



## **COURSE SYLLABUS**

### **POS 2041** **American National Government**

**Spring Semester, A Session, 2025 online**  
**CRN: 85367 • Semester Hours: 3 • Prerequisites: None**  
**Semester Dates: August 18 – December 12, 2025**

**Instructor Information:**

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**Required Textbook:**

**Book Title:** **American National Government 3e**

**Edition:** **3rd**

**Author:** Glen Krutz

**Copyright:** 2021

**Publisher:** OpenStax

**Digit ISBN:** 978-1-951693-38-1

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

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

- This course is primarily lecture and reading based, with opportunities for discussions every day in face-to-face classes and once weekly via discussion board for online classes.
- 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.

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 (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.

### **Instructor-Specific Learning Objectives:**

Upon successful completion of POS 2041, students will be able to:

- 1) Demonstrate college-level knowledge of the primary events, ideas, values, and perceptions that have shaped the American National Government.
- 2) Identify foundational developments that helped shape the American National Government such as the Constitutional Convention, the concept of Federalism, and early political divisions such as the Federalists versus Anti-Federalists, as well as historical events such as Shays' rebellion.
- 3) Demonstrate that they have learned the factual details about political parties, the two-party system, the electoral process, check and balances and details about the three branches of governments.
- 4) participate in the democratic process as an informed citizen by voting or starting an interest group, and discuss the role of the media in politics and their personal choices of sources of information about politics
- 5) Use basic knowledge about the United States economy and foreign policy to construct their own policy proposals about the direction our government should take.

### **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:**

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

### **Service Learning**

Service Learning is...

a specific program wherein students can participate in off-campus experiences that mirror their on-campus studies. Through a combination of classroom interaction, research/reflection and hand-on activity, students gain an applied critical thinking-focused introduction to their major field of study or simply learn the political reality and policy implications of theories learned in a specific course. By understanding how policies develop and the impact of those policies on real people, you will better prepare yourself to accept the responsibilities of citizenship and be a leader in your community. **Ask professor for details first week of school if interested.**

**Includes min 15 hours of some type of community service, a journal, and a reflective essay**

**The following policies apply to all GCSC Social Sciences courses  
and are to be included in all course syllabi.**

**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](mailto: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.

## **STUDENT EXPECTATIONS OF THE INSTRUCTOR/EXPECTATIONS OF THE STUDENTS**

### **Expectations Statements:**

- Students enrolled in this section of POS 2041 can expect a comprehensive, highly detailed, and balanced study of American Government past and present.
- Let me know of problems or issues as soon as possible. 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 36 hours—48 hours on weekends.
- Students enrolled in this section of POS 2041 are expected to use **Canvas**: Students will be automatically enrolled in *Canvas* for use with this course. Canvas is available through the college's main website at [www.gulfcoast.edu](http://www.gulfcoast.edu). This will be our primary way to communicate. There will be assignments every week. Please speak with me if you do not know how to use Canvas; technical issues will need to be addressed with our IT staff on campus. Class updates, reading assignments, quizzes, and discussion questions will all be posted on *Canvas* throughout the semester. **Check it often.** Quizzes, assignments, and discussion forum can be found under the Lessons tab. Grades are available via the

Reports tab. If you do not have access to a computer off-campus you may use one for free in the library.

In order to facilitate student success in reaching the previously mentioned learning objectives and outcomes, the following rules will be applied to all students equally:

**Requirements:**

Students must complete 8 quizzes, 10 discussion forums, two exams, and three short papers.

There will be a total of 10 quizzes. **Quizzes** will consist of multiple-choice questions. They will be 22 minutes long and you must take them during the assignment time period! There are no make-ups for quizzes; I will drop the lowest two grades on the quizzes allowing for two absences. 8 quizzes = 100%. **However, if you do not take a quiz, you cannot review it.** It is much better to take a quiz and get a bad grade than not taking it at all (You lowest 2 grades drop out at the end either way). Quizzes are an opportunity to show that you have been reading the textbook. They are much easier than the big tests. Take advantage of it!

There will also be two exams and three short papers. One **paper** will be 2 - 3 pages in length and the written directions are posted. There are two 1-page papers as well. All will be turned in via Canvas and must be on time to receive full credit. **Exams** will consist of multiple-choice questions. They will be almost exclusively questions from the book with a few questions from the outlines sprinkled in between. Questions from the additional readings and “current events” will be included as well. **All assigned readings are subject to examination.**

**Discussion Board:** Questions will be posted on the discussion board under lessons, and students will have to answer it in 4 – 6 complete grammatically correct sentences within a specified period of time (Mon - Sun). Sometimes, the question may require a longer response, rarely, a shorter one. There will be 12 questions total, and each student must answer 10 questions to get full credit for participation. There is a scale for this assignment that runs from 14 points for a complete well written & accurate posting/answer, 12 points for a good answer but with some key ingredient missing, and 10 points guaranteed for any reasonable response over 2 sentences. It is not recommended to always do only the bare minimum. Use this assignment to help your grade by showing interest in the subject matter.

**Homework:** There will be two homework assignments this semester. These will usually be written responses to questions arising from the readings (what makes a great president? for example). These will be the **1-page papers** mentioned earlier. They will be about evenly spaced throughout the semester. The Homework papers are a good way to improve your grade.

**Important:** If you are having trouble or feel like you are falling behind don't wait until it is too late. I will gladly help by meeting with you in person, by real-time chat under office hours in Angel, by e-mail, or a telephone call, and we will together try to figure out an approach that works for you to help you pass the course. Any work that is overdue more than 14 days will be recorded as “0,” except in cases with instructor permission.

All assigned readings, quizzes, and discussion boards are subject to examination. Just like your regular weekly work is submitted online, **the final exam will be administered online.** The Midterm must be taken **online** with a time limit of 65 minutes.

**Attendance:** Attendance in an online Canvas class is defined as **submission of a completed academic assignment** (discussion board, quiz, or exam). *Logging on to a Canvas class is not sufficient for attendance purposes.* The “**standard week**” for our course will be **Monday-Sunday**, though you may work ahead if you wish. Beginning after the first week of the semester, Quizzes and other materials will be available at least a couple of weeks ahead of their due date. **The standard attendance policy of the school for on-line classes will be followed for this course.**

## MEASURE OF STUDENT PERFORMANCE

**Instruments of assessment for POS 2041 online include:**

**10 Quizzes**

**Homework 1 and 2 (1-page papers)**

**Midterm Exam**

**2 ½ page essay written in the English language**

**12 Discussion Boards (replies to other students required on 5)**

**Final Exam**

**Assignment of Grades:** All examination and assignments grades will appear in the student's gradebook in Canvas. Final letter grades will be assigned according to the following scale:

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