

POLS 1105H
Tues & Thurs, 12:45–2:00 p.m.
Baldwin 104
Fall, 2021

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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 is organized around themes from the Federalist Debates. After engaging in our own debate, 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? Why do successful political candidates always appear moderate? Do voting rules in Congress affect political outcomes, and if so, how? Does our system guarantee that every citizen's interest is equally represented? If not, what does this mean for democracy? Applying themes from the Federalist debates to our course should energize the topics and give you an understanding of one of the most important debates in American political history.

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 attend all classes and assume that you are mature enough to understand what happens when you miss a class. COVID exceptions aside. Ask another student for notes if you miss a class before asking me for help. All assignments can be downloaded and uploaded using [eLC](#).

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), a presentation before the class, and your response to questions from the audience. These debates can be very entertaining, but they also represent 15% of your final grade. Your groups should provide great study partners for the exams and a source of notes if you miss class. **Students who are absent during the presentation of 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 first debate day if they had not been assigned to a debate). Late penalties apply.**

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 three essay questions to choose one from. This essay may require some research, so please get started on your research as soon as the assignments are posted on eLC.

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 9-16	15%
MIDTERM	Oct 21	30%
TERM PAPER	Nov 23	20%
POLITICAL PARTIES ASSIGNMENT	Dec 2	5%
FINAL EXAM	Dec 14	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*.** If an assignment is late, it would be a good idea to upload it on eLC then e-mail me so I know it is posted. Do this 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 first exam for a good reason, pre-approved by me, you will be allowed to complete a make-up exam on Tuesday, October 26 at 4:00 pm, meeting in Baldwin 408. Please allow additional time in case we have to start late. **THERE WILL BE NO OTHER TIME TO MAKE UP THE MIDTERM EXAM AND NO MAKE-UP FOR THE FINAL.** It also should be noted that the make-up exam will be more difficult than the regular exam 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, particularly if we have to adjust to COVID protocol.

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 you can get from my web page). 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. Some of the 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. 2016. *American Government: Political Development and Institutional Change, 9th Edition*. New York: Routledge Press (used books 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

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|--------------------|---|
| Aug 19 | 1. Introduction |
| Aug 24 | *Jillson, <i>American Government</i> , Chapter 1, The Origins of American Political Principals. |
| | 2. The Constitution and Foundations of the U.S. Republic |
| Aug 26 - 31 | *Jillson, <i>American Government</i> , Chapter 2, The Revolution and the Constitution. |
| Sept 2 - Sept 7 | *Jillson, <i>American Government</i> , Appendix C, Constitution of the United States, bring your textbook to class.
*Bullock and Gaddie, <i>Georgia Politics in a State of Change</i> , Chapter 1, Georgia and the Rule of the Rustic, Chapter 3, Republican Rebirth, Democratic Delaying Actions, and Chapter 4, Constitutions and Institutions. |
| Sept 9 - 16 | THE FEDERALIST DEBATES (see on-line handout for readings) |
| Sept 17 | CONSTITUTION DAY (optional)
*5 extra credit points on your federalist debate assignment for attending .
For those who want the extra credit but cannot attend . |
| | 3. Federalism |
| Sept 21 | *Jillson, <i>American Government</i> , Chapter 3, Federalism and American Political Development. |
| Sept 23 | *Jillson, <i>American Government</i> , Chapter 3, Federalism and American Political Development, <i>continued</i> . |

4. Civil Liberties and Civil Rights

Sept 28 - 30 *Jillson, *American Government*, Chapter 13, Civil Liberties, and Chapter 14, Civil Rights.

5. The Judiciary

Oct 5 - 7 *Jillson, *American Government*, Chapter 12, The Federal Courts.

Oct 12 **"Griswold v Connecticut," on-line reading, see eLC.
**"Roe v. Wade," on-line reading, see eLC.

Oct 14 **"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 19 Catch-up & Review

Oct 21 Midterm Exam

6. The Legislature

Oct 26 - 28 *Jillson, *American Government*, Chapter 9, Congress.
*Bullock and Gaddie, *Georgia Politics in a State of Change*, Chapter 5, The Georgia General Assembly.

Nov 2 - 4 *Hinich and Munger, "The Spatial Model of Downs and Black," *Analytical Politics*, on-line reading, see eLC (password: dougherty).

7. The Executive

Nov 9 - 11 *Jillson, *American Government*, Chapter 10, The President.
*Bullock and Gaddie, *Georgia Politics in a State of Change*, Chapter 6, The Executive Branch.

8. Elections

Nov 16 *Jillson, *American Government*, Chapter 8, Voting, Campaigns, and Elections.

Nov 18 *Downs, "An Economic Theory of Democracy," on-line reading, see eLC (password: dougherty).

Nov 23 *2000 U.S. Presidential Election ([click here](#))
 *2008 U.S. Presidential Election ([click here](#))

Term papers due Nov 23 (you can always turn it in earlier)

Nov 25 NO CLASS: THANKSGIVING BREAK

Nov 30 *2016 U.S. Presidential Election ([click here](#))
 *2020 U.S. Presidential Election ([click here](#))

Parties assignment due Dec 2

Dec 2 Catch-up and Review

Dec 14 FINAL EXAM: 12:00-2:00 pm (same location)