The University of North Georgia
Department of Political Science and International Affairs
POLS 1101, American Government, 3 credit hours
Fall 2015

Tues/Thurs 11:00-12:15
Gainesville Campus, Strickland Bldg., Room 167
Professor: Felicia S. Turk
Office Hours: Tues. and Thurs. 9:30-11:00, 1:45-3:15 by appointment only
Phone: 678-717-3627 (leave message only)
E-mail: Felicia.Turk@ung.edu

E-mail is the preferred method of communication and all e-mails received will be answered to confirm the communication. If I do not answer that means I did not receive your e-mail. Please e-mail me ONLY from your UNG student account in order to confirm you are the one attempting to communicate and include your name and which class you are attending in the subject line. NOTE: I can only communicate with you, the student, about anything in relation to this class.

Texts and Readings:
Declaration of Independence (found online - http://www.constitution.org/cs_found.htm).
The Constitution (found online http://www.constitution.org/cs_found.htm).
Various handouts found in shared class files and/or passed out in class.

Most class sessions will combine some mix of lecture and discussion/debate. All students should come to class having read the assigned reading for the day. Videos may also be used on occasion.

Course Description: This course is designed to give you an overview of American government, while intensively examining the Constitution and the three governmental divisions. We will look at our political system and how it operates as a national government and its relation to the states. While considering the intentions of the framers, we will discuss how these differ from the processes of today. We will also evaluate popular conceptions/misconceptions about the government and focus on those that are not as well known or understood. We will also look at the future of the American government and the challenges and issues it will face.
Course Objectives: Students will be able to demonstrate an understanding of the political framework of the United States and analyze the historical and philosophical roots of America’s system of government and the Constitution. You will have a clear understanding of the processes and your role within American government and how your participation is important to the American system as a whole while being able to formulate and defend logical arguments in discussing a variety of contemporary political issues. You will be able to examine the effects of cultural differences and economic interests of political actors within the United States as well as between the United States and other global actors and assess the accuracy, completeness and potential bias of sources of information pertaining to politics and government in the U.S. and world.

Course Outcomes: Students will analyze the complexity of human behavior as a function of the commonality and diversity within or between groups. Students will analyze the interaction between culture and history or politics in the United States.

Class Policies:

Attendance: Attendance in this class is mandatory. Role will be taken during each class. Those students with no absences will receive an additional 25 points to your grade. I will also add another 25 points if you can show me a valid voter registration card. On the other hand, five (5) unexcused absences will result in an automatic F for the class. Please be respectful of the classroom environment by arriving on time and remaining until dismissal with all communication devices turned off. Notes are a necessary part of this class and you are welcome to take them on a technological device; however, if you are observed using any device in the classroom that is not related to note taking you will forfeit your right to use it.

University policy and definition of disruptive behavior: “Students who exhibit behaviors that are considered to obstruct or disrupt the class or its learning activities are subject to sanctions under the Board of Regents Policy on Disruptive Behavior. Behaviors which may be considered inappropriate in the classroom includes, but is not limited to, sleeping, coming in late, talking out of turn, inappropriate use of laptops or mobile devices, verbal behavior that is disrespectful of other students or the faculty member, or other behaviors that may be disruptive. Students who exhibit such behavior may be temporarily dismissed from the class by the instructor and will be subject to disciplinary procedures outlined in the Student Handbook.”


Academic Integrity: Plagiarism and cheating are unacceptable in this class and will be dealt with appropriately. Copying someone else’s work and/or using someone else’s ideas are unfair not only to the original author but also create a disservice for yourself. Please do not do either as the consequence will result in a failing grade.

Make-Up Policy: No make-up exams or quizzes will be given in this course unless prior arrangements have been made with the Professor or there is a written medical excuse accompanying the request for make-up. Additionally, the consequence of turning in late papers
or assignments will be at a cost of One (1) letter grade per day late (including weekends) unless prior arrangements have been made with the Professor or a written medical excuse accompanies the request.

For Students with Disabilities: If you need this document in another format, please email Andrew Eade (Andrew.Eade@ung.edu) or call him at 706-864-1628. This university is committed to equal access to its programs, services, and activities, and welcomes otherwise qualified students with disabilities. Students who require accommodations and services must register with Disability Services and submit supporting documentation. Disability Services provides accommodation memos for eligible students to give to their instructors. Students are responsible for making arrangements with instructors, and must give reasonable prior notice of the need for accommodation.

Contact Information for Disability Services: * Gainesville Campus: Carolyn Swindle, Assistant Director, cswindle@gsc.edu, Dunlap-Mathis Building, Room 107, 678-717-3855. http://ung.edu/web-toolbox/web-accessibility/accessible-documents.php

University Information and Policies:

http://ung.edu/academic-affairs/policies-and-guidelines/supplemental-syllabus.php

Grading system: The grades will be based on the following scale. You can achieve a total of 1050 points during this class this semester.

1. Exam 1 (chapters 1-5) 200 points
2. Exam 2 (chapters 6-10) 200 points
3. Exam 3 (chapters 11-15) 200 points
4. Written assignments 400 points

1050-900 A
899-800 B
799-700 C
699-600 D
less than 600 F

Exams: Exams are worth 200 points each and will consist of multiple choice questions. The chapters included in the examination will be the ones taught before that exam and after the last examination. Class attendance, required readings, and class participation will be your best chance to score the maximum number of points.

We will attempt to cover one chapter per week with exams scheduled after completing discussions over Chapters 5, 10, and 15. Please read each chapter prior to class and be prepared to discuss. This schedule is subject to change as the professor deems necessary.
Written assignments: Two papers and five written assignments will be required in this class. Separate and detailed information will be provided later and not meeting specific requirements on the paper length, due date, and layout will result in a grade reduction. A hard copy must be turned in during class for all assignments. An identical electronic copy for Term Paper II is also required. Term papers must be typed, double spaced with one inch margins using a 12-point Times New Roman font. The papers will be evaluated based on the quality of the arguments and analysis, organization, clarity, grammar and style and adequacy and correctness of citation. Be sure to make a clear distinction between your ideas and the ones obtained from different sources as failure to do so constitute plagiarism and web sources are not excluded from this rule.

This course requires the use of APA format for all written work. Please review rules for APA format on the following resource: http://owl.english.purdue.edu/owl/section/2/10/ and must also consist of:
- Title page (paper title, your name, course number and title, date)
- Page numbering
- Citations
- Bibliography

Class Participation: Class discussions will focus on required readings, but we will also probe topics happening at both the local, state and national levels of government. You are expected to actively participate in class discussions, have appropriate classroom conduct, and respect the academic environment.

Withdrawal and Incomplete Policy: The last date to withdraw and receive a "W" can be found in the current University General Bulletin. Other withdrawals are given only when they are consistent with general college guidelines.

Course Calendar:

August 18: Class begins

November 24 & 26: No class, Fall Break

December 3: Last day of class

December 8: Final Exam, 10:20-12:20 *(Note: This cannot be changed, no exceptions)

Class Schedule:

<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th>DATE</th>
<th>CHAPTER</th>
<th>ASSIGNMENT</th>
<th>POINTS</th>
</tr>
</thead>
<tbody>
<tr>
<td>Aug. 18-20</td>
<td>Ch 1. Theories of Democracy and Types of Government</td>
<td>Internet Quiz</td>
<td>20</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Date Range</td>
<td>Chapter(s)</td>
<td>Assignment(s)</td>
<td>Points</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>------------</td>
<td>------------</td>
<td>---------------</td>
<td>--------</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Aug. 25-27</td>
<td>Ch. 2 U.S. Constitution</td>
<td>Worksheet</td>
<td>20</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Sept. 1-3</td>
<td>Ch. 3 Federalism</td>
<td></td>
<td></td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Sept. 8-10</td>
<td>Ch. 4 Political Socialization and the Media</td>
<td>Paper I</td>
<td>150</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Sept. 15-22</td>
<td>Ch. 5 Interest Groups</td>
<td>Exam I (Ch. 1-5)</td>
<td>200</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Sept. 24-29</td>
<td>Ch. 6 Political Parties, Voting, and Elections</td>
<td>Worksheet</td>
<td>20</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Oct. 1-6</td>
<td>Ch. 7 Congress</td>
<td>Worksheet</td>
<td>20</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Oct. 8-13</td>
<td>Ch. 8 The Presidency</td>
<td>Worksheet</td>
<td>20</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Oct. 15-20</td>
<td>Ch. 9 Executive Agencies</td>
<td></td>
<td></td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Oct. 22-29</td>
<td>Ch. 10 The Federal Judiciary</td>
<td>Exam II (Ch. 6-10)</td>
<td>200</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Nov. 3-5</td>
<td>Ch. 11 Civil Liberties and Civil Rights</td>
<td></td>
<td></td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Nov. 10-12</td>
<td>Ch. 12 Public Policy</td>
<td>Paper II</td>
<td>150</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Nov. 17-19</td>
<td>Ch. 13 State and Local Government</td>
<td></td>
<td></td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Dec. 1-3</td>
<td>Ch. 14 U.S. Foreign Policy</td>
<td></td>
<td></td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Dec. 3</td>
<td>Ch. 15 Civic Engagement</td>
<td>Exam III (Ch. 11-15) taken Dec. 8</td>
<td>200</td>
</tr>
</tbody>
</table>