

Political Science 1101: American Government

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A study of government and politics, including the philosophical and constitutional foundations, governing institutions, political behavior and major public policy issues. (This course satisfies the State legislative requirement concerning the United States Constitution and the Georgia Constitution).

This class is designated online. For this class, this means everything is online. You will need reliable access to a computer and internet service, and access to Microsoft word.

Course Outcomes:

Student completing POLS 1101 will be able to:

1. Demonstrate a knowledge of the U. S. Constitution.
2. Demonstrate a knowledge of the Georgia State Constitution.
3. Identify the institutions and processes of the three branches of U.S. government.
4. Recognize current political issues and explain the policy making process.
5. Analyze politics in terms of political behavior and linking institutions.
6. 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 1000 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
- 100 points will be distributed through the second essay assignment, due with Module 6
- 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. The dates in CourseDen are NOT the DUE DATES. 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.

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 AUGUST 22.				
August 15	September 3,	Module 2	Quiz Ch. 1 Quiz Ch. 2	Chapters 1-2
September 3	September 17, Noon	Module 3	Quiz Ch. 3 Quiz Ch. 4 Quiz Ch. 5 First QEP Paper	Chapters 3-5
September 17	October 1, Noon	Module 4	Quiz Ch. 6 Quiz Ch. 7 Quiz Ch. 8	Chapters 6-8
October 1	October 15	Midterm	Chapters 1-8	
October 15	October 29 Noon	Module 6	Quiz Ch. 9 Quiz Ch. 10 Second QEP Paper	Chapters 9-10
October 29	November 12, Noon	Module 7	Quiz Ch. 11 Quiz Ch. 12	Chapters 11-12
November 12	December 3, Noon	Module 8	Quiz Ch. 13 Quiz Ch. 14	Chapters 13-14
December 3	December 10, Noon	FINAL	Chapters 9-14	

**Make sure you take the extra credit quiz
over the syllabus by August 22**