

Instructor Information

- Professor: Jessica Khan
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- Phone: (850) 200-4114
- Office Hours: Mondays and Wednesdays 10:45am – 12:20pm, Thursdays 7:45am-12:35pm, Virtual Office Hours 12:35-2:35pm
- Office Location (Campus/Building/Room): Niceville, Building 500, Room A226

INSTRUCTOR COMMUNICATION

Your NWFSC email is the official communication medium of the College. Please check your College email regularly for any class and College notifications. The instructor will respond within 24-48 hours Monday – Thursday.

Course Information

- Course Name and Number: POS 1041 American Government CRN 20572
- Class Location (Campus/Building/Room): Online
- Class Modality: Online
- Class Days: Asynchronous
- Class Times: Asynchronous
- Online Classroom with Gradebook: [Canvas class shell](#)
- Final Exam: Wednesday April 29

Course Description

Examines government, political ideals, and institutions. Strong emphasis is placed on political thought, the origin of the American federal system, and the distribution of powers between state and national governments. This is a Gordon Rule writing course and is part of the college's Writing-Across-the-Curriculum program. A minimum grade of "C" is required if used to meet Gordon Rule requirements for general education.

Prerequisite(s): a passing score on the standardized placement test measuring communications/verbal/reading achievement, successful completion of any required developmental English and Reading coursework with a grade of "C" or better, or exemption from placement testing.

COURSE-LEVEL STUDENT LEARNING OUTCOMES

- Goal #1: Students will be able to explain the ideas and principles underlying our system of government and founding documents.
 - Objective 1.1: Understand the motivations and discussions of delegates at and prior to the Constitutional Convention, and how these discussions shaped various processes and institutions such as the constitutional amendment process, the Electoral College, the Bill of Rights, the structure of Congress, and our system of checks and balances.
 - Objective 1.2: Explain the principles of federalism, republican or representative government, popular sovereignty, the separation of powers, and checks and balances, and how each of these principles is incorporated in our system of government.
 - Objective 1.3: Comprehend the major sections and ideas of founding documents such as the Declaration of Independence, the Constitution, and the Federalist Papers.
- Goal #2: Students will understand the basic processes and functions of all of the major institutions of our government across the legislative, executive, and judicial branches.
 - Objective 2.1: Explain the institutions, historical development, processes, roles, responsibilities, and structure of the legislative branch.
 - Objective 2.2: Explain the institutions, historical development, processes, roles, responsibilities, and structure of the executive branch.
 - Objective 2.3: Explain the institutions, historical development, processes, roles, responsibilities, and structure of the judicial branch.

- Goal #3: Students will comprehend the political behavior and influence of various actors in our government, including political parties, interest groups, the media, and the public.
 - Objective 3.1: Examine the behavior and influence of political parties on our national government.
 - Objective 3.2: Examine the behavior and influence of interest groups on our national government.
 - Objective 3.3: Examine the behavior and influence of the media on our national government.
 - Objective 3.4: Examine the behavior and influence of the public on our national government.

Unit-Level Measurable Objectives

- Goal #1: Students will be able to explain the ideas and principles underlying our system of government and founding documents.
 - Objective 1.1: Understand the motivations and discussions of delegates at and prior to the Constitutional Convention, and how these discussions shaped various processes and institutions such as the constitutional amendment process, the Electoral College, the Bill of Rights, the structure of Congress, and our system of checks and balances.
 - Test Questions
 - Lecture Question Assignment Series
 - Class Activities
 - Objective 1.2: Explain the principles of federalism, republican or representative government, popular sovereignty, the separation of powers, checks and balances, civil rights, and civil liberties, and how each of these principles is incorporated in our system of government.
 - Test Questions
 - Lecture Question Assignment Series
 - Class Activities

- Objective 1.3: Comprehend the major sections and ideas of founding documents such as the Declaration of Independence, the Constitution, and the Federalist Papers.
 - Test Questions
 - Lecture Question Assignment Series
 - Class Activities
- Goal #2: Students will understand the basic processes and functions of all of the major institutions of our government across the legislative, executive, and judicial branches.
 - Objective 2.1: Explain the institutions, historical development, processes, roles, responsibilities, and structure of the legislative branch.
 - Test Questions
 - Lecture Question Assignment Series
 - Class Activities
 - Objective 2.2: Explain the institutions, historical development, processes, roles, responsibilities, and structure of the executive branch.
 - Test Questions
 - Lecture Question Assignment Series
 - Class Activities
 - Objective 2.3: Explain the institutions, historical development, processes, roles, responsibilities, and structure of the judicial branch.
 - Test Questions
 - Lecture Question Assignment Series
 - Class Activities
- Goal #3: Students will comprehend the political behavior and influence of various actors in our government, including political parties, interest groups, the media, and the public.
 - Objective 3.3: Examine the behavior and influence of the media on our national government.

- Test Questions
- Lecture Question Assignment Series
- Class Activities
- Objective 3.1: Examine the behavior and influence of political parties on our national government.
 - Test Questions
 - Lecture Question Assignment Series
 - Class Activities
- Objective 3.2: Examine the behavior and influence of interest groups on our national government.
 - Test Questions
 - Lecture Question Assignment Series
 - Class Activities
- Objective 3.4: Examine the behavior and influence of the public on our national government.
 - Test Questions
 - Lecture Question Assignment Series
 - Class Activities

Course Prerequisites

Prerequisite(s): a passing score on the standardized placement test measuring communications/verbal/reading achievement, successful completion of any required developmental English and Reading coursework with a grade of "C" or better, or exemption from placement testing

Course Materials

No required textbook.

Assignments, Grading Scheme and Procedures

Assignments

Assignment Category	Points/Percentage of Grade	Due Date
Lecture Questions	10%	One week after corresponding lecture
In-class Activities	25%	Every in-class meeting except exam days
Current Event Reports	15%	Every Wednesday
Exam I	15%	February 11
Exam II	15%	March 18
Exam III (Final Exam)	20%	April 29
Total	100%	

Grading Scheme

Grade	Range
A	90 – 100 %
B	80 – 89 %
C	70 – 79 %
D	60 – 69 %
F	59 and less %

Course Policies

- **I will not grant any student requests for an extra grade increase beyond what the student has earned in the course.** There will be no eleventh hour opportunities to earn extra credit. Any opportunities to earn credit in the course will be equally available to all students.
- **No late work will be accepted without both 1) a valid excuse and 2) proactive communication.** Proactive communication requires students reach out to me 24 hours before the assignment is due to let me know why they cannot complete the assignment before the specified deadline and request an extension. If 24 hours' notice is infeasible (e.g. in a genuine emergency situation), you must let me know as soon as possible and *before the deadline passes*. All assignments will disappear from Canvas at the deadline and I will not reopen them unless both requirements to make up late work (valid excuse and proactive communication) are met.
- **All emails must contain the CRN of the course in which you are enrolled in the body.** This enables me to find your records and update them quickly since I teach many sections of this course.
- It is students' responsibility to maintain awareness of all major aspects of the course, such as policies, procedures, assignments, and due dates.
- Students are responsible for ensuring that the correct, uncorrupted file version of assignments are uploaded by the stated due date.
- Technical error claims as excuses for late submissions must include: (1) a screenshot of the error message, (2) the assignment emailed as an attachment as soon as possible if the issue is with Canvas, and (3) the document's date last edited must show as prior to the deadline passing.
- Students need to be proactive about determining whether they need accommodations. I will not adjust grades previously earned before documentation that a student will require accommodations.

Student Expectations and Resources

NWFSC aims for excellence in education and scholarly pursuits. Campus policies and procedures support this goal by protecting the health, safety, welfare, and property of the College and its students. To view all campus policies, please see the [college catalog](#). Several essential policies are provided below with the corresponding link to the full policy for your review.

NWFSC Policy	Description
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<p><u>Academic Integrity</u></p>	<p>Students are expected to behave responsibly as members of the College community and be honest and forthright in their academic endeavors. This includes the use of generative AI tools. Using genAI in any form to substantially complete an assessment is prohibited, except where explicitly allowed by the instructor.</p> <p>Any time the instructor suspects there is a violation of Academic Integrity or there is a reported Academic Integrity Incident, the instructor is required to investigate it as outlined in the Academic Integrity section of the handbook (linked to the left). The instructor will provide information to the student about the procedure, the complaint, the findings, and any consequence imposed.</p> <p>Students are also expected to behave professionally and refrain from disrupting other students' learning environments.</p>
<p><u>Accommodations</u></p>	<p>The Accommodation Resource Center at Northwest Florida State College is committed to providing equal access and opportunities for educational success to all students with disabilities as guided by the American Disabilities Act and other disability-related laws.</p>
<p><u>Attendance</u></p>	<p>Regular attendance and participation in the course is expected. All students should adhere to the College calendar. For dual enrolled students, high school holidays may not be College holidays.</p>
<p><u>Tutoring Services</u></p>	<p>Tutoring services are available in person and online.</p>
<p><u>Counseling Services</u></p>	<p>All actively enrolled students can receive an initial assessment and up to five therapeutic sessions with a Behavioral Health provider at no cost to the student.</p>

<u>Student Code of Conduct</u>	Students are expected to adhere to the rules, regulations, and policies outlined in the Student Code of Conduct.
<u>Student Complaints</u>	NWFSC desires to resolve student grievances, complaints, and concerns expeditiously, fairly, and in an amicable manner. A student who desires to resolve a grievance may initiate the resolution process using the information in the link provided to the left.
<u>Student Rights and Responsibilities</u>	All students should review the Student Rights and Responsibilities section of the Student Handbook to understand their role as a student.

Other Important Information

EMERGENCY COLLEGE CLOSURE

This course's schedule, requirements, and procedures are subject to change in the event of unusual or extraordinary circumstances. If the College closes for inclement weather or another emergency, any exams, presentations, or assignments previously scheduled during the closure period will automatically be rescheduled for the first regular class meeting held once the college reopens. If changes to graded activities are required, students will not be penalized due to the adjustments but will be responsible for meeting revised deadlines and course requirements.

Academic Continuity Plan

NWFSC is dedicated to protecting the health and well-being of its students, staff, and faculty. The College is dedicated to working with faculty and students to ensure timely course and program completion during emergencies. In the event of a College closure, the format of this course may be modified to enable completion of the course through other means, including but not limited to online course delivery through online classrooms. Check your RaiderNet College email and LMS classroom online for any updates.

Welcome to Class

Thank you for choosing NWFSC for your education—and welcome to class!