



# Syllabus: Course Title – POS 2041

## U.S. Government

**Semester Spring**

**January 12 - May 8, 2026**

### Course Information

- **Course Number and Title:** POS 2041, U.S. Government
- **Credit Hours:** 3 Credits, 3 Contact hours
- **Academic Term:** Spring 2026

### Instructor Information

- **Instructor:** Lynn Paredes-Manfredi
- **Office Location:** IST Room: 2078
- **Office Hours:** T/Th 11:00am – 12:45 pm, by Appointment, or Teams
- **Other Ways to Contact You:** lparedesmanfredi@floridapoly.edu

### Course Details

- **Delivery Mode:** Face -to – face class, in class sessions
- **Official Catalog Course Description:**
  - a) An introduction to United States government and politics, including their constitutions, political institutions and processes, and political actors. Examination of political behavior, political issues, and public policy.
  - b) No prerequisites.
  - c) This course fulfills a social science requirement.
- **Required Texts and Materials:**
  - a) OpenStax. American Government 3e. OER, First Edition. Xan Edu Publishing, Inc, 2021  
<https://openstax.org/details/books/american-government-3e>
  - b) Additional articles accessed through university databases.
- **Course Objectives:**  
 To provide a foundation in the structure and foundation of U.S. government and the processes in its function, including current issues.
- **Course Learning Outcomes:**  
 Outcomes a. Explain the founding and development of the U.S. Constitution. b. Identify and evaluate institutions and political processes within the United States. c. Discuss and analyze contemporary political issues and operations in the United States. d. Explain the civil liberties and civil rights of individuals as articulated in the U.S. Constitution and federal court decisions. e. Analyze the role of culture, diversity and ideology in shaping public opinion and public policy in the United States. f. Analyze how to effectively participate in politics at the national, state, county and/or city levels.
- **Alignment with Program Outcomes:**
  - a. General Education competencies: critical thinking; social science methods
  - b. ABET-CAC (f); EAC (g); “communication.”
  - c. Florida State Civics Requirements:
    - i. Understanding of the basic principles and practices of American democracy and how they are applied in our republican form of government.
    - ii. An understanding of the United States Constitution and its application.

iii. Knowledge of the founding documents and how they have shaped the nature and functions of our institutions of self-government.

. iv. An understanding of landmark Supreme Court cases, landmark legislation and landmark executive actions and their impact on law and society.

**Topics covered:**

- a) American Government and Civic Engagement
- b) The Constitution and Its Origins
- c) American Federalism
- d) Civil Liberties
- e) Civil Rights
- f) The Politics of Public Opinion
- g) Voting and Elections
- h) The Media
- i) Political Parties
- j) Interest Groups
- i) Congress
- j) The Presidency
- k) The Courts
- l) State and Local Government
- m) The Bureaucracy
- n) Domestic Policy
- o) Foreign Policy

### Grading Scale

. Grade Percent

A	93 4.0
A-	90 3.67
B+	87 3.33
B	83 3.0
B-	80 2.67
C+	77 2.33
C	73 2.0
C-	70 1.67
D+	67 1.33
D	63 1.0
D-	60 0.67
F	59 0.

### Assignment/Evaluation Methods

Chapter online quizzes

11 @ 10 pts each                    110 points

Attendance/current events

14 @ 5 pts each                    70

Assignment 1                        100

Assignment 2                        100

Assignment 3                        100

Test 1                                100

Test 2                                100

Test 3 \_\_\_\_\_

Total                                670 Points

## Attendance Policy

Attendance is expected for all class sessions. If you experience an emergency or become sick, notify the professor before class or as soon as possible after your absence to make arrangements with the professor.

## AI and plagiarism

All assignments, tests and current event submissions are to be your own work. If quoting from a source you must include citations. Submissions may be individually checked for compliance. The course requirements are designed to assist you in developing your own critical thinking and writing skills not AI creations. Violation of these policies may result in a 0 for the assignment and future violations could result in F for the course.

## Academic Support Resources

- **Library:** Students can access the Florida Polytechnic University Library through the University website and [Canvas](#), on and off campus. Students may direct questions to [library@floridapoly.edu](mailto:library@floridapoly.edu).
- **Tutoring and Learning Center:** The Tutoring and Learning Center (The TLC) provides tutoring to all Florida Poly students who may need additional academic support. The TLC is staffed by students who have excelled in the courses they tutor. They offer support by reviewing concepts and materials from class, clarifying points of confusion and providing assistance with learning strategies. While the focus of TLC is to provide support to students in freshman-level courses, upper-level courses are also tutored at the Center. The TLC is located in the IST Commons (second floor).
  - **Knack Tutoring:** Students looking for additional assistance outside of the classroom are advised to consider working with a peer tutor through Knack. Florida Polytechnic University has partnered with Knack to provide students with access to verified peer tutors who have previously aced this course. To view available tutors, visit [floridapoly.joinknack.com](http://floridapoly.joinknack.com) and sign in with your student account.
- **Academic Success Coaches:** All students at Florida Poly are assigned an Academic Success Coach. Your Academic Success Coach can assist you with academic success strategies. Please visit the Student Success Center on the second floor of the IST building to meet with an Academic Success Coach.
- **Writing Center:** Located on the second floor of the IST (2059/2061), the Writing Center helps students to develop their writing and presentation skills. Consultations are available in person and virtually. For more detail, visit [floridapoly.edu/writing center](http://floridapoly.edu/writing-center).

## University Policies

### Reasonable Accommodations

The University is committed to ensuring equal access to all educational opportunities. The University, through the Office of Disability Services (ODS), facilitates reasonable accommodation for students with disabilities and documented eligibility. It is the student's responsibility to self-identify as a student with disabilities and register with ODS to request accommodation.

If you have already registered with ODS, please ensure that you have requested an accommodation letter for this course through the [ODS student portal](#) and communicate with your instructor about your approved accommodations as soon as possible. Arrangements for testing accommodations must be made in advance. Accommodations are not retroactive. If you are not registered with ODS but believe you have a temporary health condition or permanent disability requiring accommodation, please contact ODS as soon as possible.

The Office of Disability Services (ODS):  
[DisabilityServices@floridapoly.edu](mailto:DisabilityServices@floridapoly.edu)  
 (863) 874-8770  
 The Access Point  
[ODS website: www.floridapoly.edu/disability](http://www.floridapoly.edu/disability)

## Accommodations for Religious Observances, Practices and Beliefs

The University will reasonably accommodate the religious observances, practices, and beliefs of individuals in regard to admissions, class attendance, and the scheduling of examinations and work assignments. (See [University Policy](#).)

## Title IX

Florida Polytechnic University is committed to ensuring a safe, productive learning environment on our campus that prohibits sex discrimination and sexual misconduct, including sexual harassment, sexual assault, dating violence, domestic violence and stalking. Resources are available if you or someone you know needs assistance. Any faculty or staff member you speak to is required to report the incident to the Title IX Coordinator. Please know, however, that your information will be kept private to the greatest extent possible. You will not be required to share your experience. If you want to speak to someone who is permitted to keep your disclosure confidential, please seek assistance from the Florida Polytechnic University [Ombuds Office](#), BayCare's Student Assistance Program, 1-800-878-5470 and locally within the community at [Peace River Center](#), 863-413-2707 (24-hour hotline) or 863-413-2708 to schedule an appointment. The Title IX Coordinator is available for any questions to discussion resources and options available.

## Academic Integrity

The faculty and administration take academic integrity very seriously. Violations of [academic integrity regulation](#) include actions such as cheating, plagiarism, use of unauthorized resources (including but not limited to use of Artificial Intelligence tools), illegal use of intellectual property, and inappropriately aiding other students. Such actions undermine the central mission of the university and negatively impact the value of your Florida Poly degree. Suspected violations will be fully investigated, possibly resulting in an academic integrity hearing and sanctions against the accused student if found in violation. Sanctions range from receiving a zero on the exam or assignment, to expulsion from the university. Repeat offenders are subject to more severe sanctions and penalties. Do not compromise your integrity for a perceived short-term gain.

## Recording Lectures

Students may, without prior notice, record video or audio of a class lecture for a class in which the student is enrolled for their own personal educational use. Recordings may not be used as a substitute for class participation or class attendance. Recordings may not be published or shared in any way, either intentionally or accidentally, without the written consent of the faculty member. Failure to adhere to these requirements is a violation of state law (subject to civil penalty) and the student code of conduct (subject to disciplinary action).

*Recording class activities other than class lectures, including but not limited to lab sessions, student presentations (whether individually or part of a group), class discussion (except when incidental to and incorporated within a class lecture), and invited guest speakers is prohibited.*

## Course Schedule

This Schedule may change depending upon Guest Speaker available dates and other University events. Revised Schedule will be provided when changes are made.

1. Jan. 13 -15      Introduction  
                          Ch. 1 American Government and Civic Engagement
2. Jan. 20 -22      Ch. 2 The Constitution and Its Origins  
  
                          Assignment #1 Available
3. Jan. 27 - 29      Ch. 3 Federalism
4. Feb. 3 - 5      Ch. 4 Civil Liberties  
                          Assignment #1 Due
5. Feb. 10      Career Day classes do not meet  
  
Feb. 12      Ch. 5 Civil Rights
6. Feb. 17      Test #1  
Feb. 19      Ch. 6 Public Opinion
7. Feb. 24      Ch. 7 Voting and Elections  
Feb. 26      Ch. 8 The Media
8. Mar. 3      Ch. 8 Media continued  
Mar. 5      Ch. 9 Political Parties
9. Mar. 10      Ch. 10 Interest Groups  
  
                          Assignment #2 Available  
**Mid-Term Grades**  
  
Mar. 12      Test #2

10. Mar. 16 – 20 SPRING BREAK

11. Mar. 24- 26 Ch. 11 Congress

Assignment #2 Due

12. Mar. 31 – Apr. 2 Ch. 12 The Presidency

13. Apr. 7 - 9 Ch. 13 Courts

Ch. 14 The Bureaucracy

Ch. 15 State and Local Governments

Assignment #3 Available

14. Apr. 14 - 16 Ch. 16 Domestic Policy

Assignment #3 Due

15. Apr. 21 – 23 Ch. 17. Foreign Policy

16. Apr. 28 Review

Apr. 30 Reading Day

17. May 4 - 8 Exam Week – Test #3 date TBA