



PENSACOLA STATE COLLEGE

American National Government - Section Syllabus

POS 2041 – D9261

Fall 2025, Session A

Instructor: Robert Thead

Office: Room 1408, Building 14 (1st floor), Pensacola Campus

Phone: 850/484-1313

Email: rthead@pensacolastate.edu

Office Hours: TBA Main Campus Room 1408 Building 14 (1st floor) or over Zoom (accessible via Canvas)

Department Head: Mr. Scott Schackmann

Department Head Phone: (850) 484 - 1118

Department Head Email: sschackmann@pensacolastate.edu

Final Exam Date: TBA

Last Date of Drop/Add: 8/22/25

Last Date for Student to Withdraw: 11/4/25

Course Description: In this course, students will investigate how the national government is structured and how the American constitutional republic operates. It covers the philosophical and historical foundations of American government, including but not limited to the Declaration of Independence, the United States Constitution and all its amendments, and the Federalist Papers. The course examines the branches of government and the government's laws, policies, and programs. It also examines the ways in which citizens participate in their government and ways their government responds to citizens.

Class Meeting Time: Online

Class Location: Online

Semester Hours: 3 credit hours

Prerequisite(s): Grade of C or better in ENC 1101.

Semester Offered: Fall, Spring, Summer

Course Designations: College Transfer. Meets AA General Education Core, Social Sciences requirement. A writing emphasis course. Satisfies the State of Florida civic literacy course requirement.

Required Textbooks and Instructional Materials: Free "Open Educational Resources" required. Please see your instructor.

Supplemental Textbooks and Instructional Materials: None

General Education Writing Emphasis Course Requirements:

1. All writing used to fulfill the writing emphasis requirement must possess the five characteristics of college-level writing: 1) have a clearly identified central idea or thesis; 2) provide adequate support for the idea; 3) be organized clearly and logically; 4) show awareness of the conventions of standard written English, and 5) be formatted in an appropriate fashion for the assignment.

2. A minimum of four (4) evaluated assignments, which may include the final exam, is required. Because an extensive amount of writing is intended by Rule 6A-10.030, F.A.C., additional writing assignments may be used to satisfy this requirement.
3. The grades earned on the writing assignments must reflect student performance in college-level writing and significantly impact the final course grade.
4. All sections of a course must meet all requirements.
5. Instructors provide detailed feedback regarding the content, organization, and use of standard written English for all writing used to satisfy the requirement.
6. Instructors return each evaluated writing assignment to a student before the submission of the next evaluated writing assignment, with the exception of a final exam used to satisfy the requirement.
7. Only individual, original student work counts toward the extensive writing requirement; AI or machine-written content is not accepted.
8. The grading rubrics used for each writing assignment will be shared with students and will be uniformly applied as the assessment instrument in all sections of a course.

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	
1 test @ 10 percent (250 words)	10%
1 midterm @ 15 percent (250 words)	15%
1 final @ 20 percent (250 words)	20%
3 writing assignments @ 10 percent each (1000, 750, 750 words) 30 percent	30%
Quizzes	10%
Discussion Posts (250 words x 11 = 2750 words)	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 Core Course Standard: Per Florida Statue 1007.25, "Social science courses must afford students an understanding of the basic social and behavioral science concepts and principles used in the analysis of behavior and past and present social, political, and economic issues."

General Education Student Learning Outcomes:

1. **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.
2. **Communication:** The student effectively communicates knowledge and ideas.
3. **Cultural Literacy:** Demonstrate an understanding of human culture.

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://catalog.pensacolastate.edu/content.php?catoid=2&navoid=47#academic-honesty>

Student Email Accounts: Pensacola State College provides an institutional email account to all students enrolled in courses for credit. This institutional email account is the official method of communication, and students must use this account 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 qualifies under the American with Disabilities Act Amendments Act of 2008 (ADAAA) must self-identify with the Student Resource Center for ADA Services (SRC/ADA). Disabilities covered by the ADAAA 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. SRC/ADA is located on the Pensacola campus in building 6, room 603, ADA-services@pensacolastate.edu, 850-484-1637. Students may also complete the online intake form in the ADA Services app within the PSC apps dashboard.

Equity Statement: Pensacola State College does not discriminate against any person on the basis of race, ethnicity, national origin, color, 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 Dean of Students 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.