POLSCI 1101E: Introduction to American Government Syllabus
Fall 2016
Final exam: Dec. 8
Dr. Audrey A. Haynes
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polaah@uga.edu (email)

Virtual Office Hours: 11 am to 12 pm on WF and by appointment; I will be available to you via our course online chat room, eLC message pager if I am on eLC, and Skype via appointment, and by phone during work hours.

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. 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

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 the tests are time sensitive.

Course objectives: At the start of each of our content modules, you will see a list of course 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.

Course textbook: Logic of American Politics 8th edition. You may purchase the electronic version or the custom paper text, whichever text you feel more comfortable working with for your course reading.

I have arranged for a less expensive custom online version available for purchase through the publisher. Here is the link and the information about using the ebook. The custom book is available for the same price at the UGA Bookstore and Beat the Bookstore.

https://www.vitalsource.com/products/custom-university-of-georgia-pols-1101-cq-press-custom-v9781506356617

Price: $45

Below are the instructions for using VitalSource Bookshelf on a web browser, computer, or mobile device. For quick demos, visit our online Tutorial Videos here (http://downloads.vitalbook.com/tutorials/publish/index.html?did=generic). There is a module for each device, with expanding navigation arrows revealing subtopics. Our most popular features are Searching, Highlighting, and making Notes. Should you need further assistance please visit http://support.vitalsource.com

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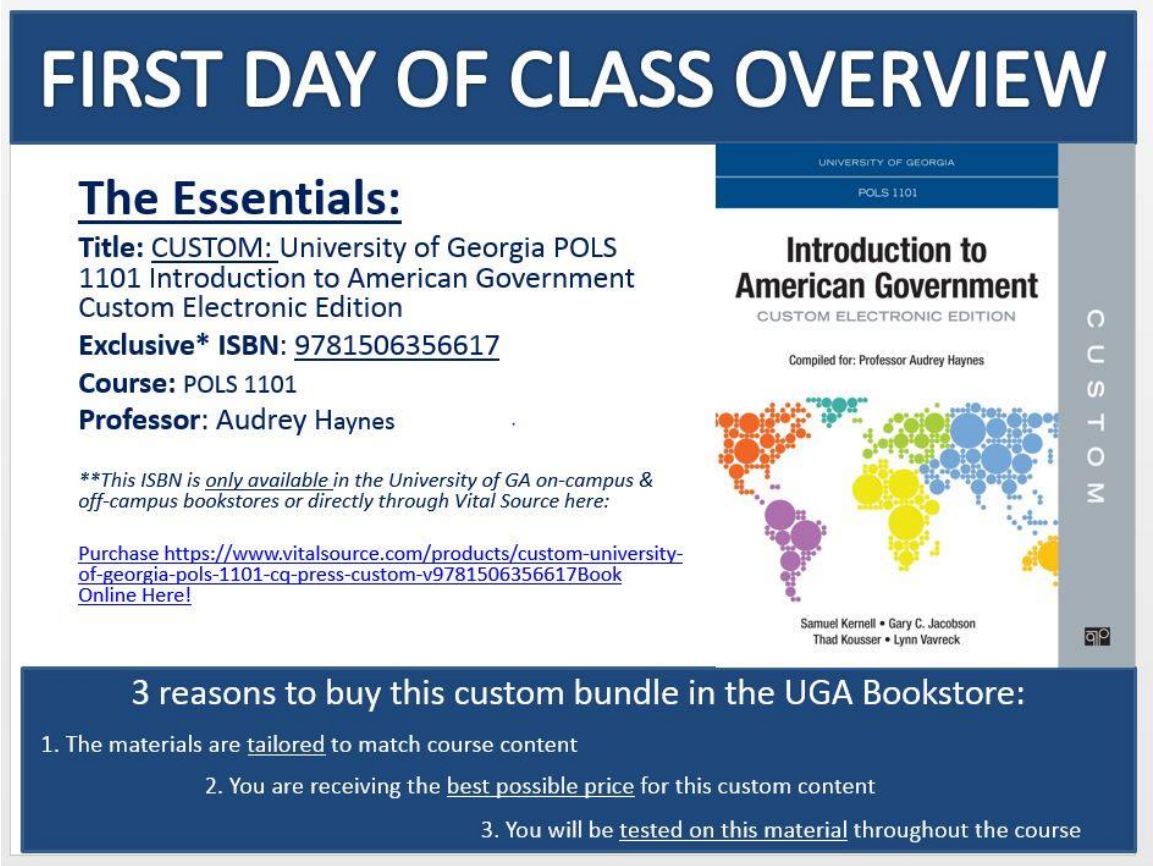
- Once Bookshelf is installed, launch Bookshelf.
- Sign in with your Bookshelf account email address and password.
- Click on "All Titles" in the collection pane to view all the books in your account.
- Tap on the title to download the book to your mobile device. Once downloaded, double-click again to open the book.

If you have any questions, please let me know. I have downloaded my copy and it is quite easy to use. It basically sits in the cloud waiting for you.

If you would like a hard copy, you can purchase a custom one at Beat the Bookstore here in Athens, or you may order the full 8th edition knowing that we will only utilize 9 chapters out of the text.



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 final project, and your participation via the discussion board. 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.

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 your final project, and viewing relevant videos. Almost all activities are graded.

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.

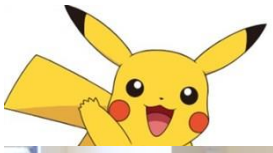
Policies: This course follows all policies related to Academic Honesty and Student Code of Conduct as outlined by the University of Georgia.

http://www.conduct.uga.edu/code_of_conduct/codeofconduct.pdf
http://ovpi.uga.edu/academic-honesty/academic-honesty-policy

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 an online 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 very important that you keep communication lines open. It is very important that you stay on top of your reading and your test deadlines. I have designed this course so that while we move quickly, we are testing **only one module at a time**, although there is a final exam that will determine how well you have learned the basics of our political system, so the expectation is that you will be prepared prior to the tests. Even though they are open book, given that they are time limited (and they will remain so – only those students with accommodations may seek extended time), you need to be prepared and knowledgeable or you will not be able to complete the test in the time allowed.

See you on the Internet and on campus. Instead of Pokemon Go, try to see if you can find Dr. Haynes, and catch a quick conversation with her or one of your TAs. I will be planning to wear several stuffed Pokemon around my person this semester in an attempt to pander to students.



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