

STATE COLLEGE OF FLORIDA, MANATEE-SARASOTA
Social and Behavioral Sciences and Community Services

POS 1041 American Government
Master Syllabus

Course CRN 20195;20427;20554;21161;21338;21352; Course Seq L01;O02;O03;O04;O05;Z03

Instructor's Name: Danny Fuerstman

Office Location: Lakewood Ranch Campus; CIT Room 156

Office Hours: My student hours are Monday 8:30-9:30 AM, Tuesday 8-10 AM, Wednesday 8:30-9:30 AM, Thursday 8-10 AM. All of those are in-person on the Lakewood Ranch campus at my office location above. I am also available virtually via Teams on Fridays from 8 AM to 12 PM.

Telephone: 941-363-7272

Email Address: FuerstD@scf.edu

Last Day for Add/Drop: A final date will be added to the syllabus prior to the start of the term. For now, please consult <https://scf.edu/Academics/AcademicCalendar.asp> for term dates.

Last Day to Withdraw Without Academic Penalty: A final date will be added to the syllabus prior to the start of the term. For now, please consult <https://scf.edu/Academics/AcademicCalendar.asp> for term dates.

Course Description:

This course meets Area III for the A.A./A.S. general education and civic literacy requirements. This course focuses on the structure and operation of our national government emphasizing the relationships that exist under a federal system of government and within the national administration.

Goals/Objectives/Student Expectations

Student Learning Outcomes:

The student, at the successful completion of this course, should be able to:

1. Diagram the powers of each of the branches in the American political system and how they relate to each other.
2. Summarize the responsibilities of citizenship in American democracy.
3. Describe the underlying theories and principles of the American constitution.

4. Assess the differences between federal, unitary and confederal systems of government.
5. Explain the liberties granted to citizens by the Constitution and its amendments.
6. Explain how civil rights have evolved in America over time.
7. Critique the role of the media in American politics.
8. Summarize the role of political parties and interest groups in the political process.
9. Describe the steps of the policy-making process.
10. Analyze important contemporary political issues.
11. Demonstrate knowledge and understanding of the basic principles and practices of American democracy and how they are applied in our republican form of government.
12. Demonstrate an understanding of the United States Constitution and its application.
13. Demonstrate knowledge of the founding documents and how they have shaped the nature and functions of our institutions of self-government.
14. Demonstrate an understanding of landmark Supreme Court cases, landmark legislation and landmark executive actions and their impact on law and society.

Course Curriculum

Text and Materials:

Bradenton/Lakewood Ranch Master Syllabus: American Politics Today, William Bianco and David Canon, 7th Essentials Edition (with InQuizitive), W.W. Norton publisher. (Digital book is the recommended version)

Topics Covered:

In the course of POS 1041, the student will encounter the following topics:

Unit 1:

- The Constitution
- Federalism
- Civil Liberties
- Civil Rights

Unit 2:

- Public Opinion
- The Media
- Campaigns and Elections
- Political Parties
- Interest Groups

Unit 3:

- Congress
- The Presidency
- The Bureaucracy
- The Courts

Unit 4:

- Domestic Public Policy
- Foreign Policy

Assessment of Student Performance

Assignments:

Quizzes and Tests: Student performance will be measured primarily through the use of (up to 15) InQuizitive quizzes and (up to 4) longer tests/exams. Quizzes and tests may contain a mixture of multiple choice, true-false, matching, short answer, or essay questions. Quizzes and tests will comprise approximately 75% of a student's final grade.

Final Exam: Student performance will also be measured through a comprehensive essay final exam at the end of the course. The final exam will comprise approximately 15% of a student's final grade.

Discussion Boards/Participation: Student performance will also be measured through (up to 6) discussion boards (in online courses) or through assessment of in-class participation (in face-to-face courses). Discussion boards/participation will comprise approximately 10% of a student's final grade.

Other Policies

Attendance Policy: Punctual and regular class attendance is expected of all students. Any class session missed, regardless of cause, reduces the opportunity for learning and often adversely affects the grade a student achieves in a course. For face-to-face classes, each class will be worth a specific number of points towards a student’s final average. For online classes, students are expected to regularly check Canvas and fully participate in all activities, assignments, and assessments.

Late Work Policy: For anything other than InQuizitive Quizzes, you can do any assignment after the date that it is due, but with a 3% penalty per day. The maximum penalty is 40%, in other words your score cannot be reduced below a 60% on something that is late. For InQuizitive quizzes, you can do them late at any point after the due date with a flat 10% late penalty.

There are some absences that are excused and that these late penalties do not apply to. This includes if you have a doctor's note, a hospital note, or a death in the family. Also, any other official college-excused absence, such as travel for a college athletic or academic team, would count.

Calendar of Assignments with Term-Specific Dates: Such a calendar will be provided in the syllabus on or before the first day of class.

Technology Requirements: This course has no special technological requirements other than regular access to the internet. The course uses Norton publisher material in the form of InQuizitive quizzes. More information on accessing the InQuizitive website is provided in the Getting Started module. The course does not require any special hardware, though having speakers or headphones might be helpful with the frequent videos.

Technology Support Information:

Technical Support Information	<p><i>For technical issues with Canvas, contact Canvas technical support by clicking the question mark icon in the lower left-hand corner of the Canvas window and choosing “Report a Problem” or “Chat with Canvas Support.” Also, Canvas support can be contacted via phone at 844-920-2764.</i></p> <p><i>For technical issues with My SCF, contact SCF technical support by calling 941-752-5357 or emailing helprequest@scf.edu.</i></p>
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Department Chair Information:

If a student encounters a problem in the course, they should work with the professor to resolve it. If the student needs help and the professor is unable to help or is unavailable, contact Jennifer True, Chair of Lakewood Ranch Academics (truej@scf.edu)

SCF Mandated Policies

Email:

Students are required to communicate with their instructor using their official SCF email address.

No-Show Policy:

Students who do not drop a course that they have never attended will be reported as a No-Show by the course instructor during the No-Show period. This drop may have financial aid implications for the student who is dropped.

Recording:

Students may, without prior notice, record video or audio of a class lecture for a class in which the student is enrolled for their own personal educational use. A class lecture is defined as a formal or methodical oral presentation as part of a college course intended to present information or teach enrolled students about a particular subject. Recording class activities other than class lectures, including but not limited to lab sessions, student presentations (whether individually or part of a group), class discussion (except when incidental to and incorporated within a class lecture), clinical presentations such as patient history, academic exercises involving student participation, test or examination administrations, field trips, and private conversations between students in the class or between a student and the faculty member is prohibited. Recordings may not be used as a substitute for class participation and class attendance and may not be published or shared without the written consent of the faculty member. Failure to adhere to these requirements may constitute a violation of the student code of conduct.

Recording in Go Live with SCF Online Course Teams Sessions:

If this course is a Go Live with SCF Online course, the instructor may record live class discussions and instructor presentations. Therefore, as a student in this class, your participation in live class discussions may be recorded by the instructor. These recordings will be made available only to students enrolled in the class to assist those who cannot attend the live session or to serve as a resource for those who would like to review content that was presented.

Where recordings are made, a notice that recording has started is presented to students in the class using the Teams session.

Withdrawal Policies:

Students should consult the College Catalog for a complete listing of withdrawal policies. A withdrawal is a change in the student's course schedule where one or more courses are withdrawn before the end of the term. Withdrawn courses appear on the student's transcript as a "W" and are classified as attempts. No refunds are permitted for withdrawn courses.

Withdrawing from a course(s) - Course withdrawal is defined as withdrawal from one or more classes for a term but not complete withdrawal from the college. **Failure to completely process a drop form or drop a class online may result in the student being assigned a grade of "F".**

Financial Aid Impact:

Withdrawing from one or more courses during the semester, without complete withdrawal from the college, may have an impact on both the amount of aid received for the semester and a student's academic eligibility to continue receiving financial aid for future enrollment. Students should contact the Office of Financial Aid for further information regarding the impact of withdrawing from one or more courses.

Faculty Withdrawal:

Before the course withdrawal deadline and upon approval of the Department Chair, Assistant Dean, or other appropriate academic administrator, a faculty member may withdraw a student when the student has stopped attending or engaging in the class for an extended period of time as defined in the course syllabus, and has not formally withdrawn from the course, resulting in their inability to successfully pass the class.

If a student's absences, tardiness, or misconduct is causing disruption, the faculty member may file a code of conduct violation with the Dean of Students. The Dean of Students will work with the faculty member and the appropriate academic administrator before determining if a withdraw is appropriate.

In the event of an approved faculty withdrawal, a grade of W will be recorded. The grade is recorded on the student's permanent academic record. Fees are applied for all courses accordingly and are counted as attempted courses.

Statement of Plagiarism:

Plagiarism is the use of ideas, facts, opinions, illustrative material, data, direct or indirect wording of another scholar and/or writer—professional or student—without giving proper credit. Expulsion, suspension, or any lesser penalty may be imposed for plagiarism.

Copyright:

The unauthorized copying, sharing, or distribution of copyrighted material is prohibited. It is a violation of the Copyright Act, Academic Ethics, and the Code of Student Conduct. Students who violate copyright are subject to discipline.

Honorlock Online Proctoring:

In cases where written work does not match answers submitted on an exam or Honorlock flags an exam as suspicious, faculty may ask students to re-work test questions in real time. In the event a student cannot satisfactorily reproduce the work submitted during the proctored test session, students may face sanctions for an academic integrity violation. Sanctions may include the loss of the privilege of using Honorlock online proctoring which could result in remaining tests being proctored in person.

Standards of Conduct:

Students are expected to abide by all [SCF Student Handbook](#) guidelines.

COVID-19

Like all institutions of higher education, SCF has been impacted by COVID-19. In response, SCF considers the current recommendations of the Centers for Disease Control (CDC), Department of Health (DOH), Florida Department of Education (FLDOE), Florida College System (FCS), local and state officials. The latest SCF plan and protocols can be found linked from the College's Coronavirus website listed below. The website includes useful information for students regarding precautions, operations, monitoring, and instruction.

<https://www.scf.edu/Administration/PublicSafety/Coronavirus.asp>

Disability Resource Center:

State College of Florida, in accordance with the Americans with Disabilities Act, will provide classroom and academic accommodations to students with documented disabilities. Students must submit application and documentation to the Disability Resource Center (DRC). Once registered, the Memorandum of Accommodations containing all approved accommodations, important information, and links to forms and processes will be emailed to instructors. Students and instructors are encouraged to work collaboratively throughout the semester to facilitate appropriate use of accommodations. DRC Contact Information: Email: drc@scf.edu

DRC Phone: 941-752-5295

DRC Website: [Disability Resource Center website](#)

Statement of Nondiscrimination:

State College of Florida, Manatee-Sarasota does not discriminate on the basis of sex (including pregnancy), race, religion, age, national origin/ethnicity, color, marital status, disability, genetic information and sexual orientation in any of its educational programs, services or activities, including admission and employment. Direct inquiries regarding nondiscrimination policies to: Equity Officer, 941-752-5323, PO Box 1849, Bradenton, FL 34206.

[Human Resources Equal Opportunity website](#)

Religious Observances:

Students who expect to be absent due to religious observances must provide their instructor with advance notification, in writing, of the purpose and anticipated length of any absence by the end of the second week of classes. At that time, the instructor and student will agree upon a reasonable time and method to make up any work or tests missed