POS 2041 - American National Government

2015 Spring Semester Online Class

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Review the syllabus addendum for important information for students.
http://www.spcollege.edu/addendum/

Required Textbook


Course Description

This course is designed to give the student an understanding of the organization, structure and functions of the national government. You will gain knowledge of the historical events that led to the development of this unique form of government. You will gain an understanding of the interplay between the executive, legislative and judicial branches, and the impact of their decisions on our daily lives.

In the process of gaining an understanding of the structure government, you will be introduced to civil liberties and the ongoing struggle for civil rights. You will gain an appreciation of the need for government, the various forms of government that exist in the world and how their actions impact the global community.

Course/Chapter Objectives

Course/Chapter objectives are listed in each chapter module.

Course Requirements

A large volume of material is covered in this course. Students are expected to keep up with the reading and the corresponding assignments. This includes completing the assigned readings, completing chapter and unit assignments, participating in online discussion forums, completing exams and the research paper.
**Exams**

There will be four Unit exams in this course. Each will be a timed test that you will take online during the scheduled days. Each exam will have 50 questions and will be worth up to 100 points. See the weekly schedule for exam dates. The weekly schedule is located in the Welcome to POS 2041 module.

**Writing Requirements**

There is a substantial writing requirement in this course. To satisfy this requirement, you will write a research paper, reply to discussion posts topics, and complete Unit chapter assignments. The research paper assignment is located on the Course Content page and Unit assignments will be located in Unit modules on the Course Content page.

Discussion post topics will be located in Unit modules on the Course Content page. Take care to organize your thoughts before you post your response to discussion post topic. Check your spelling, sentence and paragraph structure before you post. **After you post you cannot delete what you posted.** There will be a length requirement for each post and it will be specified with the topic post.

All assignments completed through MyCourses must be submitted within the allotted time. **E-mailed assignments outside of MyCourses will NOT be graded.** Make sure to save a copy of all your work outside of MyCourses before you submit it.

**You must use the APA citation style for all writing assignments in this course.** Refer to The Little, Brown Handbook for examples of the APA style. There should be a copy of this book on reserve at SPC libraries. You can access APA citation style information online through the SPC library online Web site. Here is the APA page. [http://spcollege.libguides.com/content.php?pid=98920&sid=742315](http://spcollege.libguides.com/content.php?pid=98920&sid=742315)

**Points Scale**

<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th>Assignment</th>
<th>Points</th>
<th>Total</th>
</tr>
</thead>
<tbody>
<tr>
<td>Exams</td>
<td>100 points each</td>
<td>4 total</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Assignments</td>
<td>30 points each</td>
<td>8 total</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Paper</td>
<td>100 points</td>
<td>1 total</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Discussion post</td>
<td>65 points each</td>
<td></td>
</tr>
</tbody>
</table>

Points: 900 & up = A  
800-899 = B  
700-799 = C  
600-699 = D  
599 & below = F

1000 total points possible

To receive credit in a Gordon Rule course, you must receive a grade of C or higher. Due to the nature of the testing in this course, **MAKE-UP EXAMS ARE NOT ALLOWED.**

**Active Participation Policy**

All course work will be done online. Students are responsible for all assignments due and material covered during the semester. It is the responsibility of the student to remain in contact with the instructor if any problem or concern arises.

If a student ceases to complete the scheduled assignments in a timely manner, student will be considered non-participating and therefore eligible for a “WF” at the 60% point in the semester. If a student status changes to non-participating after the 60% drop date, the student will be awarded a failing grade for the
course. If for some reason you cannot continue the course, it is your responsibility to withdraw through the proper channels.

**Academic Integrity**

St. Petersburg College expects students to be honest in all of their academic work. By enrolling at the college, students agree to adhere to the high standards of academic honesty and integrity and understand that failure to comply with this pledge may result in academic and disciplinary action, up to and including expulsion from the college. **Cheating and plagiarism are strictly prohibited and will be dealt with accordingly.** Go to [http://www.spcollege.edu/AcademicHonesty/](http://www.spcollege.edu/AcademicHonesty/) and read the policy on academic honesty.

**SPC’s Disruptive Behavior Policy**

Student behavior in the classroom or Web course is expected to contribute to a positive learning/teaching environment, respecting the rights of others and their opportunity to learn. No student has the right to interfere with the teaching/learning process, including the posting of inappropriate materials on chatroom or Web page sites.

The instructor has the authority to ask a disruptive student to leave the classroom, lab, or Web course and to file disciplinary charges if disruptive behavior continues.

**Chapter Coverage Schedule**

Below is the order in which textbook chapters will be covered. Please see the weekly schedule which is located in the Welcome to POS 2041 module.

Course material is arranged in four Units.

**Unit I – The American System**

- Chapter 1 – The Democratic Republic
- Chapter 2 – The Constitution
- Chapter 3 – Federalism

**Unit II – Political Institutions**

- Chapter 10 – The Congress
- Chapter 11 – The President
- Chapter 12 – The Bureaucracy

**Unit III – Courts, Liberties and Civil Rights**

- Chapter 13 – The Courts
- Chapter 4 – Civil Liberties
- Chapter 5 – Civil Rights

**Unit IV – People and Politics**

- Chapter 6 – Public Opinion and Political Socialization
- Chapter 7 – Interest Groups
- Chapter 8 – Political Parties
- Chapter 9 – Campaigns, Elections, and the Media