for this Course:** This course requires students to have access to a computer and the internet. For those students who do not own a computer, computer labs are available on the GCSC campus and in public libraries. Students without internet access can come to the GCSC campus, go to local public libraries, coffee shops, etc.

Minimal technical skills required for this course include the ability to use Microsoft Office products and navigate the Internet.

**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.

**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 means of content delivery for this course includes instructor-generated lectures, textbook readings, PowerPoint presentations, discussion board contributions, one-on-one correspondence, online videos, and supplementary websites. 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.

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).

**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 to 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 to 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.

**Student Expectation Statement:** This course is delivered in its entirety via Canvas. In addition to being an active participant in the course and respecting all assignment deadlines, please be courteous when communicating with other students. Discussion Boards should be used for discussing the course content and answering the assigned discussion prompt. Hostility will not be tolerated.

**Electronic Office Hours:** Because this is an online course, I do not have on-campus office hours. Please feel free to send me an email or a Canvas message (preferred) when you need assistance, and I will get back to you within one business day.

**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 overstate the importance of the digital lectures.
- Read all of the textbook pages assigned with each Learning Module.
- Contribute to the Discussion Board prompts, when assigned.
- Complete all three Unit Exams AS SCHEDULED (see the course schedule below).
- Contact the instructor via email or Canvas at once with any problems or issues. I cannot handle problems unless you make me aware of them.

## Assessment Instruments:

### Exams

You will have three (3) exams in this course – two unit exams worth 15% of your final grade (each) and a cumulative final exam worth 30% of your final course grade. All the information for the exams will come directly from your course textbook and the course lectures. Successful students will thoroughly utilize both resources -- along with any other resource provided by the instructor such as supplemental videos or lists with terms/events/people to know.

The exams will not be cumulative; however, the material will build upon itself, so it is important to know the information from the previous chapters of the course.

**Unit 1 Exam:** Chapters 1, 2, and 3 15% of final course grade

**Unit 2 Exam:** Chapters 10, 11, 12, and 13 15% of final course grade

**Final Exam:** Chapters 1, 2, 3, 4, 5, 8, 9, 10, 11, 12, and 13 30% of final course grade

### Chapter Quizzes

Each week you are assigned to read one of the chapters from the textbook, you will have a 20-question quiz on Canvas that covers the material you read that week. You will have one (1) try to complete the quiz and a total of twenty-five (25) minutes for the quiz attempt. Each of the eleven (11) chapter quizzes will be worth two percent (2%) of your final grade in the course.

You must **watch the lecture video for the chapter AND read the chapter from the textbook** to successfully pass each of the eleven (11) quizzes. You will not have the opportunity to make up quizzes after their stated deadline has passed.

### Discussion Board Posts

Six (6) discussion board posts including two responses for each of the six (6) posts will be due over the course of this class.

Each discussion board post will need to be at least 250 words in length and submitted on time to receive full credit. Your two discussion responses will need to be at least 100 words in length EACH to receive full credit.

Discussion board deadlines:

- Initial 250-word post: Tuesdays by 11:59 pm CT
- Two comments to other students: Wednesdays by 11:59 pm CT

### **Discussion Board Rubric:**

- A complete 250-word post submitted by the Tuesday deadline and accompanied by at least two 100-word comments by the Wednesday deadline: 3 points (100%) \*\*
- A complete 250-word post that does not meet the Tuesday deadline (it's submitted on Wednesday) but is accompanied by at least two 100-word comments OR A complete 250-word post submitted by the Tuesday deadline and only one 100-word comment: 2.5 points (83.3%) \*\*
- A complete 250-word post submitted at any time with no additional comments: 1.5 points (50%) \*\*

\*\*I reserve the right to give a lower grade than what is listed above for posts that do not reach the minimum word requirement, that are irrelevant to the course/discussion prompt, or are extremely poorly written and lacking in effort.

**Instructor Policies and General Information:** You should be mindful of how you communicate with the instructor for this course. Proofread your messages before sending them, and always be respectful. Before sending your instructor a message, check to make sure your concern has not already been addressed in a Canvas course announcement, a Canvas message to the class, or this syllabus.

**Attendance Policy:** A student's acquisition of learning outcomes is tied to attendance. Excessive absences guarantee that a student has not had minimal exposure to enough of the student learning outcomes to receive credit for the course. As such, missing multiple class periods will likely lead to failure.

For an online course, attendance is measured by assignment submissions. To be counted present for the week's classes, students must submit at least one of the week's assignments. The only way to be successful in this course is to keep up with all the assigned readings, coursework, and to complete the weekly assignments.

**Make-Up Work Policy:** Students should be forewarned that my policies on missed and late work in this class are strict and rigid. With very few exceptions, I will not accept any late work in this course. Please acquaint yourself with the assignment deadlines now and prepare ahead to ensure that you do not miss any assignments or assignment deadlines.

Listed below are the exceptions to this course's no tolerance late policy:

Students should promptly contact me when any unforeseen, legitimate circumstance beyond his/her control (i.e., things that do not involve a choice, like documented illness or medical emergency; family funeral; athletic travel) occurs that may result in a missed assignment deadline. Students who foresee missing assignment deadlines due to voluntary travel or other circumstances within the student's control should submit work early.

Likewise, note that a lack of access to internet services is not a valid excuse for missing or late work. As an online student, it is your responsibility to figure out a way to submit your work. The library on campus is open after hours and there are many public spaces with free Wi-Fi (your public library, Panera, McDonalds, etc.). Take advantage of the Canvas app and other services on your phone as well, if possible.

Further, if Canvas is down or not letting you submit, you should email the assignment to me as an attached PDF or .docx file from your GCSC email account before the deadline for that assignment has passed.

## **Social Sciences Policies** **2023-2024**

**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 the use of any unauthorized assistance in completing coursework. "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 incident 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 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.

**Method of Evaluation:**

Unit 1 Exam	15%
Unit 2 Exam	15%
Final Exam	23%
Chapter Quizzes: 11 @ 2% each	22%
Discussion Boards: 6 @ 3% each	18%

**Assignment of Grades:**

A	90%-100%
B	80%-89.9%
C	70%-79.9%
D	60%-69.9%
F	59.9% and below