**St. Petersburg College**

**State & Local Government POS 2112**

**(Term 0630 Section 1953)**

**Spring Semester, February 12 to May 10, 2024**

**INSTRUCTOR:**Professor Lawrence A. Miller, Ph.D.

Office hours: by appointment only

Email: Miller.Lawrence@spcollege.edu

**ACADEMIC DEPARTMENT:** Dean: Joseph Smiley, PhD.

Office Location: Tarpon Springs

Office Number: LA 100

Phone: (727) 712-5851

Email: [Smiley.Joseph@spcollege.edu](mailto:Smiley.Joseph@spcollege.edu)

Academic Chair: Douglas Rivero, PhD.

Office Location: Seminole Campus, UP Center, Rm. 337

Office Phone Number:  727-394-6948

Email:  Rivero.Douglas@spcollege.edu

WEBSITE

URL:[St. Petersburg College Social and Behavioral Sciences](http://www.spcollege.edu/socialsciences/)

**Course Description:**

This course is an examination of the institutions and processes of Federalism, political parties, state governments, state protected civil liberties, counties, municipalities, special districts, and regional compacts. Examples and illustrations of processes and procedures will be drawn mainly upon the Florida government. This course partially satisfies the writing requirements outlined in the General Education Requirements.

|  |  |
| --- | --- |
| Prerequisite:[ENC 0025](about:blank)and[REA 0017](about:blank)or[EAP 1695](about:blank)or appropriate score on the SPC | |
| placement test. |  |

**Required Text:**

Politics in States and Communities by Dye and MacManus, Fifteenth Edition

ISBN 9780205994724

**Textbook Website:**

[**https://www.pearsonhighered.com/program/Dye-Politics-in-States-and-Communities-15thEdition/PGM1100061.html**](about:blank)

**Points and Grades:**

|  |  |  |
| --- | --- | --- |
| Discussion – 2 at 40 points each | 80 Points | |
| Quizzes –3 at 40 points each | 120 Points | |
| Essay Questions – 2 at 75 points each | 150 Points | |
| Essay | 200 Points | |
| Part 1 Exam  Part 2 Exam  Part 3 Exam | 150 Points  150 Points  150 Points | |
| **Total** | **1000 Points** | |
|  |  | |
| 900 to 1000 Points |  | A |
| 800 to 899 Points |  | B |
| 700 to 799 Points |  | C (A minimum grade of "C" is needed to pass this class.) |
| 600 to 699 Points |  | D |
| 0 to 599 Points |  | F |

\*Students are graded by points and you must reach 700 points in order to pass the course. It is imperative that you understand that only by completing and assignment and receiving points can you accumulate the 700 points to at least achieve a C grade.

**Communication:**

MyCourses is the primary source for all communication in this course. Emails sent through MyCourses will be replied to within 24 - 48 hours. Students may also use the college email address or leave a phone message to communicate with the instructor.

**Calendar:**

**This is where you will find all due dates!** All assignments and exam dates are posted in the Calendar. In addition, you will have a Schedule of Assignments module listed on the left side of the Course Content page.

**Assignments:**

**Introduction**

The first week of class, students are required to post a brief Introduction. Statements about interests, occupations, major fields of study and political socialization are welcome, not required. Be sure to post by the due date; students will be considered absent for the first week of class if an Introduction is not posted.

**Discussions**

There are 2 Discussion assignments that require students to post in a Discussion Forum; there are two parts to each Discussion. The student’s original post should be approximately 500 words in length. Students are also required to reply to at least one classmate’s original post. Replies must include some discussion. A mere comment such as “enjoyed your post” is not an adequate reply. If posts include quoted or borrowed information, APA citation is required. In discussions on political issues, expect diversity in terms of perspective, interest, and opinion. Be respectful and avoid insulting classmates. Profanity is prohibited. Due dates for Discussions are in the Calendar. Late postings will not be graded without valid excuse.

**Essay Questions**

There are 2 Essay Question assignments. Essay Question assignments are graded as follows:

40 points Content – Comprehensive answer, which may include **references/citations**.

35 points Mechanics – Spelling, punctuation, grammar, and complete sentences

**75 points Total**

**Quizzes**

There are 3 Quizzes in this course. Due dates for Quizzes are in the Calendar and Syllabus. Students have 30 minutes to complete each Quiz. There are 10 multiple choice questions on each Quiz. Two attempts are allowed on each Quiz.

**Essay**

This course includes a mandatory academic writing requirement. There is one Essay assignment. General instructions for the Essay assignment are listed below, and the due date is in the Calendar and Syllabus.

The Essay should be at approximately 1000 words in length.

The Essay are to be written in American Psychological Association (APA) format.

The Essay must include **in-text citation** from 3 different sources (the textbook is an acceptable source).

Limit borrowed information to 20% of your writing (Turnitin.com).

All Essays must include a **Reference page**.

Plagiarism is unacceptable; it is a serious intellectual offense. Detection of plagiarism will result in a grade of F on your Term Paper.

Late Papers - 5 points will be deducted for each day that an essay is late and will receive a zero grade after three days late.

Review APA Writing Format: There are several examples of APA format available online or at the SPC library. There is also assistance available at all SPC Tutoring Centers and through Smarthinking online. Proper APA format is worth 25 points of the Essay grade.

Option: Want to polish up your essay and improve your grade? Submit your essay to Smarthinking before you submit it to be graded.When submitting your writing to Smarthinking, select Grammar and Documentation, under the Writing tab, unless you desire a different area of review. You will receive a Tutor Response Form within 24 hours. Read the tutor’s suggestions and make the necessary corrections to your essay.

**Essay Rubric**

35 points Opening paragraph – clear central idea, thesis

35 points Writing Style – clear, concise, convincing, formal, flow

35 points Organization - supportive facts, original thought, logical progression

35 points Mechanics – spelling, punctuation, grammar

35 points Conclusion – clear summarization, correlation to thesis

25 points APA - title, header, line spacing, in-text citation, **Reference Page**

**200 points Total**

**Lecture Videos and PowerPoint Presentations**

There are Lecture Videos and PowerPoint Presentations in this course. Students are required to view all Lecture Videos; PowerPoint Presentations are optional.

**Exams**

There are 3 Exams in this course, Part 1 Exam is on Chapters 1-5, Part 2 Exam is on Chapters 69, and Part 3 Exam is on Chapters 10, 11 and 15. Each Exam has 30 questions. Students will have 90 minutes to complete each Exam. Exams will be available under Course Content. The dates to take the Exams are in the Calendar and the Syllabus. Exams are not proctored in this course; they will be taken on your own. If you do not have reliable internet access, use a computer at one of the SPC campuses. One attempt is allowed on all exams and retakes are not permitted.

**\*Extra Credit**

Civic Engagement is an excellent way to earn extra credit in this course. Check the *Extra Credit*module under *Course Content* for details. Students may earn a maximum of 100 points of extra credit in this course. Note: It is necessary to submit all the required assignments and exams to receive extra credit in the course.

**Course Objectives**:

* Understand politics in states and communities, examining the political approach and comparative study of race and ethnicity
* Understand the politics of immigration, liberalism, conservatism, political cultures, and religion in the states
* Analyze the rankings of states in terms of population, employment, income, education, religion, ideology, crime, incarceration, police protection,

political participation, campaign contributions, government spending, gun laws and abortion laws

* Understand democracy in the states, state constitutions and constitutional government
* Understand the politics of state initiatives
* Understand the structure, purpose, and faults of American federalism and how states battle over constitutional amendments
* Discuss citizen participation, parties, campaigns, legislators and governors in state politics
* Understand bureaucratic politics in the states and communities
* Understand the courts, crime, and correctional policy in states
* Understand the governing of communities
* Discuss the participation in community politics
* Understand politics and civil rights
* Engage in research or civic responsibility and demonstrate academic writing skills **Tutoring Information:**

College-wide sites [http://www.spcollege.edu/tutoring/](about:blank)**Attendance Policy:**

Weekly participation of students is monitored in MyCourses. Students who fail to submit an assignment by the due date will be marked absent for the week that the assignment was due. If an assignment will not be submitted on time, due to extenuating circumstances, it is the responsibility of the student to notify the instructor.

Instructors will verify that students are in attendance at least once each week during the first two weeks of class. Students that do not participate in the first two weeks of class will be administratively withdrawn.

Immediately following the 60% point of the term, each instructor will verify which students are actively participating in class. Students classified as not meeting the criteria for active class participation, as defined in the course syllabus, will be administratively withdrawn with a “WF”. Students will be able to withdraw themselves at any time during the term. However, requests submitted after the 60% deadline will result in a “WF”. Students and instructors will automatically receive an e-mail notification to their SPC email whenever a withdrawal occurs. In order to meet the criteria for active class participation at the 60% point of the term, students must have already submitted the Essay assignment and taken the Midterm Exam.

**Withdrawal:**

If a student needs to withdraw from the course, it is the responsibility of the student to do so and can be accomplished at[http://my.spcollege.edu/](about:blank).

The deadline to withdraw with a refund is 02/16/2024**.**

The deadline for students to withdraw with a grade of “W” is 04/15/2024**.**

The deadline for withdrawing/drop with a grade of “WF” is 05/9/2024

**Note:** All students registered in the course after the withdrawal date will receive a grade. Students who abandon the course or do not withdraw themselves by the withdrawal date are subject to receive a grade of F. By SPC Policy (enacted February 2005), students cannot withdraw from a course after the withdrawal deadline.

**\*FINANCIAL ASSISTANCE RECIPIENTS:**

**If you completely withdraw from the College anytime on or before the dates of your session, you may incur repayment of Financial Assistance funds. Please make every effort to meet with your professor before withdrawing from any course.**

**ACADEMIC CALENDAR:**

See the Academic Calendar for all due dates and withdrawal dates established by the college at <http://www.spcollege.edu/calendar> It is your responsibility to meet deadlines for withdrawal.

**SPECIAL ACCOMMODATIONS:**

If you wish to request accommodations as a student with a documented disability, please make an appointment with the Learning Specialist on campus. If you have a documented hearing loss, please contact the Program for the Deaf/Hard of Hearing at (727) 791-2628. If you need assistance during an emergency classroom evacuation, please contact your campus learning specialist immediately about arrangements for your safety. Here are important numbers:

Office of Accessibility Resources:

DT: TJ Williams- (727) 341-7913

MT: Lisa Gould- 727-398-8284

I will gladly assist you if you have any questions, however, we have a strong accommodations team dedicated to your needs.

**RESOURCES:**

MyCourses is the college’s learning management system used for this course. MyCoursesis accessible from most mobile devices (e.g., smart phones, tablets). The URL is [https://mycourses.spcollege.edu](https://mycourses.spcollege.edu/). Sign in and your courses will all be listed.

Help line for students with computer questions/problems: 727-341-4357

**SSI – Student Survey of Instruction**

The Student Survey of Instruction (SSI) is available for students to provide feedback on the course; students are encouraged complete the survey. Student feedback is appreciated, and it could be extremely useful in making improvements in the course. The SSI is available on the course homepage toward the end of the semester.

**Phone Numbers**

SPC Campus Security – 727-791-2560

Student Support Center – 727-394-6016

Disability Resources 727-791-2710

Academic Advising 727-394-6108

**USING D2L**

In order for all students to get better service, please use the logoff button when completing online course work.

By logging off, D2L server space is freed, and therefore, optimizing the system. In addition, logging off will more accurately record students’ time involved in the course.

**TECHNICAL SUPPORT**

D2L requirements:[http://www.spcollege.edu/ecampus/help/technical/index.shtml](about:blank)

SPC helpdesk: 727-341-4357 onlinehelp@spcollege.edu or[www.spcollege.edu/helpdesk/](about:blank)

**STUDENT RESPONSIBILITIES**

**Course Policies and Procedures:** The student is responsible for knowing all course policies listed in the syllabus.

**Class Participation and Etiquette:**The student is responsible for participating in class weekly. The student will respect the rights of other students to learn. The student will communicate with others in a courteous and respectful manner at all times.

**Assignment Due Dates and Procedures:**The student is responsible for knowing the assignment due dates, formats required, and procedures for completing and submitting assignments.

**Academic Honesty:**The student is expected to know the SPC Academic Honesty Policy. Review it in the Syllabus Addendum (link) below.

**Attendance:**The student is responsible for reviewing the attendance record in MyCourses for inaccuracies and excessive absences.

**SYLLABUS ADDENDUM**

***In the event that topics listed in this addendum also appear in your syllabus, please note that you should rely on the addendum information as this information is the most current.***

**To access the Syllabus Addendum please go to the following URL:**

[www.spcollege.edu/addendum](about:blank)

POS 2112 Schedule of Assignments – Spring 2024

**February 12th – February 16th**

Take the Syllabus Quiz Post in the Introduction Forum

Read Chapter 1 – Politics in States and Communities

**February 19th – February 23th**

Read Chapter 2 – Democracy and Constitutionalism in the State

Take Quiz 1 Due 2/23

**February 26th – March 01st**

Read Chapters 3 – States, Communities and American Federalism

Watch Chapter 3 Lecture Video on Federalism

Post in Discussion 1 Due 3/01

**March 04th – March 8th**

Read Chapter 4 – Participation in Politics

Take Exam 1 Due 03/8

**March 18th – March 22nd**

Read Chapter 5 – Parties and Campaigns in the States

Take Quiz 2 Due 03/22

**March 25th – March 29th**

Read Chapter 6 – Legislators in State Politics

Watch Chapter 6 Lecture Video on Gerrymandering

Take Quiz 3 Due 03/29

**April 01st – April 05th**

Read Chapter 7 – Governors in State Politics

Submit Essay Question 1 Assignment Due 04/05

**April 08th – April 12th**

Read Chapter 8 - Bureaucratic Politics in States and Communities

Watch Chapter 8 Lecture Video on Bureaucracy

Essay Due April 12th

**April 15th – April 19th**

Read Chapter 9 – Courts, Crime and Correctional Policy

Take Exam 2 Due 04/19

**April 22nd – April 26th**

Read Chapter 10 – Governing America’s Communities

Post in Discussion 2 Due 04/26

**April 29th – May 3rd**

Read Chapter 11 – Participation in Community Politics

Submit Essay Question 2 Assignment Due 05/03

**May 4th – May 07th**

Read Chapter 15 – Politics and Civil Rights

Watch Chapter 15 Lecture videos on Discrimination and Affirmative Action

Take Exam 3 Due 05/07

**May 07th, Extra Credit Due**

Exam 3 Due by May 07th, all submissions for assignments must be in by 5/7/24 in order to receive any credit towards your grade.

**Final Grades Posted May 09th by 5:00 pm**