



Political Science

POS 2041 – American National Government
Fall 2023
Time: 10:00AM to 11:15AM / T-R (1877)
Room SA 332

Professor:	Roberto Loureiro, Ph.D.
Office:	SA 323
Office Phone:	727.341.3556
Office Hours:	By appointment
Email:	Email me through <i>MyCourses</i>

“In the event of a weather emergency or natural disaster that prevents students from attending class for a period of time, your instructor will email you with instructions on how to complete this course in an online modality.”

REQUIRED READINGS:

1. Krutz, Glen. (2019). American Government (2nd ed.). OpenStax (Licensed under Creative Commons Attribution License v4.0).
2. Other readings as provided by the instructor.

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.

COURSE OBJECTIVES AND OUTCOMES:

The student in this course will:

1. Define the purposes and forms of government.
2. Identify the impact of philosophical, historical, and political backgrounds of the founding documents of the United States government by:
 - a. recalling the historical details leading to the formation of the United States.
 - b. explaining the foundational values of the Declaration of Independence.
 - c. recognizing the values and conflicts present at the writing of the United States Constitution.
 - d. differentiating federal and state powers provided by United States Constitution.

3. Examine the institutions of the United States government by:

- a. identifying the institutions of the United States Government.
- b. distinguishing the powers of the Legislative, Executive and Judicial branches.
- c. contrasting competing interests within in the United States government.

4. Analyze the continuing evolution of civil liberties and civil rights in the United States by:

- a. interpreting civil liberties.
- b. examining the development of civil rights for all citizens.

5. Recognize factors that impact governance and public policy in the United States by defining the role and influences of political parties, interest groups, the media, public opinion, political participation, and civic engagement.

6. Demonstrate research, writing and critical thinking skills.

CLASS FORMAT:

This class will utilize a lecture/discussion approach. While most of the lecturing will be done by the instructor, it is expected that you actively participate in class discussion.

There may be also some in-class group activity. Concerning group activity, evidence is available supporting the hypothesis that students learn, retain and recall class material more effectively when the material is mastered within a cohesive learning group. However, as I mentioned, all the group activities will be done in-class.

WHAT IS EXPECTED OF YOU:

- a) Study the material for each class **PRIOR** to coming to class. This is vital. In other words, you are expected to have studied the material before our discussion of the topic in class.
- b) Fully participate in class discussion and group assignments (whenever that is the case).
- c) Be present in all classes. If you need to miss a class, please let me know in advance, if possible.
- d) You are expected to come to class on a regular basis, to arrive on time, and not to depart earlier.
- e) Before class starts you are expected to turn your cell phones off. Please also put away the newspaper. These items disturb you, me, and your classmates.
- f) You are expected to listen respectfully to me and to other students when speaking. Inappropriate expressions and behaviors are not tolerated in this class.
- g) Email messages must be sent through **MyCourses**.
- h) Feel free to address me whenever there is a problem related to the class and/or whenever you the need to clarify questions or further explore topics of particular interest.

STRIVE FOR SUCCESS

Everyone can be successful and receive credit for this class. To be successful requires each student to follow the directives outlined here, and to put forth his/her best effort based on each one's capabilities. If you have questions, concerns or problems, please see the instructor for help immediately. **Please, do not withdraw from the class before contacting the instructor**

COURSE REQUIREMENTS AND GRADES

There will be 7 (seven) main sources of Evaluation in this class: *Quizzes, Talking Points, Mid-Term Exam, Final Exam, One Minute Papers, Discussions, Class Participation.*

1. Quizzes (Total = 200 Points)

Students are required to take **weekly** quizzes. These quizzes are based on the corresponding chapters from the textbook. Each quiz consists of 25 (twenty-five) questions and can be retake up to 2 (two) times. The final grade for the quiz will be based on the student's highest scored attempt. Quizzes are due at **10pm every Sunday** (as is the case with the Talking Points). There is a total of 10 (ten) quizzes throughout the semester. The student will be allowed to consult the textbook as he/she takes the quiz.

2. Talking Points (Total = 150 Points)

Students are required to submit 1 (one) Talking Point each week that include the assigned reading(s). Note that, talking points are NOT summaries of what you read. Rather these talking points are SHORT comments or questions that you have regarding the reading(s). Talking points are due at **10pm every Sunday**. Talking points should be at least 100 words and no longer than 150 words (each). Talking Points turned in late will not be accepted (DROPBOX will be closed). There are 15 (fifteen) individual Talking Points (corresponding to the chapters in the textbook) which are worth 10 (ten) points each.

3. Mid-Term Exam (100 Points)

The Mid-Term Exam will consist of multiple choice and (possibly) essay questions (**see Tentative Class Schedule**).

4. Final Exam (100 Points)

The Final Exam will consist of multiple choice and (possibly) essay questions (**see Tentative**

Class Schedule for dates). It will include all the material in the class and in the textbook chapters assigned and it will **NOT BE GIVEN EARLY**.

Note about Exams:

- A- Exams will cover the material presented in lectures, videos shown in class and all information in the textbook. These exams will consist of multiple choice, and (perhaps) essays.
- B- Students **are required to be present for all exams**. If a student is absent for an exam, he/she must contact the instructor by phone **prior to the absence** and leave a message providing an extenuated reason for the absence – only medical reason or an urgent emergency. Failure to call the office phone and leave a message will result in a “0” (zero) on the exam and no make-up exam will be permitted. The make-up exams for those with valid reasons for missing the exam will be given outside of any schedule class time and the student must make individual arrangements with the instructor on the first day the student returns to class. Failure to make-up the exam will result in a “0” (zero).
- C- **No Exam grades will be dropped or changed.**

5. One Minute Paper (Total = 100 Points)

Throughout the semester, students will be asked to reflect on the material discussed in class by writing a short paragraph. Each short paper (a.k.a. One Minute Paper) will be worth 10 (ten) points. There will be 10 (ten) One Minute Papers and students will not be allowed to make-up for those. Keep it in mind that this is an in-class activity and the student is required to be present to take it.

6. Discussions (200 Points)

Four (4) Discussions, each worth 50 points, will be available online.

7. Class Participation (50 Points)

ATTENDANCE is crucial to guarantee the points under this item. After four (4) absences, the student will NOT be able to achieve the total percentage points assigned under this category.

>>>Bonus Points (10 to 30 Points)<<<

There is an opportunity to receive **Bonus Points** for this class. The student who wants to get some extra credit needs to participate in a **Civic Engagement** activity, which is defined as any participation in a community event. You can also receive extra points by participating in activities as meetings and/or conferences related to the class, SBSHS, CAC, MUN informational session, etc. Other opportunities will be discussed in class.

GRADE SCALE:

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

CLASSROOM RULES OF CONDUCT:

1. Regular attendance is required and expected. Lecture, class discussions and class activities will increase your ability to succeed.
2. Please be on time for class so that disruptions are kept to a minimum.
3. Students are responsible for obtaining the notes from another student for any missed class.
4. Eating, drinking, reading newspaper, listening to music and/or sleeping in the classroom are not permitted.
5. Cell phones **MUST** be turned off during class. Text messaging during class is not allowed.

6. Students must respect others during class discussions and lectures.
7. Inappropriate language or gestures will not be tolerated.
8. If you require special accommodations, have concerns about the class or class procedures, your grade or **if you wish to withdraw from the course**, please speak to the instructor before or after class about your needs.
9. Recordings in Classroom. Please see addendum:
<https://www.spcollege.edu/current-students/student-affairs/student-right-to-know/student-responsibilities>
10. Failure to follow these rules could result in you being dropped from the class.

EMERGENCY PROCEDURES:

Please, familiarize yourself with the emergency procedures and evacuation routes located in the buildings you use frequently. Located in each classroom is an Emergency Response Guide (flip-chart) that contains information for proper actions in response to emergencies. You should be prepared to assess situations quickly and use good judgment in determining a course of action. You should evacuate to assembly areas in an orderly manner when an alarm sounds or when directed to do so by college faculty or staff or emergency personnel. You may access additional emergency information by going to www.spcollege.edu/security.

HELP IS AVAILABLE:

As a SPC student its vital that you know Titans Care. You can access resources through SPC’s Student Assistance Program (SAP) (<https://mycoursesupport.spcollege.edu/student-assistance-program>), a collaborative resource for students with mental health or general life issues. SAP provides help and education in suicide prevention, mental health, substance abuse awareness and more. It is SPC’s belief that supporting mental wellness is everyone’s charge, and that one loss as a result of substance abuse, mental illness, or suicide is one too many. If you or a loved one are considering suicide, please call the National Suicide Prevention Lifeline at 1-800-273-8255.

IMPORTANT NOTES:

Note #1

This course is designed to be welcoming to, accessible to, and usable by everyone, including students who are English-language learners, have a variety of learning styles, have disabilities, or are new to online learning. Be sure to let me know immediately if you encounter a required element or resource in the course that is not accessible to you. Also, let me know of changes I can make to the course so that it is more welcoming to, accessible to, or usable by students who take this course in the future. If you have documentation of a disability or feel you may have a disability:

St. Petersburg College recognizes the importance of equal access to learning opportunities for all students. Accessibility Services (AS) is the campus office that works with students who have disabilities to provide and/or arrange reasonable accommodations. Students registered with AS, who are requesting accommodations, are encouraged to contact their instructor by the first week of the semester. Students who have, or think they may have, a disability (e.g. learning disability, ADD/ADHD, psychiatric, medical/orthopedic, vision, and/or hearing), are invited to contact the Accessibility Coordinator (AC) that serves your campus for a confidential discussion. To find your AC for your specific campus, please go to the college-wide Accessibility Services website:

<https://www.spcollege.edu/accessibility>

Note #2

Students should be aware that academic dishonesty involves acts other than plagiarism. Cheating is also another sin in academic work. Ultimately cheating will destroy one's ability to trust its own ideas and insights. If a student is observed cheating on tests, exams, the student will be subjected to the procedures stipulated in the handbook. Punishment may result in a grade of "F" or dismissal from the course. For more information on this issue, please visit www.spcollege.edu/academichonesty/

Note #3

The handouts used in this course are copyrighted. By "handouts," I mean all materials generated for this class, which include but are not limited to syllabi, quizzes, exams, lab problems, in-class materials, review sheets, and additional problem sets. Because these materials are copyrighted, you do not have the right to copy the handouts, unless I expressly grant permission.

Note #4

Course withdrawal: Students should familiarize themselves with the policies and procedures contained in the student handbook. Students who simply discontinue attending class without officially withdrawing from the course will receive a grade based upon the total points they have accumulate in the course. Ordinarily, the result will be a grade of "F." Please visit the following website for more information and useful links

<http://www.spcollege.edu/handbook/>.

Note #5

Note on Service Animals. Students bringing service animals (not limited to dogs) into the classroom are not required to be registered through the Disabilities Services office nor are students required to do so in order to bring a service animal into the classroom. Should an animal create a disturbance in the classroom (i.e., excessive barking) that is disruptive, the student and animal can be excused from the classroom. Any questions or concerns should be directed to the Dean or Department Chair.

Note #5

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Note #6

Federal and State law requires a person designated as a “sexual predator or offender” to be register with the Florida Department of Law Enforcement (FDLE). The FDLE then is required to notify the local enforcement agency where the registrant resides, attends or is employed by an institution of higher learning. Information regarding sexual predators or offenders attending or employed by an institution of higher education can be obtained from the local law enforcement agency with jurisdiction for the particular campus, by calling the FDLE hotline (1-888-FL-PREDATOR) or (1-888-357-7332, or by visiting the FDLE website at http://www.fdle.state.fl.us/sexual_predators/). If there are questions or concerns regarding personal safety, please contact the Provost, Associate Provost, Campus Security Officer or Site Administrator on your campus. .” Please visit the following website for more information and useful links http://www.spcollege.edu/sexual_harassment/.

Note #7

Please, familiarize yourself with the emergency procedures and evacuation routes located in the buildings you use frequently. Located in each classroom is an Emergency Response Guide (flip-chart) that contains information for proper actions in response to emergencies. You should be prepared to assess situations quickly and use good judgment in determining a course of action. You should evacuate to assembly areas in an orderly manner when an alarm sounds or when directed to do so by college faculty or staff or emergency personnel. You may access additional emergency information by going to www.spcollege.edu/security and: www.spcollege.edu/tsc/security.htm, for campus safety and security information.

Note #8

Strive for Success. Everyone can be successful and receive credit for this class. To be successful requires each student to follow the directives outlined here, and to put forth his/her best effort based on each one’s capabilities. If you have questions, concerns or problems, please see the instructor for help immediately. Please, for more information and suggestions on support and resources available to SPC students, visit the following website: <http://www.spcollege.edu/support/>.

TENTATIVE CLASS SCHEDULE (Aug 14 – Dec 7)

DATES	TOPIC	READINGS/ASSIGMENTS
Week 1 (Aug 15)	First Day of Class	Syllabus, etc.
Week 1 (Aug 17)	American Government and Civic Engagement	Chapter 1 <i>Quizzes 1 & 2 due on 8/20</i> <i>TP_The Constitution due on 8/20</i>
Aug 18	Last Day to Drop and Receive a Refund	
Week 2 (Aug 22 - 24)	The Constitution	Chapter 2 <i>Quiz 3 due on 8/27</i> <i>TP_Federalism due on 8/27</i> <i>Discussion_1: Intro due on 8/27</i>
Week 3 (Aug 29 – 31)	The Federal System	Chapter 3 <i>Quiz 4 due on 9/3</i> <i>TP_Civil Liberties due on 9/3</i>
Week 4 (Sep 5 - 7)	Civil Liberties	Chapter 4 <i>Quiz 5 due on 9/10</i> <i>TP_Civil Rights due on 9/10</i>
Week 5 (Sep 12 - 14)	Civil Rights	Chapter 5 <i>Quiz 6 due on 9/17</i> <i>TP_Congress due on 9/17</i>
Week 6 (Sep 19 - 21)	Congress	Chapter 11 <i>Quiz 7 due on 9/24</i> <i>TP_The Presidency due on 9/24</i>
Week 7 (Sep 26)	The Presidency	Chapter 12
Week 7 (Sep 28)	Midterm Exam Review <i>TP_Bureaucracy due on 10/1</i>	
Week 8 (Oct 3)	Midterm Exam	

Week 8 (Oct 5)	The Bureaucracy	Chapter 12 <i>Quiz 8 due on 10/8</i> <i>TP The Courts due on 10/8</i>
Week 9 (Oct 10-12)	The Courts	Chapter 13 <i>TP Public Opinion due on 10/15</i> <i>Discussion_2: Public Opinion due on 10/15</i>
Week 10 (Oct 17 - 19)	Public Opinion	Chapter 6 <i>Quiz 9a due on 10/22</i> <i>TPs_Voting & Elections due on 10/22</i>
Oct 28	Last Day to Withdraw with Grade of “W”	
Week 11 (Oct 24 - 26)	Voting & Elections	Chapter 7 <i>Quiz 9b due on 10/29</i> <i>TP_The Media due on 10/29</i> <i>TP_Political Parties due on 10/29</i>
Week 11 (Oct 31 - Nov 2)	The Media & Political Parties	Chapters 8 and 9 <i>TP Interest Groups & Lobbying due on 11/5</i> <i>TP_Domestic Policy due on 11/5</i> <i>Discussion_3: Domestic Policy due on 11/5</i>
Week 12 (Nov 7 - 9)	Interest Groups/ Lobbying & Domestic Policy	Chapters 10 and 16 <i>TP_Foreign Policy 11/12</i> <i>Discussion_4: Foreign Policy discussion due on 11/12</i>
Week 13 (Nov 14)	Foreign Policy	Chapter 17
Week 13 (Nov 16)	Final Exam Review	
Week 14 (Nov 19 – 25)	Thanksgiving Break	

Week 15 (Nov 28)	Closing Remarks
Week 15 (Nov 30)	Final Exam
Week 16 (Dec 4-7)	Finals Week