

St. Petersburg College

American National Government POS 2041 Online - Express **(Term 525 Section 2385)**

Spring Semester, 2017

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COURSE PREFIX AND NUMBER: POS 2041

MEETING INFORMATION: February 6 – May 5, 2017

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:

American Government and Politics Today: Essentials 2015 - 2016 Edition by Barbara A. Bardes, Mack C. Shelley and Steffen W. Schmidt (18th edition) ISBN: 9781285853154.

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

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

Additional study tools for this textbook are available for a cost of about \$15 at <http://www.cengagebrain.com/shop/isbn/9781133604372#prodDetailTab1>

RESOURCES:

MyCourses is the college's online learning management system used for this course. MyCourses is accessible from most mobile devices (e.g. smart phones, tablets). The URL is <https://mycourses.spcollege.edu>. Sign in and your courses will all be listed.

[Help line for students with computer questions/problems: 727-341-4357](tel: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 do not sign into the course during any week of the semester, you will be considered absent. During the 1st, 2nd, and 9th weeks of the course, if you have not signed into the course, your absence will be reported and you may be dropped 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.

Veteran Services:

St. Pete Gibbs: Room AD 120, Larry Hobbs, (727) 341-4271
Clearwater: Room SS-102, (727) 791-2677
Seminole: PB 601, Allison Shernofsky, (727) 394-6204
Tarpon Springs: Room AG 105, (727) 712-5848

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

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!

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. If you need assistance during an emergency classroom evacuation, please contact your campus learning specialist immediately about arrangements for your safety. Here are important numbers:

Office of Disability Resources:

Director of Disability Resources: Peg Connell, (727) 341-3398

St. Pete Gibbs/Allstate: Ray Hollowell, (727) 341-4316 and T.J. Williams, (727) 341-7913

Clearwater: Jeff Zeigler (727) 791-2710

Epicenter/DT/MT: T.J. Williams (727) 341-7913

Seminole: Aimee Stubbs (727) 394-6289

Tarpon Springs: Barbara Thompson (727) 712-5789

Health Ed: Stephanie Silvers, (727) 341-3721

Please let me know immediately if you have been granted any special accommodations. Notify me know as soon as possible about special accommodations (not after an assignment is due).

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.

To learn more about avoiding academic plagiarism, see page SP-19 of your textbook.

POLICY ON MISSED/LATE WORK

There are no excuses for 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 MyCourses calendar, on the syllabus, and on each MyCourses unit. One week leeway is given for discussions and assignments; you will see for each discussion and assignment a due date and a close date. After the close date, work will not be accepted. I suggest you use this grace time well and only in an emergency. **Discussion 1, Tests/Exams and the final political analysis report will not be open for an extra week and must be completed on time.**

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, pos 2041-3277], instructor's name, date, and word count on the title page. Word count does not include title page or references.

All assignments (tests, discussions, essays) will be turned in online on MyCourses. Do not email me with your assignment. Log on to MyCourses 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 or how to complete an assignment, help is available for you at no cost:

- St. Petersburg College Library **APA/MLA citation assistance** at <http://spcollege.libguides.com/citations>
- **LEARNING SUPPORT COMMONS:** Learning support is available at no cost on every campus:

St. Pete Gibbs

Library Program Director: Jorge Perez, (727) 341-7183
Learning Support Supervisor: Gail Lancaster, (727) 341-3592

Clearwater

Library Program Director: Kim Wolff, (727) 791-2617
Learning Support Supervisor: Matthew Bodie, (727) 791-2415

Downtown/Midtown

Library Program Director: Heather Disler, (727) 341-7911
Learning Support Supervisor: Heather Disler

Seminole

Library Program Director: Jennifer Gregor, (727) 394-6184
 Learning Support Supervisor: Jennifer Gregor

Tarpon Springs

Library Program Director: Ethan Hart, (727) 712-5728
 Learning Support Supervisor: Dimitrios Begetis, (727) 712-5729

Allstate

Library Program Director: Jorge Perez (727) 341-7183

Health Ed

Library Program Director: Josh Brown, (727) 341-3657
 Learning Support Supervisor: Anne Neiberger, (727) 341-3724

GRADING:

Your final grade in this class will be based on the grades you earn on assignments, exams, team participation and class participation. You must earn a C in this course in order to pass.

A	900-1000	points
B	800-890	points
C	700-790	points
D	600-690	points
F	< 590	points

Graded Assessments – Instructions on MYCOURSES drop boxes

	Assessment	# of assessments	Points	Percent
	Quiz 1	Academic Honesty 1	20	2
Lowest test grade will be dropped	Test 1	1	150	15
	Test 2	1	150	15
	Test 3	1	150	15
	Test 4	1	150	15
	Assignments	4 @ 40 points each	160	16
	Participation discussion questions	4 @ 30 points each	120	12
	Political Analysis Report		250	12
		Total Points	1000	100

POS 2041 Schedule for Spring Semester 2017 (525)

Assignment	Folder	Points	Due Date	Closing Date*
Orientation Activities				
Academic Honesty Quiz (attendance **)	Start Here!	20	2/12/2017	No extra time
Discussion: Who are You? EXTRA CREDIT	Start Here!	10	2/12/2017	No extra time
Unit 1 READ Chapters 1-3 plus materials and videos on MYCOURSES				
Unit 1 Discussion	Unit 1	30	2/19/2017	No extra time
Unit 1 Assignment (attendance **)	Unit 1	40	2/19/2017	2/26/2017
Unit 1 Test***	Unit 1	150	2/20/2017	2/26/2017
Unit 2 READ Chapters 10-12 plus materials and videos on MYCOURSES				
Unit 2 Discussion	Unit 2	30	3/5/2017	3/19/2017
Unit 2 Assignment	Unit 2	40	3/5/2017	3/19/2017
Unit 2 Test***	Unit 2	150	3/13/2017	3/19/2017
Unit 3 READ Chapters 13, 4, 5 plus materials and videos on MYCOURSES				
Unit 3 Discussion (attendance **)	Unit 3	30	3/26/2017	No extra time
Unit 3 Assignment	Unit 3	40	3/26/2017	4/2/2017
Unit 3 Test***	Unit 3	150	3/27/2017	4/2/2017
Unit 4 READ Chapters 6-9 plus materials and videos on MYCOURSES				
Unit 4 Discussion	Unit 4	30	4/19/2017	4/16/2017
Unit 4 Assignment	Unit 4	40	4/19/2017	4/16/2017
Unit 4 Test**	Unit 4	150	4/10/2017	4/16/2017
FINAL Political Analysis Report				
Political Analysis Report	FINAL Writing Assignment	250	4/23/2017	4/30/2017
TOTAL POINTS (lowest test score dropped)		1000		

* The **due date** is the date your work is due. The **closing date** is the last day you may submit a paper for grading. The closing date is your EMERGENCY date. There are no extensions for sickness, death, marriages, break ups, evictions, computer crises, or your dog ran away, etc. Use this week for any emergency and not for day-to-day life. I expect work to be turned in on the due date. No penalty for using the emergency week.

** I base your **attendance** reported to the college on your submission of the Academic Honesty Quiz and Discussions 1 and 3; those items do not have an emergency due date. If you do not submit these items on time, you will be dropped from class.

*** Your lowest test grade will be dropped.

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.