UNIVERSITY OF NORTH GEORGIA
DEPARTMENT OF POLITICAL SCIENCE & INTERNATIONAL AFFAIRS

COURSE SYLLABUS—POL S 1101: AMERICAN GOVERNMENT
FALL 2015

Instructor: Matilda Foster
E-mail address: matilda.foster@ung.edu
(preferred method of contact)
Office location/ hours: UCHS/ TR 3:15-4:15
Office phone #: TBA

Class location: UCHS
Class time: TR 2:00pm-3:15pm
Prerequisites: None
Co-requisites: None

Required Text (Available on D2L)


Course Description:

An intensive examination of the Constitution and the three governmental divisions. The course includes a study of the national government in its relation to the states. Examples from the government of Georgia are included.

Course Objectives:

Recent events have illustrated the necessity and importance of developing an understanding of American government including its founding, growth and development over the last 200 years. Throughout our history, and as these events have shown, we have lived in a society and under a system of government that has remained stable and even prospered in any situation. In this course, we will find out why this has occurred and what it means for the future. Further, we will:

1. Develop an understanding of democracy;
2. Understand the impact of the Founding and Constitution on the present U.S. government;
3. Explore the nature of federalism;
4. Gain a historical knowledge of civil liberties and civil rights;
5. Develop a knowledge of the organization of the U.S. government and its branches;
6. Explore the impact of elections, political parties, interest groups and media in the U.S. political system;
7. Develop a knowledge of state and local government;
8. Explore the policy making process.
Course Objectives/Learning Outcomes:

Student will be able to:

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

*Students who cannot be respectful of others during class discussions will be asked to step out of the classroom until the discussion is over.

Methods of Instruction:

In-class lectures

• Chapters from the text will be assigned for study to reinforce the lecture material.
  • Reading Assignments on D2L

• Additional media may be used to reinforce major points covered by lecture and discussion.

American Government Assignments for Fall 2015

General instructions:

• Assignments are due at the beginning of class on the date indicated on the schedule.
• Late assignments will only be accepted with an excused absence/ extenuating circumstances.
• No emailed assignments will be accepted.
• Please place your name and the date at the top of each assignment instead of using a cover page.
• Please use a running header and page numbers on all assignments longer that one page.
• All assignments must have APA citations and references. A separate reference page is not required.

1) Current Issues  (First 5 due on or before 10/06/15 & Last 5 due on or before 11/24/15):

Throughout the course of the semester we will be talking about current issues going on both in the United States and around the world. You are required to read current issues throughout the semester. Each Current Issue Assignment is worth up to 10 points each towards your current issues grade.

Each assignment should include the article citation and answer the following questions:

1. What are the 5 “Ws” of the article? (Who, what, when, where, and why)
2. Is this article well written and “why” or “why not”?
3. Why is this article important?
4. What did you learn from the article?
5. Why did you pick this article?
2) Reading Assignments (Due on day indicated on the course schedule):
Many class periods have reading assignments (please see course schedule). Some days have multiple readings assigned. On these days, a short paragraph (5-8 sentences) reflecting on (not summarizing) each assigned reading is due. Each reading assignment is worth up to 7 points towards your reading assignment grade.

3) Debate Assignment (Due 11/24/15):
Do an annotated bibliography for five academic sources. The topics will be given out on the second day of class. Guidelines for how to do an annotated bibliography can be found at: http://owl.english.purdue.edu/owl/resource/614/01/. In your bibliographies you are expected to have the bibliography information in APA style and three paragraphs for each reference. The content of each paragraph should be as follows:

The in class debate is worth 20% of the debate assignment. Those who miss the in class debate may write a 5 page persuasive research paper to make up this 20% of the assignment.

COMMON ASSIGNMENT FOR POLS 1101 (Due 10/22/15)

This assignment is designed to address the following:

Area E: Social Sciences
Students will analyze the complexity of human behavior as a function of the commonality and diversity within or between groups.

Learning Goal I: US Perspectives
Students will analyze the interaction between culture and history or politics in the United States.

Students will submit an analysis paper between 500-750 words. Students will address the following questions:

- Who are the political actors (including organizations) and what are their respective interests?
- How does this article demonstrate the inner workings of government institutions? Is this representative of U. S. political culture? Why or why not?
- Discuss the ways in which the events described in the article impacted the greater community.

ARTICLE FOR ASSIGNMENT
EXAMS/ QUIZZES:

Two examinations (Midterm and Final) and three quizzes will be administered throughout the semester and will be graded on a scale of 0-100. All exams/ quizzes will be based upon lectures, presentations, and reading from the textbook and any other reading assignments given during the course. The Final Exam will be comprehensive. Exams/ quizzes will consist of multiple choice, true/false, short answer, and essay questions.

GRADING:

Midterm 15%, Final 15%, Assignments 40%, Quizzes 30% of the student’s final grade.

Students are expected to put their name on all assignments, quizzes and exams. Failure to put your name on an assignment, quiz or exam will result in a letter grade reduction of the assignments, quiz or exam grade.

COURSE GRADING:

A= 90%- 100%
B= 80%- 89%
C= 70%- 79%
D= 60%- 69%
F= 59% or less points

General Expectations and Policies:

Accommodations for Students with Disabilities:

University of North Georgia 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.

Accessibility Statement:

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

http://ung.edu/web-toolbox/web-accessibility/accessible-documents.php
Contact Information for Disability Services:
Dahlonega Campus: Thomas McCoy, Assistant Director, thomas.mccoy@ung.edu, Stewart Student Success Center, Room 313, 706-867-2782

The policies for access by individuals with disabilities at UNG are designed to ensure full compliance with all pertinent federal and state legislation, specifically to include Section 504 of the Rehabilitation Act of 1973 and the Americans with Disabilities Act (ADA) of 1990. For this particular course, students with special needs should contact the instructor by the end of the second week of classes for possible accommodations.

Absence/Attendance Policy:
Attendance is required to successfully pass the course. You are responsible for all material, assignments, and announcements made during the lecture. There will be material presented in the course from sources outside of the assigned textbook. Ignorance of an announcement made in class or of materials only presented in class is not an acceptable excuse for failure to meet a course requirement. Attendance will be taken at the beginning of each class period via a course sign-in sheet.

Per university policy, once you reach seven documented absences in this course for any reason (~14% of course meetings), I will initiate a class withdrawal. If this occurs prior to the midpoint of the term, a W will be entered. If this occurs after the midpoint of the term, a WF will be entered. Students that are unable to attend class due to university sponsored events must notify me prior to leaving for the event in writing and meet with me during office hours (or at a scheduled appointment) in order to avoid being counted absent for the event. You are given six absences to use prior to being withdrawn from the course. These are intended to be used for sickness, family issues, work, etc. I do not require documentation for these issues. Any student not appearing in class during roll verification will be dropped from the course, per university policy. Roll Verification is typically in the second or third week of the semester.

Make-up Assignments/Exams:
Exams may be made up if the instructor was notified in advance of the absence and there is documented evidence of an illness or crisis. The instructor has the final decision on whether a makeup examination is warranted after reviewing the documentation. There is NO GUARANTEE that a student will be provided a makeup examination even with documentation or advanced notification to the instructor. It is in the student’s best interest to appear in class during all scheduled periods and complete all assignments/exams when they are due. If granted, makeup examinations will be a mixture of objective, short answer, and essay, and will be given during my office hours. THE FINAL EXAM WILL ONLY BE GIVEN AT THE TIME AND DATE SPECIFIED BY THE UNIVERSITY. PLEASE DO NOT ASK TO TAKE THE FINAL EXAM AT ANY OTHER TIME.

Not participating in the course, enrolling late in the course, not understanding the technology used in the course, not having internet access, failing to show up for an exam, not having a babysitter, not having transportation, visiting the infirmary, and forgetting to turn in assignments are not considered crises and will not be used as reasons for the instructor to provide makeup work, assignment extensions or incompletes/withdrawals to a student. It is the student's responsibility to complete all assignments by the dates and times provided by the instructor.
Incompletes/Withdrawals:
Grades of "incomplete" are discouraged and will only be given in cases of emergency or illness and will require documented evidence of such reasons. Course withdrawals with a “W” or “WF” will be determined according to University policy.

Classroom Participation Policy:
Students are expected to participate in the course through class discussions held during the regular class meetings. Individual vs. Collaborative Work Policy: Unless a specific assignment calls for collaboration between students, all work submitted for grades should be the original and individual work of the student submitting the assignment.

Tardiness Policy:
As an adult, you are required to be punctual. Class will begin promptly at the time scheduled. Tardiness is NOT acceptable. If tardiness becomes a problem, the student will begin accruing absences in the course and/or face other consequences determined by the instructor.

Academic Exchange:
Universities welcome diversity, free speech, and the free exchange of ideas. Discussion should be held in an environment characterized by openness, tolerance of differences, and civility. The values of an intellectual community are trust, honesty, free inquiry, open debate, respect for diversity, and respect for others’ convictions. Further, the intellectual community always seeks to foster the virtues and characteristics of intelligence, curiosity, discipline, creativity, integrity, clear expression, and the desire to learn from others. It is these that must guide our work and exchanges in this class. These principles are delineated further in the ACE Statement on Academic Rights and Responsibilities:
If these values and principles are breached, students have the right and responsibility to discuss their concerns with the course instructor and, as needed, the department head. Usually, the concerns are addressed at this level, but sometimes the department head may refer students to another resource. In the event that either the student or the instructor is not satisfied after discussion with each other, he/she may take his/her concerns in writing to the Associate Provost for Academic Administration.

Electronics:
Laptops and tablets can ONLY be used to take notes during class, provided any audio is muted. Cell phones should be turned off or set to Silent and put away, to prevent them from ringing during the class.

Plagiarism and Turnitin.com:
Students agree that by taking this course all required papers may be subject to submission for textual similarity review to Turnitin.com for the detection of plagiarism. All submitted papers will be included as source documents in the Turnitin.com reference database solely for the purpose of detecting plagiarism of such papers. Use of the Turnitin.com service is subject to the Terms and Conditions of Use posted on the Turnitin.com site.
***The instructor will make every effort to follow the syllabus and course calendar as printed. However, reasons beyond the instructor's control may occur and cause some deviation from the printed syllabus. The syllabus may be subject to change without prior notice. Students will be notified immediately of any changes to the schedule and/or syllabus.

***Please remember that I am available for discussion throughout this course. Any issues or concerns that may arise should be brought to my attention promptly. It is your responsibility to make me aware of any issues you are having through email or through a visit during my designated office hours.

SUPPLEMENTAL SYLLABUS:

Additionally UNG policies can be found in the Supplemental Syllabus located at http://ung.edu/academicaffairs/policies-and-guidelines/supplemental-syllabus.php

Please refer to the Supplement Syllabus for information on

- Academic Exchange
- Academic Integrity Policy
- Academic Success Plan Program
- Class Evaluations
- Course Grades and Withdrawal Process
- Disruptive Behavior Policy
- Inclement Weather
- Smoking Policy
- Students with Disabilities
<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th>Day</th>
<th>Date</th>
<th>Topic</th>
<th>Assignment Due</th>
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<tbody>
<tr>
<td>Tuesday</td>
<td>8/18/15</td>
<td>Introduction to American Gov.</td>
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<tr>
<td>Thursday</td>
<td>8/20/15</td>
<td>(Chapters 1 &amp; 2) Early governance/ Shays' Rebellion</td>
<td>Declaration of Independence &amp; Articles of Confederation</td>
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<tr>
<td>Tuesday</td>
<td>8/25/15</td>
<td>Federalism (Chapter 3)</td>
<td>Federalist 47</td>
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<td>Thursday</td>
<td>8/27/15</td>
<td>Federalism</td>
<td>Federalist 51</td>
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<tr>
<td>Tuesday</td>
<td>9/01/15</td>
<td>Congress (Chapter 7)</td>
<td>U.S. constitution Article I. Sections 1-7</td>
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<td>Thursday</td>
<td>9/03/15</td>
<td>Congress</td>
<td>U.S. constitution Article I. Sections 8-10</td>
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<tr>
<td>Tuesday</td>
<td>9/08/15</td>
<td>Quiz /The Judiciary (Chapter 10)</td>
<td>U.S. constitution Article III</td>
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<td>Thursday</td>
<td>9/10/15</td>
<td>The Judiciary</td>
<td>Federalist 78</td>
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<tr>
<td>Tuesday</td>
<td>9/15/15</td>
<td>Civil Liberties (Chapter 11)</td>
<td>Bill of Rights/ 14th Amendment</td>
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<td>Thursday</td>
<td>9/17/15</td>
<td>Civil Liberties</td>
<td>Roe V. Wade</td>
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<td>Tuesday</td>
<td>9/22/15</td>
<td>Civil Rights</td>
<td>Regents of the UOC V. Bakke</td>
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<td>Thursday</td>
<td>9/24/15</td>
<td>Civil Rights</td>
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<tr>
<td>Tuesday</td>
<td>9/29/15</td>
<td>Review</td>
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<tr>
<td>Thursday</td>
<td>10/01/15</td>
<td>Midterm Exam</td>
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<tr>
<td>Tuesday</td>
<td>10/06/15</td>
<td>Freedom Summer</td>
<td>Must have first 5 Current Issues Turned in</td>
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<td>Thursday</td>
<td>10/08/15</td>
<td>Elections (Chapter 6)</td>
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<td>Tuesday</td>
<td>10/13/15</td>
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<td>Thursday</td>
<td>10/15/15</td>
<td>The Presidency (Chapter 8)</td>
<td>Federalist 10 &amp; U.S. constitution Article II.</td>
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<td>Tuesday</td>
<td>10/20/15</td>
<td>The Presidency</td>
<td>The War Powers Resolution &amp; Federalist 77</td>
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<td>Thursday</td>
<td>10/22/15</td>
<td>Union Co. Fall Break</td>
<td>Common Assignment Due</td>
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<td>Tuesday</td>
<td>10/27/15</td>
<td>The Bureaucracy (Chapter 9)</td>
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<td>Thursday</td>
<td>10/29/15</td>
<td>Quiz /The Media (Chapter 4)</td>
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<td>Tuesday</td>
<td>11/03/15</td>
<td>The Media</td>
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<td>Thursday</td>
<td>11/05/15</td>
<td>Public Policy in the U.S. (Chapter 5)</td>
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<td>Tuesday</td>
<td>11/10/15</td>
<td>Public Policy Making (Chapter 12)</td>
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<td>Thursday</td>
<td>11/12/15</td>
<td>Quiz/ Debate prep.</td>
<td>Must have last 5 Current Issues Turned in</td>
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<td>Tuesday</td>
<td>11/17/15</td>
<td>Inherit the Wind</td>
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<td>Thursday</td>
<td>11/19/15</td>
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<td>Tuesday</td>
<td>11/24/15</td>
<td>UNG Fall Break</td>
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<td>Thursday</td>
<td>11/26/15</td>
<td>Thanksgiving Holiday</td>
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<tr>
<td>Tuesday</td>
<td>12/01/15</td>
<td>Debate</td>
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<tr>
<td>Thursday</td>
<td>12/03/15</td>
<td>Review</td>
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**Comprehensive Final Exam:**

Tuesday December 8, 2015: 2:00-4:00