



**American Government
Political Science 1101
Fall 2015**

Instructor: Sara Henderson

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Email is the fastest way to reach me.

Political Science 1101: American Government- Hybrid

Room 120 6:00-7:15 pm Mondays

Prerequisite: None

Semester Hours: 3

Course Description: An introduction to national, state, and local government in the United States that examines the evolution of government from the writing of the U.S. Constitution to the modern day struggles of American politics. Special attention will be given to political development in the last thirty years. This course satisfies legislative requirements for U.S. and Georgia constitutions.

Course Materials: Dautrich and Yalof. *Enduring Democracy*. Clayton State University Custom Edition, Cengage. ISBN 1-3057-5687-8.

If you choose to buy a textbook off campus via a retailer outside of CSU, the ISBN MUST match with the ISBN information listed here.

Methodologies of Instruction: This class is a survey of American Government. Students are required to complete each reading assignment and be prepared for lecture and discussion during each class meeting time. Lectures will comprise over half of the learning experience while discussion and group assignments will make up the remainder of each class meeting. All lectures will be given using PowerPoint but lectures will not be available online, thus making attendance to each class imperative.

The major form of communication between the instructor and the students outside of the classroom will be by CSU email. It is the student's responsibility to check email frequently in order to receive class information and instructor messages. Please visit: <http://thehub.clayton.edu> and click "service" for information on configuring your laptop. It is necessary for you have your computer configured to access CSU email. You will need to take your computer to the HUB, which is located on the ground level of the University Center. Please have your computer configured and set up for CSU email as soon as possible. You can also contact the HUB at 678-466-4357.

Email Etiquette:

Email me directly at SaraHenderson@clayton.edu if you have a question. Do **not** respond to Listserv messages that I send to the whole class and do not sent messages to the class Listserv instead of emailing me directly. Use your CSU email address when contacting me.

Desire2Learn:

You can log into Desire2Learn (D2L) to access grades for tests and papers, the syllabus, an annotated guide to the U.S. Constitution, and some helpful pointers to help you find a political event to attend for your political engagement project.

Disabilities:

For information about Disability Services or to obtain this document in an alternative format, contact the Disabilities Coordinator, Student Center, Room 255 - ADA/504 or contact the Compliance Officer by phone or email: 678-466-5445 or disabilityservices@clayton.edu.

Daily Brief:

Current events will be discussed at the beginning of class. Read a major daily newspaper, or *NEWSWEEK*, *TIME*, or *U.S. NEWS AND WORLD REPORT*. Watch a daily national network news program on ABC, CBS, NBC, PBS or CNN, and/or listen to NATIONAL PUBLIC RADIO (6:00 - 9:00 a.m., and 4:00 - 6:30 p.m.) on WABE FM 90.1. You can subscribe to the *New York Times* online by going to <http://www.nytimes.com> and creating a password for yourself.

Learning Outcomes

Outcomes: *Graduating political science majors should*

- Apply concepts related to the structures and principles of the U.S. Constitution to historical and current politics.
- Explain and criticize U.S. political institutions and processes.
- Demonstrate ability to understand and apply social sciences research methods.
- Research and compose a Senior Thesis in a subfield of political science.
- Successfully complete a political science related internship.

Assessments:

- POLS 1101 geography tests
- POLS 2101 pre and post-assessment surveys
- POLS 4490/POLS 4491 Internship/Practicum Site Supervisor Evaluation
- POLS 3000 and 4000 level course research papers
- POLS 4501 Senior Thesis
- ACAT Area Concentration Achievement Test taken by graduating seniors

Course Outcomes:

- Demonstrate knowledge and understanding of the fundamentals of the U.S. Constitution.
- Demonstrate knowledge and understanding of U.S. political institutions and political processes.
- Demonstrate knowledge and understanding of Federalism.
- Demonstrate knowledge and understanding of the fundamentals of the Georgia Constitution and government.
- Demonstrate knowledge and understanding of the international political system and the global location of countries.

Assessments: There will be several different ways in which I will assess your comprehension of the material presented in this course. The following assessments are listed along with their available points:

- I. **Assessment One: Exams (300 points)** – We will have three (3) exams throughout the semester. The dates of each exam are listed on the course calendar at the bottom of this syllabus. Each exam is worth 100 points and are 100 questions each. The exams are true/false (50) and multiple choice (50). The final will **not** be cumulative. A study guide for the each exam will be emailed out to the class one week prior to the date of the exam. **You will need to read all assigned chapters as 70-75 questions on each exam will be drawn from the text chapters. You are responsible for all of the text chapters assigned below even if we do not cover them in class.** The remaining 25-30 questions will come from the class lectures. You will have the whole class period for examinations one and two, and two hours for the final examination. *The final exam is not cumulative.*
- II. **Georgia Constitution & Government: (50 points)** *This reading assignment is included in the required course textbook. This assessment is included in your final exam.* Sample examination study questions and an answer key are provided at the end of this syllabus. The assessment includes 50 questions covering the Georgia Constitution and government. They will be drawn from the sample questions below. **You will take this test during the time allotted for the final exam in December.**
- III. **Assessment Two**
Geography Tests: (100 possible course points) Students will be given three geography tests worth 35, 30 and 35 points respectively, with a possible total of 100 points altogether. Use the online atlas provided below to study for these tests. The three tests will be spaced out over the semester. The tests will be administered through Desire2Learn on the SWAN Portal. The blank study maps provided below are identical to the maps will be used for the exam. The countries of the world and the U.S. states will be numbered on the exam maps and you will be asked to identify a country or U.S. state through a choice of numbers. *For example: Russia a) 35 b) 30 c) 45 d) 58.*

**These tests will be administered via D2L. They are timed tests and you will be given only one submission. Your browser will be locked and your grade will be available immediately upon completion.*

[Online World Atlas](#) [U Texas Maps](#)

Click on this [link](#) to access printable geography test study maps.

First Geography Test:

The first Geography test covers North, South, Central (Middle) America and two of the larger island nations of the Caribbean Sea - Cuba and the Dominican Republic only. Study maps showing the lower 48 U.S. states and the countries in the Western Hemisphere (No other states, no other nation's states, provinces, national capitals or geological formations are on the test.). There are a total of 70 items - each worth 1/2 point, with the test worth a possible 35 points.

Second Geography Test:

The second geography test covers Europe, the Middle East and Central Asia. There will be 60 nations on this test. Be able to locate the small, but significant nations of the Persian Gulf region. Each answer is worth 1/2 point (No national capitals, states, provinces or geological formations are on the test.). There are 60 items - each worth 1/2 point, with the test worth a possible 30 points.

Third Geography Test:

The third geography test covers Africa, Southeast Asia and Australia. The test is worth 35 possible points, with 70 nations to identify for 1/2 point each (No national capitals, states, provinces or geological formations are on the test.) Be able to locate Singapore and Brunei - both of which are relatively small and yet quite significant to the region's economy. There are a total of 70 items - each worth 1/2 point, with the test worth a possible 35 pts.

IV. Assessment Two: Civic Engagement Paper - (100 points)

Attend one of the following during the semester: a city council meeting, a school board meeting, or any other local or state government meeting. Provide proof that you were there (**a photograph of yourself at the meeting**). **Provide proof as if you were presenting evidence for a case in court: prove to me without a doubt that you were there.** Each student will then write a paper 2-4 pages in length (double-spaced in 12 pt. Times New Roman font) that will be due as directed by the class calendar. The paper will be comprised of a summary of the event followed by a paragraph of closing remarks of what the student has learned from attending the event. Pictures of yourself at the meeting **must be stapled** to your paper.

All events must be located by the students themselves as the professor will not locate civic engagement events. Ideally, you should attend an event that is close to where you live.

All papers submitted in this class should meet these formatting criteria:

- Title page- This page should include all relevant personal information (name, POLS 1101, day/meeting time, and title of work). This is the only

place that should reflect this type of information (hence the name “title page”);

- Page numbers with your last name (ex. Henderson 2) on every page but the first page;
- Double-spaced;
- Times New Roman 12 pt. font;
- Stapled; and
- REMEMBER: The title page does not count as page while page numbering.

V. Assessment Three: Participation (100 points)

Each student is required to participate in both individual online discussion postings as well as participating during in-class discussions. Each student will be allowed one absence during the semester. If the student decides to miss more than one class, he/she will begin to lose participation points for each class missed. Class and online discussion absences are treated the same: For each missed discussion and/or class, the student will lose participation points.

Total Points: 650

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

Administrative Procedures:

- A. Completion of the drop/add process and the withdrawal process is the responsibility of the student.
- B. Maximum number of absences allowed before participation point penalty is one (1) absence. If you miss more than two classes and you do not have proper documentation, you will be withdrawn from the class.
- C. Anyone arriving more than 20 minutes late to class will be counted as absent for that class meeting.
- D. Late work will not be accepted. Missed exams makeup times should be discussed with the instructor.

Important Dates for the 2015 Fall Calendar:

Last day to withdrawal without academic accountability: October 9th

Disruption of the Learning Environment:

Behavior that disrupts the teaching/ learning process during class activities will not be tolerated. While a variety of behaviors can be disruptive in a classroom setting, examples that are more serious include belligerent, abusive, profane, and/or threatening behavior. A student who fails to respond to reasonable faculty direction regarding classroom behavior and/or behavior while participating in classroom activities may be dismissed from class. A student who is dismissed is entitled to due process and will be afforded such rights as soon as possible following dismissal. If found in violation, a student may be administratively withdrawn and may receive a grade of WF.

If you come to class late, take the nearest seat by the door.

Do not talk to each other during class.

Do not leave class to take a phone call.

Do not leave class early. Notify me if you have to go early for an extremely important reason and leave without bothering others.

Turn cell phones to the silent mode and put them and all other electronic devices such as I-pods, blackberries, etc. away. You will be asked to leave class if using these items.

In general, all behavior that disrupts teaching and learning should be avoided.

A more detailed description of examples of disruptive behavior and appeal procedures is available here: <http://a-s.clayton.edu/DisruptiveClassroomBehavior.htm>

[CSU Conduct Code and Judicial Procedures](http://adminservices.clayton.edu/studentaffairs/StudentHandbook/foreword.htm): The University Handbook is available online: <http://adminservices.clayton.edu/studentaffairs/StudentHandbook/foreword.htm>

Course Calendar: The calendar below outlines the days in which we will be covering a particular textbook chapter. Please note the calendar is subject to change at the discretion of the instructor. The authoritative copy of this syllabus can be found on the course D2L page. Further note that the chapters to be covered during each class are listed **under** the date of the class.

August 24:

Chapter 1. Power and Citizenship in American Politics

- What Is Politics?
- Political Systems and the Concept of Citizenship
- Democracy in America
- Who Is a Citizen and Who Is Not?
- What Do American Citizens Believe?
- How to Use the Themes and Features in This Book
- Citizenship and Politics

August 31:

Chapter 2. The Politics of the American Founding

- The Split From England
- The Articles of Confederation
- The Constitutional Convention
- The Constitution
- Ratification
- Citizenship and the Founding

September 4: ONLINE- *See D2L for more information.*

Chapter 3. Federalism

- What Is Federalism?
- American Federalism Over Time
- Federalism Today
- Citizenship and Federalism

September 7: NO CLASS- LABOR DAY HOLIDAY

September 14:

Chapter 4. Fundamental American Liberties

- Rights in a Democracy
- The Bill of Rights and the States
- Freedom of Religion
- Freedom of Expression
- The Right to Bear Arms
- The Rights of Criminal Defendants
- The Right to Privacy
- Citizenship and Civil Liberties

September 21: Exam One

Geography Test One Open Online from 9/21-9/25. See D2L for more information.

September 25: ONLINE- *See D2L for more information.*

Chapter 6. Congress

- Understanding Congress
- Congressional Powers and Responsibilities
- Congressional Elections
- Congressional Organization
- How Congress Works
- Citizenship and Congress

September 28:

Chapter 5. The Struggle for Equal Rights

- The Meaning of Political Inequality
- Rights Denied on the Basis of Race
- Rights Denied on the Basis of Race and Ethnicity
- Rights Denied on the Basis of Gender
- Rights Denied on Other Bases
- Citizenship and Civil Rights Today

October 2: ONLINE- *See D2L for more information.*

Chapter 7. The Presidency

- The Double Expectations Gap
- The Evolution of the American Presidency
- Presidential Politics
- Managing the Presidential Establishment
- The Presidential Personality
- Citizenship and the Presidency

October 5:

Chapter 10. Public Opinion

- The Role of Public Opinion in a Democracy
- Citizen Values
- What Influences Our Opinions About Politics?
- Measuring and Tracking Public Opinion
- Citizenship and Public Opinion

**LAST DAY TO WITHDRAWAL WITHOUT ACADEMIC ACCOUNTABILITY IS
OCTOBER 9TH**

October 9: ONLINE- *See D2L for more information.*

Chapter 9. The American Legal System and the Courts

- Law and the American Legal System
- Constitutional Provisions and the Development of Judicial Review
- Federalism and the American Courts
- The Supreme Court
- Citizenship and the Courts

October 12: Exam Two

October 16: ONLINE- *See D2L for more information.*

Chapter 11. Interest Groups

- The Roles, Formation, and Types of Interest Groups
- Interest Group Politics
- Interest Group Resources
- Citizenship and Political Groups

October 19:

Chapter 13. Political Parties and Voting

- What Are Political Parties?
- The American Party System
- Exercising the Right to Vote in America
- How the Voter Decides
- Presidential Campaigns
- Citizenship and Elections

Geography Test Two Open Online from 10/21-10/25. See D2L for more information.

October 23: ONLINE- *See D2L for more information.*

Chapter 12. The Media

Where Do We Get Our Information?

Who Owns the Media, and How Does That Affect Our News?

Who Are the Journalists?

The Media and Politics

Citizenship and the Media

October 26:

Chapter 15. Domestic Policy

Making Public Policy

Social Policy

Economic Policy

Citizenship and Policy

October 30:

No online assignment this week.

November 2:

Chapter 16. Foreign Policy

Foreign Policy

Citizenship and Policy

November 6: ONLINE- *See D2L for more information.*

Check D2L for assignment.

November 9:

In-Class documentary: *Ghosts of Rwanda*: PBS Frontline

November 13: ONLINE

Check D2L for assignment.

November 16:

****CIVIC ENGAGEMENT PAPERS DUE BEFORE CLASS! HARD COPIES ONLY!****

Chapter 14: Campaigns and Elections

Laws relating to campaign finance.

The Supreme Court: How money is allowed in politics

Incumbency is important

How do campaigns effect elections?

November 23: *CLASS CANCELLED- See D2L for assignment*

November 30:

Georgia Constitution and Government

Read "Georgia's Constitution and Government," a monograph by A. Fleischmann and C. Pierannunzi in the back of your textbook.

Geography Test Three Open Online from 11/30-12/3. See D2L for more information.

December 7:

Final Exam

Georgia Constitution & Government Study Questions

1. State and local governments today employ more people than the national government.

True - False

2. The United States can best be described as a/an _____ system.

a. unitary b. federalist c. confederation

3. Article _____ of the United States Constitution lists the powers of Congress.

a. One b. Two c. Three d. Four

4. Article _____ of the United States Constitution is the federal supremacy clause.

a. One b. Three c. Five d. Six

5. The constitutions, laws and policies of the 50 states cannot contradict the United States Constitution.

True - False

6. The _____ amendment to the United States Constitution often is called the "states' rights" amendment.

a. 1st b. 5th c. 10th d. 12th

7. The longest of the state constitutions in total words is the _____ Constitution.

a. Alabama b. California c. Georgia d. Mississippi

8. Georgia has had _____ constitutions.

a. one b. four c. ten d. thirteen

9. The United States Constitution has a Bill of Rights, but the Georgia Constitution does not.

True - False

10. Both the United States Congress and the Georgia General Assembly are bicameral.

True - False

11. Both the United States Constitution and Georgia Constitution permit judicial review.

True - False

12. The United States Constitution has more articles than the Georgia Constitution.

True - False

13. Georgia voters must approve all amendments to the state constitution.

True - False

14. The Georgia Constitution requires the state to have a balanced budget.

True - False

15. The Governor of Georgia does not possess the power of the line-item veto.

True - False

16. Georgia elects almost all its judges on a nonpartisan ballot.

True - False

17. All legislators in Georgia (both House and Senate) serve two-year terms.

True - False

18. Georgia has a cabinet system like the executive branch of the federal government.

True - False

19. The Georgia Constitution limits the number of counties at _____.

a. 89 b. 100 c. 123 d. 159 e. no set number

20. Georgia's first constitution became effective in _____.

a. 1723 b. 1777 c. 1789 d. 1801

21. The first Georgia constitution disestablished the Anglican Church.

True - False

22. The first Georgia constitution established a state supreme court.

True - False

23. Georgia was the first state to ratify the United States Constitution.

True - False

24. In the second Georgia constitution slaves were counted for representation purposes as _____ of a person.

a. not counted at all b. 1/2 c. 3/5 d. one whole

25. Georgia's constitutions made no provision for public education until the 20th century.

True - False

26. At one point the Georgia legislature elected the governor.

True - False

27. The main author of the Confederate Constitution was also the author of the Georgia constitution under the confederacy.

True - False

28. After the Civil War northern troops remained in Georgia until _____.

a. 1865 b. 1868 c. 1876 d. 1899

29. The county-unit system in Georgia tended to give disproportionate strength to urban areas such as Atlanta.

True - False

30. In 1963 the United States Supreme Court declared the Georgia county-unit system unconstitutional.

True - False

31. The current Georgia constitution was implemented in _____.

a. 1945 b. 1961 c. 1983 d. 1994

32. The Georgia Constitution can be amended in a two-step process. The first step is the proposal of an amendment by 2/3's of both houses of the General Assembly.

True - False

33. The second step is ratification (approval) by 2/3's of the electorate voting on the proposed amendment.

True - False

34. The Governor of Georgia can veto a constitutional amendment.

True - False

35. In Georgia voters can get an issue on the ballot through the initiative process.

True - False

36. The majority of proposed amendments to the Georgia Constitution are approved by the General Assembly.

True - False

37. The presiding officer of the Georgia House of Representatives is called the _____.

a. Chairperson b. Speaker c. Majority Leader

38. The Leader of the Georgia Senate is _____.

a. chosen by the Senators in a vote b. the Leader of the majority c. the Lt. Governor of the state d. appointed by the Governor

39. The Georgia General Assembly meets every other year.

True - False

40. The Georgia General Assembly is limited to a _____ day session.

a. 20 b. 30 c. 40 d. 50

41. There are no age or residency requirements for election to the Georgia General Assembly other than being a registered voter.

True - False

42. The Governor may call the Georgia General Assembly into special session.

True - False

43. If the Georgia legislature wished to recognize the outstanding accomplishments of an individual or an organization, the General Assembly would pass a _____ describing their achievements.

a. resolution b. statute c. law d. general motion

44. Only members of the General Assembly may introduce legislation.

True - False

45. The Georgia Constitution requires that legislation dealing with public revenues be first introduced in the Senate, and then later in the House.

True - False

46. Bills in the Georgia General Assembly are constitutionally restricted to one purpose.

True - False

47. The legislature may approve tax legislation by a simple majority vote of both houses of the legislature.

True - False

48. A 2/3's vote of both houses of the General Assembly is required to override the Governor's veto of legislation.

True - False

49. The Georgia Constitution requires the Governor to prepare the state's budget and submit it to the legislature.

True - False

50. Georgia voters elect more officials who serve in the Georgia executive branch than is the case in the executive branch at the federal level.

True - False

51. The Governor of Georgia can only serve two consecutive terms.

True - False

52. Other statewide elected officials (e.g., Agriculture Commissioner, Insurance Commissioner) are limited to two consecutive terms.

True - False

53. As with the federal government, Georgia's fiscal year begins on October 1st each year.

True - False

54. If a bill is passed by the General Assembly and the Governor takes no action (i.e., neither signs nor vetoes it), the bill automatically dies.

True - False

55. The Georgia Governor may exercise power over college-level education in the state by serving on the Board of Regents.

True - False

56. In Georgia the _____ regulates telephone services and utilities such as natural gas and electricity.

a. General Assembly b. Public Service Commission

c. Department of Transportation d. Attorney General

57. There are no constitutional qualifications to be a judge in Georgia.

True - False

58. Members of the Georgia Supreme Court, like the United States Supreme Court, serve life terms.

True - False

59. Non-felony traffic violation cases (e.g., a speeding ticket) are tried in Superior Court.

True - False

60. The Georgia Supreme Court is required by the state constitution to grant the request of a Georgia resident for an appeal of their conviction in a Superior Court felony case.

True - False

Answer Key

1. T
2. B
3. A
4. D
5. T
6. C
7. A
8. C
9. F
10. T
11. T
12. F
13. T
14. T
15. F
16. T
17. T
18. F
19. D
20. B
21. T
22. F
23. F
24. C
25. F
26. T
27. T
28. C
29. F
30. T
31. C
32. T
33. F
34. F
35. F
36. T
37. B
38. C
39. F
40. C
41. F
42. T
43. A
44. T
45. F

- 46. T
- 47. F
- 48. T
- 49. T
- 50. T
- 51. T
- 52. F
- 53. F
- 54. F
- 55. F
- 56. B
- 57. F
- 58. F
- 59. F
- 60. F