

POLSCI 1101E: Introduction to American Government Syllabus

Summer 2025 Thru Session Begins June 5 (Opens June 4)

Dr. Audrey A. Haynes

Prerequisites of the Course: None.

CONTACT INFORMATION AND OFFICE HOURS

706-542-2933 (office)

polaah@uga.edu (email)

Virtual Office Hours: 11 am to 12 pm on Wednesday and by appointment; I will be available to you via our course communications (email/chat). The BEST way to reach me quickly is through my email: polaah@uga.edu. I generally will respond within a few hours but no later than 24 hours. If you do not hear from me, email me again – there may be a problem with email.

If you receive an email from the eLC class list (to all) you cannot reply to it. You must start a new email either to my direct email address or within eLC.

TA emails are available on our eLC home page. Click on Content and find it in the Table of Contents area under the Start Here Module.

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. We will learn about the role of culture, economic systems, and civil rights and liberties, and domestic and foreign policy.

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. Here you will find your assignments and the learning objectives we are pursuing.

TECHNICAL REQUIREMENTS OF THIS ONLINE COURSE

If you can 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. You also need a reliable laptop or desktop computer. I would not suggest taking tests or quizzes on your phone. It is not reliable, particularly for the short answer questions. If that is all you have, then let me and your TA know.

LEARNING OBJECTIVES

At the start of each of our content modules, you will see a list of course learning objectives. They range from general understanding of a process to very specific skills, such as data interpretation. Please make sure to read through these objectives. They will correspond to the learning outcomes/assessments. At the end of the semester look back at them and let me know if you feel that you have not achieved competency in those objectives. We will make sure you do. I have included all of our learning objectives at the end of this syllabus.

Learning Activities: reading, asking questions, listening to answers, watching/listening to lecture or a podcast, as well as engaging with data quizzes, video quizzes, tests, and your professor and TA.

Course outline and schedule: The course is outlined extensively on its eLC course site. The schedule consists of two due dates with great flexibility, including working ahead, if you wish.

If you have any questions at all about the schedule, please contact Dr. Haynes immediately. Each module has a Checklist that has all your tasks listed, with links and directions.

GRADING AND ASSIGNMENTS

Your grade for this course will be determined by your scores on your Vantage activities, quizzes, and your period exams over several modules. There is no final exam. You will have a final discussion exercise.

Each will count toward a percentage of your grade. To see the distribution of weight for each assessment, simply go to the Grades link on the course page and review the list of assessments and their individual and group weights.

Each module has several assignments that are graded for points or completion. All assignments are open book/open note. You may work ahead, but you must meet several progress checkpoints throughout the semester.

<u>L.</u>	Percentage
Vantage engagement activities and quizzes	25%
Module Exams (MC, T/F, short answer...)	35%
Module Exam Written Portion (separate)	25%
Georgia Module Quizzes	10%
Final Discussion Exercise	5%
Total:	100%

Grade scale:

A	93.0000 and above
A-	92.9999 to 90.0000
B+	87.0000 to 89.9999
B	86.9999 to 83.0000
B-	82.9999 to 80.0000
C+	77.0000 to 79.9999
C	76.9999 to 70.0000
D	65.0000 to 69.9999
F	64.9999 and below

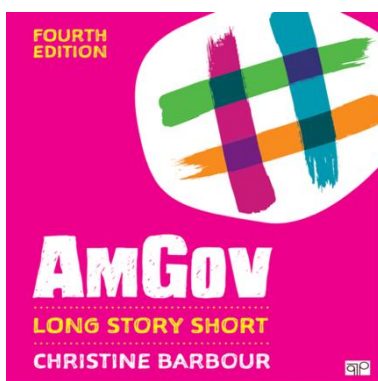
THERE IS NO ROUNDING OR CURVING AT THE END OF THE SEMESTER. But there will be extra credit opportunities.

REQUIRED TEXTBOOK/ACCESS TO VANTAGE

Our text for this course, and there is only one, is Christine Barbour's 4th edition AMGov: Long Story Short. This online/interactive text will be available **within our eLC page at the start of class**. You may access it right away, and you will have a two-week grace period.

Before that point ends, you should access the link to purchase the text. It should be about \$50. If you prefer, you may order an access code through UGA's bookstore, but I would encourage you to go directly to the Sage Vantage system through the link. It will guarantee the seamless use of your book.

You must purchase the book to do the work in the class. The text is associated with the interactive platform we will use (Vantage Sage) and the book is embedded within the platform. That is one of the reasons the costs are low, and the course is highly interactive, content chunked, and more easily digestible.) You may access it easily through eLC.



TECHNICAL HELP

ITS Help Desk: helpdesk@uga.edu or 706.542.3106.

Business hours are 8am - 10pm (Mon-Thurs), 8am-6pm (Fri), and 1pm-7pm (Sat-Sun)

Sage Vantage also has a helpdesk: (833) 591-2849 Toll Free

Monday - Friday:

8:00 a.m. - 11:00 p.m. ET

Saturday:

11:30 a.m. – 8:00 p.m. ET

Sunday:

11:30 a.m. – 11:00 p.m. ET

After Hours Basic Support

begins after 11 p.m. ET

(and 8 p.m. Saturday)

Thru Term

Based on 60 minutes daily, 38 days of class

Orientation	June 3	Tuesday
Advisement / Registration	June 4	Wednesday
Classes Begin	June 5	Thursday
Drop / Add	June 5-11	Thursday-Wednesday
Holiday: Juneteenth-no classes	June 19	Thursday
Midterm	July 2	Wednesday
Withdrawal Deadline	July 2 July 16	Wednesday
Holiday: Independence Day- no classes	July 4	Friday
Classes End	July 30	Wednesday
Final Exams	July 31 - Aug. 1	Thursday - Friday
Grades Due	Aug. 4	Monday, 12 PM
Date of conferral of summer 2025 degrees	Aug. 4	Monday

Short Session I

General Schedule – 38 days of class, June 5-August 1

DUE DATES

You have three due dates for this Thru Session Summer Online course. What this means that all associated work for these modules (Vantage Sage activities and quizzes, assignments and exams) should be finished by this point.

You may work ahead.

Late work is accepted, but there is 5 percent deduction if it is late by one due date; a 10 percent deduction if it is late by two due dates. In other words, stay on pace and do the work. Learn because you want to learn.

June 20 - Modules 1, 2, and 3 should be complete.

July 11 - Modules 4, 5 and 6 should be complete.

July 31 - Modules 7, 8, 9, and 10 should be complete. Grades will be shortly so please make

sure you complete your work.

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://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. No AI tools are allowed in this course unless assigned. Tests are open book, and the content should come from your readings and lecture materials. 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.

Given this is an online 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/or your assigned Teaching Assistant, and work out any issues. Your instructor (me) will try to be flexible given the online nature of this course, which may be new to some of you. It is very important that you keep communication lines open. It is very important that you stay on top of your reading and your progress checkpoint deadlines.

Thank you. We appreciate all our students and are here to provide a supportive yet challenging learning environment. Go Dawgs!

LEARNING OBJECTIVES

Module 1 Why Government?

1. Define politics, government, and economics
2. Compare the varieties of political and economic systems and explain how they help us understand the differences among nations, including the United States
3. Explain why it is so challenging for us to hold objective views about democracy
4. Identify and discuss the ideas that underlie the U.S. political system and that bring us together
5. Identify and discuss the ideas that divide us despite our being bound by a common culture
6. Explain how narratives can perpetuate specific ideas about politics and economics and how living in a mediated world helps to construct those narrative
7. Describe the narratives about citizenship that provide the context in which we navigate politics in the United States

Module 2 The Foundations of the U.S. Government: Separation of Powers and Federalism

1. Contrast the different views of political power held by Great Britain and the American founders and discuss how the idea of the social contract was incorporated into the Declaration of Independence.
2. Explain the principles behind the first constitution that followed independence—the Articles of Confederation—and why that constitution failed.
3. Discuss the arguments, debates, and compromises at the Constitutional Convention and how they translated into a new form of government.
4. Explain what arguments were proposed for and against the adoption of the new constitution and how the ratification process worked.
5. Define and discuss the main principles of the Constitution—separation of powers and checks and balances—and how they support the American system of government.
6. Discuss the nature of federalism and how it works.
7. Explain the historical events and policy debates that have changed the balance of power between nation and states over time.

Primary documents examined: Declaration of Independence, Articles of Confederation, U.S. Constitution, Bill of Rights, selected Federalist and Antifederalist papers.

Module 3 Civil Liberties and Civil Rights

1. Explain the value, cost, and limitations of having a Bill of Rights.
2. Identify the civil liberties that came “first” for the founders and discuss why these liberties were so important to the founders.
3. Describe the origins of due process rights.
4. Explain how the right to privacy was created by the Supreme Court.
5. Describe how the courts decide when laws can treat people differently.
6. Discuss the history of the African American civil rights movement in the United States and identify the major arenas in which it has taken place.
7. Discuss the history of the women’s rights movement in the United States and how it is

similar to and different from the struggle of Black people.

8. Discuss the ways in which inequalities of power persist in America.

Primary documents examined: Letter from a Birmingham Jail, the Emancipation Proclamation

Module 4 The Federal Legislative Branch

1. Outline how the Constitution structures Congress.
2. Describe how Congress organizes itself and identify key roles.
3. Detail the congressional role in checks and balances.
4. Describe how Congress makes laws.
5. Explain the constitutional and political tensions that make it difficult for Congress to act quickly.
6. Describe how congressional elections work.
7. Identify the factors candidates must consider when running for office.

Module 5 The Federal Executive Branch

1. Describe the roles and powers of the American president.
2. Discuss how the expectations about and roles of the president have changed over time.
3. Identify factors that make a president popular and describe how the president works with Congress.
4. Explain why bureaucracies are needed to execute the law.
5. Describe how the White House bureaucracy is organized.
6. Describe how the federal bureaucracy is organized and how and why it has grown.
7. Discuss the politics of the bureaucracy in a checked and balanced system.

Module 6. The Federal Judiciary

1. Describe what it means to live in a lawful society and the kinds of laws that exist in the United States.
2. Explain the source and structure of the U.S. judicial system.
3. Describe what happens if you get involved in the legal system.
4. Summarize what equal justice really means.
5. Describe how the Constitution arranged the court system, and explain the role given to Congress to fill in the details.
6. Discuss the political nature of the highest court in the land.

Module 7. Public Opinion, Campaigns and Elections

1. Define and compare political parties and interest groups.
2. Describe the role parties play in a democracy.
3. Explain how parties are organized and describe the process of internal decision making.
4. Describe how political parties operate today.
5. Describe the basics of interest groups (why they form, what kinds there are, and how they function).
6. Explain the role interest groups play in our political system.
7. Argue whether Madison was right to be concerned about the role of factions in a democracy.

Module 8: Public Opinion, Campaigns and Elections

1. Discuss the quality of public opinion.
2. Describe the ways we measure public opinion.
3. Explain how political opinions are formed and how they pass from generation to generation.
4. Describe why people vote or don't vote and how voting is regulated.
5. Describe the steps needed to hold presidential elections in the United States.

6. Explain how the Electoral College works.

Module 9: The Media

1. Describe where we get our political information.
2. Explain how media ownership and government regulation impact the information we get.
3. Discuss what journalists do.
4. Explain how the media shape and perpetuate narratives.
5. Describe how politicians try to control the narratives themselves.
6. Summarize what citizens can do to identify “real news,” build narratives, and be critical consumers of the media.

Primary documents: SPJ Code of Ethics

Module 10: Georgia Politics

1. Understand why states may have multiple versions of their state constitution.
2. Examine the depth of state constitutions and how much more involved they are than our federal constitution.
3. Identify the political and historical context of Georgia constitution changes.
4. Detail the process by which bills become laws in the Georgia legislature.
5. Understand the rules that govern campaign finance rules in the state of Georgia.
6. Focus on the structure of the executive branch in Georgia.
7. Examine the complexity of the state judicial system.
8. Gain familiarity with elements within the GA Constitution of today including the preamble and the bill of rights as well as know the resources available to examine the Georgia Constitution.
9. Search and explore the Georgia Constitution and the Georgia Code

