POS 2041: American Federal Government

Professor: Dr. Sally Hansen

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Required Text: *We the People: An Introduction to American Politics* (9th edition) by Benjamin Ginsberg, Theodore Lowi & Margaret Weir

Course Description: Constitutional rights of the individual; structure and functions of our legislative, executive and judicial branches; role of the citizen in political parties and the electoral process.

Student Learning Outcomes:

1. Demonstrate a general knowledge and understanding of the differences between the House of Representatives and the Senate.
2. Demonstrate a general knowledge and understanding of how a bill becomes a law.
3. Demonstrate a general knowledge and understanding of the powers and functions of the three branches of government.
4. Demonstrate a general knowledge and understanding of how citizens can become more effective participants in the political process.
5. Demonstrate a general knowledge and understanding of the major components of the U.S. Constitution.

Course structure:

The goal of this course is to explore the dynamics and structure of American government and encourage you to think about the multitude of issues that face the United States today, as well as how those issues have developed over time. This course will discuss some of the debates within the United States today regarding the government and its place in society. You will be expected to complete assignments and tests in a timely manner. You will also be required to regularly post comments and replies to the class discussion. Students are required to complete the readings and discuss the readings in the class discussion. This class will be interactive. You will be expected to be an active learner in this course.

Minimum Technical Requirements:

For this course you will need to be able to access Florida Online. Here is a link to Daytona State College’s Distance Learning site, where technology requirements for online courses can be found: [http://online.daytonastate.edu](http://online.daytonastate.edu)

Attendance:

Students who stop attending this class will be withdrawn from the class and receive a final grade of W1 (Withdrawn). Attendance is defined as participating in class discussion and/or turning in assignments and assessments, as well as attending the face to face portion of the course.

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

Please note that an incomplete grade will not be given unless the following circumstances are met:

- a request in writing is submitted to the instructor prior to the last three weeks of class
- all assessments and assignments are completed at that point in time
- a grade of C or higher has been earned at that point in time.

Grading criteria

Five exams: 50%
Discussion: 25%
Internet assignment: 10%
Attendance: 10%

Pre/Post-test: 5% (In order to access the Post-test during the first week of class, you must complete the Pre-test during the first week of class.)

All due dates are located on the course homepage as well as on the Content page.

Exams:

There will be five exams. They will comprise 50% of your grade. These exams are composed of 60 multiple choice questions, and you will have 100 minutes to take each test.

Because this is an online class, these exams are meant to be taken with the use of your book and your notes. In order to do well on these tests, you will need to be prepared and organized. Have your materials ready when you sit down to take the test. You may choose to take the test at any time during the window when it is available, but once you start the test, it is timed, so make sure you plan accordingly. Also, if you experience technical problems during the test, please contact me via email, and we'll see what we can do, but if you wait to take the test until the last minute, I will not be able to be as helpful.

To access your exams, click on Quizzes.

You must take each test during the available dates. If you do not take the test during the available dates, you will receive a zero on it. NO EXCEPTIONS/NO EXCUSES! These dates are listed on the course homepage and on the Content page.

Discussion and Participation

This means engaging in a critical discussion of American government on the class discussion boards. The quality of your posts is more important than their quantity, but students are expected to post at least three comments each week. You do not have to participate in every discussion. If you don’t feel comfortable participating in a certain topic, then choose another topic to participate in, or start your own topic.

Under each Reading Forum you will find a link for Questions for Discussion and Thought on each chapter. You can start a topic using one or more of the questions that you find in these links. Just be clear about which question you are discussing, so that the rest of the class can respond to you. Please do not
feel like you have to answer every question in these links. This is just one option. You will also find a Forum on Current Events. If you prefer discussing current events, then you can choose to post there more often than in the Reading Forums.

I will update your participation grades throughout the semester. You will need to average 3 posts per week. By using an average, this will allow you an off week and give you time to catch up, but you will lose participation points if you take advantage of this. In other words, don't ignore the discussion boards for 3 weeks and then post 15 times in one day. You will lose points if you do this. Please ask me if you have any questions.

Your posts should contain factual information, not just baseless opinions. You must engage the other students in your posts; do not write only to the professor. Your posts should be in your own words. If you quote from the textbook or a website, explain what you are doing and use quotation marks. When you are posting to the current events discussion, you should include a link to the relevant articles.

You can also lose participation points. You will lose points for sending me an unprofessional email, forwarding junk mail or false rumors to the professor or students, or for being rude or disrespectful to your fellow students. You will not receive points for low quality or low substance messages, such as "Good point" or "I agree." Generally, I will delete posts that do not contribute to the discussion or that are offensive in any way. Your participation grade will depend on the number and quality of your postings. **There are about 15 weeks in the term, so by the end of the semester you should have at least 45 posts. All posts must be completed by December 13.**

Activities
Please see the Content page for information on how to complete the 2 Activities.

Internet Assignment
Please see the Content page for information on how to complete the internet assignment.

Contacting the Professor
Please use the class discussion boards to post any questions that you have about class. Post to the board that most closely matches the subject of your questions. If it is a more personal matter or grade-related, please email me. I will try and respond to all emails within 24-72 hours. If I do not respond to you within that time, please feel free to email me again. If I do not respond to your email, then assume that I did not receive it.

Withdrawing from a course:

It is your responsibility to go through the withdrawal process if you wish to withdraw from the course -- instructors cannot withdraw students from courses. If you wish to withdraw from a course, you can use your Falconet account until the last date to withdraw. You will not be withdrawn from a class simply because you stop attending it. The withdrawal deadline date associated with the current semester is published in the College Academic Calendar. Students who remain enrolled in courses after the withdrawal date will be assigned a final grade for the course from the faculty member. Note that "Withdrawals" are counted as an attempt for a course, and students are only permitted a maximum of "2" withdrawals per course. Upon the third attempt, students will not be permitted to withdraw and will receive a grade other than "W" for that course.

Students who no longer want to attend class:

1. Must withdraw by the deadline for the semester (published in the academic calendar).
2. May initiate the withdrawal process at the Registration Office at any Daytona State College campus by presenting a picture identification.
3. Students with extenuating circumstances (ie: hospitalized, out of town, etc.) may withdraw by mail provided the request is postmarked by the deadline and contains an original signature of the student.

For more information contact: Registration@DaytonaState.edu.

**Academic Integrity Policy:**

In order to preserve academic excellence and integrity, the College expects you to know, understand, and comply with the Academic Integrity Policy, which prohibits academic dishonesty in any form, including, but not limited to, cheating and plagiarism. The grades you earn must be based upon your own work and must accurately reflect your own knowledge and skills.

An instructor who finds that a student has violated Academic Integrity may apply an academic consequence ranging from a zero percent for the assignment, up to and including failure for the entire course. Violations may be reported to the academic department chair for review and/or referred to the student disciplinary process for appropriate disciplinary resolution. For more information about Academic Integrity and the appeal process see: https://www.daytonastate.edu/academicintegrity/

**Sensitive Materials:**

Course content aims to enable students to reach course goals and objectives. As such, students may be introduced to a wide range of topics and ideas that differ from familiar understandings and beliefs. Some content may be considered sensitive or offensive or disturbing (or all of the above) by some students.

**Student Rights & Responsibilities**

Students are responsible for reading and following all college policies outlined in the current Student Handbook. Some of the most important are summarized below. The Handbook can be accessed at http://www.daytonastate.edu/academics.html under “Student Resources.”

**Support Services**

**Students with Disabilities:** The Student Disability Services (SDS) Office provides tools and resources to students with documented disabilities. Students who self-disclose a disability and provide the required documentation to the SDS Office can receive confidential and reasonable accommodations to assist in their academic success. If you need accommodations, please contact the SDS Office at (386) 506-3238. To call Florida Relay dial 7-1-1, or the appropriate toll-free number: 1-800-955-8771 (TTY), 1-800-955-8770 (Voice). You can also find more information at http://www.daytonastate.edu/sds

**Veterans:** If you are currently serving or have ever served in the U.S. Military, please feel free to visit the Veterans Center in the Lenholt Student Center (Bldg. 130, room 124) for any assistance or phone 386.506.3065. Please visit https://www.daytonastate.edu/admsvet/

**Academic Support Center:** The Academic Support Centers (ASC) assist students on every campus to achieve their potential by providing the resources they need to become successful, independent learners. For more information please go to http://www.daytonastate.edu/asc/ or email ASC@DaytonaState.edu.

**Writing Center:** For assistance with all stages of the writing process please visit the Writing Center (appointments recommended) www.daytonastate.edu/cwc
**Library and Research Services:** The Daytona State Library offers a variety of services and resources to support your academic success. Visit the library website at [http://library.daytonastate.edu/](http://library.daytonastate.edu/)

**Technical Support** is available for FalconMail, printing, web usage, Falcon Online, and more. Students may call 386-506-3950 or e-mail Helpdesk@daytonastate.edu. Information can be found on the Student Self-Service Help page at [http://daytonastate.edu/help/](http://daytonastate.edu/help/) under Tech Support.

**For Falcon Online 24/7 support of course tools,** view the Help/Resources on the Falcon Online navbar or call the Helpdesk at 386-506-3950, option 2. General Help information for Falcon Online can be found on the Student Self-Service Help page at [http://daytonastate.edu/help/](http://daytonastate.edu/help/) under Falcon Online Technical Help.

**Safety on Campus:** Check your FalconMail after you register for information on accessing and updating your free Daytona State College Rave Alert account. You can also visit [https://www.getrave.com/login/daytonastate](https://www.getrave.com/login/daytonastate)

**The Center for Men and Women:** The Center offers a range of additional support services for students in need. Go to [https://daytonastate.edu/centerforwomenandmen/index.html](https://daytonastate.edu/centerforwomenandmen/index.html) for more information.