

## **POLSCI 1101: Introduction to American Government Syllabus**

Summer Freshman College Session 2019 Second Short Session July 8-August 1

Final exam: August 1

1 pm to 3:15 pm M-F in Room 101 D, Baldwin Hall

Dr. Audrey A. Haynes

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**Office Hours:** In person from 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 – and of course, before and after class. 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 with more detail. The timeline for the course generally may be found at the end of this syllabus.

**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 you will watch videos as homework, so you should have a computer that has speaker/headphone access ports. I will also ask you to utilize a laptop in class to take our exams. Please let me know at the outset of class if you do not have one as we will need to check on out on test days.

## **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, by Kernel, Jacobson, Kousser and Vavreck.

Note, there is a 9<sup>th</sup> edition out now, but for cost I am using the 8<sup>th</sup> edition this summer. Moreover, the costs should be even lower than what is listed above since the new version is out. Please let me know if you have any issues obtaining the textbook. The first two chapters are to be found in the Module 1 and 2 content areas in eLC. That should give you ample time to order/purchase your textbook. All other readings are available within eLC.

Paper version is available from the UGA Bookstore. Amazon has it for \$22 via renting. Vital Source has the interactive version for \$43 for a 90 day rental; or \$37 for a 30 day rental.

**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](mailto: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.

This is a “flipped” classroom in the sense that we will work both online and in our face-to-face classroom.

**Grading and Assignments:**

Your grade for this course will be determined by your scores on your practice tests, quizzes, exams which include essays, 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, pop quizzes	20%
Concept, video, game quizzes	
And group activities	15%
Discussion assignments	20%
Exams	25%
<u>Final Exam</u>	<u>20%</u>
Total	100%

**Learning Activities:** In this course your learning activities consist of the following: reading your text, viewing/listening to course lectures, completing in class activities, taking practice quizzes online, discussing relevant topics on the discussion board and in the classroom with your professor and your peers, completing your tests (some online and some in class), 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 ASAP.

**Response and feedback timeline:** Students should expect a response to email inquiries within 24 hours if sent to [polaah@uga.edu](mailto: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. I am here to help. 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://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 short session 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 work out any issues.** Your instructor (me) will try to be flexible given the nature of this course, which may be new to some of you. So it is very important that you keep communication lines open.

**Time line (120 minutes of class daily, with 19 days of classes)**

**We will cover nine substantive modules on American Government and one do on your own module on Georgia Government.**

July 8 Monday	Module 1 - Why Government: lecture and group activity; Discussion assignment (online) due by midnight.
July 9 Tuesday	Module 1 continued ; Practice and concept online quizzes due by midnight.
July 10 Wednesday	Module 2 – The Constitution lecture
July 11 Thursday	Module 2 – The Constitution lecture Practice quizzes due by 11:30 pm online
July 12 Friday	Module 3 – Lecture on Federalism;

**Weekend:** Students should work on making sure they have completed all practice and concept quizzes; begun work on Georgia Government module.

July 15 Monday Module 3 – Lecture on Federalism. Complete discussion assignment on Federalism – Due by midnight tonight.

**July 16 Tuesday** Testing in class begins at 2 pm rather than our 1 pm start. Use the time to review and to check in with Dr. Haynes if you have substantive questions about material we have covered.

Open note; Not open book. Just notes. Bring your laptop to class. If you do not have a laptop, let Dr. Haynes know and we will find you a laptop for in-class testing. Test will be one hour and 50 questions of multiple choice, true versus false, fill in the blank, short answer, and longer answer. I will monitor test taking and be available to answer questions.

July 17 Wednesday Module 4 – Congress

July 18 Thursday Module 4 – Congress (Team competition on how a bill becomes a law) Practice quizzes due by midnight.

July 19 Friday Module 5 – The Presidency

**Weekend:** Catch up with your reading and work on Georgia module.

July 22 Monday Module 5 – The Presidency – Practice quizzes due by midnight.

July 23 Tuesday Module 6 – The Federal Courts

July 24 Wednesday Module 6 – The Federal Courts – Practices quizzes due by midnight.

**July 25 Thursday** Testing in class begins at 2 pm rather than our 1 pm start. Use the time to review and to check in with Dr. Haynes if you have substantive questions about material we have covered.

Open note; Not open book. Just notes. Bring your laptop to class. If you do not have a laptop, let Dr. Haynes know and we will find you a laptop for in-class testing. Test will be one hour and 50 questions of multiple choice, true versus false, fill in the blank, short answer, and longer answer. I will monitor test taking and be available to answer questions.

July 26 Friday Module 7

**Weekend**

Make sure you are caught up with your reading, study guides and Georgia material.

July 29

Module 8

July 30

Module 9

July 31

Reading day; wrap up your Georgia module

**August 1**

Final Exam; covers Modules 7, 8 and 9; as well as a number of questions that draw from Modules 1-6. This exam will require the full two hours, so please come to class as usual, with your laptops.