



POLS 1101 - Introductory to American Government - iSPOC

Course Syllabus – Fall 2017

Individuals with disabilities who need to request accommodations should contact the Disability Services Coordinator, Edgewater Hall 255, 678-466-5445, disabilityservices@mail.clayton.edu.

Course Description:

Number and Title:

POLS 1101 (CRN 80267)
Introductory American Government – iSPOC
Interactive Self-Paced Online Course

Credit Hours:

3.0 semester credit hours (3-0-3)

Catalog Description:

An introductory level survey of the American political system in an international context, emphasizing across cultural approach to the study of the structure and processes of policy decision-making. The course incorporates comparison of the American political system and other types of political systems. The course also includes the study of world geography, emphasizing a knowledge of the global configuration of nation states.

Course Prerequisites and Co-requisites:

- None
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Instructor Information:**Instructor:**

Dr. Joshua Meddaugh
phone: (678) 466-4607
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Office:

Dr. Joshua Meddaugh - Clayton Hall, Room T-105A

Office hours:

Dr. Joshua Meddaugh - Wednesday, 10:00 a.m. - 3:00 p.m.
Other times by appointment

Class Meetings:**Classroom:**

100% online

Textbook Information:**Text:**

Bardes, Schmidt, Shelly – *American Government and Politics Today* Clayton State University Edition – 19e.

Students are encouraged to use PriceLoch.com to comparison shop for textbooks.

Text Coverage:

Chapters 1–6 & 11, 12, & 14

GA Constitution

Course Learning Outcomes:

After completing this course, the learner will be able to perform these tasks:

- to recall the essential elements of the US political system, including its Constitutional system, political processes, and governmental institutions.
- to explain how political power operates in the United States.
- to demonstrate, through writing, important issues in United States politics coherently and knowledgeably.
- to differentiate between perspectives and ideologies on United States politics among the public, political parties, and scholars.
- To identify the essential elements of the Georgia Constitution.

Evaluation:

Syllabus Quiz – August 24 th by Noon*	No Credit
Online examinations: 4 - 75 minute exams @ 100 points**	400
Unit Papers: 3 papers @ 25 points***	75
Online Unit Discussion Boards*****	25
Civic Engagement Project*****	20
TOTAL Course Points	520
<i>Extra Credit*****</i>	<i>Up to 10 points</i>

*Syllabus Quiz is used for No-Show reporting. If not completed, you will be reported as a No-Show and dropped from the course.

**Exams 1-3 are on the material in the textbook, lectures, and discussions: 50 questions @ 2 points each. The GA Constitution Exam is Exam 4.

***Each paper is 3 pages, double-spaced, 12 point, Times New Roman font, and is a summary of what you learned in the textbook chapters and lecture for the unit. See D2L assignment for more details.

****In order to encourage interaction amongst learners there will be discussion forums on 5 chapters for you to participate.

*****Attend one of the following during the semester: a city council meeting, a school board meeting, a political event, a meeting of any political party or interest group, a court proceeding (as an observer, not a participant unless there in an official capacity), or other politically based event. Provide proof that you were there (a photograph of yourself at the meeting). Submit at least 3 pages of double-spaced text summarizing what went on at the event and what you learned. Papers are worth up to 15 points and the proof is worth 5 points.

*****Take the U.S. Citizenship Quiz. If you earn a 90-100% (10 points), 80-89% (7 points), 70-79% (4 points) 60-69% (2 points).

Grading: Points

A	468 - 520
B	416 - 467
C	364 - 415
D	333 - 363
F	332 and below

Mid-term Progress Report:

The mid-term grade in this course, which will be issued by September 30, reflects approximately 30% of the entire course grade. Based on this grade, students may choose to withdraw from the course and receive a grade of "W." Students pursuing this option must fill out an official withdrawal form, available in the Office of the Registrar, by mid-term, which occurs on October 6. [Instructions for withdrawing are provided at this link.](#)

The last day to withdraw without academic accountability is Friday, September 8, 2017.

Course Schedule:

The course schedule for POLS 1101 – iSPOC 8 Weeks (CRN: 80267)

Unit	Date	Unit Topic	Text Chapters
1 Introduction	Aug 12	The Democratic Republic	1
	Aug 16	The U.S. Constitution	2
	Aug 21	Chapter 2 Discussion Board by 9 p.m.	
	Aug 22	Federalism	3
	Aug 24	Syllabus Quiz by Noon	
	Aug 27	Unit 1 Paper & Exam 1 by 9 p.m.	1-3
2 Citizenship	Aug 28	Civil Liberties	4
	Sept 1	Chapter 4 Discussion Board by 9 p.m.	
	Sept 2	Civil Rights	5
	Sept 04	Labor Day Holiday – No Course Check in Required	
	Sept 08	Chapter 5 Discussion Board by 9 p.m.	

	Sept 06	Last day to withdraw without academic accountability	
	Sept 09	Public Opinion and Political Socialization	6
	Sept 13	Chapter 6 Discussion Board by 9 p.m.	
	Sept 15	Unit 2 Paper & Exam 2 by 9 p.m.	
3 Institutions	Sept 16	The Congress (D2L Lecture 10)	11
	Sept 20	The Presidency (D2L Lecture 11)	12
	Sept 26	The Supreme Court (D2L Lecture 12)	14
	Sept 30	Chapter 14 Discussion Board by 9 p.m.	
	Oct 01	Unit 3 Paper & Exam 3 by 9 p.m.	11, 12, 14
4 GA Constitution	Oct 02	Georgia Constitution – Read the GA Constitution, the supplemental readings at the end of Chapters 11, 12, 14 and look up the answers to the practice quiz.	
	Oct 04	Exam 4 – The GA Constitution Exam Course Ends at 9pm 10/4/2017	

Course Policies:

General Policy

Students must abide by policies in the Clayton State University Student Handbook, and the [Basic Undergraduate Student Responsibilities](#). The Student Handbook is part of the [Academic Catalog and Student Handbook](#).

University Attendance Policy

Students are expected to attend and participate in every class meeting. Instructors establish specific policies relating to absences in their courses and communicate these policies to the students through the course syllabi. Individual instructors, based upon the nature of the course, determine what effect excused and unexcused absences have in determining grades and upon students' ability to remain enrolled in their courses. The university reserves the right to determine that excessive absences, whether justified or not, are sufficient cause for institutional withdrawals or failing grades.

Course Attendance Policy

Online attendance is expected for 6 hours a week for this course. Attending the course for fewer than 6 hours a week will have an adverse affect on your grade and material comprehension.

Missed Work or Late Work

Without a valid excuse (medical, etc.) a grade of zero points will be assigned for the missed or late work. If a valid excuse is provided:

- Make-up papers and examinations will have a due date which will be decided by the instructors.
- Students missing the Exam 4 should contact their instructor concerning the applicability of an [Incomplete grade](#).

Academic Dishonesty

Any type of activity that is considered dishonest by reasonable standards may constitute academic misconduct. The most common forms of academic misconduct are cheating and plagiarism. All instances of academic dishonesty will result in a grade of zero for the work involved. All instances of academic dishonesty will be reported to the [Office of Community Standards](#). Judicial procedures are described in the section of the [Academic Catalog and Student Handbook](#) titled, Procedures for Adjudicating Alleged Academic Conduct Infractions.

Plagiarism Detection Software.

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. You should submit your papers in such a way that no identifying information about you is included.

Disruption of the Learning Environment

Behavior which disrupts the teaching–learning process during class activities will not be tolerated. While a variety of behaviors can be disruptive in a classroom setting, more serious examples 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.

More detailed descriptions of examples of disruptive behavior are provided in the Code of Conduct and Disciplinary Procedures section the Clayton State University [Academic Catalog and Student Handbook](#).

Center for Academic Success

The Center for Academic Success (CAS) provides personalized one-on-one peer and professional staff tutoring in over 100 core subjects. The Center is located in Edgewater Hall Suite 276. The CAS also offers moderated study groups, informal study sessions, a comfortable study environment, a student study lounge, *and it's all free!* Use the CAS if you need help; become a tutor if you don't. For more information you can e-mail the center at thecas@clayton.edu

Writing Assistance

The goal of the Writers' Studio is to give rise to better writers, not just to better writing. People who love to write, people who struggle mightily with it, and people who fall anywhere else on the spectrum can find a place at The Writers' Studio—a place for students to come for writing guidance and feedback.

Each student may receive up to 90 minutes of assistance per day and 3 hours per week. Furthermore, both appointments and walk-ins are welcome. Here's The Writers' Studio's contact information:

Location: Arts & Sciences Building, Room G-224
Phone: 678.466.4728
Email: ws224@clayton.edu
Website: <http://clayton.edu/writersstudio>

Visit The Writers' Studio at <http://clayton.edu/writersstudio> or schedule your appointment online at <http://clayton.mywconline.com> (Note: first-time users need to complete a one-time registration prior to using the online appointment website).

Weapons on Campus

Clayton State University is committed to providing a safe environment for our students, faculty, staff, and visitors. Information on laws and policies regulating weapons on campus are available at

<http://www.clayton.edu/public-safety/Safety-Security/Weapons>

Computer Requirement:

Each CSU student is required to have ready access throughout the semester to a notebook computer that meets faculty-approved hardware and software requirements for the student's academic program. Students will sign a statement attesting to such access. For further information on CSU's Official Notebook Computer Policy, please go to

<http://www.clayton.edu/hub/itpchoice/notebookcomputerpolicy>.

Software Requirement:

To properly access the course content you will need to download the following free software:

- Adobe Reader (needed to access files in PDF format):
<http://get.adobe.com/reader/>
- Adobe Flash (needed to access video content):
<http://get.adobe.com/flashplayer/>

Computer Skill Prerequisites:

- Able to use the Windows™ operating system
- Able to use Microsoft Word™ word processing
- Able to send and receive e-mail using Outlook™

Only use your CSU e-mail account or the e-mail system included in D2L to communicate academic information to your instructor.

- Able to attach and retrieve attached files via email
- Able to use a Web browser.

In-class Use of Student Notebook Computers:

N/A

Desire2Learn (Online Classroom):

On-line activity will take place in Desire2Learn, the virtual classroom for the course. Posting of your work in D2L is a course requirement.

You can gain access to Desire2Learn, by signing on to the SWAN portal and selecting: "D2L" on the top right side. If you experience any difficulties in Desire2Learn, please email or call The HUB at TheHub@mail.clayton.edu or (678) 466-HELP. You will need to provide the date and time of the problem, your SWAN username, the name of the course that you are attempting to access, and your instructor's name.

Program Learning Outcomes:

General education outcomes:

The Clayton State University Core Curriculum outcomes (see Area D) are located in the Graduate Requirement section of the [Academic Catalog and Student Handbook](#).

Political Science outcomes:

Graduating political science majors should:

Outcome 1: Explain the United States Constitution and the United States political institutions and processes.

Outcome 2: Recognize the importance of political geography.

Outcome 3: Assess and compare how other national political systems and international political organizations differ from the United States political system.

Outcome 4: Understand the accepted practices of political science research.

Outcome 5: Apply material learned in political science to real life experiences gained by working in a political science or related organization.

Outcome 6: Critically evaluate the major themes of political science.

Assessments Methods/Types of Evidence

- POLS 2101 Pre and Post Assessment Test
- POLS 2401 Political Geography Test
- POLS 3000-4000 Term Papers
- POLS 4490 Internship Coordinator and Site Supervisor Evaluation
- POLS 4500 Senior Capstone Research Paper