

# Introduction to American Politics Political Science 1105H

Spring 2017  
12:20-1:10pm, MWF  
Peabody 219

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**Course Description:** This course is an introduction to the constitution and government of the United States (and the state of Georgia). The goal is to help you better understand how government affects you, and how you can affect government. After an historical examination of the origins of the American governmental structures, we will proceed to the study of the institutions and players within the modern political process in order to better understand both.

## Required Texts:

There is one text for this course:

Kernell, Samuel, Gary C. Jacobson, Thad Kousser and Lynn Vavreck. 2015. *The Logic of American Politics*, 7<sup>th</sup> Edition. Washington, DC: CQ Press.  
ISBN: 978.1.4833.1984.1

Additional readings will augment the readings in the course schedule below and will be available to you in advance. You are also required to keep up with current events in a publication/medium of your choice. The New York Times, Washington Post, CNN and FOX News are among those from which you can choose. Their online editions are also acceptable.

**Grading:** The grades for this course will be determined by the following:

Exams (2 in total): Midterm: 20%, Final: 20%

Assignments (2 in total): 20% each

Participation: 20%

**Exams:** There will both a midterms and a final exam. The midterm will cover just the readings and lectures in that unit (or since the last midterm). The final will emphasize the materials in the second unit of study, but will also contain some cumulative elements. All exams are in class and closed note. All of the exams dates/times are clear now. [See schedule below.] If you foresee having a conflict, please bring that to my attention *ahead of time*. I cannot help you *ex post facto*. In other words, there are no make-up exams.

**Assignments:** The papers involved with the assignments will be three pages in length and are due to me via Dropbox no later than the start of class on the days indicated in the schedule. Handouts will be posted with specific information on each assignment later in the semester.

**Late Work:** No late work will be accepted. All of the due dates/times are clear now (see schedule below). If you foresee having trouble completing an assignment, please bring that to my attention ahead of time. I cannot help you ex post facto.

**Attendance/Participation:** Attendance in this class is integrated into your participation grade. The reasoning behind this is that a student cannot participate if that student is not in attendance. Attendance will be taken periodically, and it is incumbent upon all students to attend and to participate meaningfully and substantively in class.

**Technology:** Laptops are prohibited in this class unless required due to a disability. Cell phone use is also prohibited. I will not ask that you turn them off, but please set the ring to vibrate or silent during class.

**Disability:** If you have a disability that may require an accommodation, please let me know and contact the Disability Resource Center (706.542.8719) within the first two weeks of the semester so that arrangements can be made between student, professor and administration.

**Academic Honesty:** Students are expected to uphold the highest standards of academic honesty and to act in accordance with the Honor Code in all aspects of this course in and out of class.

**Classroom conduct:** Please be courteous of your classmates and instructor. That goes for interactions in class as well as outside pertaining to class. Also, emergencies happen. But they are rare. Take care of anything that might pull you out of class *before* class. Getting up and leaving in the middle of class is a distraction to everyone.

**Course Schedule:**

The course syllabus is a general plan for the course; deviations announced to the class by the instructor may be required but not on the spur of the moment.

		Readings	Notes
Week 1		<b>Introduction</b>	
January	6	Welcome — KJKV chp. 1	
Week 2		<b>The Constitution</b>	
January	9	The Constitution -- KJKV Chapter 2	
	11	KJKV chp. 2	Drop/Add Ends
	13	KJKV chp. 2	
Week 3		<b>Federalism</b>	
January	16		No class — MLK Day
	18	Federalism -- KJKV Chapter 3	
	20	KJKV chp. 3	

		Readings	Notes
<b>Week 4</b>		<b>The Legislative Branch</b>	
January	23	Congress -- KJKV Chapter 6	
	25	KJKV chp. 6	
	27	KJKV chp. 6	
<b>Week 5</b>		<b>Congress Continued</b>	
January	30	KJKV chp. 6	Mayhew reading posted
February	1	KJKV chp. 6	
	3	KJKV chp. 6	
<b>Week 6</b>		<b>Congress Continued</b>	
February	6	Mayhew	Assignment 1 posted
	8	Mayhew	
	10	Mayhew	
<b>Week 7</b>		<b>The Executive Branch</b>	
February	13	The Presidency -- KJKV Chapter 7	Assignment 1 due
	15	KJKV chp. 7	
	17	The Bureaucracy -- KJKV Chapter 8	
<b>Week 8</b>		<b>The Judicial Branch</b>	
February	20	The Judiciary -- KJKV Chapter 9	
	22	KJKV chp. 9	
	24	KJKV chp. 9	
<b>Week 9</b>		<b>Civil Rights/Civil Liberties</b>	
February	27	Civil Rights -- KJKV Chapter 4	
March	1	Civil Liberties -- KJKV Chapter 5	
	3		Midterm
<b>Week 10</b>			
March	6		No class — Spring Break
	8		No class — Spring Break
	10		No class — Spring Break
<b>Week 11</b>		<b>Political Behavior</b>	
March	13	Political Culture/Socialization -- Handout	
	15	Political Ideology -- Exercise	
	17	Public Opinion -- KJKV Chapter 10	
<b>Week 12</b>		<b>Voting, Campaigns and Elections</b>	
March	20	Voting -- KJKV Chapter 11	
	22	KJKV chp. 11	
	24	KJKV chp. 11	

		Readings	Notes
Week 13		<b>Electoral Systems</b>	
March	27	Voting Simulation -- Exercise	
	29	Voting Simulation	
	31	Voting Simulation	Assignment 2 posted
Week 14		<b>Political Parties</b>	
April	3	Political Parties -- KJKV Chapter 12	
	5	KJKV chp. 12	
	7	KJKV chp. 12	Assignment 2 due
Week 15		<b>Interest Groups</b>	
April	10	Interest Groups -- KJKV Chapter 13	
	12	KJKV chp. 13	
	14	KJKV chp. 13	
Week 16		<b>The Media/GA Politics</b>	
April	17	The Media -- KJKV Chapter 14	
	19	KJKV chp. 14	
	21	Georgia Politics — reading TBD	
Week 17		<b>Review/Wrap Up</b>	
April	24	Georgia Politics — reading TBD	
	26	Final Exam	Final