



# PENSACOLA STATE COLLEGE

American National Government - Section Syllabus

POS 2041 - M1005

Spring 2025, Session A

**Instructor:** John Link

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**Office Hours:** M/W: 12:30-2:00 (Pensacola), T/Th 9:30-10:30 (SSRC), T/Th 7:30-8:00, 10:30-12:30 (virtual)

**Department Head:** Mr. Scott Schackmann

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

**Department Head Email:** [sschackmann@pensacolastate.edu](mailto:sschackmann@pensacolastate.edu)

**Final Exam Date:** TBD

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

**Last Date for Student to Withdraw:** Apr 7, 2025

**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:** M-W 7:30-8:45

**Class Location:** Milton Campus, Building 4800 Rm 4811

**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 One	10%
"Midterm" Exam	10%
"Final" Exam	10%
3 Writing Assignments @10% each	30%
Participation (discussion or quiz)/Attendance	20%
Five Minute Presentation	10%
Debate	10%
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.

[Exams: There will be three exams (see course schedule below). Exam three will take place during Finals week and will be cumulative.

Written assignments: You will be submitting 3 written assignments throughout the semester (the due dates for each are noted in the semester schedule), each covering major themes and issues covered in the textbook and the classroom. One of these writing assignments may be a group/collaborative project. You will be issued topics/prompts at least one week before each writing assignment is due. Length will range from 2 – 4 pages (although I reserve the right to use word count instead), 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. 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 20 percent of your total grade. Your participation grade will be evaluated by your attendance, participation in our classroom discussions, and occasional quizzes or participation exercises. I will discuss this further in the first week of the course.

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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.

## Course Policies:

### Attendance policy:

\*\* Class attendance is required. Attendance will be taken via student signature on the attendance sheet or by roll call. It is the student's responsibility to ensure attendance is recorded on the attendance sheet. Attendance is worth 20 percent of your final grade (two letter grades); this is how important I consider attendance to be. At the end of the semester, I will forgive TWO missed classes for each student. Exceptions will be made for college-approved activities such as participation in academic or sporting events, as well as for other extenuating cases at the sole discretion of the instructor.\*\*

A note on attendance: "Participate in class. You are paying for it. More importantly, you are here to learn, aren't you? There is no substitute for classroom interaction." (imagine me saying this to you out loud)

PSC's no smoking policy includes a ban on e-cigarettes even in Live Online format.

If you are asked to leave the class for violating class policies, you will be counted absent from that class and may not be allowed to make up work from that week. Before returning to class, you must meet with the instructor and/or the Director of Student Conduct.

Student Perception Surveys – EvaluationKit: During the term, you will receive a notification in PirateMail and/or Canvas with a link to EvaluationKit, the online evaluation system used by Pensacola State College. Please take advantage of this opportunity to provide anonymous feedback to your instructors about their courses. Your opinions are valuable, and your evaluations enable instructors to assess their teaching style and help them decide what changes to consider in curriculum, textbooks, or assignments.

Flexibility Statement: 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.

If you miss something in class, first consult your syllabus, and then get with a classmate for any notes you might need. Do not email me with "what did I miss?" or "did I miss anything important?" While I will be happy to answer any specific questions you might have, after you have consulted with classmates about getting notes, I will not redeliver entire lectures in response to "what did I miss?"

I take classroom courtesy seriously. You are attending a college class, and doing so voluntarily. As such, I expect you to respect our time together as well as the decorum of the academic environment. Sleeping during a lecture or class activity is not allowed. Please don't embarrass yourself by being asked to leave for sleeping in the classroom. Also, electronic devices, other than those required for notetaking, are strictly forbidden during class time. This means no TikTok, Instagram, Facebook, My Space, Candy Crush, Reddit, Fortnite, Madden 24, or any other electronic application or platform. Engaging on your phone or other electronic during class is the pinnacle of disrespect to the instructor and your classmates, and will be dealt with as such. I've been an instructor long enough to know when you are taking notes and when you are checking the sports

scores and socials. Also, I can see the phone hidden behind your book or on your lap. Don't test me. Lastly, this class is not a study hall for your other classes.

While email is the best method for contacting me, be reasonable in your expectations of response times. I check my email multiple times a day and generally can respond within 24 hours rather than 24 minutes. Also, I am unlikely to respond to emails from 9pm – 8am. Lastly, instructors are people too and need time to recuperate from the week. As such, I will not respond to any emails on Sundays. Lastly, please email me with your assigned PSC email and make sure I know what class you are taking. Non-university assigned email addresses have a way of ending up in spam folders that I do not check on a regular basis. As a side note, if you're still rocking the "rolltide2023@hotmail" or "queen of tictok32@gmail" email address, it is time to upgrade to something more professional!

This class will be conducted under the regulations defined in the Pensacola State College Code of Student Conduct in the College Catalog.

Additional Information on Plagiarism:

Your writing is your intellectual property. Guard it carefully. You could find yourself in the unpleasant position of trying to prove that you are the true author of this work. Save preliminary drafts of your work, reading notes, data collection sheets, and copies of library sources you make while researching your paper. You may be asked to produce these if questions of authorship arise. Make back-up copies to protect your work from computer failures.

I reserve the right to submit written assignments to the Turnitin service or use other methods to evaluate the originality of the work submitted. I will remove personal identifiers from any electronic files I submit to the Turnitin database for evaluation.

Plagiarism is a serious violation of academic standards and will be punished severely. Students who plagiarize will fail the course and will be referred to the Dean for academic dishonesty. Some students are surprised to learn that they plagiarized themselves when they inappropriately used work produced for one course in another course. If you are unsure, ask your instructor for guidance. See the PSC Student Code of Conduct for information about the University policy on academic conduct and plagiarism and the consequences for students who engage in academic misconduct.

You may feel the urge to plagiarize. Don't do it. You will be caught, and you will be punished severely. I have testified at several academic misconduct proceedings. To a person, the perpetrator regrets his/her/their decision. Punishments vary, don't gamble with your academic career. These are short papers, do the work. Your paper will go through a plagiarism checker, so DON'T CUT AND PASTE from an online source.

If I suspect AI was used as the primary source for your work, you will be required to complete additional in-class verification of knowledge to ensure that are satisfying the desired outcomes for this class. This may be accomplished by written or discussion-based inquiry, at instructor's preference.

Extensions: Generally I do not allow extensions except in the most extenuating of circumstances. Lack of planning, lack of preparation, or unexpected illnesses or personal issues do not constitute extenuating

circumstances. Despite this warning, if you feel you both need AND deserve an extension to an assignment deadline, you must do so during posted office hours (for face to face classes) or via live Zoom meeting (for online classes). I will not entertain requests via Canvas message, email, telegraph, messenger pigeon, smoke-signal, courier, or in the classroom.

Extra Help:

Instructor during office hours or (better yet!) by appointment.

Virtual Tutoring in Writing and Math is free for all Pensacola State College students. For more information about the virtual tutoring schedule, use this link: <https://www.pensacolastate.edu/current-students/student-services/virtual-tutoring/>

The Writing Lab offers free face to face tutoring in writing and grammar to all Pensacola State College students at the following locations. Writing Lab Resources ([instructure.com](http://instructure.com))

Pensacola campus: Bldg. 4 Rm. 448

Milton campus: Bldg. 4400 Rm. 4401

Warrington campus: Bldg. 3100 Rm. 3142B

South Santa Rosa Center: Room 5194

The Math Lab offers free tutoring in Math, Physics, and Chemistry to all Pensacola State College students at the following locations. Information on Math tutoring hours and locations:

<https://pensacolastate.instructure.com/courses/1399484>

Pensacola Campus: Bldg. 1 Rm. 111

Milton Campus: Bldg. 4400 Rm. 4413

Warrington Campus: Bldg. 3100 Rm. 3142D

South Santa Rosa Center: Room 5194

TRIO-Student Support Services provides students with access to a long list of FREE services. TRIO-SSS can provide students with their own personal advisor, who can help with any type of advising (academic, transfer, financial aid, career, personal/social). Students will also have access to tutoring (currently virtual 24/7). Call 850-484-2028 or go to [www.pensacolastate.edu/trio](http://www.pensacolastate.edu/trio) for more information.

The Student Resource Center (SRC) for ADA Services office is located on the Pensacola Campus. Students with a disability that qualifies under the American with Disabilities Act (ADA) are encouraged to contact the Student Resource Center for ADA Services. Disabilities covered by ADA may include learning, psychiatric, physical disabilities, or chronic health disorders. Students can contact SRC/ADA if they are not certain whether a medical condition/disability qualifies. <https://www.pensacolastate.edu/current-students/student-services/student-resource-center-for-ada-services/#1479481819670-26b18b82-30ea> SRC/ADA is located in Building 6, Room 603 Contact by email [ADA-services@pensacolastate.edu](mailto:ADA-services@pensacolastate.edu) or by phone at 850-484-1637.

PSC Wellness Services: As a student, you may experience a wide range of challenges that can interfere with learning. These can include life stressors such as strained relationships, increased anxiety, depression, problems concentrating, substance use, lack of motivation, or other stressful experiences which interfere with your academic and personal success. If you are experiencing any of the above, PSC Wellness Services are available to you. All students are eligible for free, confidential individual counseling services provided in person or via tele-health. You can contact Counseling Services on campus at 850-484-1758 or by e-mail at [bclark@pensacolastate.edu](mailto:bclark@pensacolastate.edu). Counseling Services off campus (BayCare) are available 24/7 at 800-878-5470. For additional 24/7 crisis help, the Crisis Text Line can be accessed by texting "GULF" to 741-741 and the Suicide Lifeline can be reached by phone 800-273-8255.

Library home page: <http://library.pensacolastate.edu/>

Canvas Passwords and Technical Support: 850-471-4534 (toll free: 888-897-3605). Other Canvas Support: 855-534-1843 (toll free)

Student Canvas Orientation Course: <https://pensacolastate.instructure.com/courses/1177031>

Student Zoom and Canvas Tutorial Videos: <https://elearning.pensacolastate.edu/introduction-to-canvas/>

PSC Student Handbook: <http://pensacolastate.smartcatalogiq.com/en/2021-2022/Catalog/StudentHandbook>

Online Student Resource Guide: <https://www.pensacolastate.edu/current-students/student-services/> PDF version: <https://www.pensacolastate.edu/documents/student-resoure-guide/>

Writing help is available for every PSC student. If you are having trouble with your writing assignments, I highly encourage you to seek assistance. That is what the Writing Lab is there for. Experienced and accomplished writers usually did not get there without regularly seeking advice and input on their work.

COURSE SCHEDULE: See separate Course Schedule document in Canvas.

Essay Rubric for Writing Emphasis Courses



Grade Equivalent	A (90-100)	B (80-89)	C (70-79)	D (60-69)	F (0-59)
Thesis (Central Idea)	The essay includes a clear thesis that articulates a central idea about the essay's topic.	The essay includes a clear thesis that addresses the topic, but the thesis is not as strong or precise as that of 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	The essay flows logically and uses a clear organizational pattern appropriate to the assignment. Proper sentence order and effective transitions are evident.	The essay flows logically most of the time and includes an appropriate organizational pattern. With minor exceptions, the writer is in control of sentence order and transitions.	The essay's logic is discernible but flawed.  The essay includes an acceptable organizational pattern; however, some lapses in sentence order and use of transitions are evident.	The 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	The essay is skillfully developed. Critical thinking about the topic is evident through the 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.

<p>Style, Grammar, Mechanics, Format</p>	<p>The language is clear and precise. The essay uses an appropriate academic tone. The essay has no discernible departures from Standard Edited Written American English (SEWAE). Contains no major errors in MLA/APA/Turabian format. If documentation is used, no major errors are present.</p>	<p>The language is clear and mostly precise. An 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.</p>	<p>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.</p>	<p>The language is often confusing. Tone is inappropriate or uneven. The essay exhibits numerous departures from SEWAE which interfere with readability. May contain significant formatting or documentation errors.</p>	<p>The language makes the essay difficult to read. The tone is inappropriate. Errors are so numerous that the reader must struggle to discern meaning. Formatting or documentation is absent or inadequate.</p>
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