



American National Government

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

## **COURSE SYLLABUS**

**POS 2041 • American National Government**

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

**Fall Semester, A Session, 2024**

**CRN: 82436 • Online • Semester Hours: 3 • Prerequisites: None**

**Semester Dates: 19 August 2024 – 13 December 2024**

### **Instructor Information:**

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

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

**Division**

**[lnixonmab@gulfcoast.edu](mailto:lnixonmab@gulfcoast.edu)**

**Contact Hours:** I am not on campus this semester with physical office hours.

Please email me with any questions or concerns. Students can expect to receive replies to emails within 24–48 hours during the week and 48 hours on weekends.

I can schedule Zoom meetings, if need be, to address items “face-to-face.”

### **Instructor Education:**

- Master of Science,  
Applied American Politics and Policy  
Florida State University,  
Tallahassee, FL, 2013
- Graduate Certificate,  
Preparing Future Professionals  
Florida State University,  
Tallahassee, FL, 2012
- Bachelor of Science,  
Professional Communication  
Florida State University,  
Panama City, FL, 2011
- Associate in Arts,  
Pre-Communication: Advertising /  
Public Relations  
Gulf Coast Community College,  
Panama City, FL, 2007

### **Division Chair Information:**

**Dr. Robert Saunders, Jr.,**

**Chair**

**Social Sciences Division**

**211 SS Building**

**850.872.3826**

**[rsaunder2@gulfcoast.edu](mailto:rsaunder2@gulfcoast.edu)**

### **Administrative Assistant Information:**

**Jody Walton,**

**Senior Administrative Assistant**

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**210 SS Building**

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### Required Textbook:

- The textbook for this course is titled: *American National Government 3e* (3<sup>rd</sup> Edition)
- Authors: Glen Krutz and Slyvie Waskiewicz
- ISBN: 978-1-951693-38-1
- This is a free eBook through OpenStax. The website link is:  
<https://openstax.org/details/books/american-government-3e>

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

#### 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.

#### Broad Goals:

The broad goals of the course include students learning and retaining a significant amount of factual information about the U.S. Constitution, how the U.S. government works and its historical development; developing critical thinking and deductive reasoning skills; and, improving communication skills.

### Student Learning Outcomes (SLOs):

The successful POS 2041 experience will result in each student's ability to demonstrate:

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

### Specific Learning Objectives:

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;

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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
Florida Civics Literacy Exam	60

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### 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 nine years in the Social Sciences Division at Gulf Coast State College. I worked at the Bay County Supervisor of Elections office from 2006 to 2011, leading the Absentee (Vote by Mail) process, processing voter registrations, and leading community Special Projects, including community voter registration efforts. In addition to teaching at Gulf Coast, I currently work as Clerk and Assistant Clerk at polling locations during elections through the Supervisor of 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 skills needed to work in multiple facets of political campaigns, government fields, and how to run for political office. As a result of my education and experience in, not only the theory but, the application of political science, I believe in connecting the material to the "real world" to help students understand how it impacts their daily life and how they can engage in the process and, therefore, discuss current news items in relation to the current class topics.
- 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. Students can expect to receive replies to emails to the professor within 24–48 hours during the week and 48 hours on weekends.
- This online course is organized into weekly modules, each consisting of reading assignments, pre-recorded online lectures, as well as supplemental materials links, terms lists, quizzes to help prep students for exams, a semester project, and relevant films/documentaries.
- Students 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 will be watching lectures, reading all assigned pages within the textbook, contributing to any online class discussion, and completing assignments.
- Students enrolled in this course will be required to:
  - Watch all lectures;
  - Read all of the textbook pages assigned with each Learning Module;
  - Submit all assignments as due;
  - Complete all 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.

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### **2023-2024 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 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.gulfoast.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.

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**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.

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**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.

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### 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:

<i>Amount</i>	<i>Type</i>	<i>Percentage</i>
<b>16 Weeks Total</b>	<b><u>Participation:</u></b>	<b>20% Total</b>
	Assignment Submissions	20%
<b>1 Total</b>	<b><u>Project:</u></b>	<b>15% Total</b>
1	Semester Project	15%
<b>TBA</b>	<b><u>Discussion Board(s):</u></b>	<b>15% Total</b>
	There will be a few discussion board assignments. The amount and subject are to be announced.	
<b>15 Total</b>	<b><u>Quizzes:</u></b>	<b>20% Total</b>
1	Syllabus Quiz	
2	Online Survey Quizzes	
12	Chapter Quizzes	
<b>5 Total</b>	<b><u>Exams:</u></b>	<b>30% Total</b>
Exam 1	Chapters 1-3 (3 chapters)	6%
Exam 2	Chapters 4-5 (2 chapters)	6%
Exam 3	Chapters 6-9 (4 chapters)	6%
Exam 4	Chapters 10-13 (4 chapters)	6%
Final Exam: Exam 5	Chapters 14-15 (2 chapters)	6%
<i>The lowest grade for each student of the first four exams will be dropped. The final exam cannot be dropped.</i>		
		<b>100% Total</b>

#### Assignment of Grades:

All grades will be posted in the student grade book in Canvas and will be assigned according to the following scale:

<b>A</b>	<b>90% - 100%</b>
<b>B</b>	<b>80% - 89%</b>
<b>C</b>	<b>70% - 79%</b>
<b>D</b>	<b>60% - 69%</b>
<b>F</b>	<b>59% and below</b>

#### Extra Credit:

Extra credit will be available for those who wish to take advantage of it.

**NOTE: Each assignment will be graded exactly and not rounded up.**

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