POS 2041 - AMERICAN NATIONAL GOVERNMENT
2017 Spring Semester Clearwater Campus

2:00pm - 3:15pm Monday/Wednesday

Professor Roy Slater
Social and Behavioral Sciences Department
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Email: Use MyCourses email
College email: Slater.Roy@spcollege.edu
Office location: ES building, room 313E

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Social and Behavioral Sciences Administration

Dr. Joseph Smiley, Dean, Social and Behavioral Sciences
Office location: Tarpon Springs Campus, PS building, room 105
Office phone number: 712-5851

Anja Norman, Academic Department Chair
Office location: Clearwater Campus, ES building, room 313B
Office phone number: 791-2671

Textbook ISBN: 9781285853154
I. **Course Description:**

POS 2041  American National Government............................................... 3 credits

This survey course provides a comprehensive examination of the American political system. Through this course student will become familiar with theory, organization, principles, and functioning of the American national government, and various elements within the political system that work to shape policy outcomes.

II. **Major Learning Outcomes:**

1. The student will acquire understanding of the purpose of government.

2. The student will acquire understanding of the American federal system and other governmental systems.

3. The student will acquire understanding of the various cultural and political experiences that impacted the creation and evolution of principles and values of the American political system.

4. The student will acquire understanding of the fundamental principles and features of the original Constitution of 1787.

5. The student will acquire 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 acquire 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.
III. Course Objectives Stated in Performance Terms:

1. The student will acquire understanding of the purpose of government by defining government and describing its purpose and function.

2. The student will acquire understanding of the American federal system and other governmental systems 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 acquire understanding of the various cultural and political experiences that impacted the creation and evolution of principles and values of the American political system by:
   a. Examining the impact of the Mayflower Compact on American political theory.
   b. Examining the significance of incidents provoking opposition to British rule.
   c. Examining the values incorporated in the Declaration of Independence, including:
      (1) Popular Consent
      (2) Liberty
      (3) Individualism
      (4) Egalitarianism
   d. Examining the theories incorporated in the Declaration of Independence, including:
      (1) Social Contract Theory
      (2) Doctrine of Natural Rights
      (3) Right to revolt
   e. Outlining the structural arrangement of government under the Articles of Confederation.
   f. Summarizing the weaknesses of the Articles of Confederation.

4. The student will acquire 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 understand 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. Analyzing important court cases concerning liberties.
   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 and the Black civil rights movement.
   d. Examining the history and evolution of the women’s civil rights movement.
   e. Examining movements to secure rights for Native Americans.
   f. Examining selected 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.
   d. Differentiating between the legislative, non-legislative, and representative responsibilities 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. Defining and 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. Distinguishing between legislative and constitutional courts.
d. Identifying and defining the types of law.
e. Explaining the judicial appointment process.
f. Explaining the meaning of judicial review.

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

   a. Defining domestic policy and identifying the processes determining priorities of domestic policy.
   b. Explaining the role of the executive and legislative branches in formulation and implementation of domestic policy.
   c. Recognizing contextual influences on foreign and domestic policy-making.
   d. Describing objectives of American foreign policy.
   e. Explaining the role of the executive and legislative branches in formulation and implementation of foreign policy.

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

   a. Describing the functions of political parties.
   b. Explaining the development of political parties.
   c. Outlining the evolution of the American two-party system.
   d. Explaining the effects of political parties on the governing process.
   e. Examining the impact of public opinion on public policy emanating from government institutions.
   f. Examining the importance of voting and elections to a representative democracy.
   g. Examining the diversity of United States’ population, and comparing the differences between racial, ethnic, religious and other groups in terms of participation in the political process.
   h. Defining political socialization and describing factors that influence individual choices regarding participation.
   i. Describing the functions and identifying the various types of interest groups.
   j. Describing the tools used by interest groups and their impacts on policy-making.

IV. **Course Requirements and Procedures**

A. **Academic Honesty**

St Petersburg College expects students to be honest in all of their academic work. By enrolling at the college, students agree to adhere to the high standards of academic honesty and integrity and understand that failure to comply with this pledge may result in academic and disciplinary action, up to and including expulsion from the college. As members of the college community, students also have an ethical obligation to report violations of the SPC academic honesty policies they may witness. Go to [http://www.spcollege.edu/AcademicHonesty/](http://www.spcollege.edu/AcademicHonesty/) and read the St. Petersburg College Academic Honesty Policy.
B. Assigned Readings

Class discussion and lectures will constitute a large portion of class meeting time. You should attend every class meeting having read the assigned readings. Materials presented during class discussions, video presentations, and other reading assignments will likely appear on exams. You are responsible for the material covered in the assigned readings and video presentations.

C. Attendance Policy

1. Students will be allowed a total of four absences. If you miss more than four class meetings, you may be dropped from this class. Attendance will count as active participation.

2. You can withdraw from this class before the published deadline.

3. Attendance is mandatory for all exams. If a make-up exam is necessary, it will be given the next class meeting. Your score will be reduced a letter grade (ten points subtracted).

4. Tardiness is unacceptable. Entering the classroom late is disrupting. An absence will be recorded for students entering the classroom five minutes or later after class has begun. If you must leave early, an absence will be recorded.

D. Exams and Grading

1. There will be a total of four exams in this course. Exams will cover material presented during lectures, video presentations, and assigned reading material.

2. Exam grades will be based on the 100-point scale. The grading scale is:

   - 100 - 90 = A
   - 89 - 80 = B
   - 79 - 70 = C
   - 69 - 60 = D
   - Below 60 = F

3. Grades will not be curved. No exam grade will be dropped.

4. You need Scantron Form 882-E for all exams. Exams will not be graded if the answers are not on Scantron forms.

5. Final Grade: add all points you accumulate and divide by six.
E. Writing Requirement

There is a substantial writing requirement (at least 2000 words) in this course. There will be two research projects. Each research project is worth up to 100 points. Writing assignments will be announced in class and message notice posted in MyCourses.

F. Important Dates

March 22 is the last day to withdraw with a grade of W.
Spring Break is March 5 – March 12.
College closed on January 16 in observance of Dr. Martin L King Jr. Day.

G. Other Items

1. 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 will need assistance during an emergency classroom evacuation, please contact your campus Learning Specialist immediately about arrangements for your safety. The Office of Disability Resources can be reached at 791-2710.

2. No eating or drinking in class. You will not be allowed to sleep in class. Students will show common courtesy and respect during class discussions and lectures. Failure to abide by these procedures will result in being dropped from this class.

SPC’s Disruptive Behavior Policy

Each student’s behavior in the classroom or Web course is expected to contribute to a positive learning/teaching environment, respecting the rights of others and their opportunity to learn. No student has the right to interfere with the teaching/learning process, including the posting of inappropriate materials on chatroom or Web page sites.

The instructor has the authority to ask a disruptive student to leave the classroom, lab, or Web course and to file disciplinary charges if disruptive behavior continues.

Cell phones must not disturb class. Turn off device when entering the classroom.
COURSE OUTLINE

Course Introduction: January 9 & 11

Unit One: The American System
January 16 – February 8

Chapter 1 – The Democratic Republic
Chapter 2 – The Constitution
Chapter 3 – Federalism

Wednesday, February 8  Exam One – Chapters 1, 2 & 3

Unit Two: Political Institutions
February 13 – March 15

Chapter 11 – The Congress
Chapter 9 – Campaigns and Elections
Chapter 12 – The President
Chapter 13 – The Bureaucracy

Wednesday, March 15  Exam Two – Chapters 9, 11, 12, & 13

Unit Three: Courts, Liberties and Civil Rights
March 20 – April 12

Chapter 14 – The Courts
Chapter 4 – Civil Liberties
Chapter 5 – Civil Rights

Wednesday, April 12  Exam Three – Chapters 4, 5, & 14
**Unit Four: People and Politics**

April 17 – April 26

   Chapter 6 – Public Opinion and Political Socialization
   
   Chapter 7 – Interest Groups
   
   Chapter 8 – Political Parties

**Final Exam Week:**  May 1 – May 5

Final exam day and time will be announced.

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Note:  The above outline and procedures for this course are subject to change in the event of unforeseen circumstances. The professor reserves the right to make such changes in the outline and procedures as appropriate.