UNIVERSITY OF NORTH GEORGIA-OCONEE CAMPUS
COLLEGE OF ARTS AND LETTERS
DEPARTMENT OF POLITICAL SCIENCE AND INTERNATIONAL AFFAIRS
POLS 1101: AMERICAN NATIONAL GOVERNMENT (FALL 2015)
(SECTIONS 9291 & 9321)

INSTRUCTOR: Lance W. Bardsley
OFFICE: SRC Room 547
PHONE: 706-310-6223
E-MAIL: Lance.Bardsley@ung.edu
OFFCIE HOURS: 0900-1000 and 1200-1300 M,W,F, 1400-1500 M,W, & 1300-1500 T,R or by Appointment
CLASSROOM: Sections 9291 and 9321 Room 308
CLASS TIME: Section 9291 0800-0850 M,W,F and Section 9321 1730-1845 M,W

I. COURSE MATERIALS:

CONNECT PLUS AMERICAN GOVT W/LEARNSMART CARD 978-0-07-776319-0 (4TH ED) McGraw Hill, Harrison

Supplemental Material: You can access daily political news to include the lead up to the 2016 Presidential race through http://www.realclearpolitics.com/. This site provides access to all the most read national political news on a daily basis.

FILMS:
Liberty, Episode 8: Are We to be a Nation. PBS Home Video. 1994.
The American President, Episode 9: Expanding Power. PBS Home Video. 2000

II. COURSE DESCRIPTION:

POL 1101, American National Government is an introductory 3-credit-hour political science course. In this course, we will examine four major themes in American Government. They are (1) The Foundations and Roots of American Government including the constitution, civil liberties, and civil rights, (2) The Institutions of National Government, (3) Political Behavior (election and campaigns, political parties, interest groups and political socialization and participation), (4) Public Policy (Domestic, Economic, Foreign, and Defense), (5) Georgia Constitution. This course can be used in Area E in the core curriculum. This course fulfills the Georgia and U.S. Constitution and History requirement. This course fulfills the U.S. Perspectives Learning Outcome at the University of North Georgia.

III. COURSE OBJECTIVES:

1. Understand important legal and political concepts evolving from the colonial political tradition and the constitutional convention, which form the historic and contemporary basis of American government.

2. Become familiar with the development, structure, and major functions of the U.S. national government (Legislative, Judicial, Executive…, and bureaucracy).

3. Become familiar with the roles and functions political parties, interest groups, candidate-centered political campaigns, and the role of the individual citizen in the modern political process.
4. Become familiar with the U.S. Constitution, civil liberties and civil rights, and gain an appreciation of how they affect the policy process.

5. Become familiar with the Georgia state government and its Constitution

6. IAW the University of North Georgia mission students should become politically aware of how the different levels of government affect public policy and develop the necessary analytical skills to understand current political debates with an appreciation for their short and long-term impact on public policy.

7. Students will analyze the complexity of human behavior as a function of the commonality and diversity within or between groups.

8. Students will analyze the interaction between culture and history or politics in the United States.

IV. COURSE CALENDAR:

17 Aug-First day of classes
21 Aug- Last Day to Drop No Penalty
7 Sept- Labor Day Holiday no classes
8-11 Sept- Exam #1
21-25 Sept- Exam # 2
12 Oct- Last Day to Drop with W
13 Oct - First Day of WF
26-30 Oct- Exam # 3
20 Nov- Last Day for Voter Registration Extra Credit
24-28 Nov- Thanksgiving Holiday-no classes
1-4 Dec- Exam # 4
4 Dec- Last Day of classes
Fall 2015: Final Exam Week 7-11 Dec, (Section 9291) Final Exam 7 December 1020-1220 Room 308
(Section 9321) Final Exam 7 December 1730-1930 Room 308

TENTATIVE COURSE SCHEDULE AND ASSIGNMENTS:

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<th>DATE</th>
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<th>CHAPTERS</th>
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<td>17-21 August</td>
<td>INTRODUCTION</td>
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<tr>
<td>24-28 August</td>
<td>THE ROAD TO THE CONSTITUTION</td>
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<tr>
<td>31 Aug-4 September</td>
<td>FEDERALISM</td>
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<td>8-11 September</td>
<td>TBD EXAM #1</td>
<td>ALL</td>
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<td>14-21 September</td>
<td>CIVIL LIBERTIES &amp; CIVIL RIGHTS</td>
<td>3, 4-5/ Annotated Constitution</td>
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<td>21-25 September</td>
<td>TBD EXAM #2</td>
<td>ALL</td>
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<td>28 September-5 Oct</td>
<td>CAMPAIGNS &amp; ELECTIONS</td>
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<td>6-9 October</td>
<td>PO, POLITICAL PARTICIPATION &amp; SOCIALIZATION</td>
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<td>12-16 October</td>
<td>POLITICAL PARTIES &amp; INTEREST GROUPS</td>
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<td>19-23 October</td>
<td>MASS MEDIA</td>
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<td>26-30 October</td>
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<td>ALL</td>
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<td>1-13 November</td>
<td>THE CONGRESS</td>
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<td>I. THE AMERICAN SYSTEM: FOUNDATIONS, ROOTS, &amp; THE CONSTITUTION</td>
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<td>II. THE CONSTITUTION, CIVIL LIBERTIES AND CIVIL RIGHTS</td>
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V. COURSE POLICIES:

Attendance Policy: Students are required to be on time to class and exams. Any student late to an exam cannot take the exam and this missed exam is automatically designated as the student’s dropped exam. Any student late to more than one exam will receive a grade of zero (0) for that exam.

Any student having 100% attendance (perfect attendance that does include one (1) excused absence, but no more for whatever reason) at the end of the semester will have the option of waiving the course final exam as long as the student has not missed one of the four in class exams (if the student has missed an exam the final becomes the automatic make-up exam). The final grade will be the average of all previously graded requirements and any additional extra credit awarded during the semester. The option of not taking the final eliminates the student’s option to drop the lowest in class exam. Class roll is recorded each day to validate individual student attendance and no retroactive sign-ins for attendance will be approved. Each student will be required to sign-in each day of class. It is your responsibility to sign-in each day.

(Extract from university policy) University of North Georgia expects students to attend all regularly-scheduled classes for instruction and examination. When a student is compelled for any reason to be absent from class, the student should immediately convey the reason for the absence directly to the instructor. The student is responsible for all material presented in class and for all announcements and assignments. The decision to permit students to make up work that is required in any missed class resides with the instructor. Students who stop attending class may be administratively withdrawn (with or without academic penalty); a grade of W may be assigned when students fail to attend 10% of any class meetings prior to the midpoint of the term; a grade of WF will be assigned when students stop attending after the midpoint.

ATTENDANCE: IAW university policy if any student exceeds three (3) absences before the midpoint they can be withdrawn from the course with a W. Also, any student exceeding five absences after the midpoint will be withdrawn and it will register as a WF since they have exceeded the university’s 10% rule. The decision to withdraw a student after three absences before the midpoint or five absences after the midpoint is at the instructor’s discretion.

Please ensure all cell phones, iPods, iPhones, and other electronic devices are off prior to entering the classroom. Any student who has a device disrupt the class will be asked to leave and not receive attendance credit for that day. In addition, students are not to conduct other activities while in the classroom such as reading the paper, doing other class work, or sleeping.

Academic Dishonesty: Cheating is not tolerated and will be disciplined IAW the University of North Georgia Handbook. At a minimum, any student caught cheating will receive a zero for the assignment. Plagiarism is the act of stealing the ideas or words of another and attempting to pass them off as your own without crediting the source of the ideas or words. Any form of plagiarism will result in a grade of zero for the assignment and further disciplinary procedures as required in the college handbook. See the link below to the student handbook, beginning on page 33, for information and policies regarding plagiarism.


Disruptive Behavior: Students who exhibit behaviors that are considered to obstruct or disrupt this class or its learning activities will be considered under the Board of Regents Policy on Disruptive Behavior. Behaviors which are considered inappropriate in this classroom include sleeping, eating, coming in late, interrupting
others, talking out of turn, and inappropriate behavior during group work, 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 may be subject to disciplinary procedures outlined in the Student Handbook. Anyone perceived by the instructor to conduct themselves in such a manner as to obstruct or disrupt, or attempt to obstruct or disrupt, the class or its learning activities will be given a verbal warning and may be asked to excuse themselves from the class period in which conduct occurred. Further disruptive behavior conduct may be reported to the Vice President for Student Development and may be subject to disciplinary procedures outlined in the University of North Georgia Catalog.

Make-up Assignments: There are no make-up exams. A missed exam counts as the student’s dropped exam. If any student misses, a second exam consideration for a make-up will only occur if the student can document to the instructor’s satisfaction a legitimate emergency existed and the instructor was contacted the day of the exam if the emergency permits. If the student fails to satisfy the above requirements, a grade of zero (0) is awarded for the missed exam. No late assignments are accepted.

Inclement Weather Statement: When it becomes necessary to close the college due to inclement weather, that announcement will be made on the University of North Georgia webpage at http://www.ung.edu and on the following TV and radio stations: WSB-TV, FOX-TV, WIXA-TV; WSB-radio, WDUN-550AM, WLET 106.1FM, 103.7FM, 102.9FM, 1340AM, WGAU, 960AM WIFC, WJJC 1270AM, WCON 99.3FM, & 1450AM.

The instructor reserves the right to change the syllabus at any time during the semester.

VI. COURSE EVALUATION:
The course evaluation measures are divided into three separate sections. The first is an individual’s exam score consisting of a possible 400 points. The second is a Learn Smart homework score consisting of 100 points. The last section is an on-line quiz score worth 100 points. So the combination of all three sections totals 600 course points for the semester.

EXAMS: There are five (5) exams, which includes the comprehensive final exam. The four (4) in-class semester exams are multiple choice, matching and short essay. Each student can drop their lowest exam score if they have taken all five exams before averaging their final grade. However, there are no make-up exams so a missed exam counts as the student’s dropped exam. Any further missed exam receives a grade of zero (0).

LEARNSMART HOMEWORK: There are 14 chapter homework assignments provided on-line through Learn Smart. You are required to complete 12 of those assignments during the semester. Each assignment must be completed within a specified time period earning eight (8) points for each completed chapter. However, all assignments must be completed with a score of 90% or greater in order to receive the points. This makes the completion of twelve assignments worth a total of 100 points. Also, any assignment not completed at 90% or better is awarded zero (0) points. Chapters 1 (People, Politics, and Participation) and 10 (The Media) are not required, but can be completed for an extra credit value of 5 points each at the same standard of 90%.

ON-LINE QUIZZES: There are 13 (13) quizzes (Chapter 1 is a practice quiz and is not awarded any points) to be completed during the semester each worth a maximum value of 10 points. However, the points awarded, up to a possible 100 points, are based on your performance on each quiz, which you may attempt twice during the scheduled period. There are 10 questions for each quiz that must be completed within a 10 minute time frame. The points awarded are based on the test score recorded for each test thus, a score of 80% = 8 points, 90% = 9 points. It is your responsibility to complete the quiz during the assigned dates because there are no make ups. Your top scores on the quizzes will be used to determine your On-Line quiz grade for the course and any points above 100 will be applied as extra credit.

EXTRA CREDIT: Civic Engagement: Students can earn additional extra credit, which can be added to the total possible point score. The five (5) points is earned by bringing in your voter registration card to class or going to the following website http://www.sos.georgia.gov/ to obtain proof of your voter registration and showing a copy of either item to the instructor NLT 20 November 2015.
FINAL GRADE DISTRIBUTION:

EXAM GRADE = 400 POINTS
4x Semester Exams = 400 points (each exam is worth 100 points)
1x Final Exam = 100 points
(Remember you drop the lowest exam score if you have not missed an in class exam and take the final exam)

LEARN SMART HOMEWORK GRADE = 100 POINTS
12x Learn Smart Homework Assignments = 100 points (each is worth 8 points with a score of > 90%)

ON-LINE QUIZZES = 100 POINTS
12x On-line quizzes = 100 points

Total Points Possible = 600 (this includes a dropped exam or exempting the final)

EXTRA CREDIT
1x Voter registration Card = 5 points

GRADE SCALE:
A= (540)
B= (480)
C= (420)
D= (360)
F= (359 and below)

ADDITIONAL INFORMATION:

A. AMERICAN WITH DISABILITIES ACT (ADA): In compliance with University of North Georgia policy and equal access laws, I am available to discuss appropriate classroom accommodations that you may require as a student with a disability. You must register with the Disabilities Resource Center located in the Administration Building, Room 112, for disability verification and determination of reasonable academic accommodations. POC is Erin Williams, Assistant Director, erin.williams@ung.edu, 706-310-6202. Remember, I cannot help you if I do not know the type of assistance you require. I strongly suggest that you discuss this with me during the first week of the semester so appropriate arrangements can be made in a timely manner before any testing or assignments.

If you need this document in another format, please email Jeremy Smith or call 777-777-777 or Andrew Eade (Andrew.eade@ung.edu 706-864-1628)

B. Academic Integrity Policy:
University of North Georgia’s honor policy is below:
“On my honor, I will not lie, cheat, steal, plagiarize, evade the truth, conspire to deceive, or tolerate those who do.”

This link also outlines student code of conduct violations’ procedures and is found on the Dean of Students website:
http://ung.edu/dean-of-students/student-code-of-conduct/index.php

D. ADDITIONAL COLLEGE POLICIES: Students may view other college policies at this web site:
http://ung.edu/academic-affairs/policies-and-guidelines/supplemental-syllabus.php