



PENSACOLA STATE COLLEGE

American National Government - Section Syllabus

POS 2041 - W1522

Fall 2024, Session A

Instructor: Donna Gosbee

Office: If you need a face-to-face meeting, please email to arrange time and location

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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 and Thursday, 11:10am-12:15pm, August 19-December 13, 2024

Class Location: Warrington Campus, Building 3100 Room 3124

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	
EXAMS: Exam 1 = 10%; Exam 2 = 15%; Exam 3 = 15%	40%
3 written essays at 15% EACH	45%
5 quizzes at 2% each	10%
Class Participation/Attendance	5%
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.

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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.

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COURSE CALENDAR

Week 1	Monday, 1/15/2024	Martin Luther King, Jr. Day – NO CLASS
Week 1	Wednesday, 1/17/2024	Introduction; Changing American Demographics; READ FOR DISCUSSION DURING CLASS: MODULE 1: AMERICAN GOVERNMENT & CIVIC ENGAGEMENT
Week 2	Monday, 1/22/2024	Discussion on Early American Life, pre-Constitution
Week 2	Wednesday, 1/24/2024	BIRTH OF OUR U.S. CONSTITUTION – Read Module 2: The Constitution and Its Origins for Discussion in class
Week 3	Monday, 1/29/2024	READ MODULE # 3 on Federalism for discussion in class
Week 3	Wednesday, 1/31/2024	Federalism FIRST ESSAY IS DUE VIA TURNITIN ON CANVAS-SEE ASSIGNMENTS
Week 4	Monday, 2/05/2024	READ MODULE # 4 – CIVIL LIBERTIES FOR DISCUSSION IN CLASS
Week 4	Wednesday, 2/07/2024	Discussion on Civil Liberties
Week 5	Monday 2/12/2024	READ MODULE 5: CIVIL RIGHTS FOR DISCUSSION IN CLASS – ALSO READ SMITHSONIAN ARTICLE ON EMMETT TILL: https://americanhistory.si.edu/reckoning-with-remembrance?utm_source=si.edu&utm_medium=referral&utm_campaign=MyVisitSI Also watch two short videos: Dr. Martin Luther King, Jr.’s “I Have A Dream” https://youtu.be/0o3a2HIKkuE and Robert F. Kennedy’s “The Mindless Menace of Violence” https://youtu.be/ncUYKk_CuTM
Week 5	Wednesday 2/14/2024	Civil Rights
Week 6	Monday, 2/19/2024	PRESIDENT’S DAY – NO CLASS
Week 6	Wednesday, 2/21/2024	EXAM OVER MODULES 1 - 5
Week 7	Monday, 2/26/2024	READ MODULE 11: CONGRESS: Also Read the article “Hating on Congress: An American Tradition at https://news.gallup.com/opinion/gallup/262316/hating-congress-american-tradition.aspx
Week 7	Wednesday 2/28/2024	Congress
Week 8	Monday, 03/04/2024	READ MODULE 12: THE PRESIDENCY; ALSO READ THE ARTICLE, “Presidential Power Surges” at https://hls.harvard.edu/today/presidential-power-surges/ ESSAY # 2 DUE VIA TURNITIN ON CANVAS

Week 8	Wednesday 03/06/2024	The Presidency
Week 9	Monday 03/11/2024	READ MODULE 13: THE COURTS; ALSO READ THE ARTICLE, "The Supreme Court Has Always Been Political" at https://ulrnyu.org/the-supreme-court-has-always-been-political
Week 9	Wednesday 03/13/2024	THE COURTS
Week 10	Monday 03/18/2024	Read Module 15: The Federal Bureaucracy for Discussion in Class
Week 10	Wednesday 03/20/2024	EXAM NUMBER 2: Over Congress, the Presidency, The Courts, and the Bureaucracy
Week 11	Monday 03/25/2024	SPRING BREAK – NO CLASS
Week 11	Wednesday 03/27/2024	SPRING BREAK – NO CLASS
Week 12	Monday 04/01/2024	Read Module 10: Interest Groups for discussion in class
Week 12	Wednesday 04/03/2024	Read Module 6: PUBLIC OPINION for discussion in class
Week 13	Monday 04/08/2024	Read Module 9: POLITICAL PARTIES for discussion in class
Week 13	Wednesday 04/10/2024	Read Module 7: Voting and Elections for discussion in class
Week 14	Monday 04/15/2024	Read Module 8: The Media for discussion in class
Week 14	Wednesday 04/17/2024	The Media ESSAY # 3 IS DUE VIA TURNITIN ON CANVAS
Week 15	Monday 04/22/2024	Read Module 16: DOMESTIC POLICY for discussion in class
Week 15	Wednesday 04/24/2024	Domestic Policy
Week 16	Monday 04/29/2024	Read Module 17: Foreign Policy for discussion in class
Week 16	Wednesday 05/01/2024	Foreign Policy
Week 17	Monday 05/06/2024	FINAL EXAM

USE OF TURNITIN:

All writing assignments in this course will be submitted to Turnitin via Canvas. Turnitin generates a report on the originality of your writing by comparing it with a database of periodicals, books, online content, student papers, and other published work. This report can help you discern when you are using sources fairly, citing properly, and paraphrasing effectively -- skills essential to all academic work. Turnitin also generates a report that assesses the possibility that all or part of an essay may have been created through use of artificial intelligence (AI). If the Turnitin report indicates the possibility of AI generated work, the instructor may ask you to rework the paper to make sure it is in your words.

Students agree that by taking this course all required papers may be subject to submission for textual similarity review to Turnitin.com for the detection of plagiarism. All submitted papers will be included as source documents in the Turnitin.com reference database solely for the purpose of detecting plagiarism of such papers. Use of Turnitin.com page service is subject to the Usage Policy and Privacy Pledge posted on the Turnitin.com site.

It is highly recommended that you submit your paper early enough to review your Turnitin.com report before the final due date of your paper. Then, if necessary, you will have time to ask for help from the instructor or someone at the Writing Center.

EXAMS:

The three course exams will be a combination of multiple choice, fill-in-the-blank, and short essay.

WRITTEN ASSIGNMENTS:

You will be submitting three written assignments throughout the semester. The due dates are clearly noted in the course schedule above. Each will cover major themes and issues covered in the textbook and in the class lectures. In each of these assignments, you will argue/take a side on a topic. These written assignments **MUST** be submitted electronically via Turnitin. 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, using 12-point font, with one-inch margins, and page numbers at the bottom center. For reference, one double-spaced page is approximately 250 words, so your papers should be between 500 - 1000 words total.

COURSE POLICIES:

Quizzes and Tests - Quizzes **CANNOT** be made up. If you are absent on the day a quiz is given, you will receive a 'zero' (0) grade for that quiz. Exams must be complete within the timeframe given on Canvas. In case of a legitimate emergency, the instructor may give you the chance to make up a missed exam, but there will be a penalty deduction of 5%.

Homework - Reading assignments as well as written assignments are documented on the course schedule above. Students are expected to come to class ready to discuss the readings.

Class Participation - If you are absent, you will not be allowed to make up any in-class assignments or quizzes. An important component of this course is class discussion of current political events. You are expected to contribute to the discussion. Excessive absences and/or lack of participation in class discussions can impact your grade.

Talking or texting on a cell phone while class is in session is not allowed. If special circumstances/emergencies arise, please inform the instructor.

Class disruptions, including but not limited to persistent talking while the instructor or another student is speaking could result in your being asked to leave the class. If you are asked to leave class for violating class policy you will be counted absent from class and may not be allowed to make up work from that day.

ATTENDANCE POLICY:

Regular class attendance and consistent class participation are significant factors that promote student success. Each student is expected to attend all class meetings of all courses for which they are registered. Each student is responsible for knowing and adhering to the faculty member's attendance policy for each course taken. Excessive absences can affect the course grade, course completion, and financial aid funding.

Instructor's Absence Policy: If you miss more than 1 class this semester, you are considered excessively absent and your final grade for the class will be impacted by those absences. A 5% of final grade attendance/participation component has been built into the grading calculations. More than one absence during the semester will impact that percentage in a negative way. The college only grants "excused" absences for students to participate in officially sanctioned events such as athletic or academic competitions. A note from a doctor will not excuse an absence.

Pirates CARE Student Resource Center

As a student, you may experience challenges that can interfere with your academic and personal success. These can include things such as basic needs (food, housing, transportation, healthcare, etc.), increased anxiety, depression, substance use, grief, or other stressful experiences. The Pirates CARE Student Resource Center provides free services to students, including emergency aid, campus food pantries, career clothing closets, connections to local resources for basic needs support, and confidential mental health counseling services provided in-person or via telehealth.

ESSAY RUBRIC FOR WRITING EMPHASIS COURSES:

Grade Equivalent	A (90-100)	B (80-89)	C (70-79)	D (60-69)	F (0-59)
Thesis (the general idea)	Essay includes a clear thesis that articulates a central idea about the essay's topic.	Essay includes clear thesis addressing topic, but thesis is not as strong/precise as an "A" paper.	The thesis may be unclear, weak, or may not match the essay's content sufficiently.	The thesis is unclear or inappropriate to the topic.	The essay lacks a recognizable thesis statement or central idea.
Organization and Coherence	Essay flows logically; uses clear organizational pattern appropriate for assignment. Uses proper sentence order and effective transitions.	Essay flows logically most times; includes appropriate organizational pattern. With minor exceptions, writer controls sentence order and transitions.	Essay's logic is discernible but flawed. Includes acceptable organizational pattern; but some lapses in sentence order and use of transitions are evident.	Essay's logic is discernible at times but often difficult to follow. The essay is not organized appropriately, and ideas often lack clear connections.	The essay has no discernible plan or organization and is difficult to follow.
Content	Essay is skillfully developed. Critical thinking about topic is evident through use of vivid details and relevant examples to support key ideas.	The essay is mostly developed and uses appropriate details and examples that indicate critical thinking about the topic.	The essay is somewhat developed. Supporting details and examples are present but minimally effective.	The essay lacks development and provides few details. It lacks specific, vivid, and relevant examples.	The essay is undeveloped and fails to use relevant details or examples.
Style, Grammar, Mechanics, Format	Language is clear/precise, using appropriate academic tone. No discernible departures from Standard Edited Written American English (SEWAE) . No major errors in MLA/APA/Turabian format. No major errors in documentation.	The language is clear and mostly precise. Academic tone is used throughout with only a few minor lapses. The essay has few departures from SEWAE. May contain a few minor errors in formatting or documentation.	The language is understandable throughout. Tone is occasionally inappropriate or uneven. The essay exhibits some departures from SEWAE which may occasionally interfere with readability. May contain errors in formatting or documentation.	The language is often confusing. Tone is inappropriate or uneven. The essay exhibits numerous departures from SEWAE interfering with readability. Significant formatting or documentation errors.	Language makes essay difficult to read. Tone is inappropriate. Errors are so numerous that the reader struggles to discern meaning. Formatting or documentation is missing or inadequate.

