



Political Science: American National Government

POS 2041-80156 Fall 2024 – A Session

8/19/2024 – 12/13/2024

(3 credits)/ Pre-requisites: None

Instructor: Dr. T. Adam Golob

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Favorite Quote: “If I come out, will you shoot me? 'Cause then I won't come out.” –Phil Coulson, *Agents of S.H.I.E.L.D.*

For any syllabus posted before the beginning of the term, the instructor reserves the right to make minor changes before 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.

Social Sciences Office Contacts:

Dr. Robert Saunders, Chair Social Sciences Division

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Senior Administrative Assistant

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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: In this course, students will investigate how the national government is structured and how the American constitutional republic operates. It covers the philosophical and historical foundations of American government, including but not limited to: the Declaration of Independence, the US Constitution and its amendments, and The Federalist Papers. The course examines the branches of government and the government's laws, policies, and programs. It also examines the ways in which citizens participate in their government and ways their government responds to citizens.

Student Learning Outcomes: The successful POS 2041 experience will result in the student's ability to demonstrate:

1. An understanding of the basic principles and practices of America's constitutional republic.
2. Knowledge of the nation's founding documents, including the Declaration of Independence, the US Constitution and its amendments, and The Federalist Papers.
3. Knowledge of landmark US Supreme Court cases, landmark legislation, and landmark executive actions.
4. Knowledge of the history and development of the American federal government and its impact on law and society.
5. An ability to apply course material to contemporary political issues and debates.
6. An ability to engage in discussion and civil debate on American politics that are associated with multiple points of view.

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. All online courses at GCSC utilize the Canvas Learning System. Students should read all information presented on the Canvas course site and should periodically check for updates--at least EVERY 48 HOURS. This section of POS 2041 requires that students have regular and open access to a computer and that they maintain reliable internet service.

Required Texts & Materials: You do not have to purchase a textbook for this course. Instead, we will use an online textbook: American Government 3E from Openstax by Glen Krutz and Sylvie Waskiewicz, 2021. Find the free textbook here: <https://openstax.org/details/books/american-government>. Or, you can buy a printed hardcopy. Copies are available in the campus bookstore.

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:

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



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

Grading:

A= 93% and above	B- = 80-82%	D+ = 67-69%
A- = 90-92%	C+ = 77-79%,	D=60-66%
B+ = 87-89%	C= 73-76%,	F= less than 60% based on
B= 83-86%	C- = 70-73%	course standards.

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 to receive course credit. Students taking the course on a 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.

6A-10.02413-1 Civics Literacy Competency

Before 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) before 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:

<u>Assessment:</u>	<u>Standard Score:</u>
AP Government and Politics, US	3
AP United States History	4
CLEP: American Government	50
Florida Civics Literacy Exam	60

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>.

Please note: the FCLE is not part of your grade in POS 2041 – it is entirely separate from your overall grade in our course.

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 in 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 paraphrasing 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, that 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. Before receiving accommodations, you must register with Student Accessibility Resources. Appropriate academic accommodations will be determined based on the student's documented needs. For information regarding the registration process, email sar@gulfcoast.edu or call 850-747-3243.

Recording Lectures - By federal and state privacy laws, students may record class lectures for their 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 at: <https://www.gulfcoast.edu/current-students/student-handbooks/2021-2022-student-handbook.pdf> Links to an external site.

Attendance Policy: Although physical class meetings are not part of this course, participation in all interactive learning activities is required. Regular class attendance and participation are significant factors that help promote college success. Attendance in an online/hybrid CANVAS class is defined as the submission of complete written assignments before their posted deadline.

Make-Up Work Policy: Missing any part of this schedule may prevent completion of the course. If you foresee difficulty of any type (e.g., an illness, employment change, etc.), that may prevent completion of this course, notify the instructor as soon as possible. Failure to do so may fail an assignment and/or a failure of the course. If I have not heard from you by the deadline dates for assignments, exams, or forums, make-up work may not be allowed (unless extraordinary circumstances exist, such as hospitalization). Requests for extensions must be made in advance and accompanied by an “acceptable excuse.” For example, “I partied too hard this weekend, is typically not an “acceptable excuse.”

Social Sciences Division Policies Regarding COVID-19 - The health and safety of students and faculty are a priority. If you are sick with COVID-19 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, which can be found at: <https://www.gulfcoast.edu/covid-19-coronavirus.html> Links to an external site.

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 and voicemails left on a provided phone number.

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 before the scheduled withdrawal date as published on the college calendar. Social Sciences instructors do not withdraw students from their 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 (e.g., 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:

1. Submit a written request to the instructor before 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.
2. 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 incomplete grade will automatically change to an “F” in Lighthouse.