

Political Science 1101
INTRODUCTION TO AMERICAN GOVERNMENT
Spring 2016
Location: MLC 102
M W 9:05-9:55

Dr. Ryan Bakker
Baldwin 416
Office Hours M W 10:15-11:30 or by appointment.
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Course Description

This introductory course is designed to examine the role that American government and politics plays in our lives and provide a better understanding of the functions and responsibilities of our governmental system. To learn more about the nature of American political institutions, we will examine features of the executive, legislative, and judicial branches as well as the role of political parties, interest groups, the media and the bureaucracy in our political system. We will also discuss each of these topics from a historical perspective while simultaneously placing them in the context of contemporary political debates.

Required Texts

The Logic of American Politics. 7th edition. by Samuel Kernell, Gary Jacobson, Thad Kousser and Lynn Vavrek. CQ Press. ISBN: 978-1-4833-1984-1

Georgia Politics in a State of Change, Fourth Custom Edition for the University of Georgia, by Charles S. Bullock and Ronald Keith Gaddie ISBN: 1-256-81336-2

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, reading newspapers, the ringing of cell phones or pagers, leaving class early, inappropriate or offensive remarks, and personal attacks against other students or the instructor. Although class attendance in lecture is not mandatory, 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.

Course Requirements

Your grade in this course will be based on the following components:

1. Attendance and Participation (10%)
2. Quizzes (10%)
3. Exam #1 (15%)
4. Exam #2 (20%)
5. Exam #3 (20%)
6. Final Exam (25%)

Final grades will be assigned as follow: 100-93 = A, 90-92 = A-, 87-89 = B+, 83-86 = B, 80-82 = B-, 77-79 = C+, 73-76 = C, 70-72 = C-, 60-69 = D, and 60-0 = F. **There are no extra credit assignments nor is there a curve in this course.**

Attendance and Participation

All students are required to attend a discussion section to be held each Friday. *Each section will be taught by one of the six teaching assistants.* You are allowed one absence in section during the course of the semester. After that, your attendance grade will be penalized 2 percentage points for each absence. Also, you are expected to participate—NOT JUST ATTEND. This means that you need to be ready to discuss the readings for that week. Having your laptop open during discussion, for example, means you are likely not participating in most circumstances. Your teaching assistant will keep track of attendance and participation grades in each of the discussion sections.

Quizzes

To ensure that students come to discussion section prepared to participate, several quizzes will be given on Wednesdays during the semester. While the teaching assistants may announce some quizzes in advance, they reserve the right to administer quizzes with no advance notice. Quizzes will be closed book and may cover material from the assigned readings or from previous days' lectures. As a general rule, you cannot make-up a quiz if you are absent on the day one is given.

Exams

There will be four exams in this course, including a final exam given during the scheduled examination period at the end of the semester. Examinations will consist of multiple choice and essay questions. While the first three exams are non-cumulative, the final exam will cover material from the lectures and the assigned readings for the entire course. The exam dates are:

Exam 1: Feb 15

Exam 2: March 21

Exam 3: April 20

Final Exam: May 4

Grade Appeals, Incompletes, and Make-Up Policy

Any questions you have regarding grades should be directed to your teaching assistant. If you are unable to resolve the matter with him or her, you may appeal the grade to Professor Bakker. Keep in mind that formal grade appeals must be made in writing, and in the case of an exam, I will re-grade your entire test. Therefore, your grade can go up or down. A final grade of "Incomplete" will only be given in this course under exceptional circumstances and is solely at the discretion of the instructor. If an incomplete is given, it is the student's responsibility to complete the necessary requirements as early in the following semester as possible. Legitimate excuses for absence from an exam (e.g., religious holiday, medical emergency, or illness) must be presented to the teaching assistant and accepted **prior** to the exam when feasible.

Office Hours and Availability

If you would like to speak with me outside of class time, feel free to stop by my office in Baldwin 416 during regularly scheduled office hours. Keep in mind that occasionally I may have another scheduled meeting during this time and may be unavailable. If you want to ensure that I am available on a given day, email me ahead of time to set up a specific time to meet.

Academic Integrity

All students are responsible for maintaining the highest standards of honesty and integrity in every phase of their academic careers. The penalties for academic dishonesty are severe and ignorance of the policy is not an acceptable defense. See also http://www.uga.edu/ovpi/academic_honesty/academic_honesty.htm.

Special Needs

Students with special needs that require accommodation should notify me and the Office for Disability Services in the first two weeks of the course so appropriate arrangements can be made. All information and documentation of special needs is confidential.

Discussion Sections

YOUR DISCUSSION SECTION IS AN INTEGRAL PART OF THIS COURSE. ALL SECTIONS MEET ON FRIDAYS IN THE FOLLOWING LOCATIONS:

21563	8:00-8:50	Journalism 507	Nobles
21544	9:05-9:55	Journalism 507	Dalton
21568	9:05-9:55	Journalism 511	Freeman
21558	10:10-11:00	Journalism 516	Boldt
21552	10:10-11:00	Journalism 511	Hamilton
21545	11:15-12:05	Journalism 513	Dalton
21548	11:15-12:05	Journalism 516	Boldt
21550	12:20-1:10	Journalism 513	Viskupic
21537	12:20-1:10	Journalism 507	Hamilton
21566	1:25-2:15	Park Hall 115	Freeman
21555	1:25-2:15	Journalism 507	Viskupic

Discussion Section: Meeting Dates and Reading Assignments

1/15– Introduction

1/22 – *The Declaration of Independence* and *The Articles of Confederation*.

1/29– Federalist Papers No. 10 and No.51

2/5 – The Constitution of the United States of America

2/12– *Georgia Politics*—Chapters 1-3.

2/19 – *Georgia Politics*—Chapters 4- 5.

2/26 – *Georgia Politics*—Chapter 6.

3/4 – *Georgia Politics*—Chapter 8.

3/11—SPRING BREAK

3/18 – *Georgia Politics*—Chapter 7.

3/25 – *Georgia Politics* –Chapter 9.

4/1 – *Georgia Politics*—Chapter 13

4/8 – *Georgia Politics*—Chapter 11

4/15 -- *Georgia Politics*—Chapter 12

4/22--*Georgia Politics Review*

4/29—Review for final exam

Course Schedule (subject to change as events warrant)

Week 1 (1/11 and 1/13 – Introduction and Logic of American Politics)
Kernell et al, Chapter 1

Week 2 (1/18—**MLK Day** and 1/20 – The Constitution)
Kernell et al, Chapter 2, *Articles of Confederation, U.S. Constitution (A7-A34)*

Week 3 (1/25—The Constitution and 1/27 – Federalism and the Separation of Powers)
Kernell et al, Chapters 2 & 3

Week 4 (2/1—Federalism and 2/3 – Civil Liberties)
Kernell et al, Chapters 3 & 5

Week 5 (2/8– Civil Liberties , 2/10 – Civil Rights)
Kernell et al, , Chapters 5 & 4

Week 6 (2/15– **Exam #1**, 2/17 – Congress)
Kernell et al, Chapter 6

Week 7 (2/22 – Congress, 2/24 – The Presidency)
Kernell at al, Chapters 6 & 7

Week 8 (2/29 – The Presidency, 3/2 – The Bureaucracy)
Kernell et al, Chapters 7 & 8

SPRING BREAK—3/7-3/11

Week 9 (3/14 – The Judiciary, 3/16 The Judiciary)
Kernell et al, Chapter 9

Week 10 (3/21—**Exam #2** & 3/23– Public Opinion)
Kernell et al, Chapter 10

Week 11 (3/28—Public Opinion & 3/30 –Voting, Campaigns, and Elections)
Kernell et al, Chapters 10 & 11

Week 12 (4/4—Voting, Campaigns, and Elections & 4/6 – Political Parties)
Kernell et al, Chapters 11 & 12

Week 13 (4/11—Political Parties & 4/13 –Interest Groups)
Kernell et al, Chapters 12 &13

Week 14 (4/18 – Interest Groups, 4/20—**Exam #3**)
Kernell et al, Chapter 13

Week 15 (4/25 & 4/28 – The Media)
Kernell, Chapter 14

Wed, May 4– Final Examination, 8:00-11:00 a.m.