

POLS 1101 American Government
Fall 2017, University of Georgia
MWF 10:10-11:00 AM, Baldwin Hall 301

Instructor: Laine Shay
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Office Hours: Monday 1:00-3 PM or by appointment (please, email in advance)

Course Description

This course is an introduction to American politics and government. We will explore a broad overview of the political system in the United States and will include topics such institutions, voting behavior, and political development. Moreover, we will examine Georgia politics and how it differs from national politics. The purpose of this course is for students to understand basic political concepts that impact their lives. We will use a variety of tools including classroom discussions, lectures, in-class activities, and writing assignments to achieve this goal.

Required Textbook

The following textbooks are required:

Wilson, James Q., John J. DiIulio, Jr.; Meena Bose; Matthew S. Levendusky. 2016. *American Government: Institutions and Policies*, 15th Edition. Wadsworth.

Fleischmann, Arnold, and Carol Pierannunzi. 2007. *Politics in Georgia*, 2nd Edition. University of Georgia Press.

Readings should be completed prior to class and students should be ready to discuss any material covered. In addition to the textbook, other readings will be assigned online.

Course Grading

Your grade in this class will be assigned according to the following:

1. **Attendance** (5% of final grade): Attendance will be taken at random. Each student will be granted 3 unexcused absences. After those are exhausted, the student will lose one percent of their attendance grade for each unexcused absence thereafter. For example, a student who attends all classes will receive all 5 percentage points. A student who attended all but 3 classes will also receive all 5 percentage points. A student who missed 4 classes but had a university approved excuse will also receive all 5 percentage points. However, a student who used all 3 “freebies” and had an additional 2 unexcused absences would receive an attendance grade of 3 percentage points.

2. **Exams** (60% of final grade): Three exams will be given (worth 20% each) will be given throughout the course. *The first exam is scheduled for September 22nd and the second exam is scheduled for October 25th.* These exams will consist of multiple choice and short answer questions. Exams will cover material from both the course readings and lectures. The final exam will take place during the allocated exam time. *The third exam is scheduled for December 4.* None of the exams are cumulative. Missed exams can be made up only in cases of university approved absences, such as travel related to university activities, or extreme circumstances (prolonged illness or death in the family). If you know you will miss an exam, please contact me no later than one week in advance of the exam so other arrangements can be made.
3. **Quizzes** (10% of final grade): Periodically throughout the course of the semester, 5 quizzes will be given at the end of class related to assigned readings or material covered in previous class meetings. They will vary in length and question type. Additionally, they may or may not be announced beforehand. By the end of the semester, the lowest quiz will be dropped. Make-up quizzes will not be allowed without a university approved excuse. If an absence is excused, make-ups will be dealt with on a case-by-case basis.
4. **Participation** (10% of final grade): You are expected to participate, not just attend this class. In addition, be mindful that having lost of unexcused absences makes it difficult for you to participate. That is, if you do not attend class on a regular basis, it makes it hard to participate in class discussions. Though this course is largely lecture based, students are still expected to actively engage with the material in class. This consists of showing up on time, completing assigned readings, participating in any class discussions, and answering questions posed by the instructor. *Additionally, each student is required to write two papers. Each paper should be 1-2 pages in length.* Further, each paper will summarize a news article and discuss how that article relates to the assigned readings covered in class. Papers should be typed, double spaced, and printed using 12 point Times New Roman font, and one inch margins. Spelling, grammar, formatting, and punctuations will all be factored into the paper's grade. The actual news article should also be attached to the paper. Papers should be turned in at the end of class on Friday and cannot be turned in late.
5. **Movie Review** (15% of final grade): Each student is required to write a movie review. The movie needs to pertain to topics covered in the textbook. A few examples of political films include (but not limited to) *Malcolm X, Nixon, V for Vendetta, Dr. Strangelove,* and *Primary Colors.* The movie reviews should briefly summarize the film, relate to three concepts within the textbook, and assign a number of "popcorn bowls" with five bowls indicating the film is highly recommended. The concepts connected to the textbook should be bolded and with the page numbers in parenthesis. Papers should be typed, double spaced, 2 pages long, one inch margins, and printed using 12 point Times New Roman font. Spelling, grammar, formatting, and punctuation will all be factored into the paper's grade. The movie review will be due on *October 18.*

Assignment	Percentage of Final Grade
Attendance	5%
Exam 1	20%
Exam 2	20%
Exam 3	20%
Quizzes	10%
Participation	10%
Movie Review	15%
Total	100%

***All work must be your own.

Course grades will be assigned as follows:

93-100% = A	90-92% = A-	
87-89% = B+	83-86% = B	80-82% = B-
77-79% = C+	73-76% = C	70-72% = C-
67-69% = D+	63-66% = D	60-62% = D-
0-59% = F		

Other Issues and Campus Policies

General Expectations. I expect all students to behave professionally in this class. I will not tolerate disruptive behavior in the classroom, including (but not limited to) talking during lectures, texting in class, the ringing of cell phones or pagers, leaving class early, inappropriate or offensive remarks, and personal attacks against other students or the instructor. You will be held responsible for all material in the textbooks and in lectures, even if you miss a class. If you are absent, be sure to get the notes from a fellow classmate.

The following is necessary to succeed in this course: be respectful of others' ideas, attend class consistently, keep up with the readings, ask questions, no use of cell phones or laptops, and turn in all assignments on time.

Students with Disabilities. Students with disabilities that have been certified by the UGA Disabilities Services office will be accommodated according to university policy. If you have documentation for accommodations from Disabilities Services, please present it to me as soon as possible. For more information, contact Disabilities Services at 706-542-8719. If you cannot reach the classroom or my office, please notify me as soon as possible so that alternative arrangements can be made.

Academic Integrity. Academic integrity is a core value of institutions of higher learning. All students, upon enrolling, must pledge: "I will be academically honest in all of my

academic work and will not tolerate academic dishonesty of others.” It is your responsibility to avoid plagiarism, cheating, and dishonesty. Tests and written assignments should be your own work, while studying and class preparation can (and should) be done with others. The university policy on academic integrity is posted at:
<http://www.uga.edu/honesty/>.

Tentative Schedule (subject to change)

- Week 1** (August 14-18): The Study of American Government
Wilson et al. 2016: Chapter 1
- Week 2** (August 21-25): The Constitution
Wilson et al. 2016: Chapter 2
Fleischmann and Pierannunzi 2007: Chapter 3
- Week 3** (August 28-September 1): Federalism
Wilson et al. 2016: Chapter 3
Fleischmann and Pierannunzi 2007: Chapter 1
September 1 APSA (No Class)
- Week 4** (September 4-8): Civil Liberties
Wilson et al. 2016 Chapter 5
September 4 Labor Day (No Class)
- Week 5** (September 11-15): Civil Rights
Wilson et al. 2016: Chapter 6
- Week 6** (September 18-22): American Political Culture and Examination I
Wilson et al. 2016: Chapter 4
Review for Examination I on September 20
Examination I on September 22
- Week 7** (September 25-29): Congress
Wilson et al. 2016: Chapter 13
Fleischmann and Pierannunzi 2007: Chapter 7
- Week 8** (October 2-6): The Presidency and the Bureaucracy
Wilson et al. 2016: Chapter 14 and Chapter 15 (pages 376-90)
Fleischmann and Pierannunzi 2007: Chapter 8
- Week 9** (October 9-13): Movie Review and Judiciary
Wilson et al. 2016: Chapter 16
Fleischmann and Pierannunzi 2007: Chapter 9
Movie Review due October 18
- Week 10** (October-16-20): Political Parties and Interest Groups
Wilson et al. 2016: Chapter 7 and Chapter 11
Fleischmann and Pierannunzi 2007: Chapter 130
- Week 11** (October 23-27): Interest Groups and Examination II
Wilson et al. 2016: Chapter 11
October 23 Review for Examination II

October 25 Examination II
October 27 Fall Break (No Class)

Week 12 (October 30-November 3): Public Opinion
Wilson et al. 2016: Chapter 7
Fleischmann and Pierannunzi 2007: Chapter 4

Week 13 (November 6-10): Political Participation
Wilson et al. 2016: Chapter 8

Week 14 (November 13-17): Elections, Campaigns, and the Media
Wilson et al. 2016: Chapter 10 and Chapter 12 (pages 276-86)
Fleischmann and Pierannunzi 2007: Chapter 5

Week 15 (November 20-24): Thanksgiving Break (No Class)

Week 16 (November 27-December 1): Economic and Foreign Policy
Wilson et al. 2016: Chapter 18 and Chapter 19 (pages 483-97)
Fleischmann and Pierannunzi 2007: Chapter 11
December 1 Review for Exam III

Week 17 (December 4): Exam III
December 4 Exam III