



COURSE SYLLABUS
American National Government
POS 2041- Section # 481 - (3 Credits)
Classroom - ONLINE
Term: 0625 - Fall 2023

View [How to be a Successful Student \(Syllabus Addendum\)](#) which provides details about success factors and links to the most current version of fluid information, such as the academic calendar.

WELCOME!

I look forward to working with each of you as we progress together through this course, POS 2041 in American National Government. It is common for students to begin American Government at various points of knowledge with their own perceptions of the United States government, within this course we will have the opportunity to evaluate and potentially expand on those perceptions as well as our knowledge. The framers of the Constitution of the United States provided us the outline for the United States government. That format is our foundation and is the oldest Constitution in the world today. The United States Constitution provides unique roles for each branch of the government. In addition to the roles of the branches of government we will also explore the role and responsibility of the citizens of the United States.

PROFESSOR

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COURSE INFORMATION

Course Description: 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 2041H. 47 contact hours.

COURSE GOALS & OBJECTIVES

- Students will define the purposes and forms of government, with emphasis on our democratic republic by:
 - comparing political systems.
 - recognizing the impact of the founding documents, such as the US Constitution, on the major components and functions of US government.
- Students will identify the impact of philosophical, historical, and political backgrounds of the founding documents of the United States government by:
 - recalling the historical details leading to the formation of the United States.
 - explaining the foundational values of the Declaration of Independence.
 - recognizing the values and conflicts present at the writing of the United States Constitution.
 - differentiating federal and state powers provided by United States Constitution.
- Students will examine the institutions of the United States government by:
 - identifying the institutions of the United States Government as outlined within the US Constitution.
 - distinguishing the powers of the Legislative, Executive and Judicial branches as delineated in the US Constitution.
 - contrasting competing interests within the United States government.
- Students will analyze the continuing evolution of the Constitution in the United States by:
 - exploring the evolution of civil liberties, especially as determined by landmark US Supreme Court cases.
 - examining the significance of the 14th amendment and the continuing development of civil rights for all citizens.
 - identifying landmark legislation and executive actions as well as their impact on political behavior.
- Students will describe the intersect of public policy and civil society by:
 - defining the role and affect of influences, such as; political parties, interest groups, the media, public opinion and political participation.
 - participating in community and/or civic engagement.
- Students will demonstrate research, writing and critical thinking skills by:
 - completing written assignments and/or discussions related to the aforementioned learning outcomes.
 - composing a major analytical paper or project that demonstrates mastery of several learning outcomes.

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

Availability of Course Content: Course content will open throughout the semester according to the topic calendar.

Other Critical Course Expectations:

Students are expected to complete this course on their own time, independent of the traditional classroom setting. This allows the student a great deal of flexibility but also requires self-discipline and commitment. The material covered in this course will be located within modules in MyCourses class. Students are required to maintain weekly online activity throughout the semester. Online activities will include quizzes, discussion forums, writing assignments, exams and a research project. Keep in mind that typically a student must devote approximately 12 hours a week to the assigned readings and subsequent study for each examination to earn a C grade or better. Less time devoted to this course may result in an unsuccessful experience and a lower course grade than desired. A student's frequency of online activity is vital to the success of this course.

View the [Proctored Testing Information](#) site

REQUIRED TEXTBOOK & OTHER RESOURCE INFORMATION

- **This course will use Open Educational Resources (OER) materials, and as such, it does not have a required textbook that you need to buy. Yet, we will use the following OER as the required textbook for this course. You will find links to the textbook under [BEGIN HERE](#), below or within modules.**
 - Krutz, Glen & Sylvie Waskiewicz. 2019. *American Government, 2ed.* OpenStax, Rice University (XanEdu Publishing Inc): Houston, Texas. ISBN 13: 978-1593995768 (ISBN-13: 978-1-947172-65-4)
 - American Government 2e by OpenStax is licensed under Creative Commons Attribution License v4.0
 - Reading materials will be provided online in the PDF format and electronically via the [OpenStax](#) website operated by [Rice University](#). <https://openstax.org/details/books/american-government-2e>

LEARNER SUPPORT

- View the [Accessibility Services](#) site
- View the [Academic Support](#) site
- View the [On-Campus and Online Support](#) site

Students who visit our Learning Centers more than four times in a term have better than an 80% chance at success. Tutoring is available on our campuses and online resources are available as well.

View the [Student Services](#) site

IMPORTANT DATES

- **Course Dates:** Course Begins [Aug 14](#) Ends [Dec 7, 2023](#).
- **Drop Date with Refund:** See [Academic Calendar](#)
- **Withdrawal with a Grade of "W":** See [Academic Calendar](#)
 - For a full list of important dates please view the [Academic Calendar](#)
- **Proctor Dates:** View the [Proctored Testing Information](#) site
- **Financial Aid Dates:** View the [Financial Aid Dates](#) site

ATTENDANCE

View the [college-wide attendance policy](#) included in [How to be a Successful Student](#).

The policy notes that each instructor is to exercise professional judgment and define "active participation" in class (and therefore "attendance"), and publish that definition in each syllabus.

For this class, attendance is defined as completing all of your assigned work online, by the due date. If a student does not submit any assignments for a defined module, the student will be considered "absent."

Failure to complete any modules in the first two weeks of class will lead to dismissal. Students who fail to complete 60% of their assignments with 60% of the course assigned will be identified as no longer active in course.

Attendance is mandatory. Since we will meet online it is suggested that you check the course several times a week – MyCourses is our online "classroom."

Instructor will verify that students are in attendance during the first two weeks of class. Students classified as "No Show" for both of the first two weeks will be administratively withdrawn from any class which they are not attending. The student's financial aid will be adjusted based on their updated enrollment status. If a student is administratively withdrawn from a class because they were a "No-Show" during the first two weeks of class, financial aid will not pay for the class and the student will be responsible.

Students who are not actively participating in class will be reported to the Administration during the week following the last date to withdraw with a "W" (as posted in the academic calendar on the college's web site). A grade of "WF" will be assigned to students who are not actively participating during the week following the last day to withdraw with a W grade.

Students will be able to withdraw themselves at any time during the term. However, requests submitted after the last date to withdraw with a "W" (see academic calendar) will result in a "WF." Students and instructors will automatically receive an email notification through their SPC email address whenever a withdrawal occurs.

Withdrawing after the "Last Date to Withdraw with a Grade of 'W'" can have serious consequences. If the student withdraws from a class after the deadline posted in the academic calendar, the student will receive a final grade of "WF," which has the same impact on the student's GPA as a final grade of "F." A "WF" grade also could impact the student's financial aid, requiring repayment of financial assistance. Students should consult with an academic advisor or financial assistance counselor prior to withdrawing.

GRADING

Upon successful completion of the course the student will, with a minimum of 70% accuracy, demonstrate mastery of each of the above stated objectives through classroom measures developed by individual course instructors.

The final numerical grade will be converted to a letter grade according to the following scale

A = 90 - 100%

B = 80 - 89%

C = 70 - 79%

D = 60 - 69%

F = less than 60%

Note: State policy specifies that students may not repeat a college credit course for which a grade of "C" or higher has been earned except by appeal to the campus Academic Appeals committee. Students may repeat a college credit course one time without penalty. At the third attempt, students will pay the full cost of instruction (out of state tuition rate). In addition, at the third attempt students may NOT receive a grade of "I," "W," or "X," but must receive the letter grade earned. This grade will be averaged into the overall grade point average.

****Students must achieve a 70% or better to pass the course.****

This is an SPC College Writing Requirement course, which requires the successful completion of 2,000 words. You will have the opportunity to meet this requirement through, Discussion Forums, Written Assignments and a Research Project.

ASSIGNMENTS

Quizzes (300 points) - Twelve (12) quizzes, each worth 25 points, for a total of 300 points or 30% of your final grade.

You will have 10 chapter quizzes, one Citizenship quiz, and a General Education Survey for a total of 300 points, 30% of your final grade. In each module, you will have a quiz on the assigned chapter(s) in that module. All quizzes will be comprised of multiple choice questions.

Discussion Forums (200 points) - Four (4) Discussion Forums, each worth 50 points, for a total of 200 points or 20% of your final grade.

You will have discussion posts in many of your modules. Each Discussion Forum will include a learning assignment with discussion prompts and requires a reply to a classmate's post. The discussion forums provides for the exchange of ideas which is vital to learning. The posts will be graded for content, grammar and spelling. You will not receive any points if you do not post an assignment post (even if you post reply posts). Your posts will partially contribute to the SPC Writing requirement.

Writing Assignments (300 points) - Three (3) Writing Assignments, each worth 100 points, for a total of 300 points or 30% of your final grade.

All written work must be submitted to the Dropboxes within the course. The Dropboxes utilize Turnitin in order to detect plagiarism. These submissions will be graded based upon completion of the assignment requirements as well as content, grammar and spelling. Complete all assignments adequately to earn credit. Your written assignments will partially contribute to the SPC Writing Requirement. Please look under [Module_3_Assignment_1](#), [Module_6_Assignment_2](#) and [Community Engagement Research Project](#) for specific instructions on these assignments.

Exams (200 points) - This course will include a Mid-term Exam and a Final Exam, each worth 100 points, for a total of 200 points or 20% of your final grade.

Each exam will cover the materials within the modules of POS 2041. This will include the corresponding chapters in your textbook as well as all of the supplemental materials provided up to that point.

The mid-term exam and the final exam will be administered online and will have a time limit.

While the exam will be unproctored and taken at your convenience within the due date, they should reflect your work alone. You may use your notes and textbook while taking the exams but you may not start and stop the exam, so please prepare to take the exams at a time when you will have uninterrupted computer access. Prepare well before opening the exam.

STUDENTS' EXPECTATIONS AND INSTRUCTOR'S EXPECTATIONS**Expectations of students:**

- Log in into the several times a week.
- Check your e-mails frequently.
- Keep up with the material covered every week
- Complete all quizzes and exams by scheduled due date.
- Participate timely in all online discussions.
- Produce written assignments and research project with your own work and submit them on time.
- Abide by the standards of academic honesty and student code of conduct
- Communicate your concerns or questions to your instructor through MyCourses email.
- Be courteous and respectful in all classroom communication.
- Approach the subject in a positive manner; enjoy learning about politics and government

Expectations of the instructor:

- To follow the syllabus and provide you with information regarding any necessary changes.
- Provide ongoing feedback and respond timely to student concerns.
- Create assessments and exams that reflect the stated learning expectations for the course.
- Grade your work fairly and promptly, shorter assignments will be graded within a week of the due date, longer assignments, particularly Research Projects may take up to several weeks.
- Reply promptly to your emails answered within 24-72 hours (excluding holidays), if you use MyCourses email. (If you use SPC email it may go to spam and I may miss your message.)
- To provide positive feedback, encouragement and respect
- To maintain a courteous and safe atmosphere in the online environment.
- Highlight the importance of the subject matter by using real examples.
- Do my best to get you to appreciate and enjoy politics!

REQUIRED INTERACTION

Students are required to complete assignments and communicate with the instructor when extraneous circumstances present themselves that would effect should be consideration for an extension.

Students are strongly encouraged to contact the instructor before withdrawing from the class.

PARTICIPATION, CONDUCT, & NETIQUETTE

Be courteous when emailing. State questions clearly and then wait for the response. Confusion can cause frustration, try to be patient while you wait for your response. Always use dialogical language and college level writing. Discussion forums should help us understand one another, especially those with different viewpoints. Dialogue is essential in a democracy. Within this class all dialogue will be respectful. Negative or confrontational language has no place in this course.

SPC has outlined expectations for student behavior and interaction for online discussions, email, and other forms of communication. View the Student Expectations in [How to be a Successful Student](#).

ACADEMIC HONESTY

St. Petersburg College has an Academic Honesty Policy. All students are required to abide by the following Academic Honesty Guidelines: View the [Academic Honesty Policy](#)

Each student is required to subscribe to the Guidelines upon registration each semester by signing the following pledge which is contained on the Registration and Drop/Add Form:

I understand that SPC expects its students to be honest in all of their academic work. I agree to adhere to this commitment to academic honesty and understand that my failure to comply with this commitment may result in disciplinary action, up to and including expulsion from the College.

A copy of this form can be obtained at the Office of the Registrar.

II. The conduct set forth hereinafter constitutes a violation of the Academic Honesty Guidelines. Those adjudged to have committed such conduct shall be subject to discipline up to dismissal.

A. Cheating - the improper taking or tending of any information or material which shall be used to determine academic credit. Taking of information includes, but is not limited to: copying graded homework assignments from another student; working together with another individual(s) on a take-home test or homework when not specifically permitted by the instructor; looking or attempting to look at another student's paper during an examination and; looking or attempting to look at text or notes during an examination when not permitted. Tendering of information includes, but is not limited to: giving your work to another student to be used or copied; giving someone answers to exam questions either when the exam is being given or after having taken an exam; giving or selling a term paper or other written materials to another student; sharing information on a graded assignment.

B. Plagiarism - The attempt to represent the work of another as the product of one's own thought, whether the other's work is published or unpublished, or simply the work of a fellow student. Plagiarism includes, but is not limited to, quoting oral or written materials without citation on an exam, term paper, homework, or other written materials or oral presentations for an academic requirement; submitting a paper which was purchased from a term paper service as your own work; submitting anyone else's paper as your own work.

C. Bribery - The offering, giving, receiving, or soliciting of any materials, items or services of value to gain academic advantage for yourself or another.

D. Misrepresentation - Any act or omission with intent to deceive an instructor for academic advantage. Misrepresentation includes using computer programs generated by another and handing it in as your own work unless expressly allowed by the instructor; lying to an instructor to increase your grade; lying or misrepresenting facts when confronted with an allegation of academic dishonesty.

E. Conspiracy - The planning or acting with one or more persons to commit any form of academic dishonesty to gain academic advantage for yourself or another.

F. Fabrication - The use of invented or fabricated information, or the falsification of research or other findings with the intent to deceive for academic professional advantage.

Cheating of any kind is not acceptable. Cheating, whether on quizzes, exams or any assignments, is an attempt to get a grade without learning or earning. This includes **posting your work on the internet where others can view and/or download**. Any of these violations and those listed above, violates the rights of your fellow students who do not cheat. **If a student is caught cheating, including plagiarizing, he/she will receive an F for the course and be reported to the administration.**

View the [Academic Honesty Policy](#)

COPYRIGHT

Copyrighted material within this course, or posted on this course website, is used in compliance with United States Copyright Law. Under that law you may use the material for educational purposes related to the learning outcomes of this course. You may not further download, copy, alter, or distribute the material unless in accordance with copyright law or with permission of the copyright holder. For more information on copyright visit: [www.copyright.gov](#).

TURNTIN

The instructor of this course may require use of Turnitin.com as a tool to promote learning. The tool flags similarity and mechanical issues in written work that merit review. Use of the service enables students and faculty to identify areas that can be strengthened through improved paraphrasing, integration of sources, or proper citation. Submitted papers remain as source documents in the Turnitin database solely for the purpose of detecting originality. Students retain full copyright to their works. Review the [Turnitin Usage Agreement](#). Students who do not wish to submit work through Turnitin must notify their instructor via course email within the first seven days of the course. In lieu of Turnitin use, faculty may require a student to submit copies of sources, preliminary drafts, a research journal, or an annotated bibliography.

STUDENT SURVEY OF INSTRUCTION

The Student Survey of Instruction is administered in courses each semester. It 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.

TECHNOLOGY**Minimum Requirements**

View the [MyCourses Minimum Technology Requirements](#)

Students should know how to navigate the course and use the course tools. Dropbox-style assignments may require attachments in either Microsoft Word (.doc or .docx) or Rich Text Format (.rtf), so that they can be properly evaluated. If an attachment cannot be opened by the instructor, students will be required to re-format and re-submit an assignment so that it can be evaluated and returned with feedback.

Minimum Technical Skills: Specify the minimum technical skills expected of the learner: general and course-specific learners must have to succeed in the course.

MyCourses tutorials are available to students new to this LMS and are located at the beginning of the course. Most features on MyCourses are accessible on mobile devices, although it is recommended that you use a computer for quizzes, tests, and essay assignments.

ACCESSIBILITY OF TECHNOLOGY

- [MyCourses \(Brightspace by Desire2Learn\) Accessibility](#)
- [Pearson](#)
- [Turnitin Accessibility](#)
- [Google \(YouTube\) Accessibility](#)
- [Films on Demand](#)

PRIVACY

- [MyCourses \(Brightspace by Desire2Learn\) Privacy](#)
- [Turnitin Privacy](#)
- [YouTube Privacy](#)

TECHNICAL SUPPORT

Technical support is available via the [Technical Support Desk](#).

The phone number for the St. Petersburg College Help desk is 727-341-HELP (4357). Please place the phone number in your cell phone and on your computer. Do not hesitate to call this number should you encounter a technical obstacle. Calling the Help desk and emailing your instructor, should help you not only to succeed but also to minimize your technological frustrations.

INSTRUCTIONAL CONTINUITY PLAN - EMERGENCY PREPAREDNESS POLICY

The St. Petersburg College website at [www.spcollege.edu](#) is the official source of college information regarding the status of the institution. Other important information will be communicated via SPC Alert, local media outlets, and the college toll-free phone number 866-822-3978. All decisions concerning the discontinuation of college functions, cancellation of classes, or cessation of operations rest with the President or his/her designee.

The College realizes that it is possible for a significant natural disaster to compromise SPC campus facilities sufficiently to disrupt the delivery of classes on campus/campuses for an extended period of time, and is planning ways our operations can continue following such an emergency.

So, in the event that a hurricane or other natural disaster causes significant damage to St. Petersburg College facilities, you may be provided the opportunity to complete your course work online. Following the event, please visit the college website for an announcement of the College's plan to resume operations.

Further, in the event of such a disaster, the instructor will continue using the Learning Management System (LMS) of MyCourses for continuation of all required learning and instructional activities in this course, including the issuing of graded online assignments and expectation of student completion of those graded assignments.

Therefore, in order to keep up with all activities in this course during and after a natural disaster, please plan to continue this course by maintaining online access to MyCourses in lieu of meeting in a classroom—possibly through duration of the course's regularly scheduled and date. We will finish this course in MyCourses, as directed by your instructor online, and your instructor will use all graded assignments—both online and formerly on-campus—to assess and issue your final letter grade for this course, as normally planned, despite occurrence of the natural disaster.