

Course Syllabus

Political Science 1101: American Government (CRN 55708)

Fall 2026

Pre-requisites: None

Co-Requisites: None

Course Meeting Times

Class Meeting Time: Wednesday, Friday (in person from 9:55 AM – 11:15 AM)

Class Meeting Location: Sanford 109

Instructor & TA Information

Instructor: Jeffrey Milliman

Email: Jeffrey.Milliman@uga.edu

Office Hours: Thursdays, 12:00 pm to 2:00 pm in **Baldwin 305e**.

The best way to contact me is through email. Email responses from me can be expected within 24 hours of the time the email was sent on weekdays and within 48 hours on the weekends.

Course Description & Details

This course introduces students to the history, processes, and institutions of American Government. Students will learn how laws are made, enforced, and interpreted by the three branches of the U.S. government, as well as the importance of political parties, interest groups, and civil rights and civil liberties in the American political system. Similar topics will be studied with regard to Georgia's state government, with particular attention to the Georgia state constitution. Throughout the course, students will demonstrate their understanding through a critical examination of the facts and principles of American government, they will learn theories about American government and how to evaluate them, they will practice their critical thinking and problem-solving skills, and they will learn to apply these skills to ethical problems in the community. Students may be evaluated based on examinations, research papers, class discussion, presentations, and/or homework.

COURSE-LEVEL LEARNING OUTCOMES

Upon successful completion of this course you should be able to:

- Understand how the U.S. Constitution and the founding period has shaped the structure of American government.
- Demonstrate knowledge of American political institutions (the executive branch, congress, and the courts) and critically analyze their roles in the policy process.

- Identify the role of external stakeholders (the media, interest groups, and the public) in shaping public policy and how they interact with electoral processes and government institutions.
- Be familiar with policy makers at the congressional, state, and local level, and be equipped to participate in the democratic process, either collectively or individually.

COURSE TOPICS

- The U.S. Constitution and the Founding
- Federalism
- Civil Rights
- Civil Liberties
- The Presidency
- The Bureaucracy/Executive Agencies
- Political Parties
- Congress
- Voting and Elections
- The Courts
- Public Opinion and The Media
- Interest groups and Lobbying
- State and Local Politics
- Domestic and Foreign Policy
- Georgia Constitution and Politics

Required Course materials

TEXTBOOK

Required Textbook: Krutz et al. American Government 3e (First Edition). ISBN: 978-1-711493-96-1.

This textbook is available open source and for free in pdf or browser form at <https://openstax.org/details/books/american-government-3e>. Physical copies are also available for purchase on [Amazon](#).

ADDITIONAL MATERIALS

Additional readings will be provided as PDFs on eLC or as links to articles on the syllabus.

Assessment and Grading

Course Assignments & Requirements	Due Date	Portion of Final Grade
Classroom Attendance and Participation		10%
Short Assignments (5)	See syllabus for dates	25%
Exam 1		20%
Exam 2		20%
Exam 3		25%

Exams: Exams will consist of a mixture of multiple choice and short answer questions. Exams will be closed book and will be administered in person during the designated class period.

Short Assignments: The course will have 5 short assignments, and each short assignment will be worth 5% of the overall grade. Descriptions and resources for each assignment will be made available on eLC.

See eLC for more information about each course requirement.

LATE ASSIGNMENTS, MISSED EXAMS & RE-GRADING REQUESTS

Late Assignments: Missed assignments are awarded a grade of zero. Late assignments will receive a 10% penalty for every calendar day the assignment is late.

Missed Exams: Missed exams will be awarded a zero in the gradebook. Makeup exams will be allowed for legitimate excuses (e.g., religious holidays, medical emergencies, approved UGA athletic events, or illness). Students should notify the instructor as soon as possible if they might miss an exam.

Re-Grading Requests: Students may request that assignments (including short assignments and exams) be re-graded. However, following a regrade request, all assignment grades are final, and regrading requests do not guarantee that a student will be awarded points back on that assignment.

EXTRA CREDIT OPPORTUNITIES

A small number of extra credit opportunities may be provided by the instructor during the course. Students will be notified about these opportunities and their due dates as they arise.

FINAL GRADES

100-94 = A 93-90 = A- 89-87 = B+ 86-84 = B
83-80 = B- 79-77 = C+ 76-74 = C 73-70 = C-
69-60 = D 59-0 = F

Course Statements & Policies

UGA Honor Code

"I will be academically honest in all of my academic work and will not tolerate academic dishonesty of others." A Culture of Honesty, the University's policy and procedures for handling cases of suspected dishonesty, can be found at honesty.uga.edu.

Plagiarism and cheating are serious academic offenses with serious consequences. Plagiarism and cheating will result in an automatic grade of an "F" in the course and may result in expulsion from the University. If you are discovered engaging in either behavior in this course, I will follow the procedures laid out in UGA's Academic Honesty Policy (see above). There you can also find more information about what counts as prohibited conduct.

Accommodation for disabilities

If you plan to request accommodations for a disability, please register with the *Accessibility & Testing*. They can be reached by visiting Clark Howell Hall, calling 706-542-8719 (voice) or 706-542-8778 (TTY), or by visiting <https://accessibility.uga.edu/>.

Attendance & Participation Policy

Class attendance and participation will make up 10% of your final grade. If you regularly attend lectures, sign the attendance sheet, and participate in class discussions and activities when applicable, you will receive a high or perfect score. Every student will have five free days for which non-attendance *will not* count towards your overall attendance grade. After that, non-attendance will count against your overall participation grade.

Consistent late arrivals to class, along with engaging in disruptive or distracting behavior – i.e. talking repeatedly during lecture or the use of a phone or laptop for non-class related activities during class time - will impact your overall attendance and participation grade. Students should sign the attendance sheet only for themselves and should not sign the attendance sheet for other students not in attendance.

Assignments that count towards attendance may include answering questions in class or via Top Hat, and through in class assignments and activities. Every student will have *three* days for which non-attendance *will not* count towards your overall attendance grade. After that, non-attendance will count against your overall participation grade. Students will be provided with more information about using Top Hat to respond to questions and discussions in class. A guide to accessing Top Hat for students is available [here](#).

Use of AI in this Course

UGA's policy is that the use of AI for coursework is not permitted unless explicitly authorized by me (your course instructor) ahead of time. In this class, the use of Generative AI is not permitted. If you have any questions about whether you can use a Generative AI tool on a specific assignment, please consult with me before using it.

UGA Well-being Resources

UGA Well-being Resources promote student success by cultivating a culture that supports a more active, healthy, and engaged student community.

Anyone needing assistance is encouraged to contact Student Care & Outreach (SCO) in the Division of Student Affairs at 706-542-8479 or visit sco.uga.edu. Student Care & Outreach helps students navigate difficult circumstances by connecting them with the most appropriate resources or services. They also administer the Embark@UGA program which supports students experiencing, or who have experienced, homelessness, foster care, or housing insecurity.

UGA provides both clinical and non-clinical options to support student well-being and mental health, any time, any place. Whether on campus, or studying from home or abroad, UGA Well-being Resources are here to help.

- Well-being Resources: well-being.uga.edu
- Student Care and Outreach: sco.uga.edu
- University Health Center: healthcenter.uga.edu
- Counseling and Psychiatric Services: caps.uga.edu or CAPS 24/7 crisis support at 706-542-2273
- Health Promotion/ Fontaine Center: healthpromotion.uga.edu
- Accessibility & Testing: <https://accessibility.uga.edu/>

Additional information, including free digital well-being resources, can be accessed through the UGA app or by visiting <https://well-being.uga.edu>.

Disclaimer

The course syllabus is a general plan for the course; deviations announced to the class by the instructor may be necessary.

Course Schedule & Activities

Date	Topic	Before Class Action Items	After Class Action Items	Notes
Week 1 (8/17 – 8/21)	• Syllabus • Why Government?	Amer Gov 3e. Ch 1. The Declaration of Independence		Friday, 8/21 Drop Add Deadline
Week 2 (8/24 - 8/28)	• The U.S. Constitution and the Founding	American Gov 3e. Ch 2. Articles of Confederation		

		The U.S. Constitution. See American Gov 3e. Appendix B. or link.		
Week 3 (8/31– 9/4)	Federalism	American Gov 3e. Ch 3.		
Week 4 (9/7 – 9/11)	Civil Liberties	American Gov 3e. Ch 4. The Bill of Rights	Friday, 9/11 Short Assignment 1 Due (11:59 pm)	Monday, 9/7 No Class (Labor Day)
Week 5 (9/14 – 9/18)	Civil Rights	American Gov 3e. Ch 5. Letter From a Birmingham Jail		
Week 6 (9/21 – 9/25)	The Presidency	American Gov 3e. Ch 12.		Exam 1 (Wednesday 9/23)
Week 7 (9/28 – 10/2)	The Bureaucracy/Executive Agencies	American Gov 3e. Ch 15.	Friday, 9/28 Short Assignment 2 Due (11:59 pm)	
Week 8 (10/5 – 10/9)	Political Parties	American Gov 3e. Ch 9. Article: “Third parties will affect the 2024 campaigns, but election laws written by Democrats and Republicans will prevent them from winning.” link.		
Week 9 (10/12– 10/16)	Congress	American Gov 3e. Ch 11. Article: “Term Limits for Congress Are Wildly Popular. But Most Experts		

		Say They'd Be a Bad Idea." link .		
Week 10 (10/19 – 10/23)	Voting and Elections	American Gov 3e. Ch 7.	Wednesday, 10/21 Short Assignment 3 Due (11:59 pm)	
Week 11 (10/26 – 10/30)	The Courts	American Gov 3e. Ch 13.		Exam 2 (Wednesday, 10/28)
Week 12 (11/2 – 11/6)	Public Opinion and The Media	American Gov 3e. Ch 6. American Gov 3e. Ch 8.	Friday, 11/6 Short Assignment 4 Due (11:59 pm)	
Week 13 (11/9 – 11/13)	Interest groups and Lobbying	American Gov 3e. Ch 10.		Wednesday, 11/11 Withdrawal Deadline
Week 14 (11/16 – 11/20)	State and Local Politics	American Gov 3e. Ch 14. Article: "The Timing of Local Elections". link .		
Week 15 (11/17 – 11/21)	Domestic and Foreign Policy	American Gov 3e. Ch 16. American Gov 3e. Ch 17.		
Week 16 (11/23 – 11/27)	Georgia Constitution and Politics	The Georgia Constitution and Bill of Rights	Monday 11/23, Short Assignment 5 Due (11:59 pm)	No Class Thanksgiving Break
Week 17 (12/1-12/5)	- Georgia Constitution and Politics (cont.) - Exam 3 Review	The Georgia Constitution and Bill of Rights		Last class Tuesday, December 1st
Week 18 (12/7: 12/9)	Exam 3			Wednesday, 12/9 Exam 3 8:00 am - 11:00 am in Sanford 109