Lake-Sumter State College Course Syllabus

Course Information:

Course Prefix and Number: POS 2041

Course Title: American National Government

CRN: 20531

Credit Hours: 3

Semester: Spring 2021

Class Days, Location, Time: Select Thursdays in LA 2 at 9:30

Course Description: A comprehensive examination of the theory, practice, ideals and realities of government and politics in the United States. Major areas of study include political theory and behavior, political participation, the legislative process, the presidency, and the judicial process.

Instructor Information:

Name: Jeremy Norton

E-Mail: nortonj@lssc.edu

Office Location: SM 123 and Online

Phone: 352-323-3611

Office Hours: In office
                  Tuesday   9:30-11:30
                  Thursday   11:00-1:00

            In Canvas via Zoom:
                  Monday   9:00 – 12:00
                  Wednesday   9:00 – 12:00
                  And by Appointment

Vital Communication Information:

For e-mail, please note that all students are required to use Lakehawk Mail for official college e-mail communications. See the college webpage for instructions on activating Lakehawk Mail.

Sending a private message using the INBOX tool in Canvas is always the most secure method of contacting your Instructor.

Please remember that any contact with your Instructor should be of a professional nature. If you leave a voice mail message be clear, concise, and include your contact and class information. Follow up verbal conversations with a written account via INBOX in Canvas or e-mail. Messages and emails will be returned as soon as possible, but within two business days at the latest.

Prerequisites/Co-requisites:

Prerequisites: C or higher in ENC 1101 or documented consent of instructor   Co-requisites: None

Textbook & Other Course Materials:

Krutz, Glen and Sylvie Waskiewicz. *American Government.* 2nd ed., Houston, TX: OpenStax College, Rice
 U, 2019. Accessed 11 Jan. 2021.

The text is available for free online and within the course. Other materials will be made available in Canvas. Free download from OpenStax

Technology Requirements:

Canvas is a required component of this course. Students unfamiliar with Canvas are expected to complete the Student Orientation course located in Canvas within the first week of classes.

Major writing assignments need to be created and saved in a file format that is compatible with Microsoft Word. If using a word processing program other than Word, it is the student's responsibility to adhere to all formatting and submission requirements. Please ask for help if you are unsure how to save a file in a Word-compatible format.

See the LSSC student Technology Help Desk website for more information on how to obtain Microsoft Office 365 as an LSSC student and other technology related questions.

Course Student Learning Outcomes:

The following outcomes will be assessed in this course. An "outcome" is defined as something students take with them beyond this course. After successful completion of this course the student will:

Apply classic political theories of government to the founding documents of the republic.

Understand the rights and responsibilities of United States citizens.

Analyze the effect of the news media on the American people

Demonstrate the interconnectedness and complexity of the political system and federalism in relation to current political issues

Course Objectives:

Objectives are defined as what the course will do and/or what the students will do as part of the course.

This course examines the way government works at the national level. Students will survey the American political system and gain an understanding of the complexity and interconnectedness of the associated parts. You will learn about major aspects the American political system that will allow you to understand how a policy is made, what factors influence political decisions, and what issues these decisions face. There will also be a focus on the role of students on the functioning of the system.

Module 1: Foundations

- Describe the founding documents of the United States
  - Political Theory Essay, Ch. 2 Quiz
- Apply classic political theories of government to the Declaration of Independence
  - Political Theory Essay, Ch. 2 Quiz
- Identify the federal system of the United States
  - Ch. 3 Quiz
- Identify the importance of civil rights and liberties

- o Ch. 4 Quiz, Ch. 5 Quiz
- Properly construct a college level essay
  - o Political Theory Essay

Module 2: Input Channels

- Define political socialization and ideology
  - o Ch. 6 Quiz, Ch. 9 Quiz
- Summarize various forms of political participation
  - o Social Responsibility Discussion, Ch. 7 Quiz
- Evaluate the effect of media on public opinion
  - o Media Paper
- Identify the functions of political parties
  - o Ch. 9 Quiz
- Identify the different types of interest groups
  - o Ch. 10 Quiz
- Properly construct a college level essay
  - o Media Paper

Module 3: Government Branches

- Define the functions of Congress
  - o Ch. 11 Quiz
- Describe the legislative process
  - o Legislative Process Essay
- Evaluate the powers of the presidency
  - o Presidential Power Discussion, Ch. 12 Quiz
- Explain how the president is selected
  - o Presidential Selection Essay
- Identify the role of the judiciary and landmark cases
  - o Ch. 13 Quiz
- Define the federal bureaucracy and its functions
  - o Ch. 15 Quiz
- Properly construct a college level essay
  - o Presidential Selection Essay

Module 4: Policy Outputs

- Define monetary and fiscal policy
  - o Economic Policy Essay, Ch. 15
- Summarize current and future policy challenges
  - o Policy Discussion, Ch. 15 Quiz, Ch. 16 Quiz
- Draw connections between policies and stakeholders
  - o Final Project
- Demonstrate the interconnectedness of the political system
  - o Final Project
- Properly construct a college level essay
  - o Final Project

Institutional Policies & Procedures:

Academic Integrity:

The successful functioning of the academic community demands honesty, which is the basis of respect for both ideas and persons. In the academic community, there is an ongoing assumption of academic integrity at all levels. There is the expectation that work will be independently thoughtful and responsible as to its sources of information and inspiration. Honesty is an appropriate consideration in other ways as well, including but not limited to the responsible use of library resources, responsible conduct in examinations, and the responsible use of the Internet. See the college catalog for complete statement.

Plagiarism will not be tolerated and the instructor uses tools to detect plagiarism. Upon the first detection of plagiarism, the instructor will issue a written warning and a grade of zero for intentional plagiarism. The second case of plagiarism will incur a grade of zero for the assignment and an incident report filed with the college. The third case of plagiarism will incur a failing grade for the course.

Important Information for Students with Disabilities:

Any student with a documented disability who requires assistance or academic accommodations should contact the Student Accessibility Services immediately to discuss eligibility. The Student Accessibility Services (SAS) is located on the Leesburg Campus, but arrangements can be made to meet with a student on any campus. An appointment can be made by calling 352-365-3589 and specific information about SAS and potential services can be found at Student Accessibility Services.

Privacy Policy (FERPA):

The Family Educational Rights and Privacy Act (FERPA) (20 U.S.C. § 1232g; 34 CFR Part99) is a Federal law that protects the privacy of a student's education records. In order for your information to be released, a form must be signed and, in your records, located in the Admissions/Registrar's Office.

Zero-Tolerance for Violence Statement:

Lake-Sumter State College has a policy of zero tolerance for violence as stated in College Board Rule 2.17. Appropriate disciplinary action will be taken in accordance with Board Rule 2.17.

LSSC Safety Statement:

Lake-Sumter State College values the safety of all campus community members. **If you have an emergency, dial 911.** Otherwise, to report a concern, suspicious activity, or to request a courtesy escort, call Campus Safety:

> (352)516-3795 Leesburg
> (352) 536-2143 South Lake
> (352)303-7296 Sumter

LSSC also has a free safety app, *Lake-Sumter Safe* that is available for download. You will receive important emergency alerts and safety messages regarding campus safety via LSSC Alert. You are opted into this system when you become an LSSC student. For more information regarding safety and to view available resources, visit the Campus Safety web page.

Attendance/Withdrawal Policies:

Initial Attendance:

Initial attendance will be entered at the end of the second week of the semester/mini-mester. A student who has not met initial attendance requirements will be marked as "not-attending" and

administratively withdrawn from the class. The withdrawn student is still financially responsible for the class (see the [college catalog)](#) for more details.

Withdrawal:
Once the Add/Drop period passes, students deciding to discontinue class attendance and/or online participation have the responsibility for formal withdrawal by the withdrawal deadline.

Withdrawal Deadline:
March 29

Late Work/Extensions:
Late work will only be accepted with prior notification or via extenuating circumstances for a reduced grade. Essays and other assignments will be automatically reduced by 5% for each day past the deadline if alternative arrangements were not made in advance. Tasks such as discussions cannot be made up in any circumstance. Contact the instructor for further details.

Classroom Etiquette:
Students will respect the views of others and treat the topics covered in their proper academic context

Grading Information:

Grading Scale:
A 90-100%
B 80-89%
C 70-79%
D 60-69%
F 59% and below

Methods of Evaluation:
Each project will be graded electronically with grades available in the Canvas gradebook. Your work will be judged against accepted academic standards for writing and documentation. When completing writing assignments, you are expected to document all sources used including the textbook and online sources.

Assignment Overview & Grade Breakdown:

Category	Description	Points or %
Quizzes	Includes online chapter quizzes and other short assessments	300
Writing Assignments	Includes academically written and properly documented essays turned in electronically	400
Exam	A cumulative exam covering the everything up to the branches of government with multiple choice questions	100
Final Project	A comprehensive research assignment covering a political issue area through the entire political system	200
	Total Points	1000

The Chapter Quizzes are based on the textbook readings and can be taken once these are completed. The Video Lectures cover many of the same concepts as the text and go into more detail on areas covered in the respective discussions and essays and should be completed before attempting. The Political Theory Essay and Amendments Quiz both require study and review of the US Constitution. The exam evaluates knowledge of the material covered until that point (Modules 1-3). The Final Project requires a review of the entire political system as covered throughout the course including highlighted external resources and government websites.

Course Calendar:

Module	Week	Begins	Ends	Learning Materials and Activities	Items Due
1	1	1/11	1/17	• Chapter 1: American Government and Civic Engagement • National Constitution Center Video (optional) • Politics Intro Video Lecture	• Intro Quiz • Ch. 1 Quiz
1	2	1/18	1/24	• Chapter 2: The Constitution and Its Origins • Political Theory Video Lecture • History and the Founding Documents Video Lecture (parts 1 and 2)	• Ch. 2 Quiz
1	3	1/25	1/31	• Chapter 3: American Federalism • Federalism Video Lecture	• Ch. 3 Quiz • Political Theory Essay
1	4	2/1	2/7	• Chapter 4: Civil Liberties • Chapter 5: Civil Rights • Civil Rights and Civil Liberties Video Lecture	• Ch. 4 Quiz • Ch. 5 Quiz • Amendments Quiz
2	5	2/8	2/14	• Chapter 6: The Politics of Public Opinion • Public Opinion Video Lecture • Chapter 7: Voting and Elections • Political Participation Video Lecture • Campaigns Video Lecture	• Ch. 6 Quiz • Ch. 7 Quiz
2	6	2/15	2/21	• Chapter 8: The Media • The Media Video Lecture	• Ch. 8 Quiz • Media Paper
2	7	2/22	2/28	• Chapter 9: Political Parties • Political Parties Video Lecture Chapter 10: Interest Groups and Lobbying • Interest Groups Video Lecture	• Ch. 9 Quiz • Ch. 10 Quiz

Module	Week	Begins	Ends	Learning Materials and Activities	Items Due
				• OpenSecrets.org (website resource) • Colbert Super PAC (optional YouTube)	
3	8	3/1	3/7	• Chapter 11: Congress • Congress Video Lecture (parts 1 and 2) • Schoolhouse Rock (optional YouTube) • How a Bill Becomes a Law Tutorial (practice resource for essay concepts)	• Ch. 11 Quiz • Legislative Process Essay
3	9	3/8	3/14	• Chapter 12: The Presidency • Presidency Video Lecture (parts 1 and 2)	• Ch. 12 Quiz
3	10	3/15	3/21	Spring Break	
3	11	3/22	3/28	• Chapter 13: The Courts • Federal Courts Video Lecture	• Ch. 13 Quiz • Presidential Selection Essay
3	12	3/29	4/4	• Chapter 15: The Bureaucracy • Federal Bureaucracy Video Lecture	• Ch. 15 Quiz
3	13	4/5	4/11	• Review materials so far for exam	• Cumulative Exam
4	14	4/12	4/18	• Chapter 16: Domestic Policy • Domestic Policy Video Lecture (parts 1 and 2)	• Ch. 16 Quiz • Economic Policy Essay
4	15	4/19	4/25	• Chapter 17: Foreign Policy • Foreign Policy Video Lecture (parts 1 and 2)	• Ch. 17 Quiz
	16	4/26	4/28	• Final Project Video Instructions	Final Project due by April 28 at the latest

Basic Needs Statement:

Any student who faces challenges securing basic needs such as food or housing and believes this may affect their performance in the course is encouraged to contact a campus dean at deanofstudents@lssc.edu. The deans will then be able to share any resources at their disposal.

Syllabus Disclaimer:

Information contained in this syllabus is, to the best knowledge of this instructor, considered correct and complete when distributed to the student. The instructor reserves the right, acting within policies and procedures of Lake-Sumter State College, to make necessary changes in course content or instructional techniques with notification to students.