



PENSACOLA STATE COLLEGE

American National Government Section Syllabus

POS2041 P1143

Summer 2024, B-Session

Instructor: Robert Thead

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Final Exam Date: TBD

Last Date of Drop/Add: May 14, 2024

Last Date for Student to Withdraw: June 11, 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: Course Hero 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:

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

Grading

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

1 test @ 10 percent	10 percent
1 midterm @ 15 percent	15 percent
1 final @ 15 percent	15 percent
3 writing assignments @ 15 percent each	45 percent
3 participation assignments @ 5 percent	15 percent

TOTAL	100 percent
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Textbook: This course does *not* require a textbook. On Canvas you can find curated reading for the course, all online and free and organized by topics in the order we will go through them, that will get you through the course. However, if you prefer one the book listed on page 1 of this syllabus will assist you in following along. Copies are available in the PSC bookstore and from various booksellers online.

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.**

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.

The Writing Lab offers free face to face tutoring in writing and grammar to all Pensacola State College students at the following locations. Social distancing rules will be observed in the labs. They are available online as the Virtual Writing Lab: <https://pensacolastate.instructure.com/courses/1325752>

Pensacola Campus: Bldg. 4 Rm. 448

Milton Campus: Bldg. 4400 Rm. 4401

Warrington Campus: Bldg. 3100 Rm. 3142B

South Santa Rosa Center: Rm. 5194

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.
Style, Grammar, Mechanics, Format	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.	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.	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 which interfere with readability. May contain significant formatting or documentation errors.	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.

Course Policies:

Attendance policy:

- Regular, punctual attendance is required per the Pensacola State College Catalog. **To be clear: if you miss more than 3 classes this semester you are considered excessively absent.** Refer to the explanation of Excessive Absences in the current catalog for more information.
 - Tardiness and leaving class early may be converted to absences.
 - **If a student is excessively absent—exceeds more than 3 absences—each additional absence will result in a 10% penalty of your total grade.**
 - If a student comes into the class session after the instructor has taken roll, it is the responsibility of the student to see the instructor at the end of class to request that his/her attendance status be updated.
- 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.
 - College policy disallows visitors in the labs or classrooms.
 - PSC's no smoking policy includes a ban on e-cigarettes even in Live Online format.
 - If you are asked to leave class for violating class policies, you will be counted absent from class and may not be allowed to make up work from that day. Before returning to class, you must meet with the instructor and/or the Director of Student Conduct.
 - Late work will be accepted under special circumstances, but points will be taken off.
 - Cheating and Plagiarism Policy: Plagiarism is the use of anyone else's ideas or words without giving proper credit. Cheating includes, among other things, copying someone else's work, turning in work done by someone else, or turning in work that has been submitted in another class by you or anyone else. The consequences of either plagiarism or cheating are an automatic zero (0) on the work in question and possible failure of the course or discipline by the college. Please refer to the College Catalog for the college policy regarding cheating and plagiarism.
 - 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 a day 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?”

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

Student Resources

<https://www.pensacolastate.edu/documents/student-resource-guide/>