



PENSACOLA STATE COLLEGE

American National Government – Section Syllabus
POS 2041 D9205
Summer 2024 – C-Session

Instructor: David Gosbee, MS

Office: If you need a face-to-face meeting, please email to arrange time and location on campus to meet; Zoom meetings are also an option. Please contact me to arrange.

Phone: 850-484-1425 (Pensacola Campus Main Office – leave a message)

Email: dagosbee@pensacolastate.edu

Office Hours: as needed – email to arrange a meeting

Department Head: Mr. Scott Schackmann

Department Head Phone: 850-484-1118

Department Head Email: sschackmann@pensacolastate.edu

Final Exam Date: August 3 - 6, 2024

Last Date of Drop/Add: June 12th, 2024

Last Date for Student to Withdraw: July 22, 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: Online

Class Location: Online

Credits: 3

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: CourseHero eBook

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 scale:

A	90 – 100%
B+	87 – 89%
B	80 – 86%
C+	77 – 79%
C	70 – 76%
D	60 – 69%
F	59% and below

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.

Final Grade Calculation:

Your final grade in this course will be calculated as follows:

1 test at 10% of final grade	10 percent
1 midterm at 15% of final grade	15 percent
1 final exam at 20% of final grade	20 percent
3 formal writing assignments at 10% each	30 percent
Quizzes	10 percent
Discussion Posts	15 percent
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TOTAL:	100 percent

Instructor Requirements:

- **Module Readings** – For each Module there is a corresponding reading assignment that you are suggested to have completed before watching that module’s narrated power point lecture.
- **Module Quizzes** – Each week (except for exam weeks) you will have a quiz composed of 10 multiple choice and true/false questions that highlight the major ideas and concepts from that week’s module. Each quiz is worth 10 points. The quizzes are worth 10% of your total grade.
- **Weekly Discussions** – The discussion component of this course is worth 15% of your total grade. You are expected to regularly contribute and participate in these discussions. There is a total of 5 points available for each module’s discussions. Consult the Discussion Grading Rubric located in the Canvas Course Information module for criteria regarding successfully completing the discussion portion of this course.
- **Exams** – There will be 3 exams. The exam breakdown is as follows:
 - **First Exam** – Worth 10% of your total grade – Covers Modules 1 – 5
 - **Midterm Exam** – Worth 15% of your total grade – Covers Modules 6 – 9
 - **Final Exam** – Worth 20% of your total grade – Cumulative, Covering all Modules

The exams will be 100 points: 40 points are composed of multiple choice and true/false questions worth 2 points each. The other 60 points are composed of 12 short written answers worth 5 points each that can be answered in 2 – 3 sentences. The exams are timed, but are open book/open note. You will need to prepare for each test to complete the test in time. We will not use Proctorio or lockdown browsers.

- **Writing Assignments** - There are three “formal” writing assignments/essays that combined are worth 30% of your total grade, where you will be using citation (we will be using either MLA or APA citation scheme). Your essay assignments are worth 10% of your total grade each.

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

1. Clearly identified course objectives;
2. Productive class exercises;
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.

Program Student Learning Outcomes (if applicable):

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 demonstrate 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 litigation, and landmark executive actions and their impact on law and society.

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.

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:

For 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. Contact the Student Resource Center for ADA Services at 850-484-1637 for more information.

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 FL 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:**Module 01 – Topic: The Founding and the Constitution - Due by Saturday June 15th, 2024**

- Read: eBook Chapter 02: The Constitution and its Origins
- **Module 01 Quiz due by June 15th**

- Complete required **discussion/response posts (due Saturday June 15th, 2024)**

Module 02 – Topic: Federalism – Due by June 22nd

- Read eBook Chapter 03: American Federalism
- **Module 02 Quiz due by June 22nd**
- Complete required **discussion/response posts (due by June 20th/June 22nd)**

Module 03 – Topic: Civil Liberties/Civil Rights – Due by June 29th

- Read eBook Chapter 04: Civil Liberties & Chapter 05: Civil Rights
- **Module 3 Quiz due by June 29th**
- Complete required **discussion/response posts (due by June 27th / June 29th)**
- **Essay # 1 due no later than June 29th**

Module 04– Topic: Congress/The Presidency – Due by Jul 6th

- Read eBook Chapters 11 and 12
- **Module 05 Quiz due by July 6th**
- Complete required **discussion/response posts (due July 5th/ July 6th)**
- **FIRST EXAM, over Modules 01 – 04 due by July 6th**

Module 05 – Topic: Supreme Court/The Federal Bureaucracy – Due by July 13th

- Read eBook Chapters 13 and 15
- Complete **required discussion/response posts (due July 11th / July 13th)**
- **EXAM 2 – CONGRESS/THE PRESIDENCY/SUPREME COURT/BUREAUCRACY due by July 13th.**

Module 06 – Topic: Public Opinion and The Media – Due by July 20th

- Read eBook Chapters 6 and 8
- Complete **required discussion/response posts (due July 18th/ July 20th)**
- **Module 6 Quiz due by July 20th, 2024**

Module 07 – Topic: Voting, Elections and Interest Groups – Due by July 27th

- Read eBook Chapter 7 & 9 & 10
- **Module 09 Quiz due July 27th**
- Complete required **discussion/response posts due July 25th/ July 27th)**

Module 8 – Topic: Domestic Policy and Foreign Policy – Due by August 3rd

- Read eBook Chapter 16 & 17
- **Module 11 Quiz due August 3rd**
- Complete **required discussion/response posts (due August 1st/ August 3rd)**

Module 9 – FINAL EXAM (Comprehensive)- Open August 3 – August 6

- **Module 13 FINAL EXAM due No Later than August 6, 2024**

This course is not a “work at your own pace” course. There are regularly scheduled deadlines for all assignments and weekly participation is required. You will have weekly discussions and assignments to complete. Some weeks will include more activities than other weeks, since this summer course is a condensed version of the normal course. Time management skills will be essential to maintain progress in the course.

Distance Learning Attendance Policy: For any student enrolled in a distance learning course, participation in the course according to the schedule of events described by the faculty member is considered attendance. A student who does not access the class website during the first week of class, does not take examinations by established due dates, or does not otherwise participate in the distance learning process as outlined by the faculty member is subject to withdrawal.

USE OF TURNITIN:

All writing assignments (the three essays) 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). Understand that submitting work that has clearly been plagiarized or generated through AI intelligence is academic dishonesty. 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 word. If an acceptable resubmission is not received in the timeframe allotted, a zero grade will result. (Also refer to Academic Dishonesty Statement, above.

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.

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. Length will range from 3 - 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 750 - 1000 words total.

Email Response:

To contact me via email, from within the course click the People link, then click my name, and then click Send Message button. Emails from all courses can be accessed from the Inbox link. I will contact you via the same e-mail tool as well.

Typically you can expect an email response from me within 24 hours. Weekends and holidays are the exceptions, where a response may take a little longer.

Posting of Grades:

Your instructor will strive to have assignments graded within one week of their submission. However, there will be occasional assignments that may take longer to grade. Your overall course grade in Canvas will update as assignments are graded.

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.