

# Political Science 1101: American Government

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Pafford 130

Office Hours: Online daily or by appointment

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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 as partially online. 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:

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](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 a single 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. 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.

**I reserve the right to switch dates or move reviews online when necessary.  
Reviews are not mandatory.**

<b>Date</b>	<b>Activity</b>
<b>Module 1 online contains the syllabus and the “Ask Your Professor” discussion board.</b>	
<b>August 15</b>	<b>In class: Syllabus review</b>
<b>August 20</b>	<b>In class: Syllabus review</b> Online: Complete the syllabus quiz
<b>August 22</b>	Module 2 online: Review the chapter 1 lecture and take the chapter 1 quiz online. Read Chapter 1.
<b>August 27</b>	Module 2 online: Review the chapter 2 lecture and take the chapter 2 quiz online. Read Chapter 2 Post your discussion for module 2.
<b>August 29</b>	Module 3 online: Review the chapter 3 lecture and take the chapter 3 quiz online. Read chapter 3
<b>September 5</b>	Module 3 online: Review the chapter 4 lecture and take the chapter 4 quiz online. Read chapter 4.
<b>September 10</b>	Module 3 online: Review the chapter 4 lecture and take the chapter 4 quiz online. Read chapter 4.
<b>September 12</b>	Module 3 online: Review the chapter 5 Read chapter 5. Take the chapter 5 quiz online.
<b>September 17</b>	Module 3 online: Post your discussion for Module 3 Module 3 paper due
<b>September 19</b>	Module 4 online: review chapter 6 lecture. Read chapter 6. take the chapter 6 quiz online.
<b>September 24</b>	Module 4 online: Review the chapter 7 lecture and take the chapter 7 quiz online. Read chapter 7
<b>September 26</b>	Module 4 online: Review the chapter 8 lecture Read chapter 8
<b>October 1</b>	Module 4: Take the chapter 8 quiz online.
<b>October 3</b>	Module 4 online: Post your discussion for Module 4.
<b>October 8</b>	Module 4 online: Midterm exam review sheet
<b>October 10</b>	Review Module 4 online: Midterm exam review sheet
<b>October 15</b>	<b>In class: Midterm Exam: Chapters 1-8</b>
<b>October 17</b>	Module 6 online: Read chapter 9. Review the chapter 9 lecture .
<b>October 22</b>	Module 6 online: Take the chapter 9 quiz online.
<b>October 24</b>	Module 6 online: Review the chapter 10 lecture and take the chapter 10 quiz online. Read chapter 10.

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<b>October 29</b>	Module 6 online: Post your discussion for Module 6.
<b>October 31</b>	Module 7 online: Review the chapter 11 lecture and take the chapter 11 quiz online. Read chapter 11
<b>November 5</b>	Module 7 online: Review the chapter 12 lecture. Read chapter 12
<b>November 7</b>	Module 7 online: Take the chapter 12 quiz online.
<b>November 12</b>	Module 7 online: Post your discussion for Module 7.
<b>November 14</b>	Module 8 online: Review the chapter 13 lecture. Read chapter 13.
<b>November 19</b>	Thanksgiving break – no class
<b>November 21</b>	Thanksgiving break – no class
<b>November 26</b>	Module 8 online: Take the chapter 13 quiz online. Read chapter 13.
<b>November 28</b>	Module 8 online: Review the chapter 14 lecture and take the chapter 14 quiz. Read chapter 14
<b>December 3</b>	Module 8 online: Post your discussion for Module 8
<b>December 5</b>	Online: Final Exam Review
<b>December 10</b>	<b>In class: FINAL EXAM 8am</b>

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**Make sure you take the quizzes and complete the discussions by the date specified in this syllabus. All assignments will close at NOON on the date specified. PLAN AHEAD ACCORDINGLY.**