



PENSACOLA STATE COLLEGE

American National Government - Section Syllabus

POS 2041 - P1289

Fall 2024, Session A

Instructor: Robert Thead

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Final Exam Date: TBD

Last Date of Drop/Add: August 23, 2024

Last Date for Student to Withdraw: November 5, 2024

Course Description: A study of the American federal system of government with emphasis on the constitutional distribution of powers among the legislative, executive, and judicial branches and the states. An analysis of policy formation as related to democratic theory and the role of government in the society.

Class Meeting Time: Tuesday-Thursday 8:00am-9:15am

Class Location: Pensacola, Building 14, Room 1441

Credits: 3 cc

Prerequisites: ENC 1101C with a grade of C or better.

Offered: FA, SP, SU.

Distribution: Meets AA General Education Core, Social Sciences requirement. A writing emphasis course. Satisfies the State of Florida civic literacy requirement.

Required Textbooks and Instructional Materials: Free "Open Educational Resources" required. Please see your instructor.

Supplemental Textbooks and Instructional Materials: None.

Special Requirements:

Writing Emphasis Requirement: A minimum of three fully developed, multi-paragraph, evaluated writing assignments, not including a final examination, are required.

Writing Emphasis Requirement: Instructors provide detailed feedback regarding the content, organization, and use of standard written English for each evaluated writing assignment.

Writing Emphasis Requirement: Instructors return each evaluated writing assignment to a student before submission of the next evaluated writing assignment.

Writing Emphasis Requirement: Only individual student work may count toward the minimum three evaluated writing assignments.

Writing Emphasis Requirement: Grading rubrics will be used for each evaluated writing assignment. These rubrics will be shared with each student.

Writing Emphasis Requirement: The grades earned on the writing assignments must reflect student performance in college-level writing and significantly impact the final course grade.

Methods of Evaluation:

At minimum, the instructor will cover content which aligns with statewide and institutional learning outcomes for the course. The instructor will measure student performance using the following:

Grading Scale:	
90% - 100%	A
87% - 89%	B+
80% - 86%	B
77% - 79%	C+
70% - 76%	C
67% - 69%	D+
60% - 66%	D
0% - 59%	F

Grading Calculation	
1 test @ 10 percent	10%
1 midterm @ 10 percent	10%
1 final @ 20 percent	20%
3 formal writing assignments @ 15 percent each	45%
3 Participation Assignments @ 5%	15%
Totals	100%

Evaluations of student progress towards achieving the stated learning outcomes and performance objectives is the responsibility of the instructor, within the policies of the College and the department. Detailed explanations are included in the course supplementals developed by the instructor for each section being taught.

[Instructor Requirements

Exams: The exams will be primarily essay-based. They will be conducted at the regular class time, and will be proctored using Canvas. We will not be using any sort of lockdown browser. A review for each exam will be made available.

Written assignments: You will be submitting 3 written assignments throughout the semester (the due dates for each are clearly noted in the semester schedule), each covering major themes and issues covered in the textbook and the classroom. In each of these assignments, you will argue/take a side on an issue. All writing assignments will be submitted electronically, via Canvas. You will be issued topics/prompts at least one week before each writing assignment is due. Length will range from 2 – 4 pages, double spaced, 12 point font.

Turnitin: Your writing assignments will be submitted via Turnitin. Some of you might be familiar with this program. Turnitin is used as a plagiarism checker. Although it is often used to catch plagiarism after the fact, I prefer to use Turnitin as a teaching tool. If you submit drafts of your papers BEFORE they are due, you will have the opportunity to revise areas of your paper where you might be unintentionally plagiarizing sources and/or not citing them correctly. We will discuss this further in class before the due date of your first written assignment.

Participation: Your participation in this exercise counts for 15% of your total grade. Throughout the semester, there will be 3 participation assignments. We will be discussing this further in class. You will not be required to speak in class.

Student Expectations: Students enrolled in this course can expect the following:

1. clearly identified course objectives;
2. productive class meetings;
3. a positive learning environment;
4. opportunities for appropriate student participation;
5. effective instruction;
6. positive and appropriate interactions;
7. assistance with meeting course objectives during and beyond class hours;
8. evaluation of student performance and appropriate and timely feedback; and
9. clear and well-organized instruction.

General Education Student Learning Outcomes:

Critical Thinking: The student analyzes, evaluates, and, if necessary, challenges the validity of ideas, principles, or data in order to develop informed opinions, probable predictions, or defensible conclusions.

Communication: The student effectively communicates knowledge and ideas.

Cultural Literacy: The student demonstrates an understanding of human culture and its diversity.

Course Learning Outcomes:

1. Identify the parts of the Constitution relating to political institutions and the rights of individuals.
2. Explore the structure and function of each branch of government.
3. Identify the key players and their roles in the political process of policy formulation within the scope of American political culture.
4. Develop and demonstrate an understanding of the basic principles and practices of American democracy and how they are applied in our republican form of government.
5. Develop and demonstrate an understanding of the United States Constitution and its application.
6. Develop and demonstrated knowledge of the founding documents and how they have shaped the nature and functions of our institutions of self-governance.
7. Develop and demonstrate an understanding of landmark Supreme Court cases, landmark legislation, and landmark executive actions and their impact on law and society.

Academic Dishonesty Statement:

Pensacola State College is committed to upholding the highest standards of academic conduct. All forms of academic dishonesty, to include plagiarism and cheating, are prohibited. Penalties for academic dishonesty include but are not limited to one or more of the following: the awarding of no credit on the assignment, a reduction in the course grade, or the assignment of a final course grade of F and removal from the course. See the College Catalog for more details: <https://pensacolastate.smartcatalogiq.com/en/2023-2024/Catalog/Student-Handbook/Student-Responsibilities/Plagiarism-and-Academic-Cheating>

Student Email Accounts:

Pensacola State College provides an institutional email account to all students enrolled in courses for credit. PirateMail is the official method of communication, and students must use PirateMail when communicating with the College. In cases where companion software is used for a particular class, email may be exchanged between instructor and student using the companion software.

Flexibility:

It is the intention of the instructor to accomplish the objectives specified in the course syllabus. However, circumstances may arise which prohibit the fulfilling of this endeavor. Therefore, this syllabus is subject to change. When possible, students will be notified of any change in advance of its occurrence.

ADA Statement:

Students with a disability that falls under the Americans with Disability Act or Section 504 of the Rehabilitation Act, it is the responsibility of the student to notify Student Resource Center for ADA Services to discuss any special needs or equipment necessary to accomplish the requirements for this course. Upon completion of registration with the Student Resource Center for ADA Services office, specific arrangements can be discussed with the instructor.

Equity Statement:

Pensacola State College does not discriminate against any person on the basis of race, color, national origin, sex, disability, age, ethnicity, religion, marital status, pregnancy, sexual orientation, gender identity or genetic information in its programs, activities, and employment. For inquiries regarding the College's nondiscrimination policies, contact the Executive Director of Institutional Equity and Student Conduct, 1000 College Blvd., Building 5, Pensacola, Florida 32504, (850) 484-1759.

Security Statement:

Pensacola State College is committed to encouraging all members of the College community to be proactive in personal safety measures. In case of emergency, students should ensure that they are aware of the building exit closest to each of their classrooms, as well as all alternative building exits in case circumstances require using a different route.

Emergency Statement:

In the case of severe weather or other emergency, the College administration maintains communication with appropriate state and local agencies and makes a determination regarding the cancellation of classes. Notices of cancellation will be made through the College's PSC Alert system and on the College's website.

Tentative Course Schedule**Week 01 – Topic: Introduction**

Monday

Wednesday

Week 02 – Topic: The Founding and the Constitution Participation Assignment #1 Due

Monday

Wednesday

Week 03 – Topic: The Electoral College Explained;

Monday
Wednesday

Week 04 – Topic: Civil Liberties, Civil Rights First Writing Assignment Due

Monday
Wednesday

Week 05 – Topic: Civil Rights cont'd

Monday
Wednesday

Week 06 – Topic: In-Depth Current Events

Monday Financial Literacy & Student Loans
Wednesday The U.S. Dollar and the Global Financial System

Week 07 – Topic: In-Depth Current Events

Monday Ukraine War Backgrounder
Wednesday U.S. Household Debt Crisis

Week 08 – Topic: In-Depth Current Events Participation Assignment #2 Due

Monday Gen Z and Mental Health
Wednesday Midterm, Topics 6 – 8

Week 09 – The Media and Social Media

Monday
Wednesday

Week 10 – Topic: Campaigns & Elections

Monday
Wednesday

Week 11 – Interest Groups & The Swamp (2020) Participation Assignment #3 Due

Monday
Wednesday

Week 12 – Topic: Congress Second Writing Assignment Due

Monday
Wednesday

Week 13 – Topic: The Judiciary

Monday
Wednesday

Week 14 – Topic: Judiciary, cont'd

Monday

Wednesday

Week 15 – Topic: Presidency, 9/11, & The Global War on Terror Third Writing Assignment Due

Monday

Wednesday

Week 16 – Topic: Legacy of 9/11 & the Global War on Terror cont'd

Monday

Wednesday

Final Exam: