



COURSE SYLLABUS

POS 2041 · American National Government
Instructor: Lisa A. Nixon Mabry, MS | BS

Spring Semester · A Session · 2026
CRN: 10091 · Face-to-Face · Semester Hours: 3 · Prerequisites: None
Semester Dates: 09 January 2026 – 08 May 2026

Instructor Information:**Lisa A. Nixon Mabry, MS | BS****She | Her | Hers****Instructor | Political Scientist**

Political Science (POS) | Social Sciences (SS) Division

✉ lnixonmab@gulfcost.edu | www.gulfcost.edu**Contact Hours:**

Class will be Mondays and Wednesdays from 2 p.m. CST to 3:15 p.m. CST. in Social Sciences (SS), Room 112. My physical office hours are 30 minutes prior to and after class weekly in that classroom.

Please feel free to 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 necessary, to address items between class meetings.

Instructor Education: **Master of Science (MS)****Applied American Politics and Policy**Florida State University,
Tallahassee, FL, 2013**Bachelor of Science (BS)****Professional Communication**Florida State University,
Panama City, FL, 2011**Graduate Certificate****Preparing Future Professionals (PFP)**Florida State University,
Tallahassee, FL, 2012**Associate in Arts (AA)****Pre-Communication:****Advertising/Public Relations**Gulf Coast Community College,
Panama City, FL, 2007**Division Chair Information:****Robert Saunders, Jr., PhD****Chair**

Social Sciences (SS) Division

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This syllabus is subject to change at the instructor's discretion with notice to the student(s).

**Note:**

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 of changes made in the requirements and/or grading of the course.

**Technology Requirements:**

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 24 hours a day, 7 days a week, by calling 850.913.3303.
- Technicians are available on the Panama City Campus Monday through Friday 8 a.m.–4 p.m.

**Canvas:**

Students will be automatically enrolled in Canvas for use with this course. Canvas is available through the college's main website at <http://www.gulfcoast.edu>. 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 850.913.3303 or helpdesk@gulfcoast.edu. Class updates, assignments, quizzes, and resources will be posted via Canvas throughout the semester, so check it often.

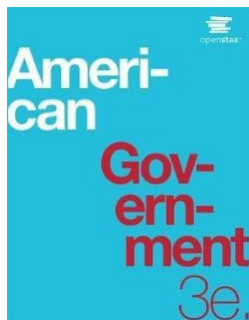


Class announcements may be found on the first page of our Canvas course, as well as a calendar and quick e-mail box. Click on the "Assignments" section to find assignment details and other resources. Grades are available via the "Grades" section.

POS 2041 American National Government Course Details

Required Textbook:

The textbook for this course is titled: American Government 3e.
The textbook is available for **FREE** via online options below.

**ISBN**

- Hardcover: ISBN-13: 978-1-711493-96-1
- Paperback: ISBN-13: 978-1-711493-95-4
- Digital: ISBN-13: 978-1-951693-38-1
- Should you desire, physical copies may be purchased via [Amazon](https://www.amazon.com).
- For an audio version of the book, go to:
<https://openaudio.us/american-government-3e/#ch0>
- [American Government 3e Book Student Getting Started Guide.pdf](#)

Audiobook Options

- [YouTube](#)
- [Spotify](#)
- [Apple Podcasts](#)

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Senior Contributing Authors	Contributing Authors
Glen Krutz, Oklahoma State University	• Prosper Bernard, Jr., City University of New York
Sylvie Waskiewicz, PhD	• Jennifer Danley-Scott, Texas Woman's University
	• Ann Kordas, Johnson & Wales University
	• Christopher Lawrence, Middle Georgia State College
	• Tonya Neaves, George Mason University
	• Adam Newmark, Appalachian State University
	• Brooks D. Simpson, Arizona State University
	• Joel Webb, Tulane University
	• Abram Trosky, US Army War College
	• Shawn Williams, Campbellsville University
	• Rhonda Wrzenski, Indiana University Southeast

POS 2041 American National Government Catalog/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.



Student Learning Objectives/Outcomes (SLOs):

SLOs

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



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Course Expectations Statements

Professor:



- 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 have taught American National Government for eleven (11) 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 have 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. My education and experience has led to expertise in the theory and application of American Government, its politics, and policies, in understanding how it impacts citizens' daily life and how they can engage in the process and, therefore, discuss current news items in relation to the current class topics.
- Please do not 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.

Student(s):



- This face-to-face course is organized into weekly modules, each consisting of reading assignments, 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 attending class, reading all assigned pages within the textbook, contributing to any class discussion, and completing assignments.
- Students enrolled in this course will be required to:
 - attend class.
 - read all 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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 2025-2026 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 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.

Generative Artificial Intelligence Policy (AI):

See the student handbook for further information. Students with questions acceptable use should consult their instructor.

Generative AI Use with Permission and Disclosure:

Students may use basic assistive technologies for spelling, grammar, and formatting (e.g. PaperRater or SpellCheckPlus). Generative AI tools (e.g. ChatGPT, Copilot, Grammarly's AI function, etc.) may also be used for classes and/or assignments where instructors have given explicit permission. Students must clearly disclose and properly cite any AI-generated content used in their work, following course guidelines. Students are permitted to use AI only in the manner and means described by the instructor. Unacknowledged or unauthorized AI use will be treated as a violation of academic integrity and may result in penalties, including a zero on the assignment and additional disciplinary actions as outlined in the college's academic integrity policy.

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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/documents/student-handbooks/2024-2025-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.).

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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.

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

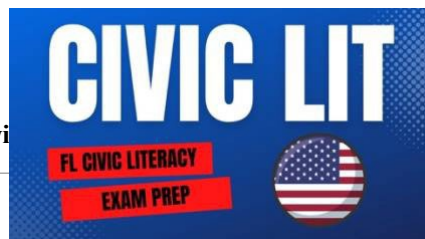


FCLE GCSC Prep Module: The Division of Social Sciences has created a Preparation Module for students wishing to prepare for the Florida Civics Literacy Exam. The module is housed within a designated Canvas page. You can self-register for the Canvas Prep Module via:

<https://gcsc.instructure.com/enroll/FNC8GL>

There also is a link within the module for you to register for the FCLE.

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Note: The FCLE is not part of your grade in POS 2041 – it is entirely separate from your overall grade in our course.

For more prep information, visit:

<https://www.gulfcoast.edu/academics/academic-support-tutoring/testing/florida-civic-literacy-exam.html>

Grading & Assignments

Assessment(s):

Amount	Type	Percentage
16 Weeks Total	Participation	30% Total
1	• Roll Call Attendance	3.33~%
1	• Assignment Submission Percentage	3.33~%
1	• Student Self-Intro. & Two (2) Classmates Responses Discussion Board	3.33~%
1	• Syllabus Quiz	3.33~%
1	• Washington Times “U.S. Citizenship” Quiz	3.33~%
1	• National Const. Center: “Name That Founder” Quiz	3.33~%
1	• National Const. Center: Constitution Signers' Hall Virtual Tour & Quiz	3.33~%
1	• Google Arts & Culture: Women’s History Virtual Exhibit & Quiz	3.33~%
1	• Write Your Legislature	3.33~%
5 Total	Exams	30% Total
Exam 1	• Chapters 1-3 (3 chapters)	7.5%
Exam 2	• Chapter 4-5 (2 chapters)	
Exam 3	• Chapters 6-9 (4 chapters)	
Exam 4	• Chapters 10-13 (4 chapters)	
Exam 5	• Chapters 14-17 (4 chapters) Final Exam *Cannot be dropped. <i>Each students' lowest grade of the first four (4) exams will be *dropped. Four (4) exams will be counted at 7.5% each.</i>	
1 Total	Semester Final Project	40% Total
1	• Founding Father Founder Project	20%
1	• Two (2) Classmate Project Responses	20%
		100% Total

Exams:

Chapter(s) 1-3	Chapter(s) 4-5	Chapter(s) 6-9	Chapter(s) 10-13	Chapter(s) 14-17
Ch 1: American Government and Civic Engagement	Ch 4: Civil Liberties	Ch. 6: The Politics of Public Opinion	Ch 10: Interest Groups and Lobbying	Ch 14: State and Local Government
Ch 2: The Constitution and its Origins	Ch 5: Civil Rights	Ch. 7: Voting and Elections	Ch 11: Congress	Ch 15: The Bureaucracy
Ch 3: American Federalism		Ch 8: The Media	Ch 12: The Presidency	Ch 16: Domestic Policy
		Ch 9: Political Parties	Ch 13: The Courts	Ch. 17: Foreign Policy

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Assignment Sections:

Below is a list of assignments that must be completed for this course. These correspond with the Grading Rubric above and may also be found in the Module section in Canvas. Please be sure to make a note of each assignment and its due date to ensure on time submissions of each assignment. Module weeks are Sunday through Saturday. Assignments are due the Sunday of the following week / module. Please keep in mind all due dates / times are based on **Central Standard Time Zone**.

- **(30%) Participation:**

I expect you to participate in the class through timely assignment submission, being prepared, and participating in class discussion. This class is what you make it. American National Government can be interesting and exciting. Be ready to learn!

- **Roll Call Attendance:** Participation in all learning activities and class attendance is required and counts as “attendance.”
- **Assignment Submission Percentage:** This section is based on assignment completion. e.g. 75% assignment completion = 75% C for this grade at the end of the term.
- **Student Self-Introduction | Two (2) Classmates Responses Discussion Board:** You are required to complete a Student Self-Introduction via Discussion Board and answer the required questions posted within the assignment. You must also respond to at least two (2) classmate posts of your choice.
- **Syllabus Quiz:** You are required to read the syllabus and then pass the Syllabus Quiz via Canvas with an 80% or higher. This ensures you have read and understood the syllabus.
- **Other Participation Assignments:** The following are assignments that will count under the Participation portion of your grade:
 - Washington Times “U.S. Citizenship” Quiz
 - National Constitution Center: “Name That Founder” Quiz
 - National Constitution Center: U.S. Constitution Signers' Hall Virtual Tour & Canvas Quiz
 - Google Arts & Culture: Women’s History Virtual Exhibit & Canvas Quiz
 - Write Your Legislature
- **(30%) Exams:**

There will be five (5) exams covering the sections of the book. Each will be taken via Canvas. The lowest grade of the first four (4) exams will be dropped. The last exam cannot be dropped.
- **(40%) Project:**
 - **(20%) Founding Father | Founder Project:** You will choose a Founding Father from a provided list. You will present your project about your Founder face-to-face in class. A rubric will be provided. Additional details will be provided in a recorded lecture and in class.
 - **(20%) Classmate Project Critiques:** You will respond to at least two (2) pre-assigned fellow classmates’ projects via Discussion Board with thoughtful feedback on their presentation after presentations in class. A rubric will be provided. Additional details will be provided in class.

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Practice Quizzes: There will be one (1) practice quiz per chapter.

- The quizzes will help you prepare for the exams and show the instructor you are understanding the material, as well as serve as regular review and your exam study guides.

Make-Up Work:

If you foresee difficulty of any type, (i.e., illness, employment change, etc.) which may prevent completion of course requirements, notify the instructor as soon as possible. Requests for extensions must be made in advanced and accompanied by appropriate written documentation to receive full credit.

Any work submitted after its deadline will receive a 10% penalty per day after it is late (unless excused). This extends to a maximum of three (3) days, after which late work will not be accepted.

If I have not heard from you by the deadline date for the assignment, no make-up work will be allowed (unless extraordinary circumstances exist, such as hospitalization or natural disaster). Requests for extension must be made in advance and accompanied by appropriate written documentation.

“Computer problems” is not an acceptable excuse.

Extra Credit:

Extra credit will be available for those who wish to take advantage of it and will be added to exam grades.

Remember:

This course is not one in which students may work at their own pace.

There are learning modules, assignments, lectures, discussions, and/or exams with due dates each week.

Refer to the schedule within this syllabus for more information.

Assignment of Grades:

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

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

Grading Percentage | Round Up:

Each assignment will be graded exactly and not rounded up.

This course is based on percentages by section.

Your final grade will be rounded up **if** it is .50 or higher and will make the difference in a letter grade.

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Learning Modules Course Outline

Module Week	Focus/Overview	Homework
1	Review: • Canvas • Syllabus • Project • Washington Times Citizen Quiz • Name That Founder Quiz • Extra Credit • Ch. 1: American Government & Civic Engagement Introductions: • Course • Instructor • Students	Read: • Syllabus • Project Rubric • Ch. 1 In-Class Lecture(s)/Video(s): • Course / Canvas / Syllabus Wash. Times / Name That Founder / Extra Credit • Project • Ch. 1 Complete: • Syllabus Quiz • Washington Times Citizen Quiz • Natl. Const. Ctr. Signers' Hall Virtual Tour & Quiz • Ch. 1 Practice Quiz • Discussion Board Self-Introduction Classmate Responses
2	Review: • Ch. 2: The Constitution and its Origins • Ch. 3: American Federalism	Read: • Ch. 2 • Ch. 3 In-Class Lecture(s)/Video(s): • Ch. 2 • Ch. 3 Complete: • Name That Founder Quiz • Discussion Board Founder & Headshot • Ch. 2 Practice Quiz • Ch. 3 Practice Quiz
3	Review: • Ch. 4: Civil Liberties	Read: • Ch. 4 In-Class Lecture(s)/Video(s): • Ch. 4 Complete: • Ch. 4 Practice Quiz • Test/Exam 1 (Ch. 1–3)
4	Review: • Ch. 5: Civil Rights	Read: • Ch. 5 In-Class Lecture(s)/Video(s): • Ch. 5 Complete: • Ch. 5 Practice Quiz

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5	Review: Ch. 6: The Politics of Public Opinion	Read: - Ch. 6 In-Class Lecture(s)/Video(s): - Ch. 6 Complete: - Ch. 6 Practice Quiz - Test/Exam 2 (Ch. 4–5)
6	Review: Ch. 7: Voting and Elections	Read: - Ch. 7 In-Class Lecture(s)/Video(s): - Ch. 7 Complete: - Ch. 7 Practice Quiz
7	Review: Ch. 8: The Media	Read: - Ch. 8 In-Class Lecture(s)/Video(s): - Ch. 8 Complete: - Ch. 8 Practice Quiz
8	Review: Ch. 9: Political Parties	Read: - Ch. 9 In-Class Lecture(s)/Video(s): - Ch. 9 Complete: - Ch. 9 Practice Quiz
9	Review: Ch. 10: Interest Groups and Lobbying	Read: - Ch. 10 In-Class Lecture(s)/Video(s): - Ch. 10 Complete: - Ch. 10 Practice Quiz - Test/Exam 3 (Ch. 6–9)
10	Review: Ch. 11: Congress	Read: - Ch. 11 In-Class Lecture(s)/Video(s): - Ch. 11 Complete: - Ch. 11 Practice Quiz
11	Review: Ch. 12: The Presidency	Read: - Ch. 12 In-Class Lecture(s)/Video(s): - Ch. 12 Complete: - Ch. 12 Practice Quiz - Founding Father Project DUE

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12	Review: Ch. 13: The Courts	Read: - Ch. 13 In-Class Lecture(s)/Video(s): - Ch. 13 Complete: - Ch. 13 Practice Quiz
13	Review: Ch. 14: State and Local Government	Read: - Ch. 14 In-Class Lecture(s)/Video(s): - Project Presentations - Ch. 14 Complete: - Ch. 14 Practice Quiz - Test/Exam 4 (Ch. 10–13)
14	Review: Ch. 15: The Bureaucracy	Read: - Ch. 15 In-Class Lecture(s)/Video(s): - Project Presentations - Ch. 15 Complete: - Ch. 15 Practice Quiz
15	Review: Ch. 16: Domestic Policy	Read: - Ch. 16 In-Class Lecture(s)/Video(s): - Project Presentations - Ch. 16 Complete: - Ch. 16 Practice Quiz
16	Review: Ch. 17: Foreign Policy	Read: - Ch. 17 In-Class Lecture(s)/Video(s): - Project Presentations - Ch. 17 Complete: - Project Classmate Responses DUE - Ch. 17 Practice Quiz
17	Review: Be Prepared to Attend Classes	Complete: - Any remaining Project Presentations / Make-Up Work - Reserved for make-up lecture / schedule change - Test/Exam 5 (Ch. 14–17)

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