



PENSACOLA STATE COLLEGE

American National Government - Section Syllabus

POS 2041 – D9301

Fall 2025 A-Session

Instructor: Robert Thead

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Office Hours:

Monday: 9:00am – 11:00am; 1:00pm – 2:00pm

Tuesday: 12:00pm – 2:00pm

Wednesday: 9:00am – 11:00am; 1:00pm – 2:00pm

Thursday: 12:00pm – 2:00pm

Department Head: Mr. Scott Schackmann

Department Head Phone: (850) 484 - 1118

Department Head Email: sschackmann@pensacolastate.edu

Final Exam Date: December 7th – 11th

Last Date of Drop/Add: Friday, August 22nd

Last Date for Student to Withdraw: Tuesday, November 4th

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.

Semester Hours: 3 credit hours

Prerequisite(s): ENC 1101C with a grade of C or better

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

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:

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 @ 20 percent	20 percent
3 writing assignments @ 10 percent each	30 percent
Quizzes	10 percent
Discussion Posts	15 percent
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TOTAL	100 percent

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

Final Grade Calculation

Written assignments: You will be submitting 3 formal, researched & cited written assignments/essays throughout the semester, each covering major themes and issues covered in the textbook and the classroom worth 30% total of your grade. 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 (750 – 1000 words), double spaced, 12 point font.

Exams: The exams open-book and are proctored via Proctorio, but your webcam is not recorded. The exams consist of multiple choice and short-answer questions, with approximately 500-750 words of writing per exam. The short-answer questions can be answered in several sentences.

Discussions: Each week we will discuss a topic that aligns with the instructional content. All discussions require that you post an individual response to the topic being discussed. Additionally, you will also be required to respond thoughtfully to the postings of some of your classmates. ("Yes, I agree" is not a thoughtful response.) or each week that has a class discussion, you will be required to submit your individual response to the questions raised by Thursday (of the week they are assigned) at 11:59 P.M. The responses to your classmates must be posted no later than Sunday (of the same week) at 11:59 P.M. Total word count for each week should be approximately 250 words.

Quizzes: Weekly, multiple-choice quizzes will be held each week with the option of multiple attempts.

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.

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.