

POLS 1105H, call 24582
Tues & Thurs, 2:00–3:15 p.m.
Peabody Hall 219
Fall, 2016

Dr. Keith Dougherty
Office: Baldwin 418, (706)542-2989
Office Hours: available by appointment
dougherk@uga.edu
http://spia.uga.edu/faculty_pages/dougherk/

American Government, Honors

This course introduces students to the organization and principles of American Government. Roughly two-thirds of the course covers “facts” concerning the institutions and history of American Government, while the other third introduces “theories” explaining various political phenomena.

My section of this course is organized around themes from the Federalist Debates. After engaging in our own Federalist debate, we will investigate whether the fears of the Anti-Federalists have come to pass. We will also address questions such as why is our government organized the way it is? What is a good democracy? Why do successful political candidates always appear moderate? Do voting rules in Congress affect political outcomes, and if so, how? Does our system guarantee that every citizen's interest is equally represented? If not, what does this mean for democracy? Applying themes from the Federalist debates to our course should energize the topics and give you an understanding of one of the most important debates in American political history.

Grading

You will be assigned a Federalist/Anti-Federalist presentation, a mid-term exam, an assignment on political parties, a five page paper, and an in class final exam. I expect students to attend all classes and assume that you are mature enough to understand what happens when you miss a class. Ask another student for notes if you miss a class before asking me for help. I will not give out notes nor put them on the web. However, all assignments will be on-line. Please look at my faculty *web page* for the assignments. We are *not* using eLC.

Although I generally think of 90-100 as an A, 80-90 as a B, etc., your overall grade for the course will be based upon the following scale:

	A	92 or above	A-	90-91.99
B+	B	82-87.99	B-	80-81.99
C+	C	72-77.99	C-	70-71.99
D+	D	62-67.99	D-	60-61.99
F		59.99 or below		

Federalist Debates

Shortly after the course begins you will be divided into groups of three to four students and assigned to one of three debates. With the members of your group you will prepare to debate one side of a Federalist / Anti-Federalist issue. These debates will allow you to understand the

philosophical theory behind the United States Constitution and some important issues in democratic theory. You will be graded on a five page summary of your party's position on the issue (due the first day of the debates, Sept 1), a presentation or refutation before the class, and your response to questions from the audience. These debates can be very entertaining, but they must be taken seriously as they represent 15% of your final grade. Your groups will also provide great study partners for the exams and a source of notes if you miss class. **Students who are absent during the presentation of their debate, or enter the course too late to be assigned to a debate, will be required to turn in a 10 page paper in lieu of their presentation. The paper will summarize the philosophical tradition of the entire Federalist/Anti-federalist debates and be due in the class immediately following the student's assigned debate (or the first debate day if they had not been assigned to a debate). Late penalties apply.**

Term Paper

20% of your grade is reserved for a term paper on one of the theoretical issues addressed in class. You will have a list of essay questions to chose from. This essay may require some research, so please get started on your research as soon as the assignments are posted on my web page.

Exams

The final part of your grade will be two exams. Both will contain multiple choice, fill in the blank, possible problem solving, and essay type questions worth 30% each. The idea is to give you multiple types of questions to evaluate your understanding of the material, not your aptitude for a particular type of test question. Since the lectures and the readings sometimes cover different material, please be prepared to answer questions from *assigned* readings that were not covered in class. Those questions *will* be on the exams. The second exam covers material introduced after the first exam. It is *not* cumulative.

	<u>Date</u>	<u>Percent of Grade</u>
FEDERALIST DEBATES	Sept 1-8	15%
EXAM 1	Oct 13	30%
TERM PAPER	Nov 17	20%
POLITICAL PARTIES ASSIGNMENT	Nov 29	5%
EXAM 2	Dec 1	30%

Make-ups

Assignments and term papers require a fair amount of analysis time. Please plan ahead to avoid turning them in late. **Late assignments will be lowered one letter grade for every *working day they are late*.** If an assignment is late, it would be a good idea to e-mail it to me or stick it under my office door (Baldwin 418) as soon as possible to avoid any unnecessary late penalties. Grades are lowered for every *working day* they are late, not every class day they are late.

If you miss the first exam for a good reason, pre-approved by me, you will be allowed to complete a make-up exam on Tuesday, October 18 at 3:30 pm, meeting in Baldwin 418. Please

allow additional time in case we have to start late. **THERE WILL BE NO OTHER TIME TO MAKE UP THE FIRST EXAM AND NO MAKE-UP FOR THE SECOND EXAM.** It also should be noted that the make-up exam will be considerably more difficult than the regular exam and should be avoided.

Student Honesty

All academic work must meet the standards contained in “A Culture of Honesty.” Students are responsible for informing themselves about these standards before performing academic work. The penalties for academic dishonesty are severe and ignorance is not an acceptable defense. Also note that the course syllabus is a general plan for the course and that deviations announced to the class by the instructor may be necessary.

Required Texts

Reading assignments vary in length. When you are assigned a short reading you may want to read ahead so that you don't fall behind in the future. Readings come from three sources: 1) the Jillson text book, 2) the Bullock and Gaddie book on Georgia Politics, and 3) on-line readings (which you can get from my web page). All are required. The Jillson text outlines the American Government system and is fairly easy to read. Although my lectures will diverge from this text, I will test you on some of the readings from both the Jillson text and the Bullock and Gaddie text that are not discussed in class. On-line readings are usually more difficult and may require a second reading in order to be fully understood.

Please read the entire assignment once (at least superficially) before coming to class. Remember, if you work hard and complete all the readings, this should be a great class. Expect two hours of reading for every hour of class time, except during the exams. The following books can be purchased from the campus book store (and various off campus bookstores).

1. Jilson, Cal. 2015. *American Government: Political Development and Institutional Change, 8th Edition*. New York: Routledge Press (used books should work as well).
2. Bullock, Charles S and Ronald Keith Gaddie. 2011. *Georgia Politics in a State of Change: Fourth Custom Edition for the University of Georgia*. New York: Pearson. ISBN: 978-1-256-81336-1.
3. On-line readings, posted on my web page <http://spia.uga.edu/faculty_pages/dougherk/>. Click the courses tab, then American Government. The password for these readings is “dougherty” (all lower case).

Schedule of Topics and Readings

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|--------|---|
| Aug 11 | 1. Introduction |
| Aug 16 | *Jillson, <i>American Government</i> , Chapter 1, The Origins of American Political Principals. |

2. The Constitution and Foundations of the U.S. Republic

- Aug 18 - 23 *Jillson, *American Government*, Chapter 2, The Revolution and the Constitution.
- Aug 25 - 30 *Jillson, *American Government*, Appendix C, Constitution of the United States, **bring your textbook to class.**
*Bullock and Gaddie, *Georgia Politics in a State of Change*, Chapter 1, Georgia and the Rule of the Rustic, Chapter 3, Republican Rebirth, Democratic Delaying Actions, and Chapter 4, Constitutions and Institutions.

Sept 1 - 8 **THE FEDERALIST DEBATES (see on-line handout for readings)**

3. Federalism

- Sept 13 - 15 *Jillson, *American Government*, Chapter 3, Federalism and American Political Development.

- Sept 16 CONSTITUTION DAY (optional)
*5 extra credit points on your federalist debate assignment for [attending](#).
For those who [want the extra credit but cannot attend](#).

4. Civil Liberties and Civil Rights

- Sept 20 - 22 *Jillson, *American Government*, Chapters 13, Civil Liberties, and Chapter 14, Civil Rights.

5. The Judiciary

- Sept 27 - 29 *Jillson, *American Government*, Chapter 12, The Federal Courts.
- Oct 4 **"Griswold v Connecticut," on-line reading, see my web page (password: dougherty).
**"Roe v. Wade," on-line reading, see my web page (password: dougherty).
- Oct 6 **"Planned Parenthood of Southeastern Pennsylvania v. Casey," on-line reading, see my web page (password: dougherty).
**"Gonzales, Attorney General v. Carhart et al.," on-line reading, see my web page.
**"Whole Woman's Health v. Hellerstedt," on-line reading, see my web page.

- Oct 11 Catch-up & Review

Oct 13

Exam 1

6. The Legislature

Oct 18 - 20

*Jillson, *American Government*, Chapter 9, Congress.

*Bullock and Gaddie, *Georgia Politics in a State of Change*, Chapter 5,
The Georgia General Assembly.

Oct 25 - 27

*Hinich and Munger, "The Spatial Model of Downs and Black,"
Analytical Politics, on-line reading, see my web page (password:
dougherty).

7. The Executive

Nov 1 - 3

*Jillson, *American Government*, Chapter 10, The President.

*Bullock and Gaddie, *Georgia Politics in a State of Change*, Chapter 6,
The Executive Branch.

8. Elections

Nov 8

*Jillson, *American Government*, Chapter 8, Voting, Campaigns, and
Elections.

Nov 10

*Downs, "An Economic Theory of Democracy," on-line reading, see my
web page (password: dougherty).

Nov 15 - 17

*2000 U.S. Presidential Election ([click here](#))

*2008 U.S. Presidential Election ([click here](#))

*2012 U.S. Presidential Election ([click here](#))

*2016 U.S. Presidential Election ([click here](#))

Term papers due Nov 17

Nov 21-25

NO CLASS: THANKSGIVING BREAK

Nov 29

Catch-up and Review

Parties assignment due Nov 29

Dec 1

Exam 2