

**SOUTH FLORIDA STATE COLLEGE**  
*Division of Arts & Sciences*  
**COURSE SYLLABUS**  
*Fall Semester 2022*  
**POS 1041 American Government - 3 Credit Hours**

Class Day	Course Registration Number	Room	Time	Mode
M/W	16916-7	B-312	9:40-10:45 a.m.	F2F/Hybrid
T/R	16939-13	B-312	9:40-10:45 a.m.	F2F/Hybrid
T/R	16917-15	B-312	9:40-10:45 a.m.	F2F/Hybrid
T/R	17038-H22	B-312	11:00 a.m.-12:15 p.m.	F2F/Hybrid

**Professor:** \_\_\_\_\_ **Email:** \_\_\_\_\_  
**Office Location:** \_\_\_\_\_  
**Phone:** \_\_\_\_\_

**Office Hours:** \_\_\_\_\_

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**Welcome to American National Government!** This is an introductory course geared to promote a general understanding of politics in America and the workings and functions of government. The goal of the course is twofold. First, the student will be exposed to the “nuts and bolts” of the political system. This will help all students understand how government works and how he or she can interact with it when the opportunity or necessity arises. Second, the student is invited to “think critically” about the functions of government, the development of the political system, and the significance of the political culture of America. This course is a hybrid, face-to-face course. Students will complete online assignments and engage in face-to-face lecture and discussion sessions with an emphasis on critical analysis of government institutions, the political process, and related human behavior.

The format of the course provides a variety of environments for students to ponder issues and obtain information including reading textbook materials (digital format), the InQuizitive active-learning program, in-depth discussion board assignments, lecture and in-class discussions, and video presentations. The intention is to make this experience as interesting as possible! The pace of the course is *fast*, and the student should come to class prepared to take notes and participate in discussion periods. All readings and chapter reviews should be completed prior to the beginning of the lecture and discussion week for which it is assigned. Please bring all of your questions and comments to share with the class and always feel free to join me during scheduled office hours or by appointment. This syllabus and all other course documents are available on the Brightspace course web page under “Content” which students can access through the Panther Central portal.

**Catalogue Description:** This course covers the structure and operation of the American federal government emphasizing the basic governing principles of the U.S. Constitution and the historical development of the American political system. You will examine the formal and informal components of institutions and the political process.

**Course Prerequisite:** None Required.

**Graduation Requirement:** In 2021, the governor and the state legislature passed a law that requires all college students in the State of Florida to complete the state mandate for civics education. This requirement includes successfully completing an approved course, which this course fulfills, and successfully complete an “independent assessment.” **The Civics Literacy Exam will be available in the SFSC Testing Center. Students must make their own arrangements to complete this exam prior to applying for graduation. Students who do not pass the Civic Literacy Exam and successfully pass a required course will not receive their diploma.**

### **Required Course Materials:**

**All course documents are available on the Course Brightspace webpage under Content.**

**Instructional Content Modules:** Students are required to **register for access to the digital course textbook on the first day of class.** Instructional videos and written documents are provided that must be reviewed by the student. It is the student’s responsibility to complete registration for the textbook and be ready to begin assignments on the first day of class—so please do not delay! The videos and instruction sheets listed below are as brief as possible and to the point. Please do not hesitate to email me with any specific questions you may have after you have watched the instructional videos and reviewed all of the instructions in the Course Documents module. Students may refer to these videos and instruction sheets as needed throughout the semester.

### **Course Documents**

**Course Syllabus**  
**Course Assignment Calendar**  
**Course Lecture Notes**  
**Discussion Board Assignment Instructions**  
**Discussion Board Grading Rubric**  
**Additional Instruction Documents as Needed**

### **Textbook & InQuizitive Information**

**Register for the Textbook and InQuizitive – Document Instructions**  
**Temporary Access Instructions**  
**How to Register for InQuizitive Video**  
**InQuizitive Quick Start Video**  
**Sync Your InQuizitive Grades to Your Gradebook**  
**Instructions to Download Microsoft Word**  
**Additional Instruction Documents as Needed**

**The Textbook:** This course uses a digital textbook package—meaning that students **must purchase an access code in the SFSC Bookstore** in order to take this course or students may purchase access with a debit or credit card. All students must use the access code or credit card to “register” for access to the digital material and this must be done only by linking on the “E-book” link in the Chapter Module in the Brightspace course webpage. This is required in order to “link” your InQuizitive scores to your Brightspace grade book.

If a student wishes to purchase a “hard copy” of the textbook in addition to the digital package, they may do so-- but they must purchase the digital package as well. A hard copy can be ordered from the College Bookstore or purchased from Amazon (price varies but it is likely lower than the SFSC Bookstore). There are no exceptions to the requirement of using the digital package.

The digital textbook provides a number of features including review strategies and materials and an audio feature that can be used by the student while reading the chapter. This is designed to enhance comprehension and mastery of the information. This digital package provides an active reading experience and enables students the option to take notes, bookmark pages, search, highlight, read off-line, and “actively listen” to the audio book. The E-textbook

can be viewed and synced on all computers and mobile devices. **To learn about accessing the Norton digital package please follow this video link to [How to Register for the Textbook](#).**

### **Textbook Citation:**

Lowi, Theodore J., Benjamin Ginsberg, Kenneth A. Shepsle, and Stephen Ansolabehere. *American Government, A Brief Introduction*, Brief Sixteenth Edition. WW Norton & Company, 2020.

### **Additional required materials**

*Inside Job*. Directed by Charles Ferguson, narrated by Matt Damon. Producers, Charles Ferguson and Audrey Marrs. Sony Pictures Classics, 2010.

*Thirteen Days*. Directed by Roger Donaldson, performances by Bruce Greenwood, Kevin Costner, Steven Culp, and Dylan Baker. New Line Cinema, Tig Productions, and Beacon Pictures, 2000.

Students are required to watch two films (in class) during the semester. There will be a significant number of questions over content of these films on the final lecture exam. Thus, students will want to pay detailed attention to the films when they are presented in class. The films are also available to check out of the SFSC Library. There will be additional short video materials to watch as well. Students should review the **Video/Film Viewer Instructions** documents for more information.

**Students are required to download the following course documents and lecture notes (listed on the “content” page of the Course Brightspace webpage) and bring them to class on day one.**

**This includes the following:**

- Course Syllabus**
- Course Assignment Calendar**
- Discussion Board Assignment Instructions**
- Discussion Board Grading Rubric**
- Course Lecture Notes**

**Students should arrange these documents in a 3-ring binder and bring them to class every day along with paper for note taking. Students must take responsibility for being prepared for class, completing assignments on time, and mastering the assigned reading and lecture material.** Students who choose not to come to class prepared will not earn engagement points for that class meeting.

### **Teaching Philosophy/Learning & Instructional Methodology**

As your professor, it is my goal to facilitate effective opportunities for you to learn the course material and encourage interaction with it. The selection of the internationally renowned course materials produced by W. W. Norton and my engaged oversight provides you with this opportunity. Extensive research in learning methodologies guided the development of this material and has proven to increase learning and the mastery of the subject matter. However, as with all college course modalities (and particularly hybrid courses), success depends upon student commitment and diligence. Students must stay on task and on schedule with all assignments. Thus, each student is required to be self-motivated and be current on reading assignments and course activities in order to maximize the overall learning experience as well as function successfully in the hybrid environment.

**In-class lectures will consist of additional material-- related to but not a review of the textbook material. Students should consider the Lecture Notes like another required textbook.** The pace of lecture is fast, and students will be required to fully engage in the discussion and take an active role in this process.

You are encouraged to take ownership of your learning and contact me with any questions or concerns you may have as early in the semester as possible. I believe that education is every person's path to achieving their life goals and dreams. It is my life's work to facilitate this opportunity for students just like you and, in that endeavor, I am your biggest fan.

The course will provide students the opportunity for collaborative learning through discussion board assignments over the course material, the active learning review program (InQuizitive) with real-time assessment feedback, video/film sources that provide an entertaining option for learning and thinking, and chapter quizzes that provide immediate feedback and a second opportunity to demonstrate a mastery of the course material.

**Instructional Methods:** Lecture, class discussion, collaborative learning, active-learning digital program, video resources, and **Socratic instruction**.

### Attendance Policy

Consistent and timely attendance correlates directly with successful learning. The following requirements are intended to reflect the importance of this value in regard to issues of attendance, tardies, academic progress, and appropriate in-class behavior.

**Face to face Course Attendance:** Students are expected to abide by college policy as stated in the College Handbook. A withdrawal for academic reasons and/or absenteeism may be issued by the instructor up to the last date for withdrawal as specified in the academic calendar. Exception: Students enrolled for the third time are not to be withdrawn. Consistent and timely course participation directly correlates with successful learning.

According to College policy that students be warned before being withdrawn by the instructor **for excessive absences or lack of academic progress**, the publication of an attendance and academic progress policy in the syllabus constitutes the first warning. **After absences of five class contact hours or four class meetings**, students will be notified by email that they are at serious risk of being dropped from the course without a change in their choices. Students will have five days to contact the instructor to discuss their continued presence in the class. **After missing a total of seven class contact hours or six class meetings, the student may be dropped from the class. If the deadline for course withdrawal has already passed, the student will receive an "F" for the course.**

If a student does not attend classes during the first two scheduled class meetings, he or she will be reported to the Office of the Registrar as a **"No Show"** and immediately dropped from the course with no further notification of any kind.

Be advised that all **dual enrollment students have the same attendance expectations of all college students**. This includes attending his or her college class on days the high school does not meet. No excuses, no exceptions. Phone messages and e-mails to the professor do not constitute an excuse.

Missing class does not excuse the student from submitting assignments on time. If a student misses a class, the student is still responsible for all information presented during the class lecture and all information regarding schedule changes, assignment changes, and any other announcements or information presented during the class. Although the professor will make every attempt to communicate schedule changes through the Brightspace email system, students should make arrangements with classmates to share updates when necessary.

**Absence due to Illness: There are no "excused" absences.** However, consideration will be given for absences with written documentation for an "unexpected" disruption for which the student has no control. For medical emergencies, students must submit documentation from a physician or medical professional to the Dean of Student Services, Dr. Mark Bukowski, 863-784-7104 or [bukowskim@southflorida.edu](mailto:bukowskim@southflorida.edu). The Dean will contact all of the student's professors to let them know the dates the student cannot attend due to the medical problem.

**At this time, the professor/instructor will provide options for the student to make up some of their missed assignments if possible.** There is no guarantee that any or all of the missed assignments will be able to be made up. Students will have the ability to continue to work on course assignments at home via Brightspace and can read the

lecture notes scheduled for the days they will not be in class. Students are encouraged to manage their time and take full responsibility for their performance expectations and college responsibilities.

**Absence due to Required Activities:** Absences due to sport participation or required club activities, etc., will not be considered regarding dropping students from the course. However, documentation must be provided to the professor from a coach, advisor, or high school for dual enrollment students. This does not excuse the student from submitting assignments on time during this period or effectively reviewing the lecture notes for the days they are absent. **All assignment due dates and times must be met.**

**Late to Class: Students who arrive to class after the professor has taken roll are considered absent.** It is the student's responsibility to notify the instructor **after class has concluded**, that they arrived late and ask to change the roll from absent to tardy for that day. If the student fails to do this, the absence recorded will stand as the official record. Whether the student is five minutes late or 20 minutes late, it makes no difference—a student is tardy if they arrive after the scheduled start time for class.

**Lack of Academic Progress: Please consider the responsibilities of being a student carefully.** If you are struggling in the course and your course performance average is below 60 percent, it may be the wisest choice to withdraw from the course prior to the “drop with a W” date (see the course calendar). This way, a student can avoid a failing grade that can damage their grade point average.

**Note:** Please understand, failing a course may have significant impact on financial aid, the ability of Dual Enrollment students to continue to take college-level courses, and on a student's grade point average. Please consider all of these consequences when you are making your decisions. If extenuating circumstances beyond the student's control occur after the withdrawal date, the student may petition the Academic Appeals Committee to request a withdrawal from the class with a grade of *W*.

**Code of Conduct:** In addition to the expectations listed on the Arts & Sciences Policies document, all students will conduct themselves with the maturity expected of an adult. This includes respecting other students, coming to class prepared to learn and, whenever possible, please maintain a sense of humor. Life is challenging enough. ***Let's come together with a positive attitude and a generous spirit.***

### Daily Student Requirements

**Checking Email Daily: Students are required to check their e-mail in Brightspace daily.** Students are also required to respond to instructor requests within 24 hours (Monday through Thursday) or they will be referred to the Dean of Student Services and/or the Counseling & Advising Office for assistance in understanding their responsibilities as a student. **Failure to respond as required to the instructor may lead to being dropped from the class for lack of academic progress.**

**Dedicate Time & Focus:** Students should expect to dedicate a minimum of 6 to 8 hours a week to course homework and assignments. In addition, as discussed above, on-time attendance is the best way to achieve effective classroom engagement. Students should be to class on time and have the lecture notes prepared so they can engage actively in the class discussion. Students should focus on their desire to be successful and accept responsibility for their learning strategies. Students are strongly encouraged to prepare for this commitment and plan their time accordingly.

### Academic Integrity

**Course Requirements:** All assignments are to be completed by the student alone. Studying with others is permitted-- but there can be no collaboration when taking quizzes, doing the InQuizitive assignments or completing primary responses on chapter discussion boards. If a student is found to have copied from the work of other students, that student has violated the SFSC honor code and will be held responsible for their choices. **Students who violate this honor code will receive a zero score for the assignment.** Upon a second occurrence, the student will receive a zero grade for the course and a referral to the Dean of Students for further disciplinary actions which may include notification of an honors violation on the student's permanent transcripts. Students may review additional academic policies in the [SFSC Student Handbook](#).

## Course Academic Assignments

### Introductory Assignments!

Students are required to complete all of the following assignments in the first week of class. Please review the Course Calendar for the due dates and times for each of the following assignments. All chapter modules can be directly accessed through the **Read This First!** news item.

**1. Introductory Discussion Board – All discussion boards have two questions students must answer.** For the Introductory Discussion Board, students will watch two videos (one on each question) and respond to corresponding questions/required actions on the Introductory Discussion Board.

**Students will answer questions thoroughly (at least 75 words for each topic question).**

**First Topic Questions:** Students will demonstrate that they can successfully use the course discussion board by the scheduled due date and time. The first question in topic one of the Introductory Discussion Board requires that students introduce themselves to their classmates (name, and maybe academic goals, and anything else you feel comfortable sharing).

Students will then watch the video linked to the Introductory Discussion Board on the “marshmallow problem” and answer the remaining questions in this topic.

**Second Topic Questions:** Students must review the “How to Register for the Textbook” video (a link is provided in the Topic). Watch the video, get registered, and answer the related questions in this topic. They include reporting the date and type of registration (trial or permanent). If you have not acquired the access code due to financial aid or access to the high school Dual Enrollment Coordinator, you **must sign up for “trial access”** to the course material. Do not delay—the introductory assignments must be completed immediately, and chapter assignments quickly follow.

If you sign up for trial access, you must remember to submit the permanent code as soon as possible. **After the first three chapters are completed, students must submit the formal access code or a credit card number to continue. Students will not be able to make up missed work for failure to submit an official access code.**

**Responses to Classmates:** After completion of the primary responses in each discussion board assignment, students must then, *provide two replies to their classmates for a total of four responses for each discussion board assignment.* The responses must be constructive and “add” to the conversation.

Students will earn **30 bonus points (each primary response is 10 bonus points; each reply is 5 bonus points)** for successful completion of this assignment by the scheduled due date and time. At the very latest, the professor will score all Discussion Board assignments within seven days of the closing due date and time.

**2. Introductory Quiz over the content of the Course Syllabus and the Course Assignment Calendar:** Students must complete a 20-question quiz on the information in the Course Syllabus and the Course Assignment Calendar. This quiz is worth a **possible 20 bonus points** toward the final score and must be completed prior to the closing date and time. Scores are provided to the student upon submission of the quiz. Students will have two attempts and 90 minutes to correctly answer all questions. This Introductory Quiz is worth 20 bonus points.

### Assignments for Every Chapter Module

**Note: All chapter discussion board assignments, chapter quizzes, and the Supreme Court Landmark Cases Exam are open on the first day of the semester and close on the due date and time.** Students may work ahead

of schedule as much as they wish. The Lecture Midterm and Lecture Final exams have access “windows” and will be available to students only during this window of time. **No late submission of any of these assignments will be allowed under any circumstances.**

All **InQuizitive** assignments will be open and available for students to complete until the date noted on the Course Assignment Calendar. After they close on that date, no subsequent access will be available.

All due dates and times are listed on the **Course Assignment Calendar** and students are ultimately responsible for managing their own schedule. I strongly suggest that you **print off the Course Assignment Calendar** and keep it close so you can check off assignments when they are completed and submitted and stay on task. **Do not rely on the Brightspace calendar notification or module due dates and closing dates. The Course Assignment Calendar is always the final authority on due dates and times.**

### **Textbook InQuizitive Chapter Reviews:**

Students will complete thirteen chapter-review assignments called **InQuizitive**. InQuizitive is an active learning program that will guide the student through a review of the chapter material while providing support to review relevant sections of the chapter material. Students will proceed through a “game” where they can “bet” on their chance to provide the correct answer. Answer correctly and win the bet. Answer incorrectly and lose it all! Successfully completing each of these chapter review games weighs highly in the course grading structure. Students must take this assignment seriously and use it to prepare for the chapter exams. Students may log into InQuizitive as often as necessary to complete the assignment and earn the maximum points prior to the end of term closing date and time. **Please review the instructions for this program to use it effectively. Each chapter review component is worth 50 points toward the final grade.** Students should carefully review the [Getting Started with InQuizitive](#) video.

### **How Students are Graded in InQuizitive:**

To receive a grade for an **InQuizitive** activity, you must correctly answer a minimum number of questions in that activity set by your instructor. The minimum number for this course is **40 questions**.

1. At any time, you can see how many more questions you have to answer to receive a grade in the **Current Grade** box.
2. Once the minimum number of questions are answered correctly, you begin to receive a grade. To receive 100%, you must reach the Target Score for that activity which is set at 3000 points. At that time, the **Current Grade box will show 100 percent and you will earn all 50 points for this assignment.**
3. Your grade is simply the percentage of the Target Score points you’ve accumulated. For example, if the Target Score is 3000 points, and you earn 1500 points, your current grade will be 50 percent of the total points assigned to this assessment (50 points) which would be 25 points.
4. **InQuizitive** never stops you from continuing to answer questions. Keep on answering questions (and learning) until you reach the Target Score and get 100 percent! (Correction—I once, in one case, a student kept answering questions randomly and InQuizitive “ran out” of questions. It’s the only time in four years this has ever happened. At this point, the student will not be allowed to continue. So, I guess the bottom line is that you must make an effort to get the correct answer. Thus, students should use the in-game options to review the relevant section of the textbook before they return to answer the question a second time.)
5. Each **InQuizitive** assignment will require one to two hours to complete. *Plan ahead.*

Please review the [How Students are Graded in InQuizitive](#) video. For concerns over how WWNorton protects your privacy, please review the [WWNorton Privacy Policy](#).

### **Textbook Chapter Discussion Board Assignment:**

**Students will complete thirteen discussion boards covering information from the digital textbook. Each primary response must be a minimum of 75 words.** Details on the assignment instructions, scoring requirements, and an “example” of a successful response to a question is provided in the **Discussion Board Assignment Instructions** document found in the Course Documents module.

Each discussion board is worth **30 points** toward the final grade (**10 points for each of two primary responses and 5 points for each of two reply comments**). Discussion boards will be reviewed by the Professor and points earned will be loaded into the course grade book within the week after the discussion board closes. This assignment is the primary opportunity for students to engage with their classmates in discussions about the course material and a meaningful exchange of ideas.

All discussion board questions are open and available now. You may access them at any time via the **“Discussions”** link located under the **“Assessment”** icon at the top of the Course Brightspace page and from within each chapter module. No late submissions to the discussion board assignments will be allowed. *Plan ahead!*

### **Textbook Chapter Quizzes:**

Students will take thirteen, chapter exams over the material covered in the textbook. Exams consist of objective, multiple-choice responses. Exams will be available on the Brightspace Course webpage under the “quizzes” icon and linked in the chapter modules. Quizzes will be available beginning on the first day of class and remain open until the closing date and time noted on the “course calendar.”

**Students will be able to take each Chapter Quiz twice (30 questions, 90-minute session). For the second attempt, students will be presented with the questions they missed on the first attempt.** Failure to properly prepare for the chapter quizzes by reviewing the chapter thoroughly, is likely to result in an unsatisfactory outcome. If students wait until the last minute to complete these exams, students will not have time for a second attempt and will not achieve their best possible performance. Please plan ahead to maximize your performance! **Each chapter exam will be worth 60 points toward the final point score.**

If students have questions about technical aspects of Brightspace, including the exam process, they must call the **Educational Technology Support Department Help Desk (784-7015)** during their operational hours to receive technical assistance. If students wait until the last minute—no one will be available to assist them with technical questions. Contact the help desk at [BrightspaceSupport@southflorida.edu](mailto:BrightspaceSupport@southflorida.edu).

### **Additional Course Assignments**

**Video & Film Presentations:** Students will watch a number of videos and two films during the semester. These resources serve as “case study” materials to illustrate and review in detail topics and principles of American government and the political process. All of these resources are interesting, entertaining, and provocative.

Students should take notes while watching the films and note the key individuals involved and the chain of events as they unfold in each story that presents a significant issue in American political history. **Instruction sheets with guiding questions are provided to help the student focus on the most relevant issues as they watch the videos and can be found in Course Documents.** Without focus and taking diligent notes, the student will not be prepared to be successful on the two “lecture” exams.

All the videos are linked in the course chapter modules. The two films are also available for check out in the SFSC Library. These videos are interesting and most of them are brief. Please review the Course Assignment Calendar for closing due dates and times.

### **Midterm Lecture Discussion Exam & Final Lecture Discussion Exam:**



Students will complete a Lecture Midterm Exam and a Lecture Final Exam over the relevant lecture discussion material, films and videos discussed in class. Students are allowed to take these exams **twice just like the chapter quizzes**. It is strongly advised that students carefully review the lecture notes prior to taking this exam and pay close attention during class discussion.

**Each question on the lecture exams is worth three (3) points toward the final grade score and the total points for each exam varies. These exams will constitute a significant part of the student's final course grade.**

**Midterm Exam - Lecture Discussion: The Founding & Political Culture, Civil Rights & Civil Liberties, Campaign Finance Issues (video resources, etc.), and Interest Groups.**

**Final Exam - Lecture Discussion: The Presidency, How a Bill Becomes Law, Political Parties & Elections, Domestic & Economic Policy, and US Foreign Policy (and all associated video and film resources).**

### **Quiz – Landmark Supreme Court Cases**

Students will complete a quiz over a selection of landmark Supreme Court cases. A study sheet is provided in this module and students should study each case listed and note the details of the case, the constitutional principles applied, and the final holding of the Court. This quiz includes 25 questions and students will have two 90 - minute attempts. The quiz is worth **50 points toward the final grade**. Review the Course Assignment Calendar for the closing date and time.

**NOTE: Students who fail to complete any exam by the scheduled due date and time will receive a zero score.** Please take responsibility for your needs and plan accordingly. All scheduled exam dates are subject to change due to weather or other technical complications. Notification of changes will be made in the Brightspace e-mail system.

### **Communication Expectations**

**Netiquette - Expectations for Online Course Communications:** When communicating online, it is essential to observe certain rules of behavior called “netiquette,” which refers to rules of behavior governing the use of all internet services, including discussion groups, webpages, blogs, and social media. Please refer to the Arts & Sciences Policies Document for further information about behavior and consequences for poor netiquette.

**Faculty Email Response Policy:** Course e-mails received Monday through Thursday by noon will be answered within 48 hours with the exception of weekends and holidays. E-mails sent Thursday afternoon through Sunday may not be answered until Monday. If the student needs information related to a test or an assignment, plan ahead and submit questions well ahead of time in order to allow for response time. The professor will also be available during scheduled office hours by phone as well. Students should check the course web page and e-mail frequently for any news, announcements, or updates that will be posted.

**Note: I check my Brightspace email multiple times a day between 9 am and 5 pm Monday through Thursday and at least twice a day on most weekends. My response to your emails during these times will usually be within minutes, however, students should never wait until the last minute to ask a question or to get assistance.**

**Open Chat Room:** An open chat room is provided for students to discuss questions, their views, etc., synchronously with other students. The chat room will not be monitored by your professor and there will be no points associated with it. It is solely for students to have the opportunity to freely discuss questions and views with their classmates. **The only rules are as follows:**

1. Students are to be kind to others and approach discussions with an open mind.
2. There can be no hostility, name calling, or demeaning comments. This is not your Facebook page!
3. Students should not be overly sensitive to the views of classmates. Diversity of ideas is the cornerstone of American democracy and the higher education experience.
4. Make the effort to research the facts of discussion topics. Refer to objective sources of information and provide links for others.

5. Contact your professor if you have any questions.

### **Technology Requirements**

This American Government course is classified as a web-enhanced or “hybrid” face-to-face course. Therefore, a significant amount of work must be completed in the online/LMS course environment. Thus, all students must have access to a computer with high-speed Internet, audio and video capability.

All students are expected to be capable of the following basic computer skills: file management, e-mail, uploading attachments, word processing, PowerPoint production, and the Internet search processes. In addition, students will be expected to complete assignments on time and meet all performance expectations. Thus, each student is required to be self-motivated and be current on reading assignments and course activities in order to maximize the overall learning experience as well as function in the online environments.

The Brightspace course management system represents the primary source of interactions with the instructor and fellow classmates. Thus, students must submit assignments as required and take exams in a timely and consistent manner in this hybrid environment. **Assignment due dates and times are firm and are not subject to negotiation.** Students must use the Brightspace e-mail system to communicate with the SFSC community. All of this is available on the SFSC campus by accessing the computer labs in the SFSC Library.

In addition, any problem students may have with their own computer system or Internet access is not the responsibility of SFSC or the instructor. It is the student’s responsibility to be prepared and capable of functioning in this technological environment. As such, claims that assignments could not be completed on time because of computer problems, etc., will not be relevant. The only time that assignment deadlines will be extended is if there is a long-term Brightspace system-wide problem, weather issues, or other systemic problems. Thus, students are responsible for the working function of their own computers, printers, Internet service, etc., and getting their assignments completed and submitted on time and in the appropriate way. What should you do with this responsibility? You should get assignments done well ahead of time, days ahead of due dates and times. This is the only way to be able to accommodate last-minute complications which always happen at the worst possible time!

### **Grading Policy**

#### **Grade Configuration:**

Thirteen InQuizitive Chapter Reviews (50 points each)	650
Thirteen Discussion Board Assignments	390
Thirteen Chapter Quizzes (60 points each)	780
Midterm & Final Exams over the Class Lecture	252
Landmark Supreme Court Cases – Quiz	<u>50</u>
	2,122

**Point Distribution:**

A = 90 – 100 percent

B = 80 – 89 percent

C = 70 – 79 percent

**NOTE: Point distributions and final grades are not subject to negotiation and there will be no extra credit assignments offered for this course.**

**College-Wide Learning Outcomes**

1. **Communication (read, write, speak, and listen effectively)**
2. **Critical Thinking (reflect, analyze, synthesize, and apply knowledge)**
3. **Quantitative and Scientific Reasoning (application of mathematical and scientific principles and methods)**
4. **Information (finding, evaluating, organizing, and using information)**
5. **Citizenship (awareness of social, cultural, global, and environmental matters)**

**Course Learning Objectives/Outcomes****Course Specific Outcomes - The student will be able to:**

1. Demonstrate critical thinking and analytical abilities including the identification, organization and synthesis of the fundamental concepts and components of the American political process, institutions, culture and society.
2. Produce well-organized and developed written assignments, according to format and grade rubrics, that reflect appropriate use of the language of the field of political science and the conventions of standard written English.
3. Demonstrate the ability to communicate effectively through written assignments, oral presentations or other required assignments.
4. Demonstrate specific knowledge and appropriately use technology consistent with the written assignment objectives and requirements.
5. Demonstrate the appropriate level of technological literacy including the knowledge and understanding of the College course management system (presently the Brightspace web system) and use as required for the successful completion of this course.
6. Demonstrate an understanding of the scientific process and accepted theories as they apply to the field of political science and as required by this course.
7. Demonstrate an awareness of cultural diversity as it applies to the field of political science and is required by this course.
8. Engage in Service Learning or other outside political participation if required by the program curriculum (may be required by the Honors Program).
9. Demonstrate an understanding of the basic principles and practices of American democracy and how they are applied in the American republican form of government.
10. Demonstrate an understanding of the United States Constitution and its application in law and society.

11. Demonstrate knowledge of the founding documents and how they have shaped the nature and functions of American institutions of self-governance.
12. Demonstrate an understanding of landmark Supreme Court cases, landmark legislation, and landmark executive actions and their impact on US law and society.

### **Additional Student Resources**

Please review the Arts & Sciences Information & Resources Document for the following: Math & Writing Labs, Panther Central & Brightspace, Diversity & Inclusion, Inclusive Learning Environment Statement, and Resources for Students.

Please review the Arts & Sciences Policies Document for information on the following: Attendance and Withdrawal, Code of Conduct, Electric Communication Devices, Academic Ethics, Consequences for Cheating & Plagiarism, Students with Disabilities, Visitors on Campus, Observance of Religious Holidays, Final Exam Week, Email Communication, and General Education Outcomes.