

POLSCI 1101E: Introduction to American Government Syllabus

Summer Thru Session 2017

Final exam: July 28

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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. You may email me any time. But keep in mind that I will certainly respond as quickly as I can, and no later than 24 hours from the time of contact.

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, but please have plenty of interest, an open mind, a good work ethic.

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.

There are times when we will watch videos, so you should have a computer that has speaker/headphone access ports. You will also need to be able to video yourself, via your phone or computer, to create a video for a class project. Make sure you have access to either a smart phone or a computer with a camera and sound.

COURSE OBJECTIVES:

After you have completed this course you should be able to:

- Name the primary collective action problems groups contend with regularly and the solutions suggested to overcome them.
- Analyze which types of collective action problems are most difficult to overcome, explain why, and provide solutions to them with real world examples.
- Explain why we form governments, and in particular, how our own U.S. government came into being.
- Discuss the form of government that was created by the Constitution, particularly the novel creation of federalism.
- Diagram the three branches of government and explain their functions and the checks and balances that the Framers created to balance the powers of each.
- Understand the dynamics of policy making in the United States, particularly in relation to checks and balances and federalism.
- Describe the ways in which certain institutions, like voting, parties, interest groups and the media connect us to our institutions of government, and at times influence our attitudes and behavior.
- Put oneself into the picture and determine why government should matter to you.

At the start of each of our content modules, you will see a list of module 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 **AND LINK BACK TO THESE COURSE OBJECTIVES.**

Course textbook: Logic of American Politics 8th edition CUSTOM EDITION. You may purchase the electronic version (\$56) or the paper text (\$72), whichever text you feel more comfortable working with for your course reading. You may even purchase the full version of the textbook, but it will be more expensive and we will not cover all chapters.

That is why I have arranged for a less expensive custom online version available for purchase through the UGA Bookstore. Here is the ISBN information about the text. I only require one textbook because for this class, that is all we will need.

The Essentials:

Title: CUSTOM: University of Georgia POLS 1101 Introduction to American Government Custom Edition

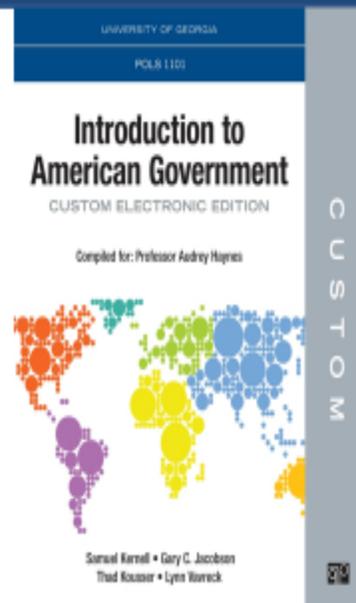
Exclusive* Paperback ISBN: 9781506395173.

Exclusive* Digital ISBN: 9781506396118.

Course: POLS 1101

Professor: Audrey Haynes

***This ISBN is only available in the University of Georgia on-campus & off-campus bookstores.*



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, quizzes, exams which include essays, your course project, discussions, and final exam. Each counts toward a percentage of your grade. Within each category, there may be multiple items, such as in practice quizzes (of which you have 13) and they all count equally across the category.

Practice quizzes	10%
Concept, video, game quizzes	17.5%
Discussion assignments	15%
Exams	25%
Course Project	17.5%
Final Exam	15%
Total	100%

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, and they are expected to be completed on the due date given in the checklist and calendar.

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 or your assigned Teaching Assistant.

Response and feedback timeline: Students should expect a response to email inquiries within 24 hours if sent to polaah@uga.edu. The timing may be slightly longer, 36 hours, if sent through email via eLC. As to quizzes and other graded assessments, short assignments should be graded within two to three days. Longer assessments involving writing may require five days for feedback and grade responses. If for any reason, you believe you have not received feedback or a grade in a timely fashion, please email Dr. Haynes or your designated TA. There is generally a reason and we want to make sure it is resolved quickly.

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. Any student found cheating will be given a failing grade for the course and the Academic Honesty process will be initiated.

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.

