



Southern Arkansas University Tech  
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870.574.4453 or 870.574.4586  
[www.sautech.edu](http://www.sautech.edu)

## ONLINE COURSE INFORMATION SHEET

**Course Number:** PSCI2003

**Course Title:** American Government: National

**Course Description:** A survey of the American National Government including the Constitution; structure and operation of the Presidency, Congress and Judiciary; federalism, civil liberties, and politics in action.

**Instructor:** Dan Milam, Patricia, and Robert Gunnels

**Instructor Bio:**

Dan Milam is a fulltime faculty member at SAU Tech where he teaches history, government, and geography. Previously he taught social studies at Holy Redeemer Schools in El Dorado, Arkansas. M.A. Louisiana Tech University; B.S.E. University of Arkansas.

Robert Gunnels has been employed by SAU Tech since 1996 as an instructor of social sciences and most recently as Vice Chancellor for Extended Education. M.A. Auburn University; B.S. Southern Arkansas University.

Patricia Sindle

**Prerequisite:** Appropriate ACT or equivalent score on alternate test, CO0133 and CO0223

**Textbook Information:** Burns, J. M. (2004). *Government by the people* (5th ed.). Upper Saddle River, NJ: Pearson/Prentice Hall.

**Learning Outcomes:**

1. The student will demonstrate, by scoring 60% or higher on an examination that he/she is aware of what is and is not in the U.S. Constitution.
2. The student will demonstrate, by scoring 60% or higher on an examination that he/she can outline and discuss the structure and operation of the Office of the President of the United States.
3. The student will demonstrate, by scoring 60% or higher on an examination that he/she can outline and discuss the duties of Congress and the Judiciary.
4. The student will demonstrate, by scoring 60% or higher on an examination that he/she can define and discuss federalism, civil liberties and politics in action.
5. General Education Competencies covered in this course are: #1: Writing, #3: Social Sciences, #4: Critical Thinking, and #5: Research.

**On-Campus Requirement:** The final exam must be taken at an approved proctor site. Visit the college website at [www.sautech.edu](http://www.sautech.edu) for detailed information.

**Modes of Interaction:** This course is divided into five units of study covering constitutional principles, the American political process, the branches of government, and civil rights and liberties. Students read assigned textbook materials and Internet resources, complete assignments consisting of key terms and review questions, write a short critical thinking essay on issues of the day, complete an interview with an elected official, and participate in discussion board topics. Students are required to maintain contact with the instructor regarding their progress through each unit or with questions concerning assignments. The instructor responds to student assignment submissions with comments and grades.

**Methods of Assessment:** Five unit exams and proctored comprehensive final exam. All tests are delivered via Blackboard.

**Enrollment Procedures:**

SAU Tech is an open admissions college; however, we have several items that you must provide in order to be admitted:

- Submit application for admission.
- Submit a high school transcript or GED, and official college transcripts from all previously attended colleges (if applicable).
- Provide proof of two immunizations against measles, mumps and rubella.
- Take a placement test. Students enrolling must submit ACT, SAT, ASSET or COMPASS scores. Students can take the ASSET or COMPASS test at SAU Tech.

Students are responsible for all tuition and fees at the time of registration. Students must officially drop by written notice or in person in order to reduce their balance owed. If students never attend class, he/she will still be assessed partial tuition and full student processing fees, unless he/she completely withdraws during the 100% refund period.

In order for a student to drop a class, he/she must complete a drop form or send written request to his/her advisor. A \$10 drop fee is assessed for drops that take place after the registration period ends.

**Admissions Office Website:** <http://www.sautech.edu/studentResources/admissions.aspx>

**Course Registration Website:** <http://www.sautech.edu/studentResources/advising.aspx>

**Technical Requirements and Resources:** Students will need Internet access and have the ability to send and receive e-mail attachments using the e-mail within Blackboard.

**Library Website:** <http://www.sautech.edu/lrc/index.aspx>

**Bookstore Website:** <http://sautech.textbooktech.com>

**Adult Learner Resources:** Online library and bookstore services can be obtained at the library and bookstore websites. Advising services can be obtained at <http://www.sautech.edu/studentResources/advising.aspx>.

**Student Support and Learning Resources:** Online library and bookstore services can be obtained at the library and bookstore websites. Advising services can be obtained at <http://www.sautech.edu/studentResources/advising.aspx>.

**Other Considerations:**

Prior computer skills are essential for success in an online class. Prior to enrolling in an online class, you should be able to:

- Surf the Internet and download web pages
- E-mail and attach files and know proper e-mail etiquette
- Use Microsoft Word skills and submit papers with correct format, grammar and spelling

All first time online students are required to complete Learning Strategies before they will be allowed to take their online course(s). The purpose of Learning Strategies is to teach students how to use Blackboard and provide information about other systems that students will use while a student at SAU Tech.

There are computer programs and other things that you will need if you are taking an online course from SAU Tech. To make it easier for you, we have compiled a list of these things. Before beginning your online course, you should go ahead and make sure each of these programs listed below are loaded on every computer that you will use while taking your online course(s).

- Microsoft Word – used to complete assignments and submit to instructor
  - Can be accessed via SkyDrive inside your student email account. **FREE**
  - Can be purchased from Wal Mart or other software vendor and will need to be loaded on to your computer
  - There is also a **free** product that works just as good as the Microsoft Office Suite. You can download it at <http://download.openoffice.fm/free/?pk=26976>
- Adobe Reader 7.0 or higher – used to read files in pdf format
  - Cost: Free
  - Can be downloaded to your computer from <http://www.adobe.com/products/acrobat/readstep2.html>
- Adobe Flash Player (7 or higher) – used to view study activities and demonstrations in Learning

## Strategies course

- Cost: Free
- Can be downloaded to your computer from [http://www.adobe.com/shockwave/download/download.cgi?P1\\_Prod\\_Version=ShockwaveFlash](http://www.adobe.com/shockwave/download/download.cgi?P1_Prod_Version=ShockwaveFlash)
- Macromedia Shockwave Player 8.5.1 – used for interactive quizzes, animations and activities
  - Cost: Free
  - Can be downloaded to your computer from <http://www.macromedia.com/shockwave/download/download.cgi?>
- Windows Media Player – used to listen play audio files
  - Cost: Free
  - Comes as part of your Windows operating system
- Java – a technology that is required in order for Blackboard to function properly as well as some other programs that SAU Tech uses with its online classes (**Note: Only one version of Java can be running on your computer at a time.**)
  - Cost: Free
  - Can be downloaded to your computer from <http://javashopl.m.sun.com/ECOM/docs/Welcome.jsp?StoreId=22&PartDetailId=jre->