



# PENSACOLA STATE COLLEGE

American National Government - Section Syllabus

POS 2041 - D1000

Spring 2025 - A Session

**Instructor:** Donna Gosbee, DLS

**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 Departmental main office - leave a message)

**Email:** dgosbee@pensacolastate.edu

**Office Hours:** as needed - email to arrange a meeting

**Department Head:** Mr. Scott Schackmann

**Department Head Phone:** (850) 484 - 1118

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**Final Exam Date:** DTBD

**Last Date of Drop/Add:** January 16, 2025

**Last Date for Student to Withdraw:** April 7, 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 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	
Exam 1 at 10% of overall course grade	10%
Exam 2 (midterm) at 15% of overall course grade	15%
Exam 3 (Final) at 20% of overall course grade	20%
3 formal writing assignments at 10% each	30%
Quizzes	10%
Discussion/Response Posts	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.

**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.

**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, ethnicity, national origin, color, gender/sex, age, religion, marital status, pregnancy, disability, sexual orientation, gender identity, or genetic information in its educational programs, activities, or employment. For inquiries regarding Title IX and the College's nondiscrimination policies, contact the Executive Director, Equal Opportunity Compliance at (850) 484-1759, Pensacola State College, 1000 College Blvd., Pensacola, Florida 32504.

**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.

[Instructor Requirements:

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. 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 exams by established due dates, or does not otherwise participate in the distance learning process as outlined by the faculty member is subject to withdrawal.

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 course grade.

Weekly Discussions:

The discussion component of this course is worth 15% of your total course grade. You are expected to regularly contribute and participate in these discussions. There is a total of 5 points available for each module's discussion and two response posts to other students. 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 three exams throughout the course:

First Exam - Worth 10% of your total course grade - Covers Modules 2 - 5

Midterm Exam - Worth 15% of your total course grade - Covers Modules 6 - 10

Final Exam - Worth 20% of your total course grade - Cumulative - Modules 2 - 16

The exams will each be worth 100 points and include multiple choice, true/false, fill in the blank, and short answer questions. The exams are timed but are open book/open note. You will need to prepare for each test to complete them 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 course grade, where you will be using citation (MLA or APA). The due dates for these writing assignments are noted on the course schedule below. 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.

#### Use of Turnitin:

All writing assignments (the three essays) in this course will be submitted to Turnitin through 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 or identifies plagiarism, the instructor may ask you to rework the paper to make sure it is in your own words. If an acceptable resubmission is not submitted 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 for the detection of plagiarism. All submitted papers will be included as source documents in the Turnitin reference database solely for the purpose of detecting plagiarism of such papers. Use of Turnitin 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 report before the final due date of your paper. This allows you the time to ask for help from either the instructor or from the Writing Center.

#### Email Response:

To contact me via email, from within the course select the People link, then select my name, and then select "Send Message." Emails from all courses can be accessed from the inbox link. You should **ONLY** use the Canvas email to send me a message. I will contact you via the same Canvas email tool. Typically you can expect an email response from me within 24 hours. Weekends and holidays are the exceptions where a response might take a little longer.

### Posting of Grades:

Your instructor will strive to have assignments graded within one week of their submission. However, there might 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.

### COURSE SCHEDULE:

WEEK#	DATE	REQUIRED ACTIVITIES
1	08/19 – 08/25/2024	MODULE 1: INTRODUCTION Listen to Module 1 Lecture, review syllabus, take Module 1 Quiz ; Make required Discussion post by 8/25/2024
2	08/25 – 09/01/2024	Module 2 - THE FOUNDING Read eBook Chapter 02: The Constitution and Its Origins Complete required discussion/response posts (due 08/29/24 and 9/1/24) Complete Module 2 Quiz by 9/1/2024
3	09/01 – 09/08/2024	MODULE 3: FEDERALISM Read eBook Chapter 3: American Federalism Complete Required discussion/response posts (due 09/5/24 and 9/8/24) Complete Module 3 Quiz by 9/8/2024
4	09/08 - 09/15/2024	MODULE 4: CIVIL LIBERTIES Read eBook Chapter 4: Civil Liberties Complete Required discussion response posts (due 09/12/24 and 09/15/24) Complete Module 4 Quiz by 09/15/24 ESSAY 1 is due no later than 09/15/24
5	09/15 – 09/22/2024	MODULE 5: CIVIL RIGHTS Read eBook Chapter 5: Civil Rights Complete Required discussion/response posts (due 09/19/24 and 09/22/24) EXAM #1 is due no later than 9/22/24
6	09/22 – 09/29/2024	MODULE 6: CONGRESS Read eBook Chapter 11: Congress

		Complete Required discussion/response posts (due 9/26 and 9/29/2024) Complete Module 6 Quiz by 9/29/2024
7	09/29 – 10/06/2024	MODULE 7: THE PRESIDENCY Read eBook Chapter 12: The Presidency Complete Required discussion/response posts (due 10/03 and 10/06/2024) Complete Module 7 Quiz by 10/06/2024
8	10/06 - 10/13/2024	MODULE 8: THE SUPREME COURT Read eBook Chapter 13: The Supreme Court Complete Required discussion/response posts (due 10/10 and 10/13/2024) Complete Module 8 Quiz by 10/13/2024
9	10/13 – 10/20/2024	MODULE 9: THE FEDERAL BUREAUCRACY Read eBook Chapter 15: The Bureaucracy Complete Required discussion/response posts (due 10/17 and 10/20/2024) Complete Module 9 Quiz by 10/20/2024
10	10/20 – 10/27/2024	MODULE 10: INTEREST GROUPS Read eBook Chapter 10: Interest Groups Complete required discussion/response posts (due 10/24 and 10/27/2024) MIDTERM EXAM over Modules 6-10 due no later than 10/27/2024
11	10/27 – 11/03/2024	MODULE 11: PUBLIC OPINION Read eBook Chapter 6: Public Opinion Complete required discussion/response posts (due 10/31/ and 11/3/2024) Complete Module 11 Quiz by 11/3/2024 ESSAY 2 is due by 11/3/2024
12	11/03 – 11/10/2024	MODULE 12: THE MEDIA Read eBook Chapter 8: The Media Complete required discussion/response posts (due 11/07/ and 11/10/2024) Complete Module 12 Quiz by 11/10/2024
13	11/10 – 11/17/2024	MODULE 13: VOTING/ELECTIONS Read eBook Chapter 7: Voting and Elections Complete Required discussion/response posts (due 11/14/ and 11/17/2024)

		Complete Module 13 Quiz no later than 11/17/2024
14	11/17 – 11/24/2024	MODULE 14: POLITICAL PARTIES Read eBook Chapter 9 Complete Required discussion/response posts (due 11/21 and 11/24/2024) Complete Module 14 Quiz no later than 11/24/2024 ESSAY #3 is due no later than 11/24/2024
15	11/24/ - 11/26/2024	MODULE 15: DOMESTIC POLICY Read eBook Chapter 16: Domestic Policy Complete Required discussion/response posts (due 11/26/ and 11/26/2024) Complete Module 15 Quiz by 11/26/2024
16	12/01/ - 12/08/2024	MODULE 16: FOREIGN POLICY Read eBook Chapter 17: Foreign Policy Complete Required discussion/response posts (due 12/
17	12/07/ - 12/11/2024	FINAL EXAM – OPENS 12/07/2024, CLOSES AT 11:59PM on 12/11/2024



ESSAY RUBRIC FOR WRITING EMPHASIS COURSES:

<b>Grade Equivalent</b>	<b>A (90-100)</b>	<b>B (80-89)</b>	<b>C (70-79)</b>	<b>D (60-69)</b>	<b>F (0-59)</b>
<b>Thesis (the general idea)</b>	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.
<b>Organization and Coherence</b>	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.
<b>Content</b>	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.
<b>Style, Grammar, Mechanics, Format</b>	Language is clear/precise, using appropriate academic tone. No discernible departures from <b>Standard Edited Written American English (SEWAE)</b> . 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.