

# AMERICAN GOVERNMENT

Political Science 1101  
Spring 2019  
MW 1:25-2:15  
Instr. Plaza N106

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## Course Description:

This course is intended to provide students with a broad understanding of American government. Throughout the semester we will examine the origins, development and functions of the executive, judicial and legislative branches of government. In addition to highlighting how these branches operate independently, attention will be given to their interactions with one another. The course will also discuss the role federalism, the media, public opinion, elections and voting play in the American political system.

## Course Goals:

The primary goal of this course is to provide students with a conceptual background and a set of analytical tools that they can use to understand and critically analyze what is written in the newspaper or said in the news today, tomorrow, and in the more distant future. The hope is that these skills will give students a better understanding and appreciation of the American political process that they can use to be informed and knowledgeable citizens.

## Required Books:

The following books are required and are available at the Campus Bookstore:

Samuel Kernell, Gary C. Jacobson, Thad Kousser and Lynn Vavreck. 2017. *The Logic of American Politics*, 8th Edition. CQ Press. ISBN-10: 1506358667

Bullock, Charles S. and Ronald Keith Gaddie. 2013. *Georgia Politics in a State of Change*, Fourth Custom Edition. Pearson. SBN-10: 1256813362.

Students will not only be expected to have done the reading assignments, but should also be aware of relevant news stories. As such, I recommend reading a daily newspaper – such as the New York Times (<http://www.nytimes.com>) and/or the Washington Post (<http://www.washingtonpost.com>) - or at least checking cnn.com. Additional links to political blogs or websites can be found on the instructors' website.

## Course Grading:

Your grade in this class will be assigned according to the following:

1. **Discussion Section (10% of final grade):** Students are required to attend a discussion section held every Thursday or Friday. The instructors for these discussion sections are: Jenica Moore ([jmm12951@uga.edu](mailto:jmm12951@uga.edu)), Simon Williamson ([simon.williamson25@uga.edu](mailto:simon.williamson25@uga.edu)), Rachel Colegrove ([Rachel.colegrove@uga.edu](mailto:Rachel.colegrove@uga.edu)), Samantha Nagy ([sln04279@uga.edu](mailto:sln04279@uga.edu)), Dhanakorn Mulaphong ([dhana@uga.edu](mailto:dhana@uga.edu)) and Mariliz Kastberg-Leonard ([mariliz.kastbergleonard@uga.edu](mailto:mariliz.kastbergleonard@uga.edu)). Due to the small size of the discussion section, class attendance and participation will be stressed. More than two absences will result in a lowering of a student's discussion section grade. A student's participation grade may also include several small quizzes or assignments.
2. **Exams (90% of final grade):** Three midterm examinations and a final exam will be given throughout the course. The dates for the midterm examinations are listed on the syllabus as **February 13, March 25** and **April 24**. These exams will consist of multiple choice and short answer questions. The midterm examinations will be non-cumulative. If a student is unable to take one of the exams on the scheduled date, they should contact their TA or the course instructor beforehand. Missed exams will only be excused for a documented illness (documentation must be provided by a physician) or a death in the family. If you are excused from an exam, your final exam will be weighted accordingly.

The final exam is scheduled for **Friday, May 3**, from 12:00 to 3:00 pm. Like the midterms, it will feature a mix of multiple choice and short answer questions. The final exam will be cumulative, covering all materials from readings and lectures. The students' lowest exam grade will be dropped and the remaining three exams will count for 30% each.

Final course grades will be assigned as follows: 100-93 = A, 90-92 = A-, 87-89 = B+, 83-86 = B, 80-82 = B-, 77-79 = C+, 73-76 = C, 70-72 = C-, 60-69 = D, and 60-0. Extra credit assignments will not be given in this course.

## Disabilities:

Students with disabilities of any kind are strongly encouraged to notify the instructor and the Office for Disability Services at the beginning of the semester, so appropriate accommodations can be made.

## Instructor Availability:

Students seeking to contact the instructor are encouraged to stop by during scheduled office hours. Students who are unable to attend office hours should e-mail ahead of time to ensure instructor availability.

## Classroom Behavior:

Students should behave professionally throughout the course. Due to the large size of the course, disruptive behavior of any kind will not be tolerated. This includes cell phone usage, excessive talking and derogatory or offensive comments made during discussion. Lecture attendance is not mandatory, but students will be held responsible for all material discussed or assigned.

## Cheating and Plagiarism:

Cheating and plagiarism will not be tolerated in this course. Students caught cheating or plagiarizing will have their names forwarded to the University. It is each student's responsibility to know what constitutes plagiarism. Further information regarding academic honesty can be found at <http://www.uga.edu/honesty/>.

## Tentative Course Outline/Readings Schedule:

<u>Date</u>	<u>Topic</u>	<u>Reading Assignment*</u>
Jan 9	Course Overview	--
<i>Jan 10/11</i>	<i>Introduction</i>	--
Jan 14	The Logic of Collective Action	KJKV 1
Jan 16	The Logic of Collective Action	KJKV 1
<i>Jan 17/18</i>	<i>The Federalist Papers</i>	<i>Federalist 10 &amp; 51</i>
<b>Jan 21</b>	<b>MLK Day -- No Class</b>	--
Jan 23	The Constitution	KJKV 2 Articles of Confederation U.S. Constitution
<i>Jan 24/25</i>	<i>The Georgia Constitution</i>	<i>BG 1 &amp; BG 4</i>
Jan 28	The Constitution (cont)	KJKV 2 Articles of Confederation U.S. Constitution
Jan 30	John Adams, Episode 2	--
<i>Jan/Feb 31/1</i>	<i>Georgia Political History</i>	<i>BG 2 &amp; BG 3</i>
Feb 4	John Adams, Episode 2 (cont)	--
Feb 6	Federalism	KJKV 3
<i>Feb 7/8</i>	<i>Review</i>	--
Feb 11	Federalism (cont)	KJKV 3
<b>Feb 13</b>	<b>Midterm Exam #1</b>	--
<i>Feb 14/15</i>	<i>The General Assembly</i>	<i>BG 5</i>
Feb 18	U.S. Congress	KJKV 6
Feb 20	U.S. Congress (cont)	KJKV 6
<i>Feb 21/22</i>	<i>The Executive Branch</i>	<i>BG 6</i>
Feb 25	The Presidency	KJKV 7

Feb 27	The Presidency (cont)	KJKV 7
<i>Feb/Mar 28/1</i>	<i>The Judicial System</i>	<i>BG 7</i>
Mar 4	The Judiciary	KJKV 9
Mar 6	The Judiciary (cont)	KJKV 9
<i>Mar 7/8</i>	<i>Local Government</i>	<i>BG 8</i>
<b>Mar 11</b>	<b>Spring Break - No Class</b>	--
<b>Mar 13</b>	<b>Spring Break - No Class</b>	--
<b>Mar 14/15</b>	<b>Spring Break - No Class</b>	--
Mar 18	The Bureaucracy	KJKV 8
Mar 20	The Bureaucracy (cont)	KJKV 8
<i>Mar 21/22</i>	<i>Review</i>	--
<b>Mar 25</b>	<b>Midterm Exam #2</b>	--
Mar 27	Campaigns and Elections	KJKV 11
<i>Mar 28/29</i>	<i>Georgia Voting</i>	<i>BG 9 &amp; BG 13</i>
Apr 1	Campaigns and Elections (cont)	KJKV 11
Apr 3	Public Opinion	KJKV 10
<i>Apr 4/5</i>	<i>Georgiamanders</i>	<i>BG 10</i>
Apr 8	Public Opinion (cont)	KJKV 10
Apr 10	Political Parties	KJKV 12
<i>Apr 11/12</i>	<i>Political Parties</i>	<i>BG 11</i>
Apr 15	Political Parties (cont)	KJKV 12
Apr 17	The Media	KJKV 14
<i>Apr 18/19</i>	<i>Review</i>	--
Apr 22	The Media (cont)	KJKV 14
<b>Apr 24</b>	<b>Midterm #3</b>	--
<i>Apr 25/26</i>	<i>Final Review</i>	--
Apr 29	Course Wrap/Review	--
<b>May 3**</b>	<b>Final Exam</b>	--

\*Readings from Kernell, Jacobson, Kousser and Vavreck are designated "KJKV." Readings put in *italics* indicate discussion sections. Those readings will be from the Bullock and Gaddie book and are denoted "BG."

\*\* The Final Exam is currently scheduled from 12:00 to 3:00 pm. It is located in Instr. Plaza N106.