



FLORIDA GATEWAY COLLEGE

POS1041 002 – American Government

Fall 2025 – A16 – August 18-December 5

Tuesday/Thursday, 11:30am – 12:45pm

Building 002, Room 015

Instructor Information

Name: Dr. John Eaton

Email: john.eaton@fgc.edu

Office: Building 002 – Room 019

Office Hours*: TBD

*Also available by appointment

Course Information

Credits: 3

Requirements Met: AATR, GE, GEC, GR

General Education Area: Group 1 Social Science

Prerequisites: Completion of ENC0025 and REA0017 with a grade of C or better, or ENC0027C with a grade of C or better, or score out on an appropriate placement test.

Course Description

In this course, students will investigate how the national government is structured and how the American constitutional republic operates. It covers the philosophical and historical foundations of American government, including but not limited to the Declaration of Independence, the United States Constitution and all its amendments, and the Federalist Papers. The course examines the branches of government and the government's laws, policies, and programs. It also examines the ways in which citizens participate in their government and ways their government responds to citizens.

Required Texts/Learning Resources

Lowi, T.J., Ginsberg, B., Shepsle, K.A., Ansolabehere, S., & Han, H. (2025). *American government: A brief introduction* (18th ed.). Norton. ISBN-13: 978-1324088295.

Course Learning Outcomes

By the end of the course:

- Students will demonstrate an understanding of the basic principles and practices of America's constitutional republic.
- Students will demonstrate knowledge of the nation's founding documents, including the Declaration of Independence, the U.S. Constitution and its amendments, and the Federalist Papers.
- Students will demonstrate knowledge of landmark U.S. Supreme Court cases, landmark legislation, and landmark executive actions.
- Students will demonstrate knowledge of the history and development of the American federal government and its impact on law and society.

- Students will demonstrate an ability to apply course material to contemporary political issues and debates.
- Students will demonstrate the ability to engage in discussion and civil debate on American politics that are associated with multiple points of view.

Civic Literacy

This course will satisfy part of the Florida Civic Literacy credit that is needed for graduation. New college students as of Fall 2021 will also need to pass the **Florida Civic Literacy Exam (FCLE)** sometime before graduation. Dual enrollment students will need to take this exam *at their school*. Civic literacy competencies and outcomes include:

- An understanding of the basic principles of American democracy and how they are applied in our republican form of government.
- An understanding of the United States Constitution.
- Knowledge of the founding documents and how they have shaped the nature and functions of our institutions of self-governance.
- An understanding of landmark Supreme Court cases and their impact on law and society.

Critical Dates – Fall 2025

Date	Event
Monday, August 18	Fall A16 and A8 classes start
Monday – Wednesday, August 18-20	Add/Drop period for Fall A8
Monday – Friday, August 18-22	Add/Drop period for Fall A16
Monday, September 1	Labor Day – No Classes
Monday, September 15	Fall B12 classes start
Monday – Wednesday, September 15-17	Add/Drop period for Fall B12
Friday, September 26	Deadline for student-initiated withdrawals – A8
Monday, September 29	Fall B10 classes start
Mon. – Wed., Sep. 29 – Oct. 1	Add/Drop period for Fall B10
Friday, October 10	Fall A8 classes end
Monday, October 13	Fall B8 classes start
Monday – Wednesday, October 13-15	Add/Drop period for Fall B8
Tuesday, November 7	Deadline for student-initiated withdrawals – A16
Tuesday, November 11	Veteran’s Day – No Classes
Monday, November 14	Deadline for student-initiated withdrawals – B12
Thursday, November 18	Deadline for student-initiated withdrawals – B10
Monday, November 21	Deadline for student-initiated withdrawals – B8
Wednesday – Friday, November 26-28	Thanksgiving Break – No Classes
Monday, December 5	Fall A16, B12, B10, and B8 classes end

Course Schedule

Week	Dates	Topic(s)	Assignments
1	8/19	Introduction	Chapter 1
	8/21		
2	8/26	Federalism	Chapter 3 <i>Due 8/31: Writing assignment #1</i>
	8/28		
3	9/2	The U.S. Constitution	Chapter 2
	9/4		
4	9/9	The U.S. Constitution	Chapter 5 <i>Due 9/14: Writing assignment #2</i>
	9/11	The U.S. Congress	
5	9/16	The U.S. Congress	Chapter 5 Chapter 6 & 7
	9/19	The President	
6	9/23	The President	Covers Weeks 1-6
	9/25	Exam 1	
7	9/30	The Federal Courts	Chapter 8
	10/2		
8	10/7	The Federal Courts	Chapter 11 <i>Due 10/12: Writing assignment #3</i>
	10/9	Political Parties	
9	10/14	Elections	Chapter 10
	10/16		
10	10/21	Elections & Campaigns	Chapter 9
	10/23	Public Opinion & Media	
11	10/28	Exam 2	Covers Weeks 7-10
	10/30	Interest Groups	Chapter 12
12	11/4	GLO Essay	
	11/6		
13	11/11	Veteran’s Day (No Class)	Chapter 4
	11/13	Civil Liberties	
14	11/18	Civil Liberties	Chapters 4 & 13
	11/20	Domestic/Foreign Policy	
15	11/25	Domestic/Foreign Policy	Chapters 13 & 14 <i>Due 11/30: Writing assignment #4</i>
	11/27	Thanksgiving Break	
16	12/2	Exam 3	Covers Weeks 11-15
	12/4	Optional Cumulative Exam	Covers Weeks 1-15

Student Expectations

Courtesy and Student Conduct Code

Class Discussion: Discussion and critical engagement of material with others is an imperative, life-long skill. Disagreement is not a bad thing; it provides opportunities to learn, engage, and grow. That being said, given the volatile nature of politics and political issues today, discussion can be emotionally charged. I expect students to keep an open mind, seek to learn about “the other side,” and evaluate information in light of their own biases.

- **Be helpful:** Is your comment helpful? Remarks and responses should add to the discussion by articulating a different perspective, expanding on class material, or asking a question that is useful for other students. Debate is encouraged as long as you respond to the ideas shared by other student(s) and not attack the students themselves.
- **Be polite:** Is your comment polite? Remarks and responses should respect fellow users and not include insulting or abrasive language. Foul language is not permitted.
- **Be sensitive:** Is your comment sensitive? Remarks and responses should take care to be sensitive to users with different cultures and backgrounds.
- **Be appropriate:** Is the content of your remark appropriate? Users are not allowed to discuss inappropriate (e.g., obscene) material.

Disruptive Behavior: Disruptive behavior is defined as “behavior that interrupts or interferes with daily functions of the University of the education processes.” To create a welcoming environment for learning, no disruptive behavior is allowed in this class. Students who make inappropriate (e.g., hostile or threatening) remarks in class will be reported.

Late Work

You’ll have a full 24 hours to take the exams. So, each exam will “open” to you at 12am on the day of the exam and close at 11:59pm. Because of this timeframe, no extensions will be offered.

The writing assignments and GLO essay will be open for 48 hours after the original due date with up to a 20% penalty for late submissions. If there are any issues arise (medical, family, personal) that prevent you from submitting assignments properly and on time, please contact me asap.

Gordon Rule Requirement

This course is a Gordon Rule course. In accordance with the State of Florida’s Rule 6A-10.030, all courses designated as Gordon Rule (“GR”) in the college catalog will include the requirement that students demonstrate the ability to produce college-level, discipline-based writings. Such courses include, but are not limited to, those in the Communications, Humanities, and Social Sciences categories. This requirement will be met in each class through the student’s successful completion of multiple and substantive college-level writing assignments as designed and assessed by the instructor in such a way as to measure both course-specific learning and development of writing skills over the progress of a given semester. In addition to demonstrating a satisfactory understanding of the written English language, all such assignments submitted by a student should exhibit critical thinking skills and be directly related to the discipline’s specific General Learning Outcome(s). **In this course, students will write at least 3500 words, with these writing assignments making up 45% of the graded activities for this course.**

Grading Policies (Student Performance Measures)

- **Attendance/Class Quizzes: (15%)**
- **Writing Assignments (25%)** – There are four writing assignments throughout the course. Failure to meet the word count on any written assignment will result in an immediate 25% grade deduction.
- **GLO Essay (20%)** – During Week 12, you will need to submit your 1,250-word GLO essay, which is a reflection on what you’ve learned during the class (more details will be given as the assignment gets closer). Failure to meet the word count on any written assignment will result in an immediate 25% grade deduction.
- **Exams (30%)**
- **FCLE Exam (10%)** – To get credit for this exam, you have to provide proof of your taking (or having already taken) the FCLE exam by uploading a document (or picture of the document) to Canvas by **Friday, 12/5 at 11:59pm**.
 - *Dual enrollment students:* You must take the FCLE with your own high school, which sets their own schedule on when you can take the test. In order to satisfy this requirement, your guidance counselor will sign a document confirming you are scheduled to take the FCLE on a certain date. Upload this document by 12/5 in order to get credit.

Attendance & Class Quizzes: Attendance will be taken each class period. Class sessions be recorded on eLearning with Microsoft Teams for later viewings. *Note*, attendance points are only given when attending class in-person.

Class quizzes are given almost every week to ensure you are paying attention to the lectures. They will be conducted in-class on random days. Be sure to come to class having read the weeks’ chapter and take notes during the lecture. I know that sometimes life happens, and you may have to miss a class. As such, your lowest 2 class quiz grades will be dropped- no questions asked. The same applies to your attendance grade (where you get two “free” attendance points). Because of this policy, no make-up quizzes will be offered. If you have further issues where you cannot make a class, please reach out to me via email.

Students caught cheating (i.e. sharing answers)– such as through class chat rooms, (i.e. GroupMe) – will receive an automatic ‘0’ for the respective portion of their grade. Additionally, students are encouraged to report answer sharing to the Professor in order to maintain the integrity of this course. If answer sharing becomes an issue in this course, I reserve the right to remove or modify this portion of the grade at any time, including by dropping the class quizzes and counting each exam to be worth the remaining percentage of your grade.

Writing Assignments: You’ll have to complete four writing assignments throughout the course. The first three are 500-words, the last is 750. They are due by Sunday at 11:59pm following the week it is assigned (see Course Schedule for specifics) on Canvas. A more in-depth prompt for each paper will be on Canvas. These prompts will specifically tell you what each paper should include to get full credit. Failure to meet the word count on any written assignment will result in an immediate 25% grade deduction.

Exams: You will take three exams over the course of the semester. Each exam is mandatory and is worth 10% of your final grade. These exams will assess your understanding of class and reading material. They are **NOT** open-note or open-book. Each exam will consist of 50 multiple choice and True-False

questions. It is imperative to attend and actively participate in all class sessions. Exams will be accessed using Honorlock (note: Honorlock will just be used to “lockdown” your browser- you won’t be required to scan an ID or the room you take the exam in).

You’ll have a full 24 hours to take the exam. So, each exam will “open” to you at 12am on the day of the exam and close at 11:59pm. Because of this timeframe, no extensions will be offered.

At the end of the semester, you have the option to take a cumulative make-up exam. This OPTIONAL cumulative exam (covers material from the whole semester) will take the place of your lowest exam grade from the first three exams. If you score lower on the cumulative make-up exam than the other three, then it will not count against you in your final grade.

Exam Time Length: The exams, consisting of 50 questions, will be 40 minutes long. Studies show that approximately 45 seconds per question is more than enough time for students who know the material to be able to answer the question. With 40 minutes, you have 48 seconds per question.

Grading Scale

- A – 90% - 100%
- B – 80% - 89.9%
- C – 70% - 79.9%
- D – 60% - 69.9%
- F – 59.9% or below

Contesting your Grade:

It is understandable that, at times, you have questions or concerns with regard to a grade you received on one of your exams. In order to turn questions about your grade into a learning experience, your grade dispute will be received in the following way:

- **Cooling off period:** I will not consider any grade related inquiries within the first 48 hours after the grades have been handed out. This ‘cooling off’-period provides the opportunity to let the initial emotions subside and think more clearly about the issue at hand.

Student Support and Tech Needs

This course requires students to have access to a computer and the internet. For those students who do not own a computer, computer labs are available on the FGC campus and in public libraries. Students without internet can come to the FGC campus, go to local public libraries, coffee shops, etc.

Minimal technical skills require for this course include the ability to use Microsoft Office products and navigate the Internet.

If you have any additional questions, please contact IT at 386-754-4408. You can also email the Florida Gateway College helpdesk at helpdesk@fgc.edu.

Florida Gateway College Policies and Statements

The Library

The Wilson S. Rivers Library is located in Building 200 and also includes millions of e-books and articles (<https://www.fgc.edu/academics/library/index.html>). The library has more than 70 computers with 50 pages daily of free B&W printing for students. There are also small and large study rooms

available for two hours at a time. Click the link above for more information. Librarians are available to assist with research help, and there are helpful videos on library searching and citation help here: (<https://fgc.libguides.com/researchhelpguides>).

Phone- 386-754-4401

Email- library@fgc.edu

[Ask-A-Librarian](#) text and chat

Fall & Spring Semester Library Hours

Monday – Thursday: 7:30 am – 7:30 pm

Friday: 9:00 am – 4:00 pm

Saturday: 1:30 pm – 5:30 pm

Sunday: CLOSED

Summer Semester Library Hours

Monday – Thursday: 7:30 am – 6:30 pm

Friday: CLOSED

Saturday & Sunday: CLOSED

Student Success Center (SSC)

The Student Success Center (SSC) is located in Building 008. The SSC offers a variety of resources for students and faculty. Access to computers and limited printing is available. Copies of reference books, textbooks, access to course specific software, and access to tutors for all levels of math and writing are available in the SSC. Tutoring in other subjects is also offered. The SSC provides space for students to study in subject specific learning groups. Stop by or call the Student Success Center to request the most current tutor schedule (386-754-4382).

Fall Semester SSC Hours

Monday--Thursday: 8:00am – 6:00 pm

Friday: 9:00am – 4:30pm

Spring Semester SSC Hours

Monday--Thursday: 8:00am – 6:00 pm

Friday: 9:00am – 4:30pm

Summer Semester SSC Hours

Monday – Thursday: 7:30 am – 5:00 pm

If you have any questions, you may contact the center by phone at 386-754-4479, 386-754-4382, or by emailing Christina Slater at christina.slater@fgc.edu.

EAB Navigate

The SSC initiates student progress reports to the entire campus through EAB Navigate. EAB Navigate is an early-alert tool designed to identify students who may be susceptible to falling behind in their course before they actually do.

Twice during the semester, we provide instructors with the opportunity to ALERT students of their course progress. This is done through the FGC Wolves email account. Students may receive an email stating their success may be at risk in a specific course. If you receive this email, DO NOT PANIC. Please contact your instructor directly, your academic advisor, and the SSC. Your instructor's information is provided in the email.

Navigate Student is a mobile app designed to support students during their academic careers at FGC. Navigate Student is the ultimate student resource that acts as a personal advisor and provides students with the information they need, when they need it. Additionally, students may make an appointment with an advisor, view campus events, be alerted on important to-do's, view class schedules, explore their major, and much more.

Please do not allow yourself to struggle. We are here to help you achieve success. The mission of the SSC is to help encourage and promote your educational journey here at FGC and beyond.

Class Recording

A student shall not make a recording in class unless the recording is limited to the class lecture, and

1. the recording is made for the student's personal educational use,
2. in connection with a complaint to the college, **or**
3. as evidence in or in preparation for a criminal or civil proceeding.

Students are not permitted to record in class, through any means over any medium, any academic or other activity that is not a class lecture. A recording of any meeting or conversation between students, or between students and faculty, is strictly prohibited unless all parties have consented to such recording. A recording of a class lecture may not be published without the prior express written consent of the recorded faculty member.

Resource Information

Florida Gateway College has partnered with **BetterMynd**, (<https://www.bettermynd.com/students>) an online therapy platform for college students, to offer our students access to free video-therapy sessions with their diverse network of licensed mental health counselors.

Florida Gateway College students can now access free online therapy sessions on the BetterMynd platform with the counselor of their choice. These 50-minute, live video-sessions are private, confidential, and can take place from the convenience of your laptop, smartphone, or tablet. Sessions are available during the day, at night, and on the weekends.

To register and get started with a counselor that's a good fit for you, sign-up here. (<https://app.bettermynd.com/register>)

If you have any questions about these services, you can email BetterMynd at students@bettermynd.com.

If you are in the need of additional resources please contact the Director of Student Life, Amy Dekle, at amy.dekle@fgc.edu, or by visiting Building 007.

Academic Appeal; Grievances; General Complaint

If a student wishes to file an academic appeal, grievance, or general complaint, please visit the college's website. Under Students and the Complaints & Appeals section (<https://www.fgc.edu/students/complaints-and-appeals.html>), information regarding policy, procedure, and forms related to these topics is provided.

College Course Withdrawal and Drop Process

A course may be dropped only during the published add/drop period. After add/drop, students must withdrawal from their course. Please visit the [College Catalog](#) for more detailed information about the drop and withdrawal process.

Students are responsible for withdrawing by the published deadline. Students must allow sufficient time for the process to be completed. **The fully approved withdrawal form is due to Enrollment Services by 4:30 p.m. on the deadline posted on the [Academic Calendar](#) or it is considered late.**

To withdraw from a course, the following steps must take place:

1. The student obtains the instructor's authorization and last date of attendance in person or via email.
2. The student meets with an academic advisor, who will sign the form (Building 14). Or, if an online student, emails the advisor a statement requesting a withdrawal from the course. The email must include the instructor's email with the last date of attendance.
3. The advisor will complete a withdrawal form, attach the emails from the student and instructor in lieu of signatures and forward the form to Financial Aid.
4. A Financial Aid representative will complete and sign the form and forward the form to Enrollment Services to be processed.

Students are strongly encouraged to begin the withdrawal process the day **before** the withdrawal deadline to allow sufficient time for the process to be completed by all offices involved (Instructor, Advising Services, Financial Aid, Enrollment Services).

It is the student's responsibility to understand all financial and academic implications of the withdrawal. Students are permitted a maximum of two (2) withdrawals per course. Upon the third attempt, a student must receive a grade for the course. Absence from class or merely notifying the professor does not constitute withdrawal. A student who stops attending class without withdrawing will receive a grade from the instructor.

Incompletes

Incomplete grades are reserved for students who are unable to complete a course and the withdrawal date has passed. A student should only be issued an incomplete if at least 75% of the course assignments have been submitted and the student can reasonably complete the remaining assignments **within the first three weeks** of the next term to earn a passing overall grade. Otherwise, students should be issued the earned letter grade in the course at the end of the current term.

The **Incomplete Grade Request Form** must be completed and submitted for approval by the **FIRST day of Final Exams and BEFORE** issuing the "I" grade. The instructor will describe the

circumstances leading up to the requested "I" for the course, and list the missing assignments, quizzes, exams, and any other course requirements needed to satisfactorily complete the course **within the first three weeks** of the next term. The form must be signed by the instructor, student, and the Dean/Executive Director over the program. Once all participants have signed, an approval email will be sent to the instructor for authorization to assign the "I" grade.

Student Communication Standards

You are expected to communicate in a professional and respectful tone with the instructor and fellow classmates. All written communication (in email correspondence, discussion forums, assignments, quizzes and exams, etc.) must use proper written English. Please refrain from using online and texting abbreviations and language. Oral communications, if applicable, must be made with a respectful tone and body language. Use proper [netiquette](#) throughout!

Academic Honesty

At Florida Gateway College, we value the development of critical thinking, effective communication, and academic growth. To ensure fairness and uphold the principles of academic integrity, any instances of academic dishonesty (i.e., cheating, plagiarism, bribery, misrepresentation, fabrication, unauthorized use of AI technologies, etc.) are not permitted and will be dealt with severely. Students should make themselves aware of the student code of conduct found in the Student Handbook. We believe in your ability to think critically and develop your own unique perspectives. By adhering to these guidelines and committing to the principles of academic integrity, you will not only enhance your learning experience, but also foster an environment of trust and respect within our academic community.

Use of AI Technologies

The use of AI technologies to generate or assist in the creation and completion of assignments is strictly prohibited, unless explicitly allowed by the instructor as described in the course syllabus. It is your responsibility to read this thoroughly and carefully at the beginning of the semester.

Your assignments should reflect your own thoughts, analysis, and original work. Florida Gateway College employs the use of AI detection tools to assess the authenticity of your assignments. These tools are designed to identify instances of cheating and plagiarism, including the use of AI technologies. Any submissions that violate this policy will be subject to disciplinary action. If you have any questions or concerns regarding the use of AI technologies in your courses, please review your course syllabus or reach out to your instructor for clarification.

Civil Rights and Compliance Statement

Florida Gateway College does not discriminate in education or employment related decisions on the basis of race, color, ethnicity, national origin, gender, religion, disability, age, marital status, genetic information, sexual orientation, pregnancy, or any other legally protected status in accordance with the law. The Civil Rights & Compliance Officer is Cassie Buckles, Executive Director of Human Resources, Building 001, Room 116, 149 SE College Place, Lake City, FL 32025, and may be reached at cassandra.buckles@fgc.edu or by phone at 386-754-4313.

Disability Statement

The Office of Accessibility Services (OAS) is a resource for both students with disabilities as well as faculty. Students with disabilities in need of academic accommodations must first be registered with

the OAS to verify the disability, establish eligibility, and determine reasonable academic accommodations.

After registering with the OAS, students must request their academic accommodation letters be sent to them each semester to share with their instructors. Upon receipt of the letter, the instructor will be available during office hours or via email to discuss the accommodations a student will need during the course.

Students with disabilities who are not registered with the OAS or faculty who may have questions or concerns regarding an accommodation, please contact the office at the following:

In person: Building 007, Room 107

Phone: (386) 754-4393

Email: Accessibility.Services@fgc.edu

FERPA Statement

The Family Educational Rights and Privacy Act (FERPA) provides certain privacy rights to students related to educational records. This information can be found in the College Catalog, at the Office of Enrollment Services in Building 015 or on the Florida Gateway College website (www.fgc.edu/students/registration-and-records/ferpa/).

SACSCOC Statement

Florida Gateway College is accredited by the Southern Association of Colleges and Schools Commission on Colleges (SACSCOC) to award baccalaureate and associate degrees. Florida Gateway College also may offer credentials such as certificates and diplomas at approved degree levels. Questions about the accreditation of Florida Gateway College may be directed in writing to the Southern Association of Colleges and Schools Commission on Colleges at 1866 Southern Lane, Decatur, GA 30033-4097, by calling (404) 679-4500, or by using information available on SACSCOC's website (www.sacscoc.org).

Honorlock Statement

Florida Gateway College has partnered with Honorlock, an online testing proctoring service. If off-campus remote proctoring is required during any course, Honorlock will be the online proctoring service that allows you to take your exam. You **DO NOT** need to create an account, download software or schedule an appointment in advance. Honorlock is available 24/7 and all that is needed is a computer, a working webcam, and a stable Internet connection.

To get started, you will need to download the Honorlock Chrome Extension using Google Chrome. You can download the extension on the Honorlock website (www.honorlock.com/install/extension/). When you are ready to test, log into the LMS, go to your course, and click on your exam. Clicking **Launch Proctoring** will begin the Honorlock authentication process, where you will take a picture of yourself, show your ID, and complete a scan of your room. Honorlock will be recording your exam session by webcam as well as recording your screen. Honorlock also has an integrity algorithm that can detect search-engine use, so please do not attempt to search for answers, even if it's on a secondary device.

Honorlock support is available 24/7/365. If you encounter any issues, you may contact Honorlock by live chat, by phone at 844-243-2500, and/or by email at support@honorlock.com.

If you encounter a Canvas issue, please contact Canvas via the Canvas Help menu or by clicking the **Canvas Support** link within your course(s).

Turnitin Statement

Instructors may require writing assignments to be submitted to Turnitin when uploaded to Canvas. Turnitin is an internet-based service that looks for similarities and potential plagiarism by comparing your assignment submissions with its massive database of student work (including previous student submissions at Florida Gateway College), the Internet, and its entire archive, books, and journal and reference publications. Turnitin generates a [similarity report](#), which can help you and your instructor determine whether you used sources fairly and ethically, cited correctly, and paraphrased effectively.

You are encouraged to submit your written work to Turnitin prior to assignment deadlines, whether through Canvas or [Draft Coach](#). If needed, that would allow you time to review the [library's research and help guides](#) or seek writing assistance from your instructor or a tutor in the Student Success Center.

Mission Statement

The mission of Florida Gateway College is to provide superior instruction, nurture individual development, foster career readiness, and enrich the diverse communities it serves through affordable, higher quality education programs and lifelong learning opportunities.