

Syllabus

Course Information

Course Name: POLS 1101 - American Politics

Reference Number: 28102

Term / Session: Fall 2018

Days / Time: T/R 9:30am

Location: Baldwin Hall 302

Instructor Contact Information

Instructor Name: Dr. Thomas Just

Email Address: thomas.just@uga.edu

Office Hours: T 3:30pm-4:30pm, W 10:00am-1:00pm

Course Description and General Course Outcomes

Students should be able to identify, recognize and evaluate relevant aspects of the United States political system. This course provides a systematic introduction to the political system of the United States of America through the study of theory, principles, policy outcomes, and responsible institutions involved in the formation and operation of American National Government. Upon completion of this course, students will have a better understanding of the origins, issues, and forces that shape government decision making. In addition, the course will study the interaction between the branches of government, paying close attention to civil rights, civil liberties, popular institutions, the economy and domestic policy making.

Textbook

Title: American Government: Your Voice, Your Future

Author(s): Kerbel, Matthew

Publisher, Edition: Academic Media Solutions, 6th ed.

ISBN: 978-1-942041-34-4

Method of Instruction | Course Structure

In this class, you will attend on-campus classes and may engage in structured out-of-class and/or online activities. The online and in-class activities may include, but are not limited to, readings, discussions, essays, case studies, research,

quizzes & tests. See the course activity schedule for a detailed description of activities. Students are responsible for regularly reviewing the activity schedule and completing all assigned class activities.

Schedule Class Activities

Read and refer to this section regularly. Deadlines for assignments, assessments, discussions, quizzes & tests, and all other graded and non-graded activities are posted in the course schedule. Submitting work late will be permitted only under extenuating circumstances and only with prior notification and documentation (original funeral notice, original doctor note, etc.).

Dates & Units	Specific Learning Outcomes	Class Activities	Assessment Due Dates
Week 1 Class on 8/14, 8/16	1.1 Define government and democracy. 1.2 Describe the importance of citizen participation in constitutional democracy. 1.3 Evaluate alternative theories of American democracy.	Reading Assignments: Syllabus Chapter 1 and Chapter 2	Assessment Due Dates: Syllabus Agreement
Dates & Units	Specific Learning Outcomes	Class Activities	Assessment Due Dates
Week 2 Class on 8/21, 8/23	2.1 Identify pre-Revolutionary concepts central to the new government. 2.2 Examine the timing of key events leading to the Constitutional Convention. 2.3 Evaluate the arguments for and against ratification of the Constitution. 2.4 Describe the relationship between the National and State governments within the framework of federalism.	Reading Assignments: Chapter 2 Class Activities: Time Line Discussion	In class/Online/Out of class:
Dates & Units	Specific Learning Outcomes	Class Activities	Assessment Due Dates
Week 3 Class on 8/28, 8/30	14.1 Explain the roots of civil liberties in the Constitution and their development in the Bill of Rights.	Reading Assignments: Chapter 14	In class/Online/Out of class:

	14.2 Distinguish between the establishment clause and the free exercise clauses of the 1st Amendment. 14.3 Outline the constitutional rights of defendants.		
Dates & Units	Specific Learning Outcomes	Class Activities	Assessment Due Dates
Week 4 Class on 9/4, 9/6	13.1 Explain why the concept of equality is integral to the understanding of civil rights. 13.2 Compare and contrast the efforts of various groups to obtain civil rights. 13.3 Trace the evolution of civil rights as it pertains to African Americans. 13.4 Evaluate the effect of affirmative action policies.	Reading Assignments: Chapter 13	In class/Online/Out of class: First Writing Assignment Due 9/6
Dates & Units	Specific Learning Outcomes	Class Activities	Assessment Due Dates
Week 5 Class on 9/11, 9/13	3.1 Explain how the agents of socialization influence the development of political attitudes. 3.2 Describe public opinion research and modern polling methods. 3.3 Assess the influence of political ideology on political attitudes and behaviors.	Reading Assignments: Chapter 3	In class/Online/Out of class:
Dates & Units	Specific Learning Outcomes	Class Activities	Assessment Due Dates
Week 6 Class on 9/18, 9/20	6.1 Trace the development of political parties in the US. 6.2 Identify the functions of political parties and their structure. 6.3 Assess the reasons for the persistence of the 2 party system.	Reading Assignments: Chapter 6 Class Activities: Party timeline	In class/Online/Out of class:
Dates & Units	Specific Learning Outcomes	Class Activities	Assessment Due Dates

Week 7 Class on 9/25, 9/27	7.1 Outline the procedures for presidential and congressional elections. 7.2 Evaluate the influence of money in elections and the main approaches to campaign finance reform. 7.3 Assess the pros and cons of the Electoral College.	Reading Assignments: Chapter 7	In class/Online/Out of class: Midterm Exam on 9/27
Dates & Units	Specific Learning Outcomes	Class Activities	Assessment Due Dates
Week 8 Class on 10/2, 10/4	3/1 Interest Groups 8.1 Describe why interest groups form and how they attract members. 8.2 Describe different types of interest groups and their influence on policy.	Reading Assignments: Chapter 8	In class/Online/Out of class:
Dates & Units	Specific Learning Outcomes	Class Activities	Assessment Due Dates
Week 9 Class on 10/9, 10/11	9.1 Describe the constitutional foundations of Congress. 9.2 Describe the congressional election process and the advantages it gives incumbents. 9.3 Trace the process of lawmaking in Congress.	Reading Assignments: Chapter 9 Class Activity: Pass a law	In class/Online/Out of class:
Dates & Units	Specific Learning Outcomes	Class Activities	Assessment Due Dates
Week 10 Class on 10/16 10/18	10.1 Identify the constitutional foundations of the presidency. 10.2 Analyze the scope of presidential power. 10.3 Describe the role of the president as Chief Executive.	Reading Assignments: Chapter 10	In class/Online/Out of class:
Dates & Units	Specific Learning Outcomes	Class Activities	Assessment Due Dates
Week 11	10.4 Describe the role of president as Chief	Reading	In class/Online/Out of

Class on 10/23	Legislator. 10.5 Evaluate the role of president as Chief Diplomat.	Assignments: Chapter 10	class:
10/25	10.6 Assess the role of president as Commander in Chief.		
Dates & Units	Specific Learning Outcomes	Class Activities	Assessment Due Dates
Week 12 Class on 10/30, 11/1	12.1 Explain the differences between criminal and civil cases. 12.2 Describe the structure of the federal judiciary. 12.3 Outline the process by which the Supreme Court makes decisions and the factors that influence judicial decision making.	Reading Assignments: Chapter 12	In class/Online/Out of class: Written Assignment Due 11/1
Dates & Units	Specific Learning Outcomes	Class Activities	Assessment Due Dates
Week 13 Class on 11/6, 11/8	4/12 - Domestic Policy Making 15.1 Describe the evolution and goals of domestic policy. 15.2 Analyze the basic tools used to make domestic policy. 15.3 Assess the budget and tax policies.	Reading Assignments: Chapter 15	In class/Online/Out of class:
Dates & Units	Specific Learning Outcomes	Class Activities	Assessment Due Dates
Week 14 Class on 11/13, 11/15	16.1 Outline the structure of the foreign and defense policy bureaucracy. 16.2 Assess the various institutions involved in foreign policy. 16.3 Trace the evolution of American foreign policy throughout history.	Reading Assignments: Chapter 16	In class/Online/Out of class:
Dates			

& Units	Specific Learning Outcomes	Class Activities	Assessment Due Dates
Week 15 Class on 11/27, 1/29	Review		
Dates & Units	Specific Learning Outcomes	Class Activities	Assessment Due Dates
Week 16 Final week Class on 12/4, 12/6	Final Exam		In class/Online/Out of class: Final Exam Due 12/6

Grading and Instructions for Course Activities

Instructions for Assignments:

- Assignments are due on the due date as listed in the course activities schedule. Quizzes will be unannounced and will be administered throughout the semester, so be sure you are keeping up with the course readings. There will be a midterm and final exam that will be due on the specified dates. There will also be two written projects due on a topic to be announced in advance by the instructor.

Late Work and Make-up Assessments

- It is at the discretion of the instructor to offer a make-up activity and is not guaranteed. Make-up tests will only be considered under extenuating circumstances, and with prior notification and documentation (original funeral notice, original doctor note, etc.). Scheduling appointments and vacations are not valid reasons for requesting a make-up test.

COURSE GRADING AND ASSIGNMENTS:

Midterm Exam	30%
Final Exam	30%
2 Written Projects	20% (10% each)
Attendance/Participation/Quizzes	20%

Attendance will be taken daily. Attendance and completion of in-class assignments and quizzes will determine 20% of the overall grade.

GRADING SCALE FOR TESTS AND PROJECTS:

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

MAKE-UP EXAMINATIONS:

Course Policies

Attendance and Participation Policies

Class sessions will focus on the readings and lectures, and responsibility for discussing these readings will fall heavily on students. Active involvement during discussions is essential to your success in this course. Participation means that you join in class discussion, but also that you listen to your classmates and give them opportunities to speak. Therefore, every student is expected to attend all class meetings and be prepared to discuss the readings since you will be asked to summarize the readings as a prelude to class discussion and analyze current events in light of the reading.

Classes may also begin with a brief quiz on the assigned reading for that week which will be a part of your participation grade. Should you miss a class, it is your responsibility to determine and verify whether any announcements have been made in your absence regarding a change in the syllabus or assignments. In the event that a class must be cancelled, you are still responsible for the assigned readings. If you are not participating, this will affect your participation grade.

If you stop participating after the withdrawal date, you will receive an F. To avoid this situation, you should attend class regularly and remain an active learner in the online portion of the class. Always communicate extenuating circumstances to your instructor. Ongoing communication with the instructor is critical to your course success.

Note: The course syllabus is a general plan for the course; deviations announced to the class by the instructor may be necessary.

Academic Honesty

As a University of Georgia student, you have agreed to abide by the University's academic honesty policy, "A Culture of Honesty," and the Student Honor Code. All academic work must meet the standards described in "A Culture of Honesty" found at: <https://honesty.uga.edu/Academic-Honesty-Policy/>. Lack of knowledge of the academic honesty policy is not a reasonable explanation for a violation. Questions related to course assignments and the academic honesty policy should be directed to the instructor.

Types of Academic Dishonesty:

- **Cheating:** Is defined as obtaining or attempting to obtain, or aiding another to obtain credit for work by dishonest or deceptive means.
- **Plagiarism:** The use of words or ideas of the original creator without attribution as if they were your own. Plagiarism ranges from copying someone else's work verbatim and elaborating on or altering someone else's work.
- **Self-Plagiarism:** Submitting or reusing parts of a previous paper without referencing source it was first submitted. This includes retaking a course and turning in previously submitted papers and data.
- **Unacceptable Collaboration:** Using answers, solutions, or ideas that are the results of collaboration without citing the fact of the collaboration is improper.
- **Falsification of Data:** Making up or falsifying information and data. Examples include making up or altering data for an experiment or citing reference to sources you did not actually use.
- **Pay Services:** Employing an assignment writing service or having another write the paper for you.
- **Enabling:** Aiding and abetting another student in an act of academic dishonesty. Examples include giving someone a paper to copy and allowing someone access to your account.
- **Unauthorized or malicious interferences:** If one person deliberately interferes with the work or activities of another person on purpose to cause the other harm or irreparable damages. Academic honesty violations are considered a breach of policy and may result in academic penalties (zero points on the assignment/test in question, and/or a failing grade for the class), disciplinary action, and/or referral to the Dean of Student Affairs.

Class Policies

- **Arriving late/leaving early** - Please be considerate of the class in progress, make every effort to arrive on time, and do not leave class early.

Disability Services

If you need academic accommodations and/or disability services support, you must contact the Disability Recourse Center (<https://drc.uga.edu/>). It is your responsibility to contact the DRC to document disability prior to receiving services. You must notify the instructor that you have registered with the DRC and provide the instructor a copy of the DRC letter. Your documentation and any related communication with your instructor remain strictly confidential.

