

**INSTRUCTOR:**

[Professor Mike Mayo](#)

Contact Information: [Mayo.Mike@spcollege.edu](mailto:Mayo.Mike@spcollege.edu); 727-394-4866

Office Hours/Instructor Availability:

- *E-mail*: Any day, any time. I respond to e-mails within 24 hours, typically sooner.
- *Phone*: Any time between the hours of 9 AM and 9 PM EST; Monday - Sunday. I return voice-mail messages within 24 hours, typically sooner.

**CAMPUS/ACADEMIC DEPARTMENT:**

Provost: Dr. Mark Strickland

Academic Chair: Dr. Douglas Rivero (Social & Behavioral Sciences)

Location: [Seminole Campus](#)

E-Campus: <http://www.spcollege.edu/ecampus/>

Phone: 727-394-6000

**COURSE INFORMATION:**

COURSE: American National Government (POS 2041) "Online"

SEMESTER: Fall 2016 - "Full Semester"

SEMESTER DATES: August 15 – December 8, 2016

**REQUIRED TEXTBOOK:** "American Government and Politics Today: The Essentials"; Bardes, Shelley, Schmidt; 2015-2016 edition; ISBN #: 978-1-285-85315-4

*All of the supplemental information and material for this class will be posted to the course website in MYCOURSES.*

**COURSE OBJECTIVES:**

This survey course provides a comprehensive examination of the American political system. Through this course students will become familiar with theory, organization, principles, and function of the American national government, and various elements within the political system that work to shape policy outcomes. This course partially satisfies the writing requirements outlined in the General Education Requirements. Credit is not given for both POS 2041 and POS 2050H. 47 contact hours.

*Prerequisites:* (ENC 0020 and REA 0002), or EAP 1695, or appropriate score on the SPC placement test.

**ATTENDANCE POLICY:**

The college-wide attendance policy notes that each instructor is to exercise professional judgment and define “active participation” in class (and therefore “attendance”).

It is college policy for the instructor to verify that students are in attendance at least once each week during the first two weeks of class. Students classified as “No Show” for both of the first two weeks will be administratively withdrawn.

Immediately following the 60% point of the term, each instructor will verify which students are “actively participating” in the class (read the Policy below). Students classified as not meeting the criteria for active class participation and attendance will be administratively withdrawn with a “WF”.

Students will be able to withdraw themselves at any time during the term. However, requests submitted after the 60% deadline will result in a “WF”. Students and instructors will automatically receive an e-mail notification to their SPC email whenever a withdrawal occurs.

**ATTENDANCE = ACTIVE PARTICIPATION:**

Student “Attendance” in this class will be based entirely/solely upon successful and consistent completion of required assignments (referred to as “Active Participation”). If a student does not complete a required assignment during a given week, the student will be considered “Absent” for that week.

**COMPLETION OF ASSIGNMENTS:** This entire course will be delivered online using the MyCourses Online Learning Management System. All assignments will be submitted through MyCourses, and all assessments will be completed online through MyCourses. Obviously, students will need some basic familiarity with technology, the Internet and MyCourses to successfully complete the course.

**POSTING OF ASSIGNMENTS:** The instructor will post the assignments for each respective week within the course website in MYCOURSES (as an Announcement). The instructor will also e-mail the same announcement (i.e., the same set of assignments) to students at the beginning of each respective week.

## **GRADING INFORMATION:**

### **UNIT EXAMS (180 Points Total)**

*Three (3) Exams @ 60 points per exam*

Unit I Exam: Monday, 9/19 – Sunday, 9/25/16 @ 11:30 PM EST

Unit II Exam: Monday, 10/10 – Sunday, 10/16/16 @ 11:30 PM EST

Unit III Exam: Monday, 11/28 – Sunday, 12/4/16 @ 11:30 PM EST

### **DISCUSSION ASSIGNMENTS (130 Points Total)**

*13 Assignments @ 10 points per assignment*

Discussion 1: Monday, 8/22 – Sunday, 8/28/16 @ 11:30 PM EST

Discussion 2: Monday, 8/29 – Sunday, 9/4/16 @ 11:30 PM EST

Discussion 3: Monday, 9/5 – Sunday, 9/11/16 @ 11:30 PM EST

Discussion 4: Monday, 9/12 – Sunday, 9/18/16 @ 11:30 PM EST

Discussion 5: Monday, 9/19 – Sunday, 9/25/16 @ 11:30 PM EST

Discussion 6: Monday, 9/26 – Sunday, 10/2/16 @ 11:30 PM EST

Discussion 7: Monday, 10/3 – Sunday, 10/9/16 @ 11:30 PM EST

Discussion 8: Monday, 10/10 – Sunday, 10/16/16 @ 11:30 PM EST

Discussion 9: Monday, 10/17 – Sunday, 10/23/16 @ 11:30 PM EST

Discussion 10: Monday, 10/31 – Sunday, 11/6/16 @ 11:30 PM EST

Discussion 11: Monday, 11/7 – Sunday, 11/13/16 @ 11:30 PM EST

Discussion 12: Monday, 11/14 – Sunday, 11/20/16 @ 11:30 PM EST

Discussion 13: Monday, 11/28 – Sunday, 12/4/16 @ 11:30 PM EST

### **AMERICAN GOVERNMENT QUIZ (40 Points)**

Deadline/Due Date: Sunday, 10/23/16 @ 11:30PM EST

### **PUBLIC POLICY ISSUE PAPER (100 Points)**

Deadline/Due Date: Friday, 10/28/16 @ Noon EST

### **Total Points = 450**

A = 90% - 100%

B = 80% - 89%

C = 70% - 79%

D = 60% - 69%

F = 59% or lower

*So students can monitor their progress throughout the course, the instructor will post all grades to the Gradebook in MYCOURSES in a timely manner.*

**NO "EXTRA CREDIT" opportunities or assignments will be offered in the course.**

**LATE WORK POLICY:** The instructor expects students to complete and submit all assignments and assessments prior to the clearly stated deadlines. Since ample notice is provided of deadlines, and sufficient time is provided for students to complete all assignments and assessments, the instructor does NOT accept work that is submitted late. Work that is submitted late will receive a grade of “0”. The only possible limited exception is in the event of a documented illness, medical or other emergency.

**RESPECTING OTHERS:** We will be discussing sensitive issues related to politics, international relations and world affairs. The instructor expects students to be highly respectful to one another. The instructor will not tolerate students who are disrespectful or who make inappropriate comments within the discussion assignments (especially comments directed towards other students and their viewpoints).

**PLAGIARISM:** All discussion and written assignments are graded based upon critical thinking and original thought - and all information must be presented in your own words. However, if you wish to use a borrowed fact from an expert source, in order to add additional strength and credibility to your argument or thesis, the borrowed idea - whether quoted or paraphrased - must be cited with proper citations and references using either MLA or APA format. Credit will not be granted for any information that is simply “copied and pasted” – even if properly cited.

**STUDENT SURVEY OF INSTRUCTION:** The Student Survey of Instruction or “SSI” is administered in this course each semester. The SSI is designed to improve the quality of instruction at St. Petersburg College. All student responses are confidential and anonymous and will be used solely for the purpose of performance improvement.