

St. Petersburg College

American National Government POS 2041 Online **(Term 485 Section 824)**

Summer Semester, 2014

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COURSE PREFIX AND NUMBER: POS 2041 (480)

MEETING INFORMATION: June 2 – July 24, 2014

COURSE NAME: POS 2041 American National Government, 3 hours

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 college writing requirements outlined in the General Education Requirements.

COURSE GOALS:

1. The student will demonstrate an understanding of the purpose of government.
2. The student will demonstrate an understanding of the American federal system.
3. The student will demonstrate understanding of the various philosophical, cultural and political experiences that impacted the creation and evolution of principles and values of the American political system.
4. The student will demonstrate an understanding of the fundamental principles and features of the original Constitution of 1787.

5. The student will demonstrate an understanding of civil liberties as contained in the Constitution and interpreted by the courts.
6. The student will demonstrate knowledge of various movements to secure civil rights protections.
7. The student will demonstrate knowledge of the organization and functions of the legislative branch.
8. The student will demonstrate knowledge of the organization and functions of the executive branch.
9. The student will demonstrate knowledge of the organization and functions of the judicial branch.
10. The student will demonstrate an understanding of the nature of policy making and the factors that work to shape policy outcomes.
11. The student will demonstrate knowledge of the role of political parties and interest groups, and the impact of public opinion and political participation by diverse groups on the American political system.
12. The student will demonstrate increased ability in writing.

PREREQUISITES:

(ENC 0020 and REA 000) or EAP 1695 or appropriate score on the SPC placement test.

TEXTBOOK INFORMATION:

We The People: An introduction to American politics (shorter 8th edition) Ginsberg, Lowi & Weir

An older version of this text is fine. Just be sure to follow along with the correct chapters if they are numbered differently.

Textbooks are available at every St. Petersburg College library on reserve.

RESOURCES:

ANGEL's URL is <https://angel.spcollege.edu/default.asp>
ANGEL is the college's online learning management system

[Help line for students with computer questions/problems: 727-341-4357](#)

ATTENDANCE:

SPC requires instructors to record student attendance during each scheduled class. Your grade will be impacted by attendance and participation online. **If you miss two consecutive weeks during the term, you will be removed from the course. There are NO excused absences.**

Students who are no-shows in the first two weeks will automatically receive W's. Students are required to withdraw themselves on or before the 60% point in the course to receive a W (see dates below). Students who stop participating by the 60% mark, or who self-withdraw after the 60% mark, will automatically receive WF's. It is the student's responsibility to notify the instructor of ANY absence and make arrangements for missed exams.* *Please review policy on missed work below.*

Veterans' Attendance Policy: The Veterans' Administration requires timely reporting of students who are receiving Veterans' benefits and who are no longer attending classes. In order to meet these requirements, a report is completed whenever a student receiving VA benefits misses two consecutive classes.

Dropping the Course

It is the responsibility of the student wishing to withdraw from the course to do so by the withdrawal date. Any student wishing to withdraw from the course must do so his or herself online in the MY SPC registration area found at <http://www.spcollege.edu> as well as contact the instructor. All students registered in the course after the withdrawal date will receive a grade as outlined in this syllabus. Students who abandon the course or do not withdraw themselves by the withdrawal date are subject to receive a grade of F. By SPC Policy (enacted February 2005), students cannot withdraw from a course after the withdrawal deadline.

Third attempts: Students attempting this course for the third time (or more) cannot withdraw (State of Florida regulation), and failing to meet the attendance requirement will result in a grade of WF.

*** FINANCIAL ASSISTANCE RECIPIENTS:**

If you completely withdraw from the College anytime on or before the dates of your session, you may incur repayment of Financial Assistance funds.

ACADEMIC CALENDAR:

See the Academic Calendar for all due dates and withdrawal dates established by the college at <http://www.spcollege.edu/calendar>. It is your responsibility to meet deadlines for withdrawal.

SPECIAL ACCOMMODATIONS:

If you wish to request accommodations as a student with a **documented** disability, please make an appointment with the Learning Specialist on campus. If you have a documented hearing loss, please contact the Program for the Deaf/Hard of Hearing at 791-2628. The Office of Services for Students with Disabilities can be reached at 791-2628 or 791-2710 (CL), 341-4758 (SP/G), 394-6108 (SE) 712-5789 (TS) or 341-4532 (AC). When you give me a copy of your documented disability, I will make adjustments in the course to meet your learning needs. You can scan or take a photo of your document and send it to me via ANGEL email.

ACADEMIC HONESTY:

St. Petersburg College enforces its Academic Honesty policy. It is your responsibility to be familiar with the policies, rules, and the consequences of violations. Read about the policy at: <http://www.spcollege.edu/webcentral/admit/honesty.htm>. There is no tolerance for cheating and academic dishonesty. Discipline can range from a zero on that specific assignment to expulsion from the class with a grade of F. Note that copy/pasting published information, whether it's from your textbook or the Internet, without citing your source is plagiarism and violates this policy. Even if you change the words slightly, the ideas are someone else's, so you still have to cite your sources. Cheating, plagiarism, bribery, misrepresentation, conspiracy and fabrication are defined in Rule 6Hx23-4.461, Student Affairs: Academic Honesty Guidelines, Classroom Behavior.

POLICY ON MISSED/LATE WORK

Late Work: I do not accept late work. It is the student's responsibility to turn in assignments through the online drop boxes or in class on or before the assigned due dates. Due dates are posted in advance on the calendar. This policy applies to exams, written papers and reports, and all other assignments. All work is open one extra week to allow for emergencies.

ASSIGNMENTS

It is preferred that all written assignments be typed in 12-point font (Arial is preferred) and single-spaced, unless otherwise instructed. Students must include name, course number and section number [ie, PHI 1600 - 4500], instructor's name, date, and word count on the title page. Word count does not include title page or references.

All assignments (quizzes, midterm, final reviews) will be turned in online on Angel. Do not email me with your assignment. Log on to Angel and drop your assignment in the appropriate drop box or take the appropriate examination.

All work that is not your own – including your textbook -- must be cited. You may use either APA or MLA style manual for citations. If you do not know how to cite, help is available for you at no cost:

- St. Petersburg College Library APA/MLA citation assistance at <http://spcollege.libguides.com/citations>
- St. Petersburg College Tutors at <http://spcollege.libguides.com/seminoletutoring>

LEARNING SUPPORT COMMONS

Learning support is available at no cost on every campus:

Clearwater Campus - (727) 791-2674

Health Education Center - (727) 341-3724

Seminole Campus - TL 104 - (727) 394-6133

SPC Downtown Center - (727) 341-7962 or (727) 341-7911

SPC Midtown Center - (727) 341-7156

St. Pete/Gibbs Campus - (727) 341-3511 or (727) 341-3512

Tarpon Springs Campus - (727) 712-5729 or (727) 712-5753

GRADING:

Your final grade in this class will be based on the grades you earn on assignments, exams, team participation and class participation.

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

Graded Assessments – Instructions on ANGEL drop boxes

Assessment	# of assessments	Percentage
Exam 1		23%
Exam 2		23%
Exam 3		23%
Assignments	3	12%
Participation	3 discussion questions	9%
Political Analysis Report		10%

There will be no extra credit for this course. I am unable to "bump" students up to a higher grade at the end of the semester because it lessens the standards of our grading system and it is unfair to those students who earned the higher grade. If at any time

you desire to withdraw from the course, please do so through "my SPC." Failure to do so before the final withdraw date will cause you to receive an "F" in the course. See the calendar for the withdrawal date!

SEMESTER AGENDA

Because different classes are affected differently by meeting times, holidays and individual class dynamics, this schedule is subject to change.

Complete all work online on ANGEL by due date at midnight.

Unit	Dates	Read	Discussion	Assignment	Exam
1	6/2 – 6/15/14 Foundations of Government	Chapters 1-3 plus materials and videos on ANGEL	6/8	6/15	6/13-6/15
2	6/16 – 6/29/14 Political Institutions	Chapters 12-14 plus materials and videos on ANGEL	6/22	6/29	6/27-6/29
3	6/30-7/14/14	Chapters 15, 4-5 plus materials and videos on ANGEL	7/6	7/13	7/11-7/13
FINAL	7/21/14	Political Analysis Report		7/21	

COURSE OBJECTIVES

1. The student will demonstrate an understanding of the purpose of government by defining government and describing its purpose and function.
2. The student will demonstrate an understanding of the American federal system by:
 - a. defining and recognizing the arrangement of governmental power under federal systems.
 - b. defining and recognizing the arrangement of governmental power under unitary systems
 - c. defining and recognizing the arrangement of governmental power under confederal systems
3. The student will demonstrate an understanding of the various philosophical, cultural and political experiences that impacted the creation and evolution of principles and values of the American political system by:
 - a. defining and recognizing the arrangement of governmental power under federal systems.

- b. defining and recognizing the arrangement of governmental power under unitary systems.
 - c. defining and recognizing the arrangement of governmental power under confederal systems.
 - d. summarizing the weaknesses of the Articles of Confederation
4. The student will demonstrate an understanding of the fundamental principles and features of the original Constitution of 1787 by summarizing:
- a. Popular sovereignty
 - b. Limited government
 - c. Separation of powers
 - d. Checks and balances
 - e. Representative government
 - f. Federalism – horizontal and vertical
5. The student will demonstrate an understanding of civil liberties as contained in the Constitution and interpreted by the courts by:
- a. examining the liberties contained in the original Constitution.
 - b. examining the liberties contained in the Bill of Rights and other amendments to the Constitution.
 - c. examining the role of the United States Supreme Court in interpreting the liberties identified in the Bill of Rights and other amendments to the Constitution.
 - d. explaining how the due process clause of the Fourteenth Amendment is used to selectively incorporate liberties in the Bill of Rights.
6. The student will demonstrate knowledge of various movements to secure civil rights protections by:
- a. defining civil rights and examining the concept of equality.
 - b. summarizing the importance of the equal protection clause of the Fourteenth Amendment.
 - c. examining the history and evolution of African-Americans' rights, women's rights, and other civil rights movements.
7. The student will demonstrate knowledge of the organization and functions of the legislative branch by:
- a. outlining the powers of Congress
 - b. examining the differences and similarities between the two chambers of Congress.
 - c. Explaining the law-making process of Congress.
8. The student will demonstrate knowledge of the organization and functions of the executive branch by:
- a. identifying the constitutional responsibilities of the president.
 - b. identifying the informal roles of the president.
 - c. outlining the responsibilities of the Executive Office of the President.

- d. explaining the presidential election process and the role of the electoral college.
- e. outlining the bureaucracy and its responsibilities.

9. The student will demonstrate knowledge of the organization and functions of the judicial branch by:

- a. outlining the federal court system.
- b. identifying the jurisdiction of district courts, circuit courts, and the Supreme Court.
- c. identifying and defining the types of law.
- d. explaining the federal judicial appointment process.
- e. explaining the meaning of judicial review.

10. The student will demonstrate an understanding of the nature of policy-making and the factors that work to shape policy outcomes by:

- a. defining domestic and foreign policy and identifying the process determining priorities of policies.
- b. explaining the role of the executive and legislative branches in formulation and implementation of domestic and foreign policy.
- c. recognizing contextual influences on foreign and domestic policy-making.

11. The student will demonstrate knowledge of the role of political parties and interest groups and the impact of public opinion and political participation by diverse groups on the American political system by:

- a. describing the development and function of political parties.
- b. examining the impact of public opinion on public policy emanating from government institutions.
- c. examining the importance of the campaign process, voting and elections to a representative democracy.
- d. describing the functions and identifying the various types of interest groups.
- e. describing the strategies used by interest groups and their impacts on policy-making.

12. The student will demonstrate increased ability in writing by planning and writing one or more of the following (all of which will be evaluated):

- a. research, analysis, outline, evaluation or other types of papers completed outside of the direct classroom experience.
- b. research, analysis, outline, journal, evaluation or other types of essays completed during the direct classroom experience.