



Political Science: American National Government

Spring 2025, POS 2041 (3 credits)

Instructor: Dr. T. Adam Golob

Office: Pc-Ss 226

Office Hours: M/W 12:30-1:30 and T/R 9:30-1:30

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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.*

A Session (1/6/25 - 5/2/25), 14805

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.

Social Sciences Office Contacts:

Dr. Robert Saunders, Chair

Office 211 Social Sciences Building

(850) 769-1551, ext. 3826

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Ms. Jody Walton

Senior Administrative Assistant

Social Sciences 210

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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.

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.

SLOs

Students will 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.

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:

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 Slyvie Waskiewicz, 2019. Find the free textbook here: <https://openstax.org/details/books/american-government>Links to an external site.. Or, you can buy a printed hardcopy from the bookstore.

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:

Quizzes	40%
Tests	20%
Reality Checks	40%

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.

LATE POLICY: No late work accepted.

Grading:

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

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.

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 paraphrase or direct quotation of another person's published or unpublished work 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.
- **The use of AI software** in any form to create class assignments may violate GCSC's Academic Integrity Policy. Before employing AI technology in any manner and to any degree, students should consult with their professors for all courses offered through the Social Sciences Division.

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 aspects of this course's instruction or design 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 or call 850-747-3243.

Recording Lectures - Under 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 student(s) paying damages, attorney fees, and court costs.

For more information about what can be recorded, please see the guidelines 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 or 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. 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.