

Political Science 1101: American Government

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This course will explore the political system of the United States and Georgia. We will explore basic issues of Federalism, executive configurations, legislative systems, party systems, electoral systems, and bureaucracy. When you are finished, you will be able to speak knowledgeably about the politics and the political system of this country with peers and others and you will have a basic understanding of government in Georgia and the USA.

This class is designated as partially at a distance. For this class, this means that nearly everything is online, except the midterm and final exam. You will need reliable access to a computer and internet service, and access to Microsoft word.

Course Outcomes:

1. Demonstrate a knowledge of the historical background, foundations, origins, content, and application of the U. S. Constitution and Bill of Rights.
2. Demonstrate a knowledge of the Georgia Constitution.
3. Identify the institutions and processes of the three branches of government.
4. Recognize current political issues and the explain the policy making process.
5. Analyze the politics in terms of political behavior and linking institutions, including ideology, public opinion, elections, political parties, interest groups, and the media.
6. Students will demonstrate that they have developed an understanding of the political and legal processes of the U.S. and Georgia, and an understanding of the terminology of political science and U.S. politics, adapting written communication to specific purposes and audiences.

University Policies:

http://www.westga.edu/assetsDept/vpaa/Common_Language_for_Course_Syllabi.pdf

Grading:

A total of 900 points will be available.

- 400 points will be distributed via exams (a midterm and a final) worth 200 points each.
- 280 points will be distributed via cumulative quiz scores. (14x20)
- 100 points will be distributed through the first essay assignment, due with Module 3
- 120 points will be distributed via online discussion boards.

Plagiarism, fabrication, and cheating:

It is university policy that plagiarism, fabrication, and cheating are not allowed. Cheating is using information obtained in forbidden ways during an examination or assignment, including furnishing that information to another student. *Cheating will result in a zero on the examination for students receiving information and for students who furnish it.*

Fabrication is intentionally falsifying facts to support your conclusions. *Fabrication will result in a failing grade on the assignment.*

Finally, plagiarism is “representing the words or ideas of another as one’s own. Direct quotations must be indicated and ideas of another must be appropriately acknowledged” (UWG Connection and Student Handbook, p. 106). In addition, the purchase and use of ghost-written papers and reports, or incorporating into a report, term theme, research paper, or project, ideas and information obtained from another person without giving credit to the person from whom such information was obtained. Further, inclusion of the published or unpublished writings of another person without duly noting these sources according to normal scholarly procedures shall be considered plagiarism. The above definition of academic misconduct applies equally to improper use of electronic sources of information and opinion” (Faculty Handbook, University of West Georgia, January 2004, page 75).

If you plagiarize even a single sentence from another person, including website authors and the course book, you will fail this course.

Other expectations:

You are expected to check your CourseDen daily. “I didn’t see the email / announcement / assignment” is not a valid excuse.

The DUE DATES in this syllabus are the DUE DATES for the discussions and quizzes. ANY DISCREPANCIES with CourseDen dates are resolved in favor of the syllabus.

You DO NOT have the whole semester to complete your assignments. Your assignments – quizzes and discussions – are due according to the schedule below.

Read the instructions in each module.

Ask course related questions in the discussion board called “Ask Your Professor,” not via email (unless it’s personal!). If it is personal (for example, grade or absence related), please use the class mail tool. Do not email me unless you cannot access the course. I will not respond to emailed questions about the class. ALL CLASS COMMUNICATION HAPPENS INSIDE THE CLASS.

Required text:

Readings are found inside the class. Please refer to Module 1 for information.

Begin Date	Due Date	Module	Assignments	Readings
Module 1 contains the syllabus and the "Ask Your Professor" discussion board. Please read the syllabus as soon as you have access to the class. The syllabus quiz is due JANUARY 17.				
January 8 IN CLASS				
January 15 IN CLASS (QEP review)				
January 8	January 22, 1:00pm	Module 2	Quiz Ch. 1 Quiz Ch. 2	Chapters 1-2
January 22	February 5, 1:00pm	Module 3	Quiz Ch. 3 Quiz Ch. 4 Quiz Ch. 5	Chapters 3-5
February 5	February 19, 1:00pm	Module 4	Quiz Ch. 6 Quiz Ch. 7 Quiz Ch. 8 QEP Paper	Chapters 6-8
February 26	February 26	Midterm IN CLASS	Chapters 1-8	
February 26	March 12, 1:00pm	Module 6	Quiz Ch. 9 Quiz Ch. 10	Chapters 9-10
March 12	April 2, 1:00pm	Module 7	Quiz Ch. 11 Quiz Ch. 12	Chapters 11-12
April 2	April 16, 1:00pm	Module 8	Quiz Ch. 13 Quiz Ch. 14	Chapters 13-14
April 23	April 23	FINAL IN CLASS	Chapters 9-14	

**Make sure you take the extra credit quiz
over the syllabus by January 17**