

POLSCI 1101: Introduction to American Government Syllabus

Spring 2017

Tuesdays and Thursdays 2:00-2:50 p.m. at MLC 101

Final exam: May 1 at 8 a.m. to 11 a.m. in MLC 101

Dr. Audrey A. Haynes

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Office Hours: 12 p.m. to 1 p.m. on Tuesdays and Thursdays and by appointment. I am also very accessible via email. I would ask that you do not set up a GroupMe for this class, but instead utilize the discussion board for questions or email me and I will email the entire group if needed. GroupMe's have been associated with several efforts to cheat. Generally, students will report that behavior and it comes to light. Avoid that possibility at all costs. Your education and reputation are worth far more than a few points on a test. And I would rather you come straight to the source, me or your Teaching Assistant so that no inaccurate information gets out to students as that is far less efficient.

Course Description: This course is concerned with government and politics in the United States, primarily at the national level, but attention will be given to state and local government, particularly the nature of Georgia's Constitution, which will be covered in a stand-alone, self-serve module that you may access and complete at any time during the semester with a completion date of April 15. It must be completed by that period so that we may grade the assessments associated with the module work.

We will examine the institutional rules and human behaviors that shape government, the operation of elections, the development of parties and interest groups, public opinion, and the functioning of Congress, the presidency, and the courts. An historic overview of the topics will shed light on how the current system has evolved. This is important since the foundation of our system and the rules and norms established early have a great impact on how the government performs what policies it produces and how its citizens relate to it.

We will also focus our attention on current political, social and economic events and discuss how they relate to the governmental concepts we will be studying. During this time we will also discuss a variety of theories of, and perspectives on government. At times, I will post news articles or bits of information on the discussion board and your thoughts are welcome and expected.

Specific topics and the time at which they will be covered, as well as your assigned reading can be found on the calendar on this course's eLC portal.

Prerequisites of the Course: None, but please have plenty of interest, an open mind, a good work ethic.

Technical requirements of the course: If you are able to access the Internet on a regular basis, you meet the technical requirements for the course. It is important that you have

reliable Internet service, particularly as much of the material in the course will be available to you via the eLC. Remember that there are many places on campus with computers if you do not have a reliable one.

There are times when we will watch videos, so you should have a computer that has speaker/headphone access ports.

Course objectives:

After you have completed this course you should be able to:

- Explain why we form governments, and in particular, how our own U.S. government came into being.
- Discuss the form of government that was created by the Constitution, particularly the novel creation of federalism.
- Diagram the three branches of government and explain their functions and the checks and balances that the Framers created to balance the powers of each.
- Understand the dynamics of policy making in the United States.
- Describe the ways in which certain institutions, like voting, parties, interest groups and the media connect us to the our institutions of government, and at times influence our attitudes and behavior.
- Put oneself into the picture and determine why government should matter to you.

At the start of each of our content modules, you will see a list of module objectives. They range from general understanding of a process to very specific skills (such as being able to determine what type of collective action problem is being described or predicting the outcome of a political situation. Please make sure to read through these objectives. They will correspond to the learning outcomes/assessments. It is very important that you utilize this material. Our 100 minutes of lecture and 50 minutes of discussion each week cannot cover the amount of material you need to be well versed in American government. Only coming to class is not enough. You must read your textbook, read through the materials posted in our modules, take your quizzes seriously, and be well prepared for your exams.

Course textbook: Logic of American Politics custom edition. I have negotiated with Sage Press and the bookstore to get the best price for you on what I believe is the best textbook on American government currently available. The publishing representative will be available the first day of class to go over the details of the custom book (I am committed with SGA to help bring down the costs of textbooks and providing OERs for students), and will be offering an incentive to purchase. I will tell you that the best incentive is that by reading your text, you are gaining knowledge. It should be kept rather than sold back, because it will always be there as a reference tool. Your government is not going away, and as a citizen you need to know how to navigate it. Some of the material you will be tested on will come from your text and will not be discussed in lecture. You must read the text to do well in this class.

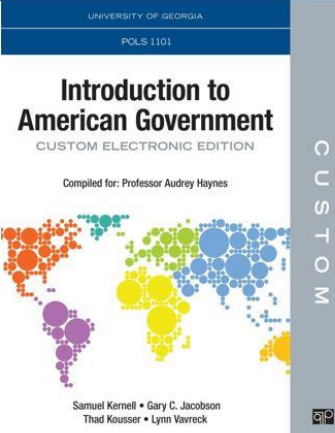
FIRST DAY OF CLASS OVERVIEW

The Essentials:

Title: CUSTOM: University of Georgia POLS 1101 Introduction to American Government Custom Electronic Edition
Exclusive* ISBN: 9781506356617
Course: POLS 1101
Professor: Audrey Haynes

Raffle Prize \$\$ - send email with photo of on campus book purchase and be entered to win \$50 gift card! Send picture email to: Gewel.Galberth@sagepub.com to win!
Submit no later than: **January 31, 2017**

**This ISBN is only available in the University of GA on-campus & off-campus bookstores or directly through Vital Source.



3 reasons to buy this custom bundle in the UGA Bookstore:

1. The materials are tailored to match course content
2. You are receiving the best possible price for this custom content
3. You will be tested on this material throughout the course

In the screen shot below, you will see your two options for purchasing the text: hard copy or electronic. Either works. The benefits to the electronic copy is that it is searchable, however, it will not be available after 180 days. The hard copy, however, can stay with you forever. Both price points are very reasonable. Please make sure that you purchase your text on or before the first day of class. You will have reading assignments that start as soon as we initiate class.



Logic of American Politics (CUSTOM)

Edition: N/A

ISBN: 9781506356617

By: Kernell

Type	Buy/Rent	Option	Rental Period	Provider i	Availability i	Price	
PAPERBACK	BUY	NEW			In Stock	\$36.00	<input type="checkbox"/> Select Item
DIGITAL	BUY			Sage	In Stock	\$45.00	<input type="checkbox"/> Select Item

ADD TO CART

Online Learning Environment: This course is hosted on UGA eLC. If you have any issues at any point, make sure to contact:

EITS Help Desk: helpdesk@uga.edu or 706.542.3106.

Business hours are 8am - 10pm (Mon-Thurs), 8am-6pm (Fri), and 1pm-7pm (Sat-Sun)

Go the University System of Georgia Desire2Learn Online Help Center at <http://D2Lhelp.view.usg.edu>. From this site, you can search the Knowledge Base, browse popular articles, or click the link for live support (24x7x365) in the scrolling news area.

Grading and Assignments:

Your grade for this course will be determined by your scores on your practice tests, tests, quizzes and essays, your attendance in breakout, your work in breakout, particularly your preparation and participation. Each counts toward a percentage of your grade. To see the distribution of weight for each assessment, simply go to the Grades link on the course page and review the list of assessments and their individual and group weights. I reserve the right to add online quizzes or breakout quizzes when needed. This will not affect the overall weight of the category, but it does affect the individual weights for each assessment within the category.

They are also listed below for your convenience.

1101 final course grade is determined by your performance in the assessments in each of these categories and the weight given to each of them. Some assignments may be added or subtracted depending on circumstances, but the weights will not change unless an entire category is required to be deleted, which is not likely to occur. Given that, make sure you understand that certain assignments carry more “weight” than others.

Breakdown of your POLSCI 1101 course grade:

15%	Practice quizzes for each module (open book/note) 2 attempts averaged online activity
20%	Video quizzes, activity quizzes, includes all Georgia Constitution and Government materials (open book/note) attempts vary, online
10%	This overall grade is determined by your attendance in breakout/discussion sections, participation during breakout/discussion, and the various assessments given in breakout.
5%	Online graded discussion (open book/note), one editable attempt, online
35%	In-class exams (no notes, proctored) and online essay exams (open book/note) one attempt, graded rigorously.
15%	Cumulative final exam; covers all modules, but not breakout materials.

Learning Activities: In this course your learning activities consist of the following: reading your text, viewing/listening to course lectures, completing skill builder exercises, taking practice quizzes, discussing relevant topics on the discussion board with your professor and your peers, completing your tests and essays, working on assigned projects and homework, and viewing relevant videos. Almost all activities are graded, and they are expected to be completed on the due date given in the checklist and calendar.

Course outline and schedule: The course is outlined extensively on its eLC course site. The schedule is located on the calendar. If you have any questions at all about the schedule, please contact Dr. Haynes immediately or your assigned Teaching Assistant. You may also post a question on the general discussion board. But if you need immediate feedback (on something important) please email Dr. Haynes at polaah@uga.edu.

Policies: This course follows all policies related to Academic Honesty and Student Code of Conduct as outlined by the University of Georgia.

Student Code of Conduct:

http://www.conduct.uga.edu/code_of_conduct/codeofconduct.pdf

Academic Honesty: <http://ovpi.uga.edu/academic-honesty/academic-honesty-policy>

Recording Devices: Electronic video and/or audio recording is not permitted during any class or breakout section unless the student obtains permission from the instructor and every student present. If permission is granted, any distribution of the recording is prohibited. Violation of this policy is grounds for **removal from the class and referral**

for disciplinary action. Students granted specific electronic recording accommodations from Disability Services do not require special permission; **however, the instructor must be notified.** Any distribution is prohibited.

This policy is derived from the goal of creating an environment where students feel free to share their thoughts and allows for the greatest academic freedom as well as freedom speech in general. All students should feel comfortable talking about their views. Your professor welcomes all discussions. I will always be mindful that we all come from different environments, backgrounds and I respect you and your beliefs. And as long as those beliefs are not voiced in a manner that is threatening to anyone, maintains neutral and thoughtful ground, allows for questioning and discussion, then we are all benefitting from the discussion. That is one of the reasons we have the first assignment that we do. There is always a reason that someone believes what they believe, and if we understand this, we may be able to have a conversation and gain perspective and understanding. This is a political science course and sometimes we may focus on a policy and critique it. In some cases, the critique may be more negative than positive, or vice versa. You should not ever take this as an affront to your beliefs. You should take it as an opportunity to argue with facts and logic as to why your policy stance is better. That is how you move others to understand and perhaps adopt some of your views.

Agreement: By enrolling in this course, you agree to adhere to these policies linked above and to do your best to be a good, productive, and **honest** student. You also agree to work with Dr. Haynes to make sure that you have a positive learning experience and a rewarding course outcome and that **you will not neglect to stay on top of your work.** Nor will you interact with your peers to collaborate on any exams, essays or projects unless they are clearly designated as group projects or work.

Given this is a course that moves quickly, **if you have any issues regarding test dates (such as a conflict, or you become ill during a portion of the course) it is imperative that you communicate with me (Dr. Haynes) and/or your assigned Teaching Assistant, and work out any issues.** Your instructor (me) will try to be flexible given the online nature of this course, which may be new to some of you. So it is important that you keep communication lines open. It is very important that you stay on top of your reading and your test deadlines.

THIS COURSE SYLLABUS IS A GENERAL PLAN FOR THE COURSE;
DEVIATIONS ANNOUNCED TO THE CLASS BY THE INSTRUCTOR MAY BE
NECESSARY.