

POLS 1105H
Tues & Thurs, 2:20–3:35 p.m.
Baldwin 104
Fall, 2020

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http://spia.uga.edu/faculty_pages/dougherk/

American Government, Honors

This course introduces students to the organization and principles of American Government. Roughly two-thirds of the course covers “facts” concerning the institutions and history of American Government, while the other third introduces “theories” explaining various political phenomena.

My section of this course is organized around themes from the Federalist Debates, political history, and modern understandings of the Constitution. After engaging in our own debates, we will investigate whether the fears of the Anti-Federalists have come to pass. We will also address questions such as why is our government organized the way it is. What the Constitution means on particular issues. Why successful political candidates always appear moderate. The affect of voting rules in Congress on political outcomes. The guarantee of equal representation in our democracy. Applying themes from the Federalist debates should energize other topics and give you an understanding of one of the most important debates in American political history.

COVID-19 Adjustments

Face coverings in public spaces, including classrooms, are mandatory. Wearing a face covering is in addition to and not a substitute for also maintaining six feet social distancing. Anyone not using a face covering when required will be asked to wear one or must leave the area.

Hybrid Classroom

Our course will follow the F2F-online-remote hybrid model. ...What a mouthful... For us, that means our class will be divided into two groups: AD and FZ. Group AD includes all students with a last name starting with A through D, unless you added after noon on Aug 17 (in which case, contact me). Those students will attend class face to face on Tuesdays. Group FZ includes all students with last names starting with F through Z , unless you added after noon on Aug 17 (in which case, contact me). Those students will attend class face to face on Thursdays. For the day your group does meet face-to-face, you will either take the class synchronously, through Zoom, or watch a recorded version of the lecture asynchronously from home. Typically you can choose. The only exceptions are for the Federalist debates and Constitution Day, which you would join synchronously. I'll never make you attend a face-to-face classroom. All recorded lectures will be posted on e-commons (i.e., [eLC](#)).

To keep COVID safe, all assignments will be available and turned in through [eLC](#). In addition, both the midterm and final exam will be administered through [eLC](#). There is no face-to-face class those days. In addition, the Federalist debates, which are loads of fun, will be

conducted entirely online, through Zoom, synchronously, as will Constitution Day. **So please do not make other commitments during class time on September 10 - 22. You have to attend those online live.** After Thanksgiving all classes will move entirely online, which you can take synchronously or asynchronously – your choice. The day to day schedule is listed below.

Dawg Check

Please perform a quick symptom check each weekday on DawgCheck—on the UGA app or website—whether you feel sick or not. It will help health providers monitor the health situation on campus: <https://dawgcheck.uga.edu/>

If you test positive for COVID-19 or learn you have been directly exposed to it, report the test or symptoms in DawgCheck and self-isolate immediately. Then send an email to your instructors, with a cc: to Student Care & Outreach at sco@uga.edu, to coordinate continuing your coursework while self-quarantined. If you are demonstrating symptoms of COVID-19, you should call the University Health Center. It offers testing by appointment for students; appointments may be booked by calling 706-542-1162.

Mental Health and Wellness Resources

If you or someone you know needs assistance, you are encouraged to contact Student Care and Outreach in the Division of Student Affairs at 706-542-7774 or visit <https://sco.uga.edu>. They will help you navigate any difficult circumstances you may be facing by connecting you with the appropriate resources or services.

UGA has several resources for a student seeking [mental health services](#) or [crisis support](#). If you need help managing stress anxiety, relationships, etc., please visit [BeWellUGA](#) for a list of FREE workshops, classes, mentoring, and health coaching led by licensed clinicians and health educators in the University Health Center. Additional resources can be accessed through the UGA App.

Grading

You will be assigned a Federalist/Anti-Federalist presentation, a mid-term exam, an assignment on political parties, a five page paper, and an in class final exam. I expect students to either attend class, participate synchronously through Zoom, or watch a Zoom recording of every class. I assume you are mature enough to understand what happens if you don't. If you want to update your notes, you are more than welcome to watch a recording of a class that you attended.

Although I generally think of 90-100 as an A, 80-90 as a B, etc., your overall grade for the course will be based upon the following scale:

	A	92 or above	A-	90-91.99
B+	B	82-87.99	B-	80-81.99
C+	C	72-77.99	C-	70-71.99
D+	D	62-67.99	D-	60-61.99
F		59.99 or below		

Federalist Debates

Shortly after the course begins you will be divided into groups of three to four students and assigned to one of three debates. With the members of your group you will prepare to debate one side of a Federalist / Anti-Federalist issue. These debates will allow you to understand the philosophical theory behind the United States Constitution and some important issues in democratic theory. You will be graded on a five page summary of your party's position on the issue (due the first day of the debates, Sept 10), a presentation conducted through Zoom, and your group's responses to questions from the audience and the other team. These debates can be very entertaining, but they must be taken seriously as they represent 15% of your final grade. Your groups will also provide great study partners for the exams. **Students who miss their debate, or enter the course too late to be assigned to a debate, will be required to turn in a 10 page paper in lieu of their presentation. The paper will summarize the philosophical tradition of the entire Federalist/Anti-federalist debates and be due in the class immediately following the student's assigned debate (or the next class after the first debate day if they had not been assigned to a debate). Late penalties apply.**

Election Madness

The 2020 Election Madness is just like March Madness, but rather than betting on basketball teams, you will bet on who will win twenty-one federal and gubernatorial elections that have been carefully chosen for qualities that will motivate students to learn about, and weigh the importance of, different variables in American elections. Unlike March Madness, you will not bet any money nor win any points. Instead, your group will turn in a written justification for each of your picks then register your choices on a national website, worth 5% of your grade. Registering your picks allows you to compete with students from around the country. Results will be provided on November 6.

Term Paper

20% of your grade is reserved for a term paper on one of the theoretical issues addressed in class. You will have a list of essay questions to choose from. This essay may require some research, so please get started on your research as soon as the assignments are posted on my web page.

Exams

The final part of your grade will be a mid-term and a final exam. Both exams will contain multiple choice, fill in the blank, possible problem solving, and essay type questions worth 30% each. The idea is to give you multiple types of questions to evaluate your understanding of the material, not your aptitude for a particular type of test question. Since the lectures and the readings sometimes cover different material, please be prepared to answer questions from *assigned* readings that were not covered in class. Questions from readings *will* be on the exams. The final is *not* cumulative.

	<u>Date</u>	<u>Percent of Grade</u>
FEDERALIST DEBATES	Sept 10-22	15%
2020 ELECTION MADNESS	Oct 15	5%
MIDTERM	Oct 27	30%
TERM PAPER	Nov 24	20%
FINAL EXAM	Dec 15	30%

Make-ups

Assignments and term papers require a fair amount of analysis time. Please plan ahead to avoid turning them in late. **Late assignments will be lowered one letter grade for every *working day* they are late and will not be accepted later than two *working days* after the due date**, so I can give them back in a timely fashion. If an assignment is late, it would be a good idea to e-mail it to me <dougherk@uga.edu> as soon as possible to avoid any unnecessary late penalties. Grades are lowered for every *working day* they are late, not every class day they are late.

If you miss the midterm or final exam for a good reason, such as coming down with COVID, and your excuse is ***pre-approved*** by me, you will be allowed to complete a make-up exam. The make-up exam will be as close as possible to the scheduled exam. Make-up exams are more difficult than regular exams and should be avoided.

Student Honesty

All academic work must meet the standards contained in “A Culture of Honesty.” Students are responsible for informing themselves about these standards before performing academic work. The penalties for academic dishonesty are severe and ignorance is not an acceptable defense. Also note that the course syllabus is a general plan for the course and that deviations announced to the class by the instructor may be necessary.

Required Texts

Reading assignments vary in length. When you are assigned a short reading you may want to read ahead so that you don't fall behind in the future. Readings come from three sources: 1) the Jillson text book, 2) the Bullock and Gaddie book on Georgia Politics, and 3) on-line readings (which will be posted on eLC). All are required. The Jillson text outlines the American Government system and is fairly easy to read. Although my lectures will diverge from this text, I will test you on some of the readings from both the Jillson text and the Bullock and Gaddie text that are not discussed in class. On-line readings are usually more difficult and may require a second reading in order to be fully understood.

Please read the entire assignment once (at least superficially) before coming to class. Remember, if you work hard and complete all the readings, this should be a great class. Expect two hours of reading for every hour of class time, except during the exams. The following books can be purchased from the campus book store (and various off campus bookstores).

1. Jilson, Cal. 2019. *American Government: Political Development and Institutional Change, 10th Edition*. New York: Routledge Press (older editions should work as well).

2. Bullock, Charles S and Ronald Keith Gaddie. 2011. *Georgia Politics in a State of Change: Fourth Custom Edition for the University of Georgia*. New York: Pearson. ISBN: 978-1-256-81336-1.

3. On-line readings, posted on eLC.

Schedule of Topics and Readings

Aug 20 1. Introduction

Aug 25 *Jillson, *American Government*, Chapter 1, The Origins of American Political Principals.

2. The Constitution and Foundations of the U.S. Republic

Aug 27 - Sept 1 *Jillson, *American Government*, Chapter 2, The Revolution and the Constitution.

Sept 3 *Jillson, *American Government*, Appendix C, Constitution of the United States.

Sept 8 *Bullock and Gaddie, *Georgia Politics in a State of Change*, Chapter 1, Georgia and the Rule of the Rustic, Chapter 3, Republican Rebirth, Democratic Delaying Actions, and Chapter 4, Constitutions and Institutions.

**Sept 10 FEDERALIST DEBATE 1
(all students online synchronously, readings online)**

**Sept 15 FEDERALIST DEBATE 2
(all students online synchronously, readings online)**

Sept 17 CONSTITUTION DAY
*All students will participate in the Constitution Day lecture through Zoom synchronously. No face-to-face. Students receive 5 extra credit points for participating. Questions are encouraged.

**Sept 22 FEDERALIST DEBATE 3
(all students online synchronously, additional readings online)**

3. Federalism

- Sept 24 *Jillson, *American Government*, Chapter 3, Federalism and American Political Development.
- Sept 29 *Jillson, *American Government*, Chapter 3, Federalism and American Political Development, *continued*.

4. Civil Liberties and Civil Rights

- Oct 1 - 6 *Jillson, *American Government*, Chapters 13, Civil Liberties, and Chapter 14, Civil Rights.

5. The Judiciary

- Oct 8 - 13 *Jillson, *American Government*, Chapter 12, The Federal Courts.

2020 Election Madness assignment due October 15

- Oct 15 **"Griswold v Connecticut," on-line reading, see my web page.
**"Roe v. Wade," on-line reading, see my web page.
- Oct 20 **"Planned Parenthood of Southeastern Pennsylvania v. Casey," on-line reading, see eLC.
**"Gonzales, Attorney General v. Carhart et al.," on-line reading, see eLC.
**"Whole Woman's Health v. Hellerstedt," on-line reading, see eLC.

- Oct 22 Catch-up & Review

- Oct 27 Midterm Exam – online exam that you can start anytime 8 am - 8 pm.
No face to face class.**

6. The Legislature

- Oct 29 - Nov 3 *Jillson, *American Government*, Chapter 9, Congress.
*Bullock and Gaddie, *Georgia Politics in a State of Change*, Chapter 5, The Georgia General Assembly.
- Nov 5 - 10 *Hinich and Munger, "The Spatial Model of Downs and Black," *Analytical Politics*, on-line reading, see my web page (password: dougherty).

