Course Description: POLS 1101 is a prerequisite for all 3000-4000 political science courses. This course covers government and politics in the United States, including the philosophical and constitutional foundations; political institutions such as Congress, the presidency, and the courts; the federal system; quasi-governmental and nongovernmental institutions such as political parties, interest groups, and the news media; and civil rights and liberties. Georgia’s state government will also be introduced.

Course Objectives:
1. To understand the roles and functions of the institutions of the US government
2. To enhance students’ ability to think independently, conceptually, and analytically in regard to political matters
3. To recognize the importance of public opinion, political parties, and elections on American government
4. To become familiar with state governmental systems, constitutional purposes, and functions
5. To value the importance of civic engagement
**Textbook:**


**Evaluation:** Final course grades will be based upon the following:

Exam 1 100 points  
Exam 2 100 points  
Exam 3 100 points  
Exam 4- Final 100 points  
Current Event Journal 100 points  
Media Analysis 100 points  

600 Total

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

Exams: We will have a total of four exams in this course. Each exam is worth 100 points. Exams will consist of questions pertaining to class discussions, assigned readings in the textbook and on D2L, lecture notes, and classroom activities. Dates of exams are noted below on the Course Schedule.

Current Event Journal: Students will use some hybrid class meetings to find five news articles pertinent to issues of American government and politics. Articles may come from online news sources but a variety of new sources must be used. For instance, all five articles may not come from the *New York Times*. The article must be published during the week in which the hybrid is delegated. After finding a news article of interest, students will write a brief summary of the article and explain how it relates to American government. Students will submit the journal entries, which will consist of five pages, doubled spaced, 12 point standard font with one inch margins in class and on TurnItIn.com. Instructions will be forthcoming.


After analyzing the article, students will write between 500-750 words (12 point Times New Roman font, double-spaced, with standard margins) of analysis. Students will address the following questions:

• Who are the political actors and what are their respective interests?
• How does this article demonstrate the inner workings of government institutions? Is this representative of US culture? Why or why not?
• Discuss the ways in which the political actors were impacted by the events described in the article. What is the impact on the greater community?
**Assignments are to be submitted at the beginning of class on March 11th and uploaded to Turnitin.com by before midnight. You must submit your work both ways. Failure to do so will result in a letter-grade deduction.**

Once you have created an account in turnitin.com, look for our course, which is entitled “American Government”. You will need the following log-in information to submit your work.

CLASS ID: 9233332    PASSWORD: president

**Tips for success:** In order to achieve success in this course, I recommend attending class, preparing for class by reading assigned material prior to lecture, taking adequate notes, and engaging in classroom discussion. I do not post power point slides or class notes on D2L, unless there are visuals I’d like to share. It is your responsibility to take good notes and ask questions, if you need clarification.

**Classroom Decorum:**
1. Attendance is compulsory. You are considered responsible for being attentive to lectures and class discussions, for taking notes, and for being aware of the content of all class announcements. Attendance will be taken at the beginning of class. Those arriving after the roll is called or leaving early will be marked absent. Excused absences will be honored with a medical note or university –related activity documentation. Present any documentation to me immediately upon your return to campus.

2. In order to have an excellent learning environment, basic classroom rules should obeyed. These rules are for your own benefit, as it is my responsibility to prevent any distractions that hinder the learning process. Please power off cell phones and refrain from texting or using your mobile device for any reason. Laptops are allowed for note-taking only. Respect others’ opinions and be courteous.

3. Deadlines are firm. Assignments are not to be emailed to me, unless otherwise noted or approval is previously sought. Make-up examinations are not given. In the event of an emergency or excused absence, provide formal documentation (medical or university documentation) and speak with me during office hours or contact me via email to discuss the possibility of an alternate exam. Be sure to report to examinations on time! Once students proceed to leave the room, other students may not be admitted for reasons of test security.

*Changes to the Syllabus:* I reserve the right to change the syllabus as I deem appropriate and necessary, especially with regard to the day-to-day and week-to-week schedule.
<table>
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<tr>
<th>Week 1</th>
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<tr>
<td>January 7- Introduction to the course</td>
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<td>January 9- Democracy, Ch.1</td>
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<th>Week 2</th>
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<tr>
<td>January 12- Constitutional Principles, Ch.2</td>
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<td>January 14- Constitutional Principles, Ch.2</td>
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<tr>
<td>January 16- <strong>Online Course Meeting – Find Current Event #1</strong></td>
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<th>Week 3</th>
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<tr>
<td>January 19- Off, MLK Day</td>
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<tr>
<td>January 21- Federalism, Ch. 3</td>
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<td>January 23- Federalism, Ch. 3</td>
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<th>Week 4</th>
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<tbody>
<tr>
<td>January 26- No Class Meeting- Online Study Guide</td>
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<td>January 28- <strong>Exam 1</strong></td>
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<td>January 30- <strong>Online Course Meeting- Find Current Event #2</strong></td>
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<th>Week 5</th>
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<tr>
<td>February 2- State and Local Government, Ch. 13</td>
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<td>February 4- Civil Rights and Liberties, Ch. 11</td>
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<td>February 6- Civil Rights and Liberties, Ch. 11</td>
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<th>Week 6</th>
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<tr>
<td>February 9- Civil Rights and Liberties, Ch. 11</td>
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<td>February 11- The Courts, Ch. 10</td>
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<tr>
<td>February 13- <strong>Online Course Meeting- Find Current Event #3</strong></td>
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<th>Week 7</th>
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<td>February 16- The Courts, Ch. 10</td>
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<tr>
<td>February 18- <strong>Exam 2</strong></td>
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<tr>
<td>February 20- <strong>Online Course Meeting- Find Current Event #4</strong></td>
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<th>Week 8</th>
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<tr>
<td>February 23- Interest Groups, Media, Political Socialization and Public Opinion, Ch. 4-5</td>
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<tr>
<td>February 25- Interest Groups, Media, Political Socialization and Public Opinion, Ch. 4-5</td>
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<td>February 27- Online Course Meeting- Analyzing Public Opinion</td>
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<th>Week 9</th>
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<tbody>
<tr>
<td>March 2- Interest Groups, Media, Political Socialization and Public Opinion, Ch. 4-5</td>
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<tr>
<td>March 4- Political Parties, Ch. 6</td>
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<td>March 6- Online Course Meeting- Analyzing Interest Groups</td>
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<th>Week 10</th>
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<tr>
<td>March 9- No Class: Work on Media Analysis Assignment</td>
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<tr>
<td>March 11- <strong>Media Analysis Assignment Due</strong></td>
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<tr>
<td>March 13- <strong>Online Course Meeting- Find Current Event #5</strong></td>
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<tr>
<td>Week 11</td>
<td>Spring Break!!!</td>
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| Week 12 | March 23- Bureaucracy, Ch. 13  
March 25- Bureaucracy, Ch. 13  
March 27- Bureaucracy, Ch. 13 |
| Week 13 | March 30- View Film on Presidents  
April 1- **Exam 3**  
April 3- Presidency, Ch. 8 |
| Week 14 | April 6- Presidency, Ch. 8  
April 8- Congress, Ch.7  
April 10- Congress, Ch. 7 |
| Week 15 | April 13- Public Policy, Ch. 12  
April 15- Public Policy, Ch. 12  
April 17- Online Class Meeting – **Current Event Journal Submission** |
| Week 16 | April 21- Public Policy, Ch. 12  
April 23- Foreign Policy, Ch. 14  
April 25- Online Course Meeting- Course Review and Study Guide |

**FINAL EXAM** (Exam 4) will be held on Friday, May 1st at 10:20 - 12:20.
Please visit the link below.

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

Appendix A: Supplemental Syllabus

ACADEMIC SUCCESS PLAN PROGRAM
UNG has implemented an Academic Success Plan Program to identify and provide assistance to at-risk undergraduate students. Refer you to your campus Academic Advising Center for the development of strategies that will enhance your academic success. You will be expected to take advantage of advising and other campus resources to achieve your academic goals.

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.

Contact Information for Disability Services:
§ Gainesville Campus: Carolyn Swindle, Assistant Director, carolyn.swindle@ung.edu, Dunlap-Mathis Building, Room 107, 678-717-3855
§ Dahlonega Campus: Thomas McCoy, Assistant Director, thomas.mccoy@ung.edu, Stewart Student Success Center, Room 313, 706-867-2782
§ Oconee Campus: Erin Williams, Assistant Director, erin.williams@ung.edu, Administration Building, Room 112, 706-310-6202
§ Cumming Instructional Site: Nicola Dovey, Director nicola.dovey@ung.edu or Beth Bellamy, Test Facilitator, beth.bellamy@ung.edu 678-717-3855. (For on-site assistance, contact Rebecca Rose, Head Librarian, rebecca.rose@ung.edu, Library University Center 400, 470239-3119.

ACADEMIC INTEGRITY POLICY
Student Code of Conduct: Please review the Student Code of Conduct located on the Dean of Students website.

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.

Copyright: Both Federal and State laws forbid the unlawful duplication of copyrighted computer software or other reproductions of copyrighted material. In accordance with these policies, University of North Georgia expressly forbids the copying of such materials supplied by or used in the College. Unlawful duplication of copyrighted materials by a user may result in disciplinary
action by the College under the Student Code of Conduct (Non-Academic Infractions--
Prohibitions, Theft), and/or possible criminal action by the owner of the copyright.

DISRUPTIVE BEHAVIOR POLICY
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.

CLASS EVALUATIONS
Class evaluations at UNG are conducted online. Evaluation of the class is considered a
component of the course and students will not be permitted to access their course grade until
the evaluation has been completed. The evaluations will be accessible beginning one week
prior to Final Exam week.

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.

INCLEMENT WEATHER
TV and radio stations will announce if the college is closed. Information on closing will also be
available on our website http://www.ung.edu. Students, faculty and staff who have registered
under Blackboard Connect Emergency Notification System will receive information not only
about college and individual campus closures but also about the status of college and campus
hours, including late openings.

Blackboard Connect Emergency Notification System
Emergency situations - from natural disasters to health scares to the threats of violence -
require that our campus community be fully prepared and informed. Accordingly, University of
North Georgia has implemented the Blackboard Connect service to enhance university
communication and emergency preparedness. The Blackboard Connect system is a
communication service that enables key administrators and Public Safety personnel to quickly
provide all students, faculty, and staff with personalized voice and text messages.
All UNG emails are added into the system automatically. In addition, you may enter a phone number so that emergency announcements can be sent to you via voice and text message. To do this, go to our Banner self-service environment; click on the tab labeled "Personal Information"; then, click on the tab named "Enter Emergency Contacts for Blackboard Connect." Here you can update your information for the Blackboard system. If you have questions, please contact Public Safety at 706-864-1500 or send an e-mail to emeralert@ung.edu.

COURSE GRADES AND WITHDRAWAL PROCESS

Grades: A, B, C, D, F, W, WF, MW

Incomplete grades (I) - This grade indicates that a student was doing satisfactory work but, for non-academic reasons beyond her/his control, was unable to meet the full requirements of the course. For undergraduate programs, if an I is not satisfactorily removed after one semester (excluding summer), the symbol of I will be changed to the grade of F by the appropriate official. For graduate programs, if an I is not satisfactorily removed after two semesters (excluding summer), the symbol of I will be changed to the grade of F by the appropriate official. Under special circumstances, this period of time can be increased with the approval of the department head and the dean.

IP (In Progress) - This grade is appropriate for thesis hours, project courses, Learning Support (LS) and English as a Second Language (ESL) courses. It is not appropriate for traditional credit courses. If an IP grade isn't satisfactorily removed after 3 semesters, the symbol of IP will be changed to the grade of F by the appropriate official. Under special circumstances, this period of time can be increased with the approval of the dean. However, students who receive a grade of IP in a LS course or an ESL will retain this grade due to the nature of the course.

K - This symbol indicates that a student was given credit for the course via a credit by examination program.

MW – Withdrawal for military exigencies

CR – Credit (for Military experience)

NR - This symbol indicates that the grade was not reported by the instructor.

S- This symbol indicates that a student completed the course with satisfactory work.

U- This symbol indicates that a student did not complete the course with satisfactory work.

V - This symbol indicates that a student was given permission to audit the course. Students may not transfer from audit to credit status or vice versa. If an audit student withdraws from a course prior to the end of the term, a grade of W will be assigned as the course grade rather than a grade of V. Any audit student who is dropped by the instructor for excessive absences will be assigned a grade of W.

W or WF – A W grade indicates that a student was permitted to withdraw from the course without academic penalty. Students may withdraw from courses prior to the midterm and receive a grade of W. Withdrawals without penalty will not be permitted after the midpoint of the total grading period except, in cases of hardship as determined by the appropriate official. If a student withdraws before the deadline, the grade of W will be given. The grade of WF is for students who withdraw after the deadline for the term or commit academic integrity violations.