

**AMERICAN GOVERNMENT
POLS 1101
Spring 2025**

Instructor: Professor Hood

Office: Baldwin Hall 103D

E-Mail: th@uga.edu

Phone: 706-583-0554

Course Website: [ELC](#)

Office Hours: Immediately before or after class, or M,T,W,Th,F by appointment.

Note: This course is meeting in-person.

There is no synchronous or asynchronous online instruction associated with this course. Translation: If you sign up for this course the expectation is that you will physically attend class.

Classroom: Baldwin 104

Required Reading Materials

Required Texts:

- The Logic of American Politics, 11th ed. (978-1-0718-6125-7) [KJKVR]
- Debating Reform, 4th ed. (978-1-5443-9059-8) [E&D]

(E-Book Versions of texts available at: <https://us.sagepub.com> or <https://www.redshelf.com>)

- *U.S. Constitution* [C] (Appendix 3 in KJKVR)

Course Overview

Students will gain a more complete understanding of the basic organization and functions of the United States and Georgia governments through a series of assigned readings and lectures. Emphasis will be placed on learning basic concepts and ideas concerning how our government actually works (or fails to work). After successfully completing this course you will hopefully be able to comprehend, and meaningfully participate in, the American political process.

Monday and Wednesday meetings will normally be reserved for lectures on general topical areas, while Friday sessions will be used to focus on a more specific question related to the general area being covered that week. Students are expected to read the assigned materials prior to the class meeting and be prepared to engage in a discussion of the topic at hand.

Course Requirements/Expectations

You are expected to take all three of the regularly scheduled exams as well as the final. The grade earned on the final exam, in addition to counting for the assigned 25% of a student's grade, may also be substituted for the lowest grade earned from Exams 1-3. In the event that a student misses one of the exams scheduled during the semester (Exams 1-3), the normal procedure will be to substitute the final exam grade (Exam 4) for the missed exam. Students must take Exam 4. Make-up exams are not given.

While attendance is not required, it should be noted that regular attendance is crucial for success in this class. Lectures will not be posted online. In order to adequately prepare for class, all assigned readings should be examined by the dates indicated on this syllabus. Not all assigned readings may be discussed in class; however, this does not negate your responsibility to familiarize yourself with these materials. Excessive absences will result in being dropped from the class by the instructor.

Grading Procedure

Your course grade will be based on the following distribution:

Exams 4 @ 25% each¹

Grading Scale:

<60: F; 60-69: D; 70-72: C-; 73-76: C; 77-79: C+; 80-82: B-; 83-86: B; 87-89: B+; 90-92: A-; 93-100: A

Course Outline-Revised²

Date	Topic	Required Readings
1/6	Course Introduction	
1/8	Why do we need government?	KJKVJ, Ch. 1
1/10	Obstacles to Collective Action	KJKVJ, Ch. 1
1/13	The U.S. and Georgia Constitutions	KJKVJ, Ch. 2; C, Articles V & VII
1/15	The U.S. and Georgia Constitutions Cont.	KJKVJ, Ch. 2
1/18	Should it be easier to amend the Constitution?	E&D, Ch. 1
1/20	Holiday: No Class	KJKVJ, Ch. 2
1/22	Federalism	KJKVJ, Ch. 3; C, Article VI, Article I, Section 8, 10 th and 14 th Amendments
1/24	Should states set marijuana policy?	E&D, Ch.3
1/27	Federalism Cont.	KJKVJ, Ch. 3
1/29	Exam 1	
1/31	How should the U.S. Senate be structured?	E&D, Ch. 13
2/3	Public Opinion	KJKVJ, Ch. 10
2/5	Public Opinion Cont.	KJKVJ, Ch. 10
2/7	Should the U.S. have a national referendum?	E&D, Ch. 6
2/10	The Role of the Media	KJKVJ, Ch. 14
2/12	The Role of the Media Cont.	KJKVJ, Ch. 14
2/14	Should Congress restore the fairness doctrine?	E&D, Ch. 5
2/17	Political Parties	KJKVJ, Ch. 12
2/19	Political Parties Cont.	KJKVJ, Ch. 12
2/21	Should states require open primaries?	E&D, Ch. 9

¹Makeup exams are not given.

²I reserve the right to make minor modifications to this schedule throughout the semester as the need may arise.

2/24	Exam 2	
2/26	Campaigns and Elections	KJKVJ, Ch. 11; C, 15 th , 19 th , 24 th , and 26 th Amendments
2/28	Should caps on campaign contributions be eliminated?	E&D, Ch. 8
3/3-7	Spring Break	
3/10	Campaigns and Elections Cont.	KJKVJ, Ch. 11
3/12	Interest Groups	KJKVJ, Ch. 13
3/14	Should lobbyists be allowed to give gifts to lawmakers?	Reading (ELC)
3/17	Interest Groups Cont.	KJKVJ, Ch. 13
3/19	Legislatures—U.S./Georgia	KJKVJ, Ch. 6; C, Article I
3/21	Should earmarks be allowed?	E&D, Ch. 10
3/24	Legislatures Cont.	
3/26	Exam 3	
3/28	Should the 22 nd Amendment be repealed?	E&D, Ch. 16
3/31	The Executive—The President/The Georgia Governor	KJKVJ, Ch. 7; C, Article II, 22 nd and 25 th Amendments
4/2	The Executive Continued Midpoint Withdrawal Deadline (4/3)	
4/4	Presidential Elections	Reading (ELC)
4/7	Video Presentation: <i>One Person, One Vote?</i>	
4/9	Video Presentation: <i>One Person, One Vote?</i>	Discussion Following
4/11	Should the Electoral College be abolished?	E&D, Ch. 15
4/14	The Bureaucracy	KJKVJ, Ch. 8
4/16	The Bureaucracy Cont.	KJKVJ, Ch. 8
4/18	Should the president be able to fire anyone in the executive branch?	E&D, Ch. 17
4/21	The Judicial Branch—U.S./Georgia	KJKVJ, Ch. 9; C, Article III
4/23	The Judicial Branch Cont.	KJKVJ, Ch. 9
4/25	Should lifetime terms for Supreme Court justices be abolished?	E&D, Ch. 18
4/28	Last Day of Class; Q&A Session	
4/30	FINAL EXAM (Exam 4); 9:00-11:00 a.m.	