

Welcome to POS 2041: American National Government!



OVERVIEW: Analysis of the organization, structure and operational dynamics of the U.S. national government, both past and present, and an examination of the U.S. Constitution, including principles and theories supporting it. This course includes learning activity designed to ensure competence in the basic use of computers, media sites and presentations.

INSTRUCTOR CONTACT

Tyler A. Branz

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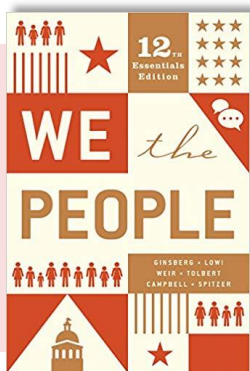
CRN:

Office Hours: See Course Calendar Office: WC 11-207

SPRING

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Or Through Canvas Message



We the People, Twelfth Essentials Edition

by Ginsberg, Lowi, Weir Tolbert and Spitzer

W. W. Norton & Company ISBN: 978-0-393-69613-4

e-Book Editions and Rentals may be available.

TEXTBOOK WEBSITE [<https://wwnorton.com/books/9780393679670>]

EVALUATION, TESTING AND GRADING

There will be three (3) examinations of equal value this session. Each exam will cover only the units specified. This may include class discussion, materials, online assignments and media during that unit. Each exam, including the final exam, is worth 20% of your final grade.

Exams (3):	25 %	Each (75 % Total)
Homework (Study Guides):	20 %	Total
Attendance:	5 %	Total

COURSE OBJECTIVES

- Demonstrate an understanding of the core values supporting the democratic tradition of the United States.
- Develop an understanding of the effects of government (at all levels in the United States) on citizens' lives and the effects of citizens on government in pursuit of social, political and economic goals.
- Utilize critical thinking in analyzing political, social and economic issues.
- Cultivate an understanding of the basic principles of American democracy, including those found in the U.S. Constitution, basic founding documents, and landmark Supreme Court cases.

STUDENT RESPONSIBILITIES

Students are responsible for reading and taking notes on the textbook chapters *before* each class. This is so the students and the instructor may have a fuller and more involved discussion during the lecture period. If you are having trouble understanding any material, please come see the instructor before or after class, or feel free to make an appointment for another time (see **Contact Info** at the top).

Also, any and all work you may complete in this class may be used for research and development here at Valencia College.

ATTENDANCE AND WITHDRAWAL POLICY

Attendance is required for the course, as discussions can be quite useless if there is no one to attend them. Attendance will be taken at the beginning of each class, and is worth 5 percent of your final grade. Those who are consistently absent will still be responsible for the work they miss (notes, exams and assignments). **Any work which is not completed by the appropriate deadline will receive a zero. I do not withdraw students after the first week.**

IMPORTANT DATES [SPRING 2020]		
ADD/DROP DEADLINES		
WITHDRAWAL DEADLINE		
FINAL EXAM DATE (F2F)		

Per Valencia Policy 4-07 (Academic Progress, Course Attendance and Grades, and Withdrawals), a student who withdraws from class before the withdrawal deadline of will receive a grade of “W.” A student is not permitted to withdraw after the withdrawal deadline. Students who stay in the class after this deadline are responsible to complete all work required for the course; for example, homework, projects, tests, etc. If you choose to stop logging into the class after the Withdrawal deadline, you will be held responsible for all work missed, including the final examination. **Any work not completed by the appropriate deadline will receive a zero.** For a complete policy and procedure overview on Valencia Policy 4-07 please go to: <http://valenciacollege.edu/generalcounsel/policy/documents/Volume4/4-07-Academic-Progress-Course-Attendance-and-Grades-and-Withdrawals.pdf>

Arriving late and leaving early can disturb the class immensely. Therefore, if noticed coming in late or leaving early consistently, you will be marked absent.

If a student misses Exam I or II during the course of the semester, a required make-up exam must be completed *during the last week of regular classes (that is by end of business day FRIDAY; see course calendar for more details).*

Make-up exams are only given to students who missed an exam (*it cannot be taken to replace a low grade*). **THIS POLICY DOES NOT COVER THE FINAL EXAM.** It is the student’s responsibility to make arrangements with the instructor prior to the last week to schedule the make-up. *No exceptions.* This exam may be significantly different from the exam given during regular class meetings (see EXAMS section). Only ONE exam can be re-administered. If you miss more than one exam, a zero will be given for the second missed exam. **No exam grades will be dropped. IT IS THE STUDENT’S RESPONSIBILITY TO ARRANGE THE MAKE-UP EXAM VIA COMMUNICATION WITH THE INSTRUCTOR.**

Hence, the final grade for the course will be determined by taking into consideration the percentages obtained by work which was turned in and the zeros given to work not turned in on time. Students can still be withdrawn by the college for violations of the college’s code of conduct policies. Any student who

withdraws or is withdrawn from a class during a third or subsequent attempt in the same course will be assigned a grade of "F."

HELPFUL LINKS

General Counsel: (<http://valenciacollege.edu/generalcounsel/>)

Important Dates: (http://valenciacollege.edu/calendar/importantdates_withdraw.cfm)

Calendars: (<http://valenciacollege.edu/calendar/>)

STUDY GUIDES OUTLINES

In each module, there will be homework/study guide/outline starting in Week 1 and will occur every week throughout the semester. These study outlines will be related to the textbook chapters. These are not meant to harm your grade, but to help with more points and to assist in your digestion of the information. Please answer all questions fully, using **details/examples/events from the textbook**; homework not turned in on time will NOT be accepted. You will submit answers to study outline questions through Canvas's Assessment function. The outline will be detailed and there will be a text box to write or paste answers. **Study outline answers posted in the comments box will be marked as INCOMPLETE.** Feel free to store/save these study outline answers to help prepare for upcoming exams.

CLASS WEBSITE

You will be able to access many of the class materials through **Canvas**, which you can access through your **Valencia ATLAS account**. Please let me know IMMEDIATELY if you have any problems.

EXAMS

There will be three course exam grades (**including the final exam**) throughout the semester (see **Course Calendar and Schedule**) and will be worth, collectively, 75% of your total grade. Exams are generally multiple choice, but may be multiple choice, short essays, short answers, or a combination and will only cover material found in the textbook, in lectures, and other media presented in class. Make-up exams administered during the last week of classes will be hybrid multiple choice and short essay.

ACADEMIC HONESTY

<http://valenciacollege.edu/generalcounsel/policydetail.cfm?RecordID=193>

Students are expected to write, test, discuss and perform in this class admirably and honestly. Please refer to the Valencia Student Handbook or if you need information on academic honesty. **Plagiarism is a serious offense**; I award a zero (0) to papers that show evidence of:

- turning in someone else's work as your own
- copying words or ideas from someone else without giving credit
- failing to put a quotation in quotation marks
- giving incorrect information about the source of a quotation
- changing words but copying the sentence structure of a source without giving credit
- copying so many words or ideas from a source that it makes up the majority of your work, whether you give credit or not (see our section on "fair use" rules)

All of the following are considered plagiarism: Most cases of plagiarism can be avoided, however, by citing sources. Simply acknowledging that certain material has been borrowed, and providing your audience with the information necessary to find that source, is usually enough to prevent plagiarism.

“Academic dishonesty allegations may be processed by the professor as academic violations, and/or may be processed in accordance with student conduct procedures set forth in this Code. Students may be subject to both the Student Conduct Code and academic sanctions as determined in the academic judgment of the professor in cases where there is a combination of alleged violations of academic and nonacademic regulations. Any student determined by the professor to have been responsible for engaging in an act of academic dishonesty shall be subject to a range of academic penalties (apart from any sanctions that may be imposed pursuant to the Code) as determined by the professor which may include, but not be limited to, one or more of the following: loss of credit for an assignment, examination, or project; a reduction in the course grade; or a grade of "F" in the course.”

- (8-03 Student Code of Conduct)

CLASSROOM CONDUCT

The student’s full attention is expected during the lecture. The instructor will provide their full attention when students speak, and students are expected to treat each other with that same respect. Each student has something interesting to say, and therefore each student deserves their time to say it. **ALL CELL PHONES SHOULD BE ON SILENT. No text messaging or cell phone use during class or exams. Cell phone use during class will result in deductions from Attendance grade and then overall grade.**

Laptop use is allowed during lecture, but only for **academic purposes**. For exams, the student may NOT use any materials, unless noted by the professor. Arriving late to class or consistently skipping class (3 or more) will result in deductions from the ATTENDANCE GRADE; in-class assignments will also be marked as a “0.”

“Faculty members are authorized to define, communicate, and enforce appropriate standards of decorum in classrooms, offices, and other instructional areas under their supervision. Students who engage in any prohibited or unlawful acts that result in disruption of a class may be directed by the faculty member to leave the class for the remainder of the class period. Longer suspensions from class or dismissal on disciplinary grounds must be preceded by a disciplinary conference or hearing, as set forth in the Implementing Procedures of this Code.”

– (8-03 Student Code of Conduct)

SYLLABUS ADJUSTMENTS

During the class term, this syllabus may be altered or modified at the instructor’s discretion. You will have adequate notice to any changes, but it is the responsibility of the student to make any adjustments as announced.

OSD REGISTRATION PROCESS <http://valenciacollege.edu/osd/CurrentStudents.cfm>

The first step in the eligibility process is to submit appropriate documentation of disability to the **Office for Students with Disabilities (OSD)**. The documentation provided must establish the individual as a person with a disability and provides a rationale for reasonable accommodations. The College is obligated to make a reasonable accommodation only to the known limitations of an otherwise qualified student with disability.

In order to request accommodations from the College, the student must complete the following steps in the Office for Students with Disabilities registration process:

- **Provide appropriate documentation of the disability for which accommodations are being requested**
- **Meet with an OSD advisor to review documentation, request reasonable accommodations and complete the student intake process**
- **Notify the instructor of the approved accommodation through the NTI form (*within the first week of class*)**

Until all steps of the registration process have been completed, the student will be considered pending with OSD and will not be eligible for services or accommodations.

Incomplete files will be kept for one term and then destroyed. The student may, however, begin the process again at any time.

COURSE CALENDAR AND SCHEDULE (SUBJECT TO REVISION)

All study guide outlines are due via Canvas before we go over the chapter in class. No late study guides will be accepted. Please see Canvas navigation for all available materials.

WEEK:	Date Starting:	TOPIC: US National Government (F2F)	NOTES:
1		Chapter 2: The Founding and the Constitution	
2		Chapter 3: Federalism	
3		Chapter 9: Congress	
4		Chapter 12: The Judiciary	
5		EXAM I WEEK - Covers Chapters in Unit I	
6		Chapter 4: Civil Liberties & Civil Rights	
7		Chapter 4: Civil Liberties & Civil Rights	
8		Chapter 10: The Presidency	
9		Chapter 14: Foreign Policy	
10		EXAM II WEEK - Covers Chapters in Unit II	
11		Chapter 6: News Media	
12		Chapter 7: Political Parties, Participation and Elections	
13		Chapter 7: Political Parties, Participation and Elections	
14		Chapter 13: Social Policy	
15		FINAL EXAM WEEK - Covers Chapters in Unit III	

IMPORTANT DATES		
ADD/DROP DEADLINES		
WITHDRAWAL DEADLINE		
FINAL EXAM DATE (F2F)		

OFFICE HOURS			
	DAY	TIME	NOTES
	MONDAY		
	TUESDAY		
	WEDNESDAY		
	THURSDAY		
	FRIDAY		