



Palm Beach State College Course Syllabus

General Class and Course Information

Course ID: POS1041

Course Subject: POS

Course Number: 1041

Course Title: Introduction to American Government (AA)

Reference Number: 267656

Credits/ Clock Hours: 3.00

Term/Date: Summer 2020 ; 2020-06-01 - 2020-08-20

Days: T

Time: 6:00 PM - 9:45 PM

Room: TBA TBA

Course Description: This course provides a detailed study of the origin and development of America's unique constitutional democracy and its political institutions, highlighting the federal level of government. It will include information about the U.S. Constitution, Bill of Rights, branches of government, public policy, political ideologies, interest groups, political parties, elections, mass media and other critical components of the political process. (*)

Instructor's Information

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Information on REQUIRED textbooks

AmGov Long Story Short

ISBN: 9781544365541

Christine Barbour.

Sage/CQ Press, 2020.

Your Campus bookstore offers a Price Match guarantee. If you find our class texts or access codes cheaper at Booksmart, Barnes & Noble, or Amazon the campus bookstore will match the price at the time of purchase, or for up to 7 days after purchase. Search your course materials by the ISBN provided in this syllabus to assure that your price match is acceptable.

Other Information on Textbooks and Materials Needed for Class

This book will serve as the primary course text. Please have this book with you during each class as it will provide you with background readings for most class lectures and discussion topics. We will also use the text for some in-class assignments. In addition to the text, students are expected to stay abreast of current events by reading about, listening to, or watching the news on a regular basis.

[Here is the copy of our Constitution and The Bill of Rights](#)

The National Archives and Records Administration (NARA). (n.d.). *Constitution of the United States*. College Park, MD: Retrieved from <https://www.archives.gov/founding-docs/constitution-transcript>

Course Learning Outcomes

- Students will develop and demonstrate a greater awareness of the role of the citizen in the American system and an ability to become more politically aware and active in the local and global community.
- Students will develop and demonstrate an understanding of landmark Supreme Court cases, landmark legislation, and landmark executive actions and their impact on law and society.
- Students will develop and demonstrate an understanding of political and policy-making institutions, the American system of separated power and checks and balances, the role of state and local government in a federal system, U.S. national interests and domestic and foreign policy making.
- Students will develop and demonstrate an understanding of the basic principles and practices of American democracy and how they are applied in our republican form of government.
- Students will develop and demonstrate an understanding of the United States Constitution and its application.
- Students will develop and demonstrate knowledge of political culture and ideology, the political process, the role of political parties, interest groups, elections, public opinion and the media in the U.S. government system and the way in which different individuals and groups behave and participate in American politics.
- Students will develop and demonstrate knowledge of the founding documents and how they have shaped the nature and functions of our institutions of self-governance.

Class Information

The objective of this course is to provide the student with a historical and current framework for examination of the U.S. political system and its role in American society. As a result, I expect my students to develop the ability to understand, critically analyze, and evaluate the complex relationship that exist between you as an individual and political decisionmaking in the context of your local, state and federal political system

Assignments, Tests, Quizzes and Final Exam Schedule, with percentage/points of grade

Explanation of Assignments and Evaluation

Schedule will be provided in class and will be subject to change

1. Current Event (100 points)

You will get your news from PBSC News and Current event database—less than a week old

Each student will follow a current event topic (we will decide on through the brainstorming process) and present once during the semester. Each class will begin with

Current Events. When your turn comes, make sure to present your summary of the news (not older than a week) to the class; and answer a few questions from the class. You will state author, newspaper, and the date of the publication. This assignment cannot be made up, since it occurs as part of the class time. You cannot be late to class. As we read about various theories and ideas, look for things in the media that illustrate or contradict the readings we are studying, and be ready to bring these up in class.

2. Attendance and Participation (100 points)

First 10 points is for Class email--email me from the Class email on BlackBoard (left navigation bar) during week 1 with your name, major & something interesting about yourself :)

We will be holding this class via Blackboard Collaborate. This is a lecture and discussion course and students are expected to attend all scheduled class sessions prepared to discuss assigned reading. Read the chapters assigned before the class. Participation consists of debating the points in the literature, providing examples for the issues and processes presented in the class. Asking thoughtful and well considered questions is as much a part of a good classroom participation as is giving your informed opinion on a controversial issue. Part of the participation grade are in class activities and discussions which cannot be made up, since they occur as part of the class time. Your participation grade will be reduced with tardiness and absences. See Class Policy on Attendance. When you are absent you cannot participate.

We will have quiz at the end of each class that will count toward your participation grade.

3. Position Paper thesis statement (50 points) Prerequisite for the Position Paper (Due week 6)

4. Quiz 1 (50 points)

5. Quiz 2 (100 points)

4. Midterm Exam (200 points).

5. Research Paper (200 points) Position Paper (due week 8)

This paper is in compliance with the Gordon Rule requirement. Failure to complete this assignment successfully will result in an F in class regardless of how many points you accumulate from other assignments. Students will meet this requirement by writing a 3-4 page Position paper. The goal of a position paper is to convince the audience that your opinion on a controversial issue/topic is valid and worth listening to. The topic of the paper can be any controversial (on which there are two or more sides) domestic or international issue involving any level of the United States government. Abortion and death penalty are not acceptable topics.

In order to receive the passing grade: 1) all of your sources must be from the PBSC library database; 2) Your topic must be approved, and 3) you must complete Library Assignment and bring the proof that you worked with the librarian on this paper.

It is important that you carefully develop your argument, and organize your paper. You need to address both sides of the issue and present it in a manner that is easy for your audience to understand.

It is important to support your argument with credible evidence to ensure the validity of your claims. Palm Beach State College librarians can assist you in choosing topics and conducting research for this assignment. The paper must be written in 12 point font using APA style format, grammatically correct, and accurately cite at least 3 sources (for a "C" grade, 4 for a "B" and 5 for an "A"). Follow the detailed guidelines provided in this syllabus (under "Other information from your professor).

You will submit your paper through Blackboard and SafeAssign BY WEEK 8. You will have 2 attempts to submit your paper. Papers must have 0% of overall matches in text of the paper. Papers with the overall match over 0%, and papers with inaccurate citations will receive 0. The paper is limited to 3-4 pages (not counting the Reference and title pages). The paper must be typed and double spaced, using a font size of 12 PT Times New Roman. Paragraphs should contain at least three sentences. The paper should follow a traditional essay format with an introduction, a body, and a conclusion. Proof the paper for any errors in punctuation, grammar, and spelling. For clarification and proper language style, use any handbook for college writing. The paper must follow APA guidelines and include a complete and accurate alphabetical reference list (last page), where you cite all sources for your research. In text citations must correspond with items in the reference list.

I will review papers by week 7.

Avoid the temptation of cut and paste plagiarism. PBSC Library website offers great resources to learn about plagiarism and how to accurately cite your sources.

Use the PBSC Library databases for credible sources and APA, and the Writing tutors from SLC to get assistance with your writing. IF YOU PLAGIARIZE, YOU WILL FAIL THIS CLASS

6. Final cumulative exam (200 points)

Class Schedule as well as modifications, will be discussed during our class session, as well as posted in announcements in class.

To pass this course you must complete all readings and assignments.

Grading

Letter Grade	Value
A	1000 - 900
B	899 - 800
C	799 - 700
D	699 - 600
F	599 - 0

Attendance Policy

Students are expected to attend all courses and course activities for which they are registered. Any class meeting missed, regardless of cause, reduces the opportunity of learning and may adversely affect a student's achievement in the course. Students are required to attend at least 90% of the class meetings in order to receive credit for the

course. An accurate record of attendance will be kept for each course. If a student misses 10% or more of a class session, the student will be counted absent. Three tardies will count as one absence. Leaving early is the same as being tardy. You can miss one class without penalty. Each additional absence will reduce your grade by 30 points

Electronic Device Policy

PBSC email: All communications to and from the student and professor will be completed by email; using your PBSC email address.

Your email address may be found on your PantherWeb page. It will need to be activated. Please follow instructions given the first time you sign in.

Late Assignment Policy

Late Assignments will not be accepted.

All assignments count towards the final grade. Students should establish connections with other students to get notes and assignments from missed classes.

Make-up Exam Policy

Students must complete assignments and examinations when they are due, unless the student has given the instructor ample notice. Late work, without an acceptable excuse, will not be accepted and the student will receive a zero for the assignment. If a student has an acceptable excuse with valid documentation (illness, a college related absence, etc.), make-up work will be permitted. See Palm Beach State College Handbook on Attendance and excused absences. If you are absent from a class, you are responsible to get the information you missed from a classmate. Exchange phone numbers with another class member in order to get the information you missed.

Students must contact the instructor as soon as possible after missing a quiz, test, or exam (all of which count toward the final grade) to make arrangements with the instructor. The instructor may provide makeup quizzes, tests, or exams at her own discretion, may provide a different version of the test, and may require its completion outside of class.

Academic Dishonesty Policy

Academic dishonesty includes the following actions, as well as other similar conduct aimed at making false representation with respect to the student's academic performance: (1) Cheating on an exam, (2) Collaborating with others on work to be presented, if contrary to the stated rules of the course, (3) Submitting, if contrary to the rules of the course, work previously submitted in another course, (4) Knowingly and intentionally assisting another student in any of the above actions, including assistance in an arrangement whereby work, classroom performance, examination, or other activity is submitted or performed by a person other than the student under whose name the work is submitted or performed, (5) Plagiarism.

All of these actions will result in a failing grade

Academic Dishonesty Penalty for Violation

Academic dishonesty will result in a failing grade for this class.

Other Policy

All communication with the professor should be via PBSC email.

1. This classroom should be considered a safe place. Students are encouraged to engage in discussions and debate provided that one's views are not intended to provoke, insult, or damage another member of the class.
2. Palm Beach State College Student Responsibilities policy is in effect for this class.
3. Your success is important to me. If you have any problems with the course or the subject matter, for instance if an assignment is unclear, or seems useless to you, if the material covered seems confusing or wrong, or if you have particular problems that cause difficulty with the course, please discuss these with me as soon as possible. PBSC has many resources to help students succeed in their courses, and I would like to help you obtain the assistance that will allow you to complete the course successfully.

Withdrawal Policy

If you are no longer able to attend class, you must initiate your own withdrawal in order to avoid receiving a failing grade.

Online (WP) Class Information

Online (WP) Class Information

This course is taken completely on the Internet (Online) without attending a classroom on campus. Some courses may require students to take examination(s) in a proctored lab setting. Before you decide to take the course via online delivery, it is recommended that you carefully review the:

Online Course Syllabus Supplement

<http://edtech.palmbeachstate.edu/elearn/resources/student/syllabus-supplement.htm>

to obtain Detailed Facts & Information about:

Blackboard Access

- Access to your Online Course is AVAILABLE each term on the FIRST DAY OF CLASSES

Blackboard Orientation and Assistance

- How to Register for the Free Online Orientation Course: ELO1000
- How to obtain Blackboard assistance from the Online Student Support Center

Blackboard Tips & Tutorials

- How to Ensure your Computer is Compatible
- Ensure you Understand Examination and Assignment Rules
- Learn the Functions of Blackboard

Then proceed to - Palm Beach State Blackboard
(<https://palmbeachstate.blackboard.com>)

to Login to your Online Course (not available before the first day of class) using the same **USERNAME and PASSWORD** you used to register for classes.

For Additional Information and Obtaining Assistance visit the eLearning Student Support Center

<http://www.palmbeachstate.edu/elearning/student.aspx>

Distance Learning Requirements

Computer Systems

Your computer system resources must be compatible with the Learning Management System (LMS) used to deliver/manage course content. System Check (analysis) is provided on the course login page at <https://palmbeachstate.blackboard.com>. Your computer needs to be configured per recommended settings. Failure to do so generally results in test submission and other participative action errors. These types of errors are generally not accepted as an excuse for missed submissions.

SLC Computer Lab

If students do not have access to a computer at home, the SLC Computer Lab at a Palm Beach State campus can be used to complete course assignments. Visit the SLC Computer Lab webpage at <http://www.palmbeachstate.edu/slc> for location and hours.

Student Computer & Learning Management System Skills

Students need to possess basic web-browsing skills and need to learn the functions of the Learning Management System (LMS). Students can learn how to use the LMS by enrolling in a free ELO1000 Online Orientation Course. Online video tutorials are provided for all major LMS functions and can be accessed from the online classroom by clicking on the 'Support' tab on the right-hand side of the course window.

Course Login

Information on how to change your password and solving other login related issues is provided on the LMS Login Page: <https://palmbeachstate.blackboard.com> – simply follow the link

Forgot Your Password? (<https://www.palmbeachstate.edu/PW/PantherWeb.aspx?t=resetpw>)

Please keep in mind:

Username: Your PBSC Student ID

Password: Your PBSC Password (must be 6 characters)

Online Textbook Purchase

The textbook(s) can be purchased at the PBSC Campus Bookstore or online at <http://www.bkstr.com/palmbeachstcentralstore/home>.

For Online Course Assistance, please contact your:

- Professor/Instructor -- with Course Instructional Content (assignment/test availability dates, course instructions, etc.) issues.
- Student Helpdesk -- with Username/Password & General Access issue: Phone: 561-868-4000.
- Online Student Success Specialist -- for all LMS (Blackboard) issues and assistance:
Phone: 561.868.3303
Email: elarningsuccess@palmbeachstate.edu

Web Form: http://palmbeachstate.co1.qualtrics.com/SE/?SID=SV_etgXQrKPN7GX0YI&Q_JFE=0

Student Code of Conduct

Palm Beach State College Student Responsibilities policy is in effect for this class.

Unauthorized Use of Voice and Video Recording

Using any device to make an audio or video recording of any person without their prior knowledge or express consent is not allowed.

College Policies

Academic Dishonesty/Integrity

Academic misconduct including, but not limited to, unauthorized use of aids, cheating, fabrication, plagiarism, or facilitating academic dishonesty in the classroom or other college environments, as defined below:

Plagiarism

- Taking the words or specific substance of another and either copying or paraphrasing the work without giving credit to the source.
- Submitting a term paper, examination or other work written by someone else.
- Failure to give credit in a footnote for ideas, statements of facts or conclusions derived by another.
- Failure to use quotation marks when quoting directly from another person, whether it is a paragraph, a sentence or even a part thereof.
- Similar and extended paraphrasing of another.

Cheating

Using unauthorized notes, study aids, or information from another student or student's paper on an in-class examination; altering a graded work after it has been returned, then submitting the work for regrading; and allowing another person to do one's work and to submit the work under one's own name or otherwise not following the rules or instruction to gain an advantage.

Fabrication

Presenting data in a piece of work that were not gathered in accordance with guidelines defining the appropriate methods for collecting or generating data and failing to include a substantially accurate account of the method by which the data were generated or collected.

Aiding and Abetting Dishonesty

Providing material or information to another person with knowledge that these materials or information will be used improperly pursuant to Florida Statutes 877.17 (1).

Forgery

Altering documents affecting academic records; forging a signature of authorization or falsifying information on an official academic document, election form, grade report, letter of permission, petition, or any document designed to meet or exempt a student from an established College academic regulation.

Warning: Students may not withdraw from a class to avoid a failing grade as a result of such a violation.

Please refer to the Palm Beach State College Student Handbook (www.palmbeachstate.edu/current for link to the student handbook).

Classroom Etiquette and Student Behavior Guidelines

Students will demonstrate respect for professors and fellow students. Behavior that is deemed disruptive to a positive learning environment will be addressed by the professor and may result in a warning. If the student's behavior is deemed extreme in nature, the student will be referred to the dean of students for disciplinary action in accordance with the Student Handbook. Consequences for such behavior may result in formal conduct charges and sanctions.

Computer Competency Component

Each student will, to the satisfaction of the professor, demonstrate a fundamental understanding of basic computer operations through various professor-determined exercises and/or assignments.

Center for Student Accessibility

Students with disabilities are advised, in compliance with federal and state laws, that accommodations and services are available through the Center for Student Accessibility (CSA). It is the student's responsibility to contact the Center for Student Accessibility office and to submit appropriate documentation prior to receiving accommodations or services. Please see the website at <https://www.palmbeachstate.edu/CSA> for additional information.

Eating, Drinking and Smoking

Eating and drinking are confined to areas designated on the campus. Smoking, including electronic cigarettes (also known as e-cigarettes, vapors, vaporizers, or nicotine vaporizers), is not permitted in any College building and only in areas designated at each campus.

Final Course Grade Appeal

The evaluation of academic work is the responsibility of the faculty member/instructor. The method for assigning the final course grade is established by the faculty member/instructor. Per Board Rule 6Hx-18-3.191, faculty/instructors shall communicate the grading policy of the course to their students in writing. If this policy changes during the term, students should be notified of any changes in writing. The method to determine final course grades must be communicated to students in a course syllabus prior to the beginning of the course. Should a student have a question about a final course grade, please follow the procedures as outlined in the student handbook: www.palmbeachstate.edu/current.

Mid-Term Grade Reporting

Within one week after the close of the mid-term grading period, mid-term grades will be made available to all students for each class by either written notification or individual conference.

Student Responsibility Policy

When a student attends the College, s/he becomes subject to its jurisdiction. Students are expected to conduct themselves in a responsible manner, in all areas of campus life. By enrolling, they pledge to obey the rules and regulations of the College and are responsible for observing all College policies and procedures as published in the student handbook, the College catalog, and other College publications which may be related to specific program of study. The student will be responsible for preparing for class, participating in class, and completing assignments on time.

Palm Beach State Websites of Interest

Please see this web page (www.palmbeachstate.edu/current) for a list of web addresses for students.

Withdrawal Policy for Individual Courses

The last day to withdraw from a College course with a "W" grade in this course is **2020-07-27**. It is the responsibility of the student to use the PantherWeb system or visit a campus Registrar's office to withdraw. An official withdrawal entitles the student to a grade of "W" in the class. Students may not withdraw from a class to avoid a failing grade as a result of a violation of the Academic Dishonesty/Integrity Policy.

Other Information from your Professor

POS 1041 Dr. A. Roberson

Guidelines for Writing Position Paper

A Position Paper is just like any research paper, except your thesis in this research paper is your position or view on a controversial topic involving any level of American government. **Abortion and death penalty are not acceptable topics.** You are responsible for taking one side of the argument and persuading your audience that you have substantial knowledge of the topic being presented. It is important to support your argument with evidence to ensure the validity of your claims as well as to address the opposing views, demonstrating that you are well informed about both sides of your topic.

The paper is limited to 3-4 pages (not counting the Reference and title pages). The paper must be typed and double spaced, using a font size of 12 PT Times New Roman. Paragraphs should contain at least three sentences. The paper should follow a traditional essay format with an introduction, a body, and a conclusion. Proof the paper for any errors in punctuation, grammar, and spelling. For clarification and proper language style, use any handbook for college writing. The paper must follow APA guidelines and include a complete and accurate alphabetical reference list (separate page), where you cite all sources for your research.

In-text citations must correspond with items in the reference list.

Here is an example of a possible **Position Paper organizational pattern**:

Title of your paper (Example: The Death Penalty Should Be Abolished at the Federal Level)

Introduction: In your Introduction, gain the reader's attention—why is this topic controversial and interesting to you? You can provide supportive statistics, examples, or a related story. State your position and explain why you hold this view. For example, you may state: "Death penalty should be abolished for two reasons: first, it can be considered cruel and unusual punishment, and second, it is too expensive for taxpayers." Does your view correspond with someone else's? Cite the author(s) who offered the idea.

Body: (Example: The death penalty is cruel and unusual punishment) In this paragraph elaborate on why you might consider the death penalty to be cruel and unusual punishment. Provide supporting information, cite authors, and demonstrate how they corroborate your position.

In the next paragraph, talk about the opposing point of view. How is this position different from yours? What is the argument of the opposing point of view? Cite sources.

(Example: The death penalty is a burden on taxpayers) In this paragraph elaborate on why you might consider death penalty to be too expensive. Provide support. Cite authors/sources and how they agree with your position.

In the next paragraph talk about a different point of view. What is the argument? Cite sources.

Conclusion: Your conclusion should be a clear summary (not exact wording) of the paper and should correspond with the thesis of your paper. It should come full circle and connect with your introduction.

References

All sources cited in text must correspond with entries in your reference list.

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