

Gulf Coast State College

State-Mandated 45-Day Syllabus

Course Title: American National Government Course Code: POS 2041 CRN: 80156
Credit Hours: 3 Semester: Fall 2025 A Session (8/18/2025 – 12/12/2025)

Faculty Contact Information

Instructor: Adam Golob, PhD
Assistant Professor
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Office Hours: M/W 11-1 & T/R 9:30-12:30

Course Description and Broad Goals

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.

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.

General Education Core Area

This course satisfies the Social Sciences requirement in the General Education Core.

Student Learning Objectives (SLOs)

- 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.

Textbook & Reading Materials

Required Textbook:

Krutz, G., & Waskiewicz, S. (2019). American Government 3e. OpenStax. ISBN: 978-1-947172-73-5

Available online for free at <https://openstax.org/details/books/american-government> or as a hardcopy from the bookstore.

Instructional Information

Course materials and assignments will be managed through Canvas. Regular student engagement is expected.

Communication & Feedback

Communication through Canvas Inbox, announcements, and email. Instructor will respond within 48 business hours.

Methods of Evaluation

Graded elements: In-Class Writing/Participation (25%), Crash Course Video Quizzes (15%), Chapter Quizzes (25%), Midterm (15%), Final Exam (25%)

Institutional Policies

All GCSC policies regarding academic integrity, accessibility, attendance, grading, withdrawals, and student conduct apply.

Instructional Information

Course material, assignments, and announcements are provided via CANVAS as a supplemental approach to learning at the discretion of the instructor.

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.

Communication & Feedback

In this course, communication and feedback will occur through various channels, including GCSC email, Canvas Inbox, Canvas Announcements, Canvas Discussions, Microsoft Teams or Zoom, assignment feedback, and instructor office hours.

Student Expectations

Follow the guidelines detailed in the course syllabus and any additional instructions provided by the instructor and Gulf Coast State College.

Maintain regular contact with the instructor and class through GCSC email or other designated communication channels.

Actively participate in discussions, submit assignments, and complete exams in a timely manner.

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.

Instructor's Plan

Provide timely feedback on assignments and submissions.

Respond to emails/messages within 48 business hours (excluding weekends) unless noted otherwise.

Video-conferencing (ZOOM) Etiquette

If you are accessing office hours through video-conferencing with instructor permission, you must have your camera on at all times and the instructor must be able to see your face. This fast-paced class will require your participation and full attention. If you are distracted, you will be marked absent. Please refrain from participating in other activities (i.e. driving, grocery shopping, lying down in bed, etc.) during class.

Technology Support & Privacy

Course Technology & Support

To successfully participate in this online course, students must have basic computer and digital information literacy skills and meet the following technology requirements:

- **Computer:** [Up-to-date web browser](#) that supports the Canvas learning management system; please refer to the [system requirements](#) for compatibility and information on using the Canvas app on mobile devices.
- **Internet Speed:** Minimum bandwidth of 8 Mbps upload/download speed to effectively engage in online activities and access multimedia.
- **Office 365 software :** Available for [free download](#) through GCSC Information Technology Services (ITS).

If you need technical support, contact the [ITS Help Desk](#), available 24/7 at (850) 913-3303.

Privacy & Accessibility

At Gulf Coast State College, we prioritize student privacy and accessibility. For this course, we ensure that all technologies used are accessible and compatible with diverse learner needs. Approved third-party tools in our courses are vetted by the college to protect and secure student data. Please visit each vendor's privacy and accessibility policies to learn more. If you need assistance, please contact online@gulfcoast.edu.

Learner Support

Gulf Coast State College is committed to providing you with the resources you need for success as a student and beyond. View all the [academic and student support resources](#) provided at GCSC.

Writing & Reading Lab

The GCSC Writing and Reading Lab is available to support the achievement of our students' academic and professional goals. Our staff is happy to provide tutoring for any courses that require assignments in academic writing and reading at any stage including understanding assignment instructions and brainstorming essay ideas. We also offer Spanish tutoring both online and in-person. Furthermore, our tutors are available for assistance with:

- Grammar
- Punctuation
- Essay development and organization
- Reading comprehension
- MLA, APA, and Chicago formatting

We can help with other writing-intensive courses such as speech, literature, religion, ethics, psychology, history, etc.

In-person tutoring is available in Room 108 and 110 of the Rosenwald Classroom Building. Students receiving in-person tutoring do not have to make appointments to receive services and are seen on a first-come first-served basis. The Writing and Reading Lab offers a space for group discussion and study in the main room (RC 108) and a quiet room (RC 110) for independent study and computer lab usage.

Online tutoring is available through Zoom. Students can [use this link to access the virtual tutoring room](#). All in-person services can be accessed through online tutoring, and both English and Spanish tutoring are available online.

The Writing and Reading Lab strives for student accessibility and offers a wheelchair-accessible student desk, headphones, and web cameras. For additional accommodations, please contact us.

Testing Center Proctored Exam Instructions

For any test taken at the Testing Center, students will need to [register on GCSC Register Blast](#). ***Students must register all tests 72 hours in advance of taking the exam*** to secure their seats and provide time for testing materials to be sent to the Testing Center; the system will not let students register otherwise. Once on GCSC RegisterBlast, students will have the option of testing at the Gulf/Franklin Campus in Port St. Joe, FL or at the main campus in Panama City, FL.

If a student has any questions or issues with scheduling, they may contact the Testing Center at 850-769-1551, ext. 5807 or testingcenter@gulfcoast.edu.

Off-campus Proctored Exam Instructions

All distance learning students who are required by their instructors to have a Proctored Exam must complete an [Off-campus Proctored Exam request form](#).

Both the College and Testing Center policy states, “ ***all students who reside in either Bay, Gulf or Franklin County must take their proctored exams at the Testing Centers at Gulf Coast State College either at the Panama City Campus or the Gulf-Franklin Campus in Port St. Joe .***”

All students are responsible for finding their own acceptable off-campus proctor. The Testing Center may be consulted, but it is the student’s responsibility overall. If a student has any questions or concerns, they may contact the Testing Center at 850-873-3594 or testingcenter@gulfcoast.edu.

Print Management/PaperCut

The PaperCut print management client is installed in all computer labs. The PaperCut user web console is accessed through the MyGCSC portal. The logon is the first part of your student email address, everything before the [@mygulfcoast.edu](#). Students will be

required to add money to their PaperCut accounts before they are able to print. Money can be added to student print accounts by cash, credit, or debit card. Cash is accepted at PaperCut kiosks located in the library. Credit and debit card payments, minimum \$5.00, can be made through the “add credit” tab on the PaperCut user web console. [Instructions for the use of PaperCut are located here.](#)

Syllabus, Course, & Institutional Policies

Syllabus Policy

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.

All online courses at GCSC utilize the Canvas Learning System. Students should read all information presented in 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.

Methods of Evaluation

Graded Course Requirements:

Canvas Assignments/Discussions	25% of grade
Crash Course Video Quizzes	12 videos x 15% of grade
Chapter Quizzes	15 quizzes x 25% of grade
Midterm	15% of grade
Final Exam	25% of grade
Total Percentage Possible =	105%

Assessment Specifics

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 assignments will be allowed past the due date. I have had too much trouble with trying to figure out a late period and what is fair, etc. All assignments are open the first of class. If you want to get ahead, please feel free.

Grading:

A= 90%+

B= 80-89

C= 70-79

D= 60-69

F= <60

No assignments will be allowed past the due date. I have had too much trouble with trying to figure out a late period and what is fair, etc. All assignments are open the first of class. If you want to get ahead, please feel free.

Attendance Policy

Regular class attendance and participation are significant factors that help to promote success in college. Students are expected to engage all class materials of all courses for which they are registered.

You are expected to know the instructor's specific attendance policy, as stated in the syllabus for each course. In the event of absence, you should contact your instructor as soon as possible to indicate the reason and to inquire whether make-up work is possible. (Make-up work is offered solely at the discretion of your professor.)

If your absences in a class become excessive, as stated in the course syllabus, your professor may contact you, indicating that further absence may result in your withdrawal from the course. Your professor can withdraw you from a course for excessive absences without your permission.

Instructors will monitor attendance at the beginning of each semester. If you are not in attendance during this period, you may be withdrawn from the course. You will be financially responsible for the course and a "W or NS" will appear on your transcript. Withdrawal from a course may also have implications for financial aid.

Make-Up Work Policy

No assignments will be allowed past the due date. I have had too much trouble with trying to figure out a late period and what is fair, etc. All assignments are open the first of class. If you want to get ahead, please feel free.

Discrimination Policy

Gulf Coast State College does not discriminate against any person in its programs, activities, policies or procedures on the basis of race, ethnicity, color, national origin, marital status, religion, age, gender, sex, pregnancy, sexual orientation, gender identity, genetic information, disability, or veteran status. All questions or inquiries regarding compliance with laws relating to non-discrimination and all complaints regarding sexual misconduct or discrimination may be directed to Lee Wood, Executive Director of Human Resources/Title II/504/Title IX Coordinator and Employment Equity Officer, Gulf Coast State College, 5230 W. US Highway 98, Panama City, FL 32401; 850-872-3302. Rules, policies, fees, and courses described in this catalog are subject to change without notice.

Social Sciences Policies

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The following policies apply to all GCSC Social Sciences courses.

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.