Professor Roy Slater
Social and Behavioral Sciences Department
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Office location: ES building, room 313E

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Social and Behavioral Sciences Administration

Dr. Joseph Smiley, Dean, Social and Behavioral Sciences
Office location: Tarpon Springs Campus, PS building, room 105
Office phone number: 712-5851

Anja Norman, Academic Department Chair
Office location: Clearwater Campus, ES building, room 313B
Office phone number: 791-2671

I. **Course Description:**

POS 2041  American National Government................................................. 3 credits

This survey course provides a comprehensive examination of the American political system. Through this course students will become familiar with theory, organization, principles, and function of the American national government, and various elements within the political system that work to shape policy outcomes. This course partially satisfies the writing requirements outlined in the General Education Requirements. Credit is not given for both POS 2041 and POS 2041H. 47 contact hours.

II. **Major Learning Outcomes and Learning Objectives:**

1. Students will define the purposes and forms of government.

2. Students will identify the impact of philosophical, historical, and political backgrounds of the founding documents of the United States government by:
   a. recalling the historical details leading to the formation of the United States.
   b. explaining the foundational values of the Declaration of Independence.
   c. recognizing the values and conflicts present at the writing of the United States Constitution.
   d. differentiating federal and state powers provided by United States Constitution.

3. Students will examine the institutions of the United States government by:
   a. identifying the institutions of the United States Government.
   b. distinguishing the powers of the Legislative, Executive and Judicial branches.
   c. contrasting competing interests within the United States government.

4. Students will analyze the continuing evolution of civil liberties and civil rights in the United States by:
   a. interpreting civil liberties.
   b. examining the development of civil rights for all citizens.

5. Students will recognize factors that impact governance and public policy in the United States by defining the role and affect of influences, such as: political parties, interest groups, the media, public opinion, political participation, and civic engagement.

6. Students will demonstrate research, writing and critical thinking skills.
IV. **Course Requirements and Procedures**

A. **Academic Honesty**

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. As members of the college community, students also have an ethical obligation to report violations of the SPC academic honesty policies they may witness. Go to [http://www.spcollege.edu/AcademicHonesty/](http://www.spcollege.edu/AcademicHonesty/) and read the St. Petersburg College Academic Honesty Policy.

B. **Assigned Readings**

Class discussion and lectures will constitute a large portion of class meeting time. You should attend every class meeting having read the assigned readings. Materials presented during class discussions, video presentations, and other reading assignments will likely appear on exams. You are responsible for the material covered in the assigned readings and video presentations.

C. **Attendance Policy**

1. Students will be allowed a total of four absences. If you miss more than four class meetings, you may be dropped from this class. Attendance will count as active participation.

2. You can withdraw from this class before the published deadline.

3. Attendance is mandatory for all exams. If a make-up exam is necessary, it will be given the next class meeting. Your score will be reduced a letter grade (ten points subtracted).

4. Tardiness is unacceptable. Entering the classroom late is disrupting. An absence will be recorded for students entering the classroom five minutes or later after class has begun. If you must leave early, an absence will be recorded.

D. **Exams and Grading**

1. There will be a total of four exams in this course. Exams will cover material presented during lectures, video presentations, and assigned reading material.

2. Exam grades will be based on the 100-point scale. The grading scale is:

   - 100 – 90 = A
   - 89 – 80 = B
   - 79 – 70 = C
   - 69 – 60 = D
   - Below 60 = F

3. Grades will not be curved. No exam grade will be dropped.

4. You need Scantron Form 882-E for all exams. Exams will not be graded if the answers are not on Scantron forms.

5. Final Grade: add all points you accumulate and divide by six.
E. Writing Requirement

There is a substantial writing requirement (at least 2000 words) in this course. There will be two research projects. Each research project is worth up to 100 points. Writing assignments will be announced in class and message notice posted in MyCourses.

F. Important Dates

College closed on September 4.
October 19 is last day to withdraw with grade of W.
No class for students on October 31.
College closed November 22-26.

G. Other Items

1. 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 will need assistance during an emergency classroom evacuation, please contact your campus Learning Specialist immediately about arrangements for your safety. The Office of Disability Resources can be reached at 791-2710.

2. No eating or drinking in class. You will not be allowed to sleep in class. Students will show common courtesy and respect during class discussions and lectures. Failure to abide by these procedures will result in being dropped from this class.

SPC's Disruptive Behavior Policy

Each student’s 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. Cell phones must not disturb class. Turn off device when entering the classroom.
COURSE OUTLINE

Course Introduction: August 15 & 17

Unit One: Foundations of Government
August 22 – September 14
  Chapter 1 – American Government: Roots, Context, and Culture
  Chapter 2 – The Constitution
  Chapter 3 – The Federal System
  Thursday, September 14  Exam One – Chapters 1, 2 & 3

Unit Two: Institutions of Government
September 19 – October 12
  Chapter 6 – Congress
  Chapter 12 – Campaigns, Elections and Voting
  Chapter 7 – The Presidency
  Chapter 8 – The Executive Branch and the Federal Bureaucracy
  Thursday, October 12  Exam Two – Chapters 6, 7, 8 & 12

Unit Three: Courts, Civil Liberties and Civil Rights
October 17 – November 9
  Chapter 9 – The Judiciary
  Chapter 4 – Civil Liberties
  Chapter 5 – Civil Rights
  Thursday, November 9  Exam Three – Chapters 4, 5, & 9

Unit Four: Political Behavior
November 14 – November 30
  Chapter 10 – Public Opinion and Political Socialization
  Chapter 11 – Political Parties
Chapter 14 – Interest Groups

**Final Exam Week:** December 4 – 8

Note: The above outline and procedures for this course are subject to change in the event of unforeseen circumstances. The professor reserves the right to make such changes in the outline and procedures as appropriate.