Political Science 1101: American Government and Politics          Fall/2015

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_E-Mail is the official means on communication for GSC, Please use the proper etiquette to correspond with your instructors._

Web Page: https://web.gsc.edu/fs/kstewart/syllabus_page.htm

Class Hours for Political Science 1101:

Mon/Wed/Fri 8:00AM -8:50AM        Strickland Bldg.        Room 168

Office Hours:

_Mon. - Wed.  10:00AM - 10:50AM and 12:15PM - 1:15PM Stickland Bldg. Room 156_

or by appointment if necessary

3 Credit Hours

Course Prerequisites: Completion or exemption from READ099 or concurrent enrollment if necessary

Course Description: This course provides to the first time political science student a broad overview of the American system of government. It looks at the three branches of government within our system: the Executive, the Legislative, and the Judicial, and how they have been effective over the last 200 plus years in keeping our nation working and viable. We will look at The Declaration of Independence and the Constitution to see why they are as effective today as the day they were written and the changes that have occurred, if any, in order to establish why these two documents have stood the test of time. We will also look at how the political system works today, the roll of parties, special interest groups, and the media, at both the state and federal levels. We will look at the effect the judicial system has on legislation and policy. We also look at the rolls of both the President and the
Congress in the above as well. We examine civil rights and civil liberties provided by the Bill of Rights and protected by law and our courts. Finally, we examine how public policy is developed and implemented in our system.

This course fulfills one section of Area E of the core requirements of Gainesville State College.

Course Objectives: By the time students have finished this course, they should be able to:

1. Describe how the American political system works;
2. Describe how Georgia government works under the present constitution;
3. Identify the historical and philosophical roots of America’s system of government and its Constitutional components;
4. Explain the importance of civic responsibility in a participatory republic;
5. Identify the strengths and weaknesses of the American political system;
6. Use computer technology to discover information relating to politics and government.

Class Policies:

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.

Attendance:
Attendance in this class is required due to the nature of the material, and the fact that many of the exam questions come from class notes. I offer an incentive to attend as well...if, by the end of the term an individual have no absences, I will add 2 points to your final grade (one point often can mean the difference between an A and a B). In addition, if you can show me a valid voter registration card I will add another point. If you have seven (7) absences you will be given an automatic F for the class (for each class missed in summer it is equivalent to 3 days during a regular semester). Also, keep in mind if you are not here, you cannot participate ... therefore your participation grade will go down 5% per class missed.

Academic Integrity:
Cheating and the use of plagiarism are unacceptable in this class and will be dealt with appropriately. To copy or use the work of another and call it your own, to use the ideas of another as your own without giving due credit is unfair to the original author and does yourself a disservice. Taking answers from another’s paper or using another student’s work is also cheating. Please do not do either. (Class policy on Plagiarism: Plagiarism is the knowing use of work not your own. This includes directly copying another’s work, taking the ideas of another, etc. This will not be tolerated. Anyone found plagiarizing or cheating on exams will be given an automatic F for the semester and will be required to appear before the schools disciplinary committee.)

Make-Up Policy:
There are no make-up exams or quizzes 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. Students may turn in late papers or assignments 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. There is no room for argument or discussion, no written excuse, no makeup, period.

University Information and Policies:

Supplemental Syllabus

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

Accessibility Statement
If you need this document in another format, please email Kerry R. Stewart or call (678)717-3631

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For People with Disabilities:

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
Dates to remember:

Aug. 17: Classes begin
Aug. 19: Read Locke Paper and the "Purpose of a Liberal Arts Education" in the shared class files
Aug. 24: Quiz 1 and Locke Paper due
Aug. 19-26: Read The Federalist No. 1, 10, 15, 39, and 45
Aug. 31: Quiz 2
Sept. 07: Quiz 3
Oct. 02: Mid-Term Exam
Oct. 16: Quiz 4 Justice System
Oct. 28: Quiz 5
Nov. 13: Quiz 6
Nov. 20: Term Papers due

Grades: Grades are based on the accepted system of the University of North Georgia

A: 90-100
B: 80-89
C: 70-79
D: 60-69
F: 0-59

Required Reading:

1. Declaration of Independence (Google Founding Documents).
2. The Constitution of the United States (Google Founding Documents).
3. Various handouts found in shared class files and/or passed out in class. (Supreme Court Cases - http://www.oyez.org/)
4. The Federalist No. 1, 10, 15, 39, and 45 (Google Founding Documents)
Course Requirements:
1. Mid-Term Exam (20%)
2. Final Exam (20%)
3. 1 Short Paper (10%)
4. Media Analysis Paper (10%)
4. 1 Term Paper (10%)
5. Class participation (5%)
6. 6 quizzes (5% ea - 25%: I will drop the lowest grade)

Mid-Term Exam (25% of grade) Final Exam (25% of grade) Exams will consist of three sections: multiple choice, fill in the blank, and one short essay question. There will also be a possible extra credit essay.

Quizzes (6 @ 5% ea. = 25% of grade - I drop the lowest grade) The quizzes will consist of 10 questions, both multiple-choice and fill-in-the-blank, from the material given by the instructor in class.

Short Paper (1 = 10%) The short paper will be a critical analysis of one of the lectures in class plus a handout on the material. It will be 3-5 pages long. You must follow the paper guidelines found in shared class files or you will lose points. Any late paper will take a mandatory 10 point reduction in grade.

Media Analysis Paper (1 = 10%) This is a 500 - 750 page essay doing an analysis of an article which will be given to you by the instructor dealing with some specific questions about the government and its relationship with media. A handout is available in the shared class files “Term” Paper (1 = 10%) This term Paper is to probe of your ability to think. They will be no less than eight (8) full pages in length to a maximum of Ten (10). If you are short of the requirement deductions will be made at 8 points per page. The topic for this paper is found in shared class files. You must follow the paper guidelines found in shared class files or you will lose points. Any late paper will take a mandatory 10 point reduction in grade.

Class Participation and Attendance (5% of grade) Every so often during the semester, the instructor hopes to have a class discussion. We will also be discuss each of the thought probe topics. The participation grade will be determined heavily from these discussions. We will discuss what is happening at both the local, state and national levels of government using newspaper articles, Internet resources, etc. (i.e. the Bush administration, the state of elections in the U.S., the Federal courts). For each class you miss you lose 5% off your participation grade. If you have 6 or more unexcused absences, you will receive an F for the class. For Summer, if you have 3 or more absences you will receive an automatic F for the course.

Course Outline and Reading Assignments:
We will start with an examination of the political theory behind the Founding Fathers decision to construct the U.S. Constitution as we find it today.
Week 1: John Locke, Jean-Jacque Rousseau and Thomas Hobbes (Social Contract Theory)
Week 2: The Articles of Confederation
Week 3 and 4: The Convention of 1787 and the Constitution
Week 5: Federalism
Week 6 and 7: Branches of government
Week 8: The bureaucracy......Mid-Term Exam
Week 8: Civil Rights, Civil Liberties, 1st and 2nd Amendment
Week 9: 3rd, 4th and 5th Amendments
Week 10: 6th, 8th and 9th Amendments
Week 11: Interest Group Politics
Week 12: Socialization and Party Politics
Week 13: Role of the Media
Week 14: Campaigns and Elections
Week 15: Voter and Voter Participation
Week 16 Public Policy
Week 17: Final Exam

(This syllabus is subject to change by the instructor if deemed necessary)