

## Syllabi

**COURSE PREFIX: POS 2041**

**COURSE NAME: American National Government, 3 credit hours**

INSTRUCTOR: Mr. John Hesting

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ACADEMIC DEPARTMENT: SOCIAL & BEHAVIORAL SCIENCE

Although it is encouraged for students to take both POS 2041 and INR 2002, a student will be permitted to register for only POS 2041 and not INR 2002. Nevertheless, for purposes of evaluating *Active Participation*, all students are expected to participate in all concurrent activities along with INR 2002.

The course should open on June 21, 2010 and end on July 23, 2010. The actual travel will occur from July 8-17, 2010, allowing two days for travel and eight days for actual on-site educational experience.

### DESCRIPTION

Prerequisite: (ENC 0020 and REA 0002) or EAP 1695 or appropriate score on the SPC placement test. 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 2050H. 47 contact hours.

### REQUIRED TEXT

Bardes, Shelly, & Schmidt. (2009). *American government and politics today: The essentials*. Wadsworth ISBN: 9780495571704

### STUDY ABROAD APPLICATION REQUIREMENTS:

Approval for participation in the program is subject to the participant

- being 18 years old or older or dually admitted and registered as a dual enrolled high school student\*
- having a GPA of 2.75 or higher
- being enrolled for credit in an approved study abroad program course
- being approved by the International Programs office
- obtaining a positive faculty recommendation for participation in the program
- paying all deposits and fees according to the fee schedule

• obtaining all immunizations required by the Centers for Disease Control (CDC) if applicable.

\*Participation as a dually enrolled student is subject to approval of this application and an interview conducted by the program's lead faculty member or designee, as well as any stated prerequisites or additional eligibility requirements.

In addition, participants are strongly encouraged to get all immunizations and preventative treatments recommended for the particular country and regions through which they will be traveling.

#### MEETING INFORMATION/ATTENDANCE POLICY:

A large volume of material is covered in this course and students are expected to come PREPARED each day to discuss the scheduled topic and/or familiar with our visits, tours or events of the day. This includes completing the assigned reading, web assignments, and essay topics in addition to staying up on current events.

This class is being conducted as a blended course, with in-class time and combined with out of class online activity. The travel component is also an intricate part of this course. Students are expected to continue to complete assignments online while in DC. If possible, students are encouraged to bring a laptop along with them to DC. If this is not possible, computers should be available on the campus that we are staying at. Due to the fact that this is a blended course, you should expect to spend at least 5 hours per week of outside activity on this course, prior to and following our trip to DC.

Students are expected to complete a large portion of the course on their own time, and independent of the traditional classroom setting. That is where the online portion of the course factors in to assist and guide students in a blended learning environment. The online portion of this course a vital source for interaction with the material covered in this course. Students are required to maintain frequent online course activity throughout the 5 week session.

Online activities will include, but not be limited to: retrieving and completing scheduled assignments, accessing instructor notes, visiting specific web sites, as well as viewing customized media segments online. All assignments will be submitted online. Please refer to the course schedule for the on campus/online class and travel dates.

Daily attendance is essential to success in this course. Students are expected to attend class and complete all assignments & exams by their due dates in order to demonstrate *continuous active participation* in this course. In order to maintain active participation in the course, students must complete web assignments, essay

project & daily journal assigned. Students are expected to attend the entire class period. You should plan to arrive on time and leave only when the class has ended. Excessive tardiness or leaving the classroom early on a regular basis disturbs others & is not considered good academic conduct.

During our on-campus weeks, if you are absent it is necessary to call or email your instructor and find out what you have missed. Again, you must contact your instructor immediately if you miss class in order to keep current on assignments and maintain active participation in the course.

Since this course touches on various political subjects and the sometimes controversial dynamics of American Government, it is essential for us to maintain a civil classroom environment. Students are expected to show the utmost respect and courtesy for their peers and those with differing viewpoints.

Cheating and plagiarism are strictly prohibited and will be dealt with according to SPC policies. <http://www.spcollege.edu/webcentral/admit/honesty.htm>

#### **Tentative Course Schedule:**

Week 1 - On-Campus Class – Two Days of POS 2041

Day One – The Constitution and Federalism

Day Two – Civil Liberties and Civil Rights

Week 2 - On-Campus Class – Two Days of POS 2041

Day One – Congress & the President

Day Two – Bureaucracy & the Judiciary

Week 3 & 4 DC Experience (7/6-7/16) – Tours, Visits & Events will include:

The White House

The US Capital, Congressional Offices, House & Senate

The US Supreme Court

The National Archives

The Department of the Treasury

The Pentagon

The National Mall & surrounding monuments/memorials

Arlington National Cemetery & the Tomb of the Unknown

Various Smithsonian Museums

National Holocaust Museum

Historic Sites in Georgetown & at George Washington University

The National Zoo and/or Aquarium

Week 5      On-Campus Class – Two Days of POS 2041

Day One & Two – final reflections & discussions from the trip & course.

## COURSE CONTENT

### Major Learning Outcomes:

1. The student will demonstrate an understanding of the purpose of government.
2. The student will demonstrate an understanding of the American federal system.
3. The student will demonstrate understanding of the various philosophical, cultural and political experiences that impacted the creation and evolution of principles and values of the American political system.
4. The student will demonstrate an understanding of the fundamental principles and features of the original Constitution of 1787.
5. The student will demonstrate an understanding of civil liberties as contained in the Constitution and interpreted by the courts.
6. The student will demonstrate knowledge of various movements to secure civil rights protections.
7. The student will demonstrate knowledge of the organization and functions of the legislative branch.
8. The student will demonstrate knowledge of the organization and functions of the executive branch.
9. The student will demonstrate knowledge of the organization and functions of the judicial branch.
10. The student will demonstrate an understanding of the nature of policy making and the factors that work to shape policy outcomes.
11. The student will demonstrate knowledge of the role of political parties and interest groups, and the impact of public opinion and political participation by diverse groups on the American political system.
12. The student will demonstrate increased ability in writing.

### Course Objectives Stated in Performances Terms:

1. The student will demonstrate an understanding of the purpose of government by defining government and describing its purpose and function.
2. The student will demonstrate an understanding of the American federal system by:

- a. defining and recognizing the arrangement of governmental power under federal systems.
  - b. defining and recognizing the arrangement of governmental power under unitary systems.
  - c. defining and recognizing the arrangement of governmental power under confederal systems.
3. The student will demonstrate an understanding of the various philosophical, cultural and political experiences that impacted the creation and evolution of principles and values of the American political system by:
- a. examining the significance of incidents provoking opposition to British rule.
  - b. examining the values and theories incorporated in the Declaration of Independence.
  - c. outlining the structural arrangement of government under the Articles of Confederation.
  - d. summarizing the weaknesses of the Articles of Confederation.
4. The student will demonstrate an understanding of the fundamental principles and features of the original Constitution of 1787 by summarizing:
- (1) popular sovereignty
  - (2) limited government
  - (3) separation of powers
  - (4) checks and balances
  - (5) representative government
  - (6) federalism - horizontal and vertical
5. The student will demonstrate an understanding of civil liberties as contained in the Constitution and interpreted by the courts by:
- a. examining the liberties contained in the original Constitution.
  - b. examining the liberties contained in the Bill of Rights and other amendments to the Constitution.
  - c. examining the role of the United States Supreme Court in interpreting the liberties identified in the Bill of Rights and other amendments to the Constitution.
  - d. explaining how the due process clause of the Fourteenth Amendment is used to selectively incorporate liberties in the Bill of Rights.
6. The student will demonstrate knowledge of various movements to secure civil rights protections by:

- a. defining civil rights and examining the concept of equality.
  - b. summarizing the importance of the equal protection clause of the Fourteenth Amendment.
  - c. examining the history and evolution of African-Americans' rights, women's rights, and other civil rights movements.
7. The student will demonstrate knowledge of the organization and functions of the legislative branch by:
- a. outlining the powers of Congress.
  - b. examining the differences and similarities between the two chambers of Congress.
  - c. explaining the law-making process of Congress.
8. The student will demonstrate knowledge of the organization and functions of the executive branch by:
- a. identifying the constitutional responsibilities of the president.
  - b. identifying the informal roles of the president.
  - c. outlining the responsibilities of the Executive Office of the President.
  - d. explaining the presidential election process and the role of the electoral college.
  - e. outlining the bureaucracy and its responsibilities.
9. The student will demonstrate knowledge of the organization and functions of the judicial branch by:
- a. outlining the federal court system.
  - b. identifying the jurisdiction of district courts, circuit courts, and the Supreme Court.
  - c. identifying and defining the types of law.
  - d. explaining the federal judicial appointment process.
  - e. explaining the meaning of judicial review.
10. The student will demonstrate an understanding of the nature of policy-making and the factors that work to shape policy outcomes by:
- a. defining domestic and foreign policy and identifying the process determining priorities of policies.
  - b. explaining the role of the executive and legislative branches in formulation and implementation of domestic and foreign policy.

- c. recognizing contextual influences on foreign and domestic policy-making.
11. The student will demonstrate knowledge of the role of political parties and interest groups and the impact of public opinion and political participation by diverse groups on the American political system by:
    - a. describing the development and function of political parties.
    - b. examining the impact of public opinion on public policy emanating from government institutions.
    - c. examining the importance of the campaign process, voting and elections to a representative democracy.
    - d. describing the functions and identifying the various types of interest groups.
    - e. describing the strategies used by interest groups and their impacts on policy-making.
  12. The student will demonstrate increased ability in writing by planning and writing one or more of the following (all of which will be evaluated):
    - a. research, analysis, outline, evaluation or other types of papers completed outside of the direct classroom experience.
    - b. research, analysis, outline, journal, evaluation or other types of essays completed during the direct classroom experience.
    - c. any type of expository, evaluative, persuasive or personal response writing as described in the college publication entitled "A Resource Manual for Writing Across the Curriculum."

**PREREQUISITES:**

Prerequisites: (REA 0002 and ENC 0020) or EAP 1695 or appropriate score on the SPC placement test

**GRADING:**

POS 2041 is a Gordon Rule course. As part of the class, each student is required to demonstrate college-level writing skills through multiple writing assignments. This will be fulfilled via the following assignments:

1. Students will complete an Essay Project. The essay project is a series of in-depth college-level essays, incorporating APA or MLA writing formats. This assignment must include critical analysis and thoughtful academic elaboration of the subject matter that it covers. The essay project consists of 8 directed essays with specific multi-part questions covering the areas of: The Constitution; Federalism; Civil Liberties; Civil Rights; Congress; The President; The Bureaucracy; The

Judiciary. Questions and specific requirements for the project will be given the students the first day of class.

2. Students will complete a series of web exploration assignments. These are out of class assignments in which students are asked to visit certain web sites that accompany certain subjects in the course, and then either answer a series of analytical questions or write a short essay reporting what they found on their web site expedition.
3. Students will keep a Daily Journal while in DC. The journal entries will be completed nightly when students return to their dorm rooms. This is a reflection exercise to not only record what you did for the day but to reflect and analyze what you experienced and learned as part of the visits. Even though this is a journal and can be considered less formal than the essay project, students are expected to meet college-level grammatical standards and expectations of college-level writers.

*This course is designed to meet the college's writing requirement. Therefore, you are expected to write at least 2,000 words to fulfill the expectations set forth by the college. A passing grade CANNOT be awarded to those students who do not fulfill the writing requirement for this course.*

<b>Essay Project</b>	<b>60%</b>
<b>Web Assignments – Participation</b>	<b>20%</b>
<b>Daily DC Journal</b>	<b>20%</b>
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<b>Total Grade</b>	<b>100%</b>

**Grading Scale:** (100 – 90 = A) (89 – 80 = B) (79 – 70 = C) (69 – 60 = D) (59 and below = F)

Please note that in order for this class to count towards satisfying the Gordon Rule requirement, you must earn a grade of “C” or higher.

#### DUAL ENROLLMENT, EARLY ADMISSIONS, & EARLY COLLEGE STUDENTS:

A Dual Enrollment, Early Admissions, or Early College student may not withdraw from any college level course. Withdrawal from a course will jeopardize the student’s graduation from high school. Please contact Larry Webster; Dual Enrollment (341-3181), Jeff Cesta; Early College (791-5970), or your campus Early Admissions coordinator for additional information.

#### ACADEMIC HONESTY:

St. Petersburg College has an Academic Honesty policy. It is your responsibility to be

familiar with the policies, rules, and the consequences of violations. Read about the policy at: <http://www.spcollege.edu/webcentral/admit/honesty.htm>. There is no tolerance for cheating and academic dishonesty. Discipline can range from a zero on that specific assignment to expulsion from the class with a grade of F. Note that copy/pasting published information, whether it's from your textbook or the Internet, without citing your source is plagiarism and violates this policy. Even if you change the words slightly, the ideas are someone else's, so you still have to cite your sources. Cheating, plagiarism, bribery, misrepresentation, conspiracy and fabrication are defined in Rule 6Hx23-4.461, Student Affairs: Academic Honesty Guidelines, Classroom Behavior.

#### CELL PHONES, BEEPERS, RELATED DEVICES:

All electronic devices such as cell phones, beepers, pagers, and related devices are to be turned off prior to entering the classroom, library and laboratories to avoid disruption. Use of any device in these areas is a violation of College Policy and subject to disciplinary action.

#### ITEMS TO PACK:

You should pack a variety of clothing options ranging from casual to business casual. Because the weather is changeable, it is recommended that you bring a variety of clothing and an umbrella. Clothing should not be too revealing (No tight shirts, low cut shorts/skirts, undergarments hanging out of pants, excessively baggy pants, clothes with holes in them, etc...) Because there will be a great deal of walking, you should bring comfortable walking shoes, a fanny pack and/or a backpack if you plan to take notes while on tours.

If there is a medication that you must take, bring an adequate supply for your stay. If you take medications with you, be sure to have copies of the prescriptions and leave the medication in the original container. You may be asked to show the prescription at customs in order to prove that the medication is a prescribed drug. The prescription should be written in terms of the chemical composition or generic name rather than brand name, and should include dosage, instructions, and reason for prescribing the drug. Do not plan on having U.S. prescriptions filled abroad. If you wear glasses or contact lenses, take along an extra pair. Also, be sure to have the lens prescription with you in case you need it later.

#### STUDENT CONDUCT / ALCOHOL AND DRUG POLICY:

Please refer to important information about student conduct and related policies in your study abroad application package.

#### SPECIAL ACCOMMODATIONS:

If you anticipate requesting of the Learning Specialist an accommodation for a documented disability, it is important to notify the International Programs office as soon

as possible that you plan to make a request. Please also make an appointment with the Learning Specialist on campus to make your request as soon as possible. The Learning Specialist can be reached at 791-2628 or 791-2710 (CL), 341-4758 (SP/G), 394-6108 (SE), 712-5789 (TS), or 341-4532 (AC).

LINK TO DEPARTMENT OF STATE ADVISORY FOR STUDY ABROAD  
DESTINATION(S):

[www.state.gov](http://www.state.gov) - This information is subject to change; please check this source again as departure time nears.

## **Suggested Safety Precautions and Arrangements**

Students will be provided the personal cell phone numbers for their faculty. The nearest hospital to where students will be staying is Georgetown University Hospital located at 3800 Reservoir Road, Washington D.C.

The lead faculty member on the trip will carry emergency safety supplies appropriate for the environment and first aid care.

In addition, specifics regarding safety in an unfamiliar environment are covered in participant orientation, including the Study Abroad Emergency Checklist. This checklist covers knowing where to go in emergencies (how to get there, transportation options), emergency contact information (home and local) and contact numbers (local 911 equivalent, embassy, police, hospital, etc.), back-up plans, special conditions, emergency kits, and cash reserves and alternatives. Closer to the time of travel, current safety conditions can be obtained from the State Department via the Internet. All participants are required to carry health insurance that covers \$100,000 accident/sickness coverage, including evacuation and repatriation of remains that will be included in your trip fees.

### **Common Sense Precautions**

(These suggestions have been taken from Bill Hoffa's Study Abroad Handbook which can be obtained at [www.studyabroad.com/handbook](http://www.studyabroad.com/handbook).)

Keep a low profile and try not to make yourself conspicuous by dress, speech, or behavior, in ways that might identify you as a target. Do not draw attention to yourself either through expensive dress, personal accessories (cameras, radios, etc.) or careless behavior.

Avoid crowds, protest groups, or other potentially volatile situations.

Keep abreast of local news. Read local newspapers, magazines, etc. and speak with local officials to learn about any potential civil unrest. If there should be any political unrest, do not get involved.

Be wary of unexpected packages and stay clear of unattended luggage or parcels in airports, train stations, or other areas of uncontrolled public access.

Report to the responsible authority any suspicious persons loitering around residence or instructional facilities, or following you; keep your residence area locked; use common sense in divulging information to strangers about your study program and your fellow students.

Make sure the resident director, host family, or foreign university official who is assigned the responsibility for your welfare always knows where and how to contact you in an emergency and your schedule and itinerary of where you are traveling, even if only overnight.

Develop with your family a plan for regular telephone or e-mail contact, so that in times of heightened political tension, you will be able to communicate with your parents directly about your safety and wellbeing.

The US government monitors the political conditions in every country around the world. For current information, advisories, or warnings contact the State Department in Washington DC (202- 647-4000) or the local US embassy or consulate where you are: [www.usembassy.state.gov](http://www.usembassy.state.gov)

Be aware of local health conditions abroad, especially if you are traveling to remote areas, you should be aware of any public health service recommendations or advisories. For current health conditions abroad contact local officials, or consult the Centers for Disease Control (404-639-3311), or [www.cdc.gov/travel/](http://www.cdc.gov/travel/).

Know local laws: laws and systems of justice are not universal and you will be subject to the laws of the host country. Do not assume that just because it is legal in the United States, that it is legal abroad.

Use banks to exchange your money: do not exchange your money on the black market (on the street). Do not carry on your person more money than you need for the day. Carry your credit cards, traveler's checks, etc. in a very safe place.

Do not impair your judgment due to excessive consumption of alcohol, and do not fall under the influence of drugs.

Female travelers are sometimes more likely to encounter harassment, but uncomfortable situations can usually be avoided by taking the following precautions: Dress conservatively. While short skirts and tank tops may be comfortable, they may also encourage unwanted attention. Avoid walking alone late at night or in questionable neighborhoods. Do not agree to meet a person whom you do not know in a non-public place. Be aware that some men from other countries tend to mistake the friendliness of American women for romantic interest.

## Medical Precautions

“Since your physical and mental well-being is a fundamental component of a successful and happy stay abroad, we encourage you to plan ahead. Schedule check-ups with your physician, dentist, and eye-care specialist before departure. Even mild physical or psychological disorders can become serious under the

stresses of life while studying abroad. In order to ensure that you can stay healthy while away from home, it is important that you discuss your treatment plan with your physician...

If there is a medication that you must take, bring an adequate supply for your stay. If you take medications with you, be sure to have copies of the prescriptions and leave the medication in the original container. You may be asked to show the prescription at customs in order to prove that the medication is a prescribed drug. The prescription should be written in terms of the chemical composition or generic name rather than brand name, and should include dosage, instructions, and reason for prescribing the drug. Do not plan on having U.S. prescriptions filled abroad. If you wear glasses or contact lenses, take along an extra pair. Also, be sure to have the lens prescription with you in case you need it later.

Note that it is illegal to bring some common over-the-counter medications from the U.S. into certain countries. Please refer to the U.S. State Department's Consular Information Sheet on the country where you will be studying: [www.travel.state.gov](http://www.travel.state.gov)" ([http://www.temple.edu/studyabroad/health\\_safety.html](http://www.temple.edu/studyabroad/health_safety.html)).