



Political Science: American National Government

POS 2041 -14805 (3 credits)

Instructor: Dr. T. Adam Golob

Spring 2024: A Session (1/5/24 - 5/3/24):

Office: Pc-Ss 226

Office Hours:

Mondays & Wednesdays = 12:30pm - 1:30pm

Tuesdays & Thursdays = 9:30am - 1:30 pm

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

Social Sciences Office Contacts:

Dr. Robert Saunders, Chair Social Sciences Division

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Instructor Qualifications:

BA, Spanish, University of South Carolina, Beaufort, SC, 2009

MA, Latin American Studies, University of South Florida, Tampa, FL 2014

PhD, Political Science, University of South Florida, Tampa, FL 2017

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.

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.

Learning Outcomes: Students will be able to

1. Analyze the conflicts between individual civil liberties and government activities intended to promote safety, order and security.
2. Explain the American legislative, judicial, executive policy/regulation and electoral political processes.
3. Apply American political processes to propose resolutions of problems.
4. Evaluate the influence of interest groups on American political processes.
5. Evaluate the influence of information media on American political processes.
6. Explain the influence of public opinion on American political processes.
7. Apply the Federal government's capabilities for influencing the U.S. economy (monetary, fiscal, regulatory and trade policies) to solve U.S. economic problems.
8. Explain the process for determining U.S. foreign and military policy.
9. Explain the major differences between federal and state/local government in structure and function.

Course Requirements: Come to class, participate fully, be critical thinkers, contribute to discourse and discussion with logic and data-driven perspectives, and complete all graded and non-graded assignments.

Required Texts & Materials:

Ginsburg, Lowi, Weir, Tolbert, Campbell, & Spitzer. 2021. *We the People, 13th ed.* W. W. Norton & Company, New York, NY. ISBN 978-0-393-53888-5

Recommended Sources:

- *The Economist* weekly magazine: hardcopy available in library
- *New York Times* online: <http://www.nytimes.com/>
- BBC News – World: <http://www.bbc.co.uk/news/world/>
- PBS Newshour: <http://www.pbs.org/newshour/home.html>
- Washington Post: <http://www.washingtonpost.com/>

Conduct: One of my goals is to maintain a classroom and environment that is learning-rich, safe, and respectful, *for everyone*. To this end, I need each student (and I will as well) to observe certain rules of academic discourse, both in writing and discussion. Treat others so that they feel respected, listen attentively, stop talking when appropriate, express disagreement courteously, hold prejudice and opinions in check, and do your very best to assist your student-colleagues in their learning. Let's keep ourselves focused, be there to support one another, and remember that we are at different, but intersecting points on our life paths. Likely this exact collection of people will never all be together like this again—let's learn what we can while we have each other to learn from.

Graded Course Requirements:

	20% of grade
Discussions Contribution	10% of grade
Crash Course Video Quizzes	15% of grade
Chapter Quizzes	20% of grade
Reality Check Assignments	5% of grade
Opinion Paper	15% of grade
Research Paper	5% of grade
Reflection Paper	10% of grade
Supreme Court Project	5% of grade
Efficacy	



Discussion Contributions: This class is meant to engage you critically in the topic of government and American politics. Throughout the semester, we will engage in meaningful discourse on various topics that have everything to do with the American political system, political culture, and other powerful movements. Engage fully to earn your rank.

Crash Course Assignments: I have selected twelve crash course videos on government and politics for you to review. Each video is a few minutes long and worth the watch. Be careful, they are usually fast-paced. Each video has a corresponding quiz.

Chapter Quizzes: There are 15 chapters in your book, and 15 short quizzes to go along with them. They are due throughout the course and with their corresponding chapters. The lowest two grades will be dropped.

Reality Checks: These are used throughout the course to make sure you are staying in the right "mindset" for this field. They will hopefully cause some head-scratching and some learning.

Opinion Paper: I often have issues with students fighting to have their opinions heard, to share their thoughts and ideologies, etc. It has come between them and learning the academic rigor of this discipline, so I have crafted this exercise to give you an outlet to share your 100% opinion with zero research, zero backing, absolutely no logic required...you can word-vomit from the heart. Get it all "out."

Research Paper:

Now that all the opinions have been shared. Now that it is all "out," you have to take the same topic you were so opinionated about and do the complete opposite. Now, research, logic, arguments...these are all you can use this time. All objective, no subjective. No "should," no "ought," no nothing like that. This is your chance to write like and academic. Cite your sources, show your work, avoid the 1st person or the cliches or the "hook" openings. This time, you have to argue your case like a lawyer in front of a judge (me) and you can't share anecdotes or family stories...you have to research and argue.

Reflection Paper: As the course draws to a close, I ask you to reflect on what you have learned, what you want to learn more, and how you might have grown through the class.

Political Efficacy: Political efficacy means that you feel that you are a part of government/political culture and that it answers to you. There is a growing trend of low efficacy for younger generations; they feel removed from it all. As such, as part of this class, I want you to get involved and show me that your voice matters.

The Supreme Court: The Court is one of the most impactful aspects of American Government due to our concrete review process that "sets precedent" as legally binding. Your task is to take 5 historical Supreme Court cases of American government (no matter how recent or distant) and to explain what happened, what the implications were, and any future/past cases or precedents that were affected. This is your moment to really utilize some American government savvy and to show off your skills as an American government student (you can also use it in public to show those around you how well you know historical and impactful court cases—they'll be so impressed). You will present in class.

LATE POLICY: All assignments may be turned in up to three days late with a 10% penalty per day.

Grading:

A= 93% and above

A- = 90-92%

B+ = 87-89%

B= 83-86%

B- = 80-82%

C+ = 77-79%,

C= 73-76%,

C- = 70-73%

D+ = 67-69% D=60-66%

F= less than 60% based on course standards.

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.

Withdraws: If you find that you are unable to finish the course, you are responsible for taking the steps necessary to drop or withdraw from class by the deadline to avoid an "F."

Keys to note: If you are having problems or difficulty, and are thinking of disappearing or dropping from the class, please come see me. I really and truly want each student to be successful and I may be able to help you with strategies to successfully complete this course. All written materials must be submitted in order to receive course credit. Students taking the course on an S/U basis must inform the instructor. They must complete the same work as students taking a letter grade and must earn a final grade of C- or better to qualify for a Satisfactory.

Incomplete: If you find that you are unable to complete all the required tasks due to extenuating circumstances, you are responsible for taking the steps necessary to request an “I” or incomplete.

Policy Guidelines: Please familiarize yourself with and abide by the College Policies set forth in the college catalog. For example, note that it is a violation of the plagiarism policy to submit any work, formal or informal, that was not written by you, OR that you submitted for credit in another course, OR that borrows from or refers to any sources that are not explicitly acknowledged using correct documentation. A first instance of plagiarism will result in zero credit for the assignment as well as a conference with appropriate bodies. Any further instances will result in a failing grade for the course and a letter placed in a student’s permanent file. If you have any doubt, please do come see us; I will happily work with you on how to cite your materials carefully and accurately.

Contacting your instructor: Communication between each student and his/her instructor is critical to the successful completion of any course. Please feel free to email me to set up a time to meet. If you have any concerns about your progress within this course, let me know.

Additional Resources:

Division Policies Regarding COVID-19: The health and safety of students and faculty are a priority. While on campus and in classrooms, wearing cloth masks or disposable facial coverings is highly recommended and in accordance with current CDC guidelines. Students and faculty must also practice social distancing when possible.

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 Damian South, 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. If you have read this far, email me for extra credit. Use the subject line “syllabus find.” 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.