

St. Petersburg College



COURSE SYLLABUS

American National Government

POS 2041, Section # 548

Face to Face/Blended Instruction

T (ES-113)/R Online class meeting

Term: 0585 Spring 2021

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.

INSTRUCTOR

Name: Sonia King

Email: King.Sonia@spcollege.edu (Best form of contact)

Phone: 727-791-5220

Office Hours (Virtual): By appointment: Monday/Wednesday
9:00 - 11:00 am; Mon-Thurs 1:00 - 3:00 pm

Office Location: Clearwater Campus, ES 313E

Online Class Meeting link:

<https://spcollege.zoom.us/j/92529406623?pwd=WE5vQUo5ZWlFU3N5NG9rNXpieVRwUT09>

Virtual Office Hours link: BY APPOINTMENT via Calendly:

<https://calendly.com/king-sonia/office-hours>

Instructor Web Page: [SPC Instructor Page- Prof. Sonia King](#)

ACADEMIC DEPARTMENT

DEAN

Name: Joseph Smiley

Office Location: Tarpon Springs Campus, PS 105

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ACADEMIC CHAIR

Name: Anja Norman

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WEBSITE

URL: [St. Petersburg College Social and Behavioral Sciences](#)

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

1. Students will define the purposes and forms of government, with emphasis on our democratic republic by:
 - a comparing political systems.
 - b recognizing the impact of the founding documents, such as the US Constitution, on the major components and functions of US government.

2. Students will 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. Students will examine the institutions of the United States government by:

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

4. Students will analyze the continuing evolution of the Constitution in the United States by:

- a exploring the evolution of civil liberties, especially as determined by landmark US Supreme Court cases.
- b examining the significance of the 14th amendment and the continuing development of civil rights for all citizens.
- c identifying landmark legislation and executive actions as well as their impact on political behavior.

5. Students will describe the intersect of public policy and civil society by:

- a defining the role and affect of influences, such as; political parties, interest groups, the media, public opinion and political participation.

b participating in community and/or civic engagement.

6. Students will demonstrate research, writing and critical thinking skills by:

- a completing written assignments and/or discussions related to the aforementioned learning outcomes.
- b 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, written 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 & SUPPLEMENTAL RESOURCES

In an effort to reduce costs and to provide unlimited access to course resources for students, we are offering open educational resources (OER) for POS 2041 (free via digital access).

- This course will use the following *Open Educational Resource* (OER) textbook.
 - 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)

- All reading materials will be provided online via *MyCourses* free of charge.
 - If you need to have a hard copy of the textbook, you may purchase it via [SPC College Bookstore](#).
 - You may also access the textbook via the publisher's website [American Government \(2e - OpenStax\)](#), <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

As an SPC student it is 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 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.

SPC Accessibility Services provides accommodations that ensure equal access for all students. If you need assistance, please reach out via

<https://www.spcollege.edu/current-students/student-affairs/student-support-resources/accessibility-services>

For more information and resources, refer to the **St. Petersburg College Addendum**

IMPORTANT DATES

Course Dates: January 11, 2021 - May 6, 2021.

Drop Date: January 15, 2021.

Withdrawal Date: March 24, 2021.

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](#).

Attendance and active participation is expected and is essential for the successful completion of this course. This class is a Face-to-Face course and students must attend the live scheduled class sessions to be counted as attendance. Missing up to four class sessions can result in being dropped from the course. Active participation in class discussions is noted and can have a *positive impact on your final grade*.

Additionally, 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. 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 the instructor, 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.

View the [Schedule of Assignments](#) in the Course Content to see the list of assignments for this class and their corresponding due dates.

NOTE: *I do not offer extra credit. In lieu of extra credit, you will have the one lowest grade dropped in each of the following categories: quizzes, written assignments.*

ASSIGNMENTS

All graded work will be completed and submitted online through MyCourses.

Quizzes - 12 quizzes, 10 at 30 points each and 2 at 25 points, for a total of 350 points, 35% of your final grade.

In all modules you will have a quiz on the chapter(s) in that module and all of the supplemental materials provided. Quizzes will be multiple choice.

Written Assignments - 4 Written Assignments, each worth 50 points, for a total of 200 points, 20% of your final grade.

You will be asked to apply what you have learned in different modules with well-written essay submissions. You will receive clear instructions on the specifics. 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 submissions adequately to earn credit. Your written assignments will partially contribute to the SPC Writing Requirement.

Research Project - A two part assignment, Part 1 is worth 50 points and Part 2 is worth 100 points for a total of 150 points, 15% of your final grade.

This course includes a 1,500 word Research Project. Additional instructions will be provided within the Research Project Module. Each of the two components of the Research Project must be submitted to the appropriate Dropbox for evaluation. The Research Project will also contribute to the SPC Writing Requirement. The Research Paper Dropboxes utilize Turnitin in order to detect plagiarism.

Exams - This course will include two Exams (Midterm and Final), each worth 150 points, for a total of 30% of your final grade. You will have two exams covering 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 exams will be online and will have a time limit. They will automatically submit upon the expiration of your allotted time. The exams 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. Only two attempts and submissions are allowed for each. Prepare well before opening the exam.

STUDENTS' EXPECTATIONS AND INSTRUCTOR'S EXPECTATIONS

Expectations of students:

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

Expectations of the instructor:

- 1 To follow the syllabus and provide you with information regarding any necessary changes.
- 2 Provide ongoing feedback and respond timely to student concerns.
- 3 Create assessments and exams that reflect the stated learning expectations for the course.
- 4 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 two weeks.
- 5 Reply promptly to your emails answered within 24-48 hours (excluding holidays), if you use MyCourses email. (If you use SPC email it may go to spam and I may miss your message.)
- 6 To provide positive feedback, encouragement and respect.
- 7 To maintain a courteous and safe atmosphere in the online environment.
- 8 Highlight the importance of the subject matter by using real examples.
- 9 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 affect 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 patiently for the response. Always use professional language and college level writing. Discussion time/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:

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 tendering 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.

TURNITIN

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 PDF format 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.

LIVE ONLINE TECHNOLOGY REQUIREMENTS

You must have the following technology items to be successful in this Face to Face class with a blended component:

- Monitor
- Webcam
- Microphone
- Regular access to reliable, high speed internet access on a computer (not a mobile device). I realize mobile

devices are awesome and I encourage you to use them where appropriate. There are parts of our class that can be accessed with them, but to succeed, you must have ***regular access to a laptop or desktop computer with high speed internet access.*** Consider this the same as your transportation to class!

ACCESSIBILITY OF TECHNOLOGY

- [MyCourses \(Brightspace by Desire2Learn\) Accessibility](#)
- [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 end 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.