



## **POS 2041- 83034**

**Fall 2024: C Session**

**American National Government (Online)**

**Instructor: Professor Teresa Thurtle**

### **Course Syllabus**

**Term Dates: 14 October 2024 – 13 December 2024**

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.

Online Courses at Gulf Coast State College: 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.

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:**

Professor Teresa Thurtle  
Social Sciences Division  
[tthurtle@gulfcoast.edu](mailto:tthurtle@gulfcoast.edu)

The best way to contact me is through *Canvas messages*. I ask that you do not send me a message as if you are sending a text. This is a professional, academic setting. Please respect the institution. Please use common courtesy, as I oftentimes will not respond to students who are not respectful.

#### **Social Sciences Office Contacts:**

Division Chair  
Dr. Robert Saunders, Chair  
Office 211  
(850) 872-3826  
[rsaunder2@gulfcoast.edu](mailto:rsaunder2@gulfcoast.edu)

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**Instructor Education:**

BA, Criminal Justice, University of Nevada Reno, 2008  
BA, Women's Studies, University of Nevada Reno, 2008  
MA, Organizational Behavior, University of Texas, 2019  
MPA, Masters of Public Administration, American Military University, 2011  
PhD, Public Policy and Administration, Walden University, 2020

**Office Hours:** No set office hours. Just send me a message and we can set up a time to video chat.

**Technology Requirements for this Course:** This section of POS 2041 requires that students have regular and open access to a computer and that they maintain reliable Internet service.

**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.

**POS 2041 Catalog 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 how citizens participate in their government and how 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.

**Credit Hours:** 3      **Prerequisites:** None

**Student Learning Outcomes:**

Upon successful completion of POS 2041, students will be able 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.

## Civic Literacy, Course Competencies, and Outcomes

(Required by the State of Florida Legislature and the Florida Department of Education):

- 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.

### 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 overstress the importance of the digital lectures;**
- Read all of the textbook pages assigned with each Learning Module;
- Contribute to the weekly discussion boards
- Complete all four exams AS SCHEDULED (see the course schedule below).
- Contact the instructor via Canvas messenger immediately with any problems or issues. I cannot handle problems unless you make me aware of them. I do not open up assignments after the due date. Be sure to complete your assignments on time.

### Required Textbook: Free eBook through OpenStax

Krutz, G. and Waskiewicz, S. (2021). *American National Government 3e.*, 3<sup>rd</sup> Edition.  
OpenStax.com. ISBN: 978-1-951693-38-1

<https://openstax.org/details/books/american-government-3e>

**Student Expectation Statement:** The student is expected to participate in the course by listening to and taking thorough notes on all digital lectures, reading the assigned readings, participating in the weekly discussion boards, and completing all exams as scheduled.

### Method of Evaluation:

Type of Assignment	# Of Questions	Points	Total
Quizzes (Q)	25	2	2 Quizzes x 50 = 100
Mid-Term	50	4	200
Final	50	4	200
Lecture Knowledge Check (KC)	5	1	16 x 5 Points =80
Discussion Boards		5	5 x 16 required = 80
Points Possible			660
Extra Credit	Essay	25	

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

660 – 594	90-100	= A
593 - 528	80-89	= B
527 – 462	70-79	= C
461 – 396	60-69	= D
> 395	50-0	= F

**Assessment Instruments: Students will be evaluated based on the following:**

- Weekly Discussion Board (DB): Participation and discussion demonstrating the understanding of assigned reading and lectures.
- Lecture Knowledge Check (KC): Short test of your knowledge and understanding of the weekly lecture.
- Quizzes (Q): This will test your knowledge and understanding of assigned reading and lectures between the mid-term and final exams.
- Mid-Term: Multiple-choice examination. Testing your knowledge and understanding of assigned readings and lectures for the first half of the semester.
- Final: Multiple-choice examination. Testing your knowledge and understanding of assigned readings and lectures for the second half of the semester.
- Extra Credit (EC): Opportunities for students to earn additional points demonstrating their understanding of the required matter to current events.

**Attendance Policy:** Although physical class meetings are not part of this course, you are required to participate in the weekly discussion boards to show your understanding of the lectures. This is counted as posting a 250 initial post, and a 100-word post to another student.

**Make-Up Work Policy:** Missing any part of this schedule may prevent completion of the course. If you foresee difficulty of any type (i.e., an illness, employment change, etc.), that may prevent completion of this course, **notify the instructor as soon as possible**. Failure to do so will result in failure for an assignment and/or failure of the course. If I have not heard from you by the deadline dates for assignments, exams, or forums, no make-up work will be allowed (unless extraordinary circumstances exist, such as hospitalization). **Requests for extensions must be made in advance and accompanied by appropriate written documentation.** “Computer problems” is not an acceptable excuse.

### **Social Sciences Policies**

**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 it 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. Plagiarism also includes the overuse of an editing program like Grammarly or submitting work written by an Artificial Intelligence (AI) generator like ChatGPT. Make certain to consult your course syllabi for your instructors’ guidelines on AI material.

**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 documented needs of the student. For information regarding the registration process, email [sar@gulfcoast.edu](mailto:sar@gulfcoast.edu) or call 850-747-3243.

**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 the submission of complete written assignments before 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 before 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 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.
- 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.