



TENTATIVE—SUBJECT TO CHANGE

**POLS 1101 – American Government
COURSE SYLLABUS
Online
Spring Semester (202114)**

COURSE INFORMATION

Credit Hours/Minutes: 3/2250

Campus/Class Location: Georgia Virtual Technical Connection (GVTC)/Blackboard

Class Meets: Via Internet for 15 weeks

Course Reference Number (CRN): 40226

Preferred Method of Contact: Email

INSTRUCTOR CONTACT INFORMATION

Adjunct Instructor Name: Krysta Rushing

Adjunct College Email Address: [Krysta Rushing \(krushing@southeasterntech.edu\)](mailto:krushing@southeasterntech.edu)

Campus/Office Location: No office on campus

Office Hours: N/A (Not Applicable)

Phone: N/A

Fax Number: N/A

Full-Time Mentor Name: Cheryl West, Dean of General Education & Learning Support

Email Address: [Cheryl West \(cwest@southeasterntech.edu\)](mailto:cwest@southeasterntech.edu)

Campus/Office Location: Vidalia Campus, Office #410

Office Hours: email for appointment

Phone: 912-538-3208

Fax Number: N/A

Tutoring Hours (if applicable): N/A

SOUTHEASTERN TECHNICAL COLLEGE (STC) CATALOG AND HANDBOOK

Students are responsible for all policies and procedures and all other information included in Southeastern Technical College's [Catalog and Handbook \(https://catalog.southeasterntech.edu/college-catalog/downloads/current.pdf\)](https://catalog.southeasterntech.edu/college-catalog/downloads/current.pdf).

REQUIRED TEXT

Textbook is embedded into the course as an eText.

As a supplement, you can also read the textbook [American Government](#) online at the OpenStax CNX website. This version is better for students reading from a mobile device or students using assistive technology to navigate through the textbook. This link is also provided in the Blackboard course.

REQUIRED SUPPLIES & SOFTWARE

Note: Although students can use their smart phones and tablets to access their online course(s), exams, discussions, assignments, and other graded activities should be performed on a personal computer. Neither Blackboard nor Georgia Virtual Technical Connection (GVTC) provide technical support for issues relating to the use of a smart phone or tablet so students are advised to not rely on these devices to take an online course.

Students should not share login credentials with others and should change passwords periodically to maintain security.

COURSE DESCRIPTION

Emphasizes study of government and politics in the United States. The focus of the course will provide an overview of the Constitutional foundations of the American Political processes with a focus on government institutions and political procedures. The course will examine the constitutional framework, federalism, civil liberties and civil rights, public opinion, the media interest groups, political parties, and the election process along with the three branches of government. In addition, this course will examine the processes of Georgia state government.

MAJOR COURSE COMPETENCIES

Topics include: foundations of government, political behavior, and governing institutions.

PREREQUISITE(S)

None

COURSE OUTLINE

1. Foundations of Government
2. Political Behavior
3. Governing Institutions

GENERAL EDUCATION CORE COMPETENCIES

Southeastern Technical College has identified the following general education core competencies that graduates will attain:

1. The ability to utilize standard written English.
2. The ability to solve practical mathematical problems.
3. The ability to read, analyze, and interpret information.

STUDENT REQUIREMENTS (ONLINE)

Students are expected to complete all homework assignments, discussion boards, and exams on time as specified in the Lesson Plan portion of this syllabus. Students will be required to attend one noncumulative Final Proctored Exam on the date and time specified in the Lesson Plan portion of this syllabus. Students are required to check email and blackboard messages to keep themselves up-to-date on course proceedings. Students experiencing computer problems or internet problems can use computer labs made available for students. Computer labs are available on the Vidalia and Swainsboro campuses. Computer or internet issues are not entitled to an exception to a due date.

Students will have at least one week to complete tests and assignments. All tests and assignments are due by **11:59 p.m. on Tuesday of each week** and are scheduled on the lesson plan. Exceptions to the time frame and Tuesday deadline may be the proctored exam and final exam. Assignments must be keyed in Microsoft Word,

saved, uploaded, and attached for grading in Blackboard. Any assignment not completed by the due date will receive a zero.

Students are expected to prove weekly academic engagement by meeting assignment deadlines each week and spending a minimum of 37.5 hours during the semester doing the required homework, quizzes, and tests. Students are expected to communicate frequently through college email and discussion boards. Office 365 College email is accessed under the mySTC tab on our college website.

Students are expected to show/write high-quality, detailed work and/or explanations when completing homework, the proctored exam, or any additional handwritten assignments or online assignments.

College Email: Please refer to the Technology Access information found on our webpage in locations such as Online Learning, Quicklinks, the Blackboard Login, and mySTC. Use this to learn how to properly set-up and access your STC Office 365 email.

Link: [Technology Access \(http://lms.southeasterntech.edu/ Online Documents/TechnologyAccess.pdf\)](http://lms.southeasterntech.edu/Online_Documents/TechnologyAccess.pdf)

COVID-19 MASK REQUIREMENT

Masks or face coverings must be worn at all times while on the campus of Southeastern Technical College. This measure is being implemented to reduce COVID-19 related health risks for everyone engaged in the educational process. Masks or face coverings must be worn over the nose and mouth, in accordance with the Centers for Disease Control and Prevention (CDC). A student's refusal to wear a mask or face covering will be considered a classroom disruption and the student may be asked to leave campus and/or receive further discipline.

COVID-19 SIGNS AND SYMPTOMS

We encourage individuals to monitor for the signs and symptoms of COVID-19 prior to coming on campus.

If you have experienced the symptoms listed below or have a body temperature 100.4°F or higher, we encourage you to self-quarantine at home and contact a primary care physician's office, local urgent care facility, or health department for further direction. Please notify your instructor(s) by email and do not come on campus for any reason.

COVID-19 Key Symptoms
Fever or felt feverish
Cough: new or worsening, not attributed to another health condition
Shortness of breath, not attributed to another health condition
New loss of taste or smell
Chills; Repeated shaking with chills
Sore throat, not attributed to another health condition
Muscle pain, not attributed to another health condition or exercise
Headache, not attributed to another health condition
Diarrhea (unless due to known cause)
In the past 14 days, if you:
Have had close contact with or are caring for an individual diagnosed with COVID-19 at home (not in healthcare setting), please do not come on campus and contact your instructor (s).

COVID-19 SELF-REPORTING REQUIREMENT

Students, who test positive for COVID-19 or who have been exposed to a COVID-19 positive person, are required to self-report using the [COVID 19 Health Reporting Form https://bit.ly/2Xq4g0f](https://bit.ly/2Xq4g0f). Report all positive cases of COVID-19 to your instructor and [Stephannie Waters](mailto:swaters@southeasterntech.edu), Exposure Control Coordinator, swaters@southeasterntech.edu, 912-538-3195.

ONLINE ATTENDANCE

It is the student's responsibility to be academically engaged each week doing course related activities. The completion dates of these activities will be used to determine a student's last date of attendance in the event a student withdraws, stops attending, or receives an "F" (Failing 0-59) in a course.

Students will not be withdrawn by an instructor for attendance; however, all instructors will keep records of graded assignments and student participation in course activities. Students will be expected to complete all work required by the instructor as described in the individual course syllabus.

Students will have at least one week to complete tests and assignments. **All tests and assignments are due at 11:59 p.m. on Tuesday of each week** and are scheduled on the lesson plan. Exceptions to the time frame and Tuesday deadline may be the proctored final exam.

Exceptions to the due dates of assignments due to jury duty, military duty, court duty, or required job training will be made at the discretion of the instructor.

STUDENTS WITH DISABILITIES

Students with disabilities who believe that they may need accommodations in this class based on the impact of a disability are encouraged to contact the appropriate campus coordinator to request services.

Swainsboro Campus: [Macy Gay, \(mgay@southeasterntech.edu\)](mailto:mgay@southeasterntech.edu), 478-289-2274, Building 1, Room 1210.

Vidalia Campus: [Helen Thomas, \(hthomas@southeasterntech.edu\)](mailto:hthomas@southeasterntech.edu), 912-538-3126, Building A, Room 165.

SPECIFIC ABSENCES

Provisions for Instructional Time missed because of documented absences due to jury duty, military duty, court duty, or required job training will be made at the discretion of the instructor.

PREGNANCY

Southeastern Technical College does not discriminate on the basis of pregnancy. However, we can offer accommodations to students who are pregnant that need special consideration to successfully complete the course. If you think you will need accommodations due to pregnancy, please make arrangements with the appropriate campus coordinator.

Swainsboro Campus: [Macy Gay, \(mgay@southeasterntech.edu\)](mailto:mgay@southeasterntech.edu), 478-289-2274, Building 1, Room 1210.

Vidalia Campus: [Helen Thomas, \(hthomas@southeasterntech.edu\)](mailto:hthomas@southeasterntech.edu), 912-538-3126, Building A, Room 165.

It is strongly encouraged that requests for consideration be made **PRIOR** to delivery and early enough in the pregnancy to ensure that all the required documentation is secured before the absence occurs. Requests made after delivery **MAY NOT** be accommodated. The coordinator will contact your instructor to discuss accommodations when all required documentation has been received. The instructor will then discuss a plan with you to make up missed assignments.

WITHDRAWAL PROCEDURE

Students wishing to officially withdraw from a course(s) or all courses after the drop/add period and prior to the 65% point of the term in which student is enrolled (date will be posted on the school calendar) must speak

with a Career Counselor in Student Affairs and complete a Student Withdrawal Form. A grade of "W" (Withdrawn) is assigned for the course(s) when the student completes the withdrawal form. Important – Student-initiated withdrawals are not allowed after the 65% point. After the 65% point of the term in which student is enrolled, the student has earned the right to a letter grade and will receive a grade for the course. Please note: Abandoning a course(s) instead of following official withdrawal procedures may result in a grade of "F" (Failing 0-59) being assigned.

Informing your instructor that you will not return to his/her course, does not satisfy the approved withdrawal procedure outlined above.

There is no refund for partial reduction of hours. Withdrawals may affect students' eligibility for financial aid for the current semester and in the future, so a student must also speak with a representative of the Financial Aid Office to determine any financial penalties that may be assessed due to the withdrawal. A grade of "W" will count in attempted hour calculations for the purpose of Financial Aid.

ONLINE PROCTORED EVENT WITHDRAWALS

Students who do not complete the proctored exam for an online class on the scheduled date and do not present a valid excuse within three business days of the scheduled event will be withdrawn from the course with a "WF" (Withdrawn Failing) and will be disabled in their online class. If the proctored event is scheduled during final exams, any student who misses the proctored exam will receive an "F" for the course. **The proctored exam is the final exam in this course for Spring Semester 202114.**

PROCTORED EVENT REQUIREMENT

Due to the uncertainties of COVID-19, this event will not be proctored for Spring Semester 202114. Students will complete the event but will not be required to come on campus to do it.

The event may be a major exam, assignment, or presentation, etc. That will count a minimum of 20% of the course grade. Students who do not complete the proctored event as scheduled must submit a valid documented excuse within three business days after the scheduled event. If the excuse is approved by the instructor of the course, students must make arrangements with the instructor to makeup/reschedule the missed event. The penalty and makeup instructions will be at the instructor's discretion. Proctored events will be given after the 65% point of the semester. **Students who do not complete the proctored event on the scheduled date and do not present a valid documented excuse within three business days of the scheduled event will be withdrawn from the course with a "WF" (Withdrawn Failing). If the proctored event is scheduled during final exams, any student who misses the proctored event will be issued an "F" (Failing) for the course.**

MAKEUP GUIDELINES (TESTS, QUIZZES, HOMEWORK, PROJECTS, ETC.)

Homework quizzes, discussion boards, and the Final Proctored Exam will not be available to be made up for any reason other than those listed under the Online Attendance section of this syllabus.

ACADEMIC DISHONESTY POLICY

The Southeastern Technical College Academic Dishonesty Policy states that all forms of academic dishonesty, including but not limited to cheating on tests, plagiarism, collusion, and falsification of information, will call for discipline. The policy can also be found in the Southeastern Technical College Catalog and Handbook.

PROCEDURE FOR ACADEMIC MISCONDUCT

The procedure for dealing with academic misconduct and dishonesty is as follows:

1. First Offense

Student will be assigned a grade of "0" for the test or assignment. Instructor keeps a record in

course/program files and notes as first offense. The instructor will notify the student's program advisor, academic dean, and the Registrar at the student's home campus. The Registrar will input the incident into Banner for tracking purposes.

2. Second Offense

Student is given a grade of "WF" (Withdrawn Failing) for the course in which offense occurs. The instructor will notify the student's program advisor, academic dean, and the Registrar at the student's home campus indicating a "WF" has been issued as a result of second offense. The Registrar will input the incident into Banner for tracking purposes.

3. Third Offense

Student is given a grade of "WF" for the course in which the offense occurs. The instructor will notify the student's program advisor, academic dean, and the Registrar at the student's home campus indicating a "WF" has been issued as a result of third offense. The Vice President for Student Affairs, or designee, will notify the student of suspension from college for a specified period of time. The Registrar will input the incident into Banner for tracking purposes.

STATEMENT OF NON-DISCRIMINATION

The Technical College System of Georgia (TCSG) and its constituent Technical Colleges do not discriminate on the basis of race, color, creed, national or ethnic origin, gender, religion, disability, age, political affiliation or belief, genetic information, disabled veteran, veteran of the Vietnam Era, spouse of military member, or citizenship status (except in those special circumstances permitted or mandated by law). This nondiscrimination policy encompasses the operation of all technical college-administered programs, federally financed programs, educational programs and activities involving admissions, scholarships and loans, student life, and athletics. It also applies to the recruitment and employment of personnel and contracting for goods and services.

All work and campus environments shall be free from unlawful forms of discrimination, harassment and retaliation as outlined under Title IX of the Educational Amendments of 1972, Title VI and Title VII of the Civil Rights Act of 1964, as amended, the Age Discrimination in Employment Act of 1967, as amended, Executive Order 11246, as amended, the Vietnam Era Veterans Readjustment Act of 1974, as amended, Section 504 of the Rehabilitation Act of 1973, as amended, the Americans With Disabilities Act of 1990, as amended, the Equal Pay Act, Lilly Ledbetter Fair Pay Act of 2009, the Georgia Fair Employment Act of 1978, as amended, the Immigration Reform and Control Act of 1986, the Genetic Information Nondiscrimination Act of 2008, the Workforce Investment Act of 1998 and other related mandates under TCSG Policy, federal or state statutes.

The Technical College System and Technical Colleges shall promote the realization of equal opportunity through a positive continuing program of specific practices designed to ensure the full realization of equal opportunity.

The following individuals have been designated to handle inquiries regarding the nondiscrimination policies:

American With Disabilities Act (ADA)/Section 504 - Equity- Title IX (Students) – Office of Civil Rights (OCR) Compliance Officer	Title VI - Title IX (Employees) – Equal Employment Opportunity Commission (EEOC) Officer
Helen Thomas, Special Needs Specialist Vidalia Campus 3001 East 1 st Street, Vidalia Office 165 Phone: 912-538-3126 Email: Helen Thomas (hthomas@southeasterntech.edu)	Lanie Jonas, Director of Human Resources Vidalia Campus 3001 East 1 st Street, Vidalia Office 138B Phone: 912-538-3230 Email: Lanie Jonas (ljonas@southeasterntech.edu)

ACCESSIBILITY STATEMENT

Southeastern Technical College is committed to making course content accessible to individuals to comply with the requirements of Section 508 of the Rehabilitation Act of Americans with Disabilities Act (ADA). If you find a problem that prevents access, please contact the course instructor.

GRIEVANCE PROCEDURES

Grievance procedures can be found in the Catalog and Handbook located on Southeastern Technical College's website.

ACCESS TO TECHNOLOGY

Students can now access Blackboard, Remote Lab Access, Student Email, Library Databases (Galileo), and BannerWeb via the mySTC portal or by clicking the Current Students link on the [Southeastern Technical College Website \(www.southeasterntech.edu\)](http://www.southeasterntech.edu).

TECHNICAL COLLEGE SYSTEM OF GEORGIA (TCSG) GUARANTEE/WARRANTY STATEMENT

The Technical College System of Georgia guarantees employers that graduates of State Technical Colleges shall possess skills and knowledge as prescribed by State Curriculum Standards. Should any graduate employee within two years of graduation be deemed lacking in said skills, that student shall be retrained in any State Technical College at no charge for instructional costs to either the student or the employer.

GRADING POLICY

Assessment/Assignment	Percentage
Discussion Boards	40%
Homework Assignments	40%
Proctored Event/Final Exam (Due to the uncertainties of COVID-19, this event will not be proctored for Spring Semester 202114. Students will complete the event but will not be required to come on campus to do it.)	20%

GRADING SCALE

Letter Grade	Range
A	90-100
B	80-89
C	70-79
D	60-69
F	0-59

ADDITIONAL GRADING INFORMATION:

Discussion Boards

There will be a total of five (5) Discussion Boards throughout the semester. The Grading Rubric for Discussion Boards and the replies can be found at the end of this syllabus. Your discussion board should be at least 300 (three hundred) words in length. Your discussion board replies should be at least 100 (one hundred) words in length. Combined, the Discussion Board and discussion board reply grades are worth 40% (forty percent) of the student's grade.

Homework Quizzes

Each week the student will be expected to read the chapter(s), analyze the content, and take a quiz under each week's lesson. Students will have one (1) attempt to do the homework quiz until their due date. Once you begin these homework quizzes, they must be completed in one sitting. After the due date the content will

no longer be available. Combined, the Homework grades are worth 40% (forty percent) of the student's final grade.

Can you work ahead of schedule? Yes. Students can work ahead through the discussion boards and quiz assignments except for the Proctored Exam. The date of the proctored exam will stay in place. Students are expected to use the lesson plan as a checklist of their progress.

Lesson Plan: The lesson plan, located next, is set up as a checklist. It is your road map for the semester. Do not let the detailed nature intimidate you. The lesson plan is designed to guide you to meeting all requirements successfully. Read it first and complete the No Show Requirements promptly.

POLS 1101 – American Government

Spring Semester 2021 (202114) Lesson Plan

Date/Week	Chapter	Content	Assignments & Tests Due Dates	Competency Area
No Show Jan. 11-17 Week 1 Jan. 11-19	Chapter 1: American Government and Civic Engagement	Getting Started folder in BlackBoard Chapter 1: American Government and Civic Engagement lesson in BlackBoard	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • No Show Assignments Due by 1/17/21 by 11:59 PM • Complete components of Getting Started (Getting Started, Pledge Acknowledgement Quiz, COVID Presentation & Acknowledgment, & Student Introduction) • Read Chapter 1 	I A, B, C
Week 2 Jan. 20-26	Chapter 2: The Constitution and Its Origins	Chapter 2: The Constitution and Its Origins lesson in BlackBoard	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Read Chapter 2 • Due 1/26/21 by 11:59 PM EST <ul style="list-style-type: none"> ○ Chapter 1 Quiz ○ Chapter 2 Quiz 	I, III A, B, C
Week 3 Jan. 27-Feb. 2	Chapter 3: American Federalism	Chapter 3: American Federalism lesson in BlackBoard	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Read Chapter 3 • Due 2/2/21 by 11:59 PM EST <ul style="list-style-type: none"> ○ Chapter 3 Quiz ○ Chapter 3 Discussion Board 	II, III A, B, C
Week 4 Feb. 3-9	Chapter 4: Civil Liberties Chapter 5: Civil Rights	Chapter 4: Civil Liberties lesson in BlackBoard Chapter 5: Civil Rights lesson in BlackBoard	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Read Chapter 4 • Read Chapter 5 • Due 2/9/21 by 11:59 PM EST <ul style="list-style-type: none"> ○ Chapter 4 Quiz ○ Chapter 5 Discussion Board 	I, II, III A, B, C
Week 5 Feb. 10-16	Chapter 6: The Politics of Public Opinion	Chapter 6: The Politics of Public Opinion lesson in BlackBoard	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Read Chapter 6 • Due 2/16/21 by 11:59 PM EST <ul style="list-style-type: none"> ○ Chapter 6 Discussion Board 	I, II, III A, B, C
Week 6 Feb. 17-23	Chapter 7: Voting and Elections	Chapter 7: Voting and Elections lesson in BlackBoard	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Read Chapter 7 • Due by 2/23/21 by 11:59 PM EST <ul style="list-style-type: none"> ○ Chapter 7 Quiz 	I, II, III A, B, C
Week 7 Feb. 24- Mar. 2	Chapter 8: The Media	Chapter 8: The Media lesson in BlackBoard	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Read Chapter 8 • Due by 3/2/21 by 11:59 PM EST <ul style="list-style-type: none"> ○ Chapter 8 Quiz 	I, II, III A, B, C
Week 8 Mar. 3-9	Chapter 9: Political Parties	Chapter 9: Political Parties lesson in BlackBoard	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Read Chapter 9 • Due by 3/9/21 by 11:59 PM EST <ul style="list-style-type: none"> ○ Chapter 9 Quiz 	I, II, III A, B, C

Week 9 Mar. 10-16	Chapter 10: Interest Groups and Lobbying	Chapter 10: Interest Groups and Lobbying lesson in BlackBoard	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Read Chapter 10 • Due by 3/16/21 by 11:59 PM EST <ul style="list-style-type: none"> ○ Chapter 10 Quiz ○ Chapter 10 Discussion Board 	I, II, III A, B, C
Week 10 Mar. 17-23	Chapter 11: Congress	Chapter 11: Congress lesson in BlackBoard	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Read Chapter 11 • Due by 3/23/21 by 11:59 PM EST <ul style="list-style-type: none"> ○ Chapter 11 Quiz 	I, II, III A, B, C
Week 11 Mar. 24-30	Congress 12: The Presidency	Chapter 12: The Presidency lesson in BlackBoard	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Read Chapter 12 • Due by 3/30/21 by 11:59 PM EST <ul style="list-style-type: none"> ○ Chapter 12 Quiz 	I, II, III A, B, C
Week 12 Mar. 31- Apr. 7 (April 5 and 6 are Spring Break Days.)	Chapter 13: The Courts	Chapter 13: The Courts lesson in BlackBoard	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Read Chapter 13 • Due by 4/7/21 by 11:59 PM EST <ul style="list-style-type: none"> ○ Chapter 13 Quiz 	I, II, III A, B, C
Week 13 Apr. 7-13	Chapter 14: State and Local Government	Chapter 14: State and Local Government lesson in BlackBoard	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Read Chapter 14 • Due by 4/13/21 by 11:59 PM EST <ul style="list-style-type: none"> ○ Chapter 14 Quiz 	I, II, III A, B, C
Week 14 Apr. 14-20	Chapter 15: The Bureaucracy	Chapter 15: The Bureaucracy lesson in BlackBoard	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Read Chapter 15 • Due by 4/20/21 by 11:59 PM EST <ul style="list-style-type: none"> ○ Chapter 15 Quiz ○ Chapter 15 Discussion Board 	I, II, III A, B, C
Note About the Proctored Event/Final Exam			<ul style="list-style-type: none"> ○ Due to the uncertainties of COVID-19, this event will not be proctored for Spring Semester 202114. Students will complete the event but will not be required to come on campus to do it. 	
Week 15 FINALS Apr. 21-29	Chapters 1- 15	Chapters 1-15	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • The Final Proctored Exam will be available in Blackboard at 7:00 am on April 21 and will close at 12:00 pm, noon, on April 29. 	I, II, III A, B, C

COMPETENCY AREAS: (WILL VARY FOR EACH COURSE/TAKEN FROM STATE STANDARDS)

1. Foundations of Government
2. Political Behavior
3. Governing Institutions

GENERAL CORE EDUCATIONAL COMPETENCIES

- a) The ability to utilize standard written English.
- b) The ability to solve practical mathematical problems.
- c) The ability to read, analyze, and interpret information.

Disclaimer Statements

- The instructor reserves the right to change the syllabus and/or lesson plan as necessary.

GRADING RUBRIC FOR DISCUSSION BOARDS AND REPLIES

Category	Outstanding	Proficient	Basic	Below Expectations	No Credit
Critical Thinking Weight 20.00%	100 % (20 points) Discussion and reply is rich in content. Generates thought provoking questions. Shows signs of insight and analysis of the subject.	75 % (15 points) Discussion and reply is substantial in content. Shows some insight and analysis has taken place.	50 % (10 points) Discussion and reply is generally competent. Information may be thin and commonplace, or one or more of the required postings are missing limiting the student's ability to meet the criteria.	25 % (5 points) Discussion and reply is rudimentary and superficial, no analysis or insight is displayed, or two or more of the required postings are missing limiting the student's ability to meet the criteria.	0 % Did not complete any of the requirements.
Content Connections Weight 20.00%	100 % (20 points) Clear connections to previous or current life situations with the class materials.	75 % (15 points) Connections are somewhat evident. Some connections with real life situations but not very clear or obvious.	50 % (10 points) Limited connections. Vague generalities.	25 % (5 points) No connections. Off topic.	0 % Did not complete any of the requirements.
Original Post Length Weight 20.00%	100 % (20 points) The discussion post is at least 300 words in length.	75 % (15 points) The discussion post is at least 275 words in length.	50 % (10 points) The discussion post is at least 250 words in length.	25 % (5 points) The discussion post is less than 250 words in length.	0 % Did not complete any writings for the post.

Category	Outstanding	Proficient	Basic	Below Expectations	No Credit
Reply Post Length Weight 20.00%	100 % (20 points) The reply post is at least 100 words in length.	75 % (15 points) The reply post is at least 175 words in length.	50 % (10 points) The post reply is at least 150 words in length.	25 % (5 points) The reply post is less than 150 words in length.	0 % Did not complete any writings for the post.
Grammar/Stylistics Weight 20.00%	100 % (20 points) 1 or 2 grammatical or stylistic errors.	75 % (15 points) 3-5 grammatical or stylistic errors.	50 % (10 points) 5 or more obvious grammatical errors. Errors interfere with discussion content.	25 % (5 points) Obvious grammatical errors that make understanding impossible.	0 % Did not complete any of the requirements.