

INTRODUCTION TO AMERICAN GOVERNMENT

Winter 2016

PLS 101 Syllabus

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Instructor

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Course Content

- Constitutional principles and the nature of American Government
- Institutions of the American political system
- Civil Rights and Civil Liberties
- Survey of major policy areas

Course Resources

- O'Connor, Karen, Larry J. Sabato, and Alixandra B. Yanus. *Essentials of American Government: Roots and Reform*. 2012 election ed. Boston: Pearson, 2014. ISBN: 0205883990
- Other articles, reviews, or resources as assigned. These will be posted in GMOnline.

Course Description (5 QH)

An introduction to national, state, and local governments in the United States that examines the evolution of our 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 United States and Georgia constitutions.

Prerequisites: None

Section: PLS-101-10171

Meetings: Tuesdays and Thursdays, 5:55—8:00 PM, Zell Miller Hall 215

Student Learning Outcomes

At the conclusion of this course, the student should be able to:

- Develop and demonstrate knowledge of major ideas, dates, events, and places relating to American government.
- Analyze the structure of American Government
- Evaluate intergovernmental relations in the United States
- Relate knowledge from the various theories and objectives presented.

Student Expectations

- Regular class attendance is expected. Excessive absences will result in reduced grade or removal from the course.
- Complete all assignments in a timely manner; this may include reading and pre-class learning activities.
- Contact the instructor if you will be absent to ensure you are aware of any missed class material and are adequately prepared for the next class period.
- Maintain responsibility for meeting due dates listed on course outline. Course instructor will not provide e-mail reminders for the completion of course-related work.
- Read all emails from the instructor carefully.
- Be professional when using e-mail to communicate with the course instructor or your peers. This includes using proper titles and following the standard rules of spelling and

Assessments

Methodologies of Instruction and Learning Assessment:

The primary methodology of class presentation will be lecture, supplemented with class discussion, assigned and supplemental readings, and other resources. Completion of the readings will be necessary for successful completion of the course work. Student participation is highly encouraged. The following schedule defines the weights for course assessments.

Grade Review:

Any grade review must be initiated with the faculty member, division chair, or assistant dean within thirty days of the end of the grading period in which the grade was reported.

Grade Distribution:

• Quizzes and Homework	25 %
• Exam 1	25 %
• Exam 2	25 %
• Final Exam	25 %

Grade Scale:

- A: 90 – 100
- B: 80 – 89
- C: 70 – 79
- D: 65 – 69
- F: 64 and below

Administrative Procedures

Academic Integrity:

Since the primary goal of education is to increase one's own knowledge, academic dishonesty will not be tolerated. Possible consequences of academic misconduct may extend a zero for the graded work, or with the concurrence of the Academic VP or Assistant Dean, removal from the course with a grade of "F" and possible suspension or exclusion from the college. Academic dishonesty includes the following examples, as well as similar conduct

aimed at making false representation with respect to academic performance:

- Cheating on an examination;
- Collaborating with others on work to be presented, contrary to the stated rules of the course;
- Plagiarizing, including the submission of others' ideas or papers (whether purchased, borrowed, or otherwise obtained) as one's own. When direct quotations are used in themes, essays, term papers, tests, book reviews, and other similar work, they must be indicated; and when the ideas of another are incorporated in any paper, they must be acknowledged, according to a style of documentation appropriate to the discipline;
- All work submitted must have been completed by the student, for this specific course and section. Resubmitting papers or assignments from other classes or sections will be considered self-plagiarism and will be subject to the same penalties as other academic integrity violations.

See [GMC Student Handbook](#) pages 18-23 for full Student Academic Honesty Policy Statement and appeal information.

Accommodations:

Any student who feels he/she may need an accommodation or assistance based on the impact of a disability should contact the Student Disability Coordinator to complete the process of becoming verified and receive instructor notification letters. Once the notification letter is presented with timely notice to the faculty member, then accommodations can be received until the end of the course. The Student Disability Officer for this campus is Ms. Kelly Schomber and is located at ZMH 116 or can be reached by calling 478-387-4879 or emailing kschomber@gmc.edu.

Attendance:

Students are responsible for knowing and abiding by the attendance policy for each class in which they are enrolled. Although it is recognized that absences will sometimes be

necessary, students are expected to attend classes regularly. Attendance will be taken for each class meeting.

You are expected to attend each class meeting. Only two unexcused absences are allowed during this course. You may be withdrawn from the class following the third absence. Student who are withdrawn for excessive absences will receive an IU for the course. The instructor has the authority to withdraw any student who exceeds the allowed number of absences. Absences will only be excused if for a GMC Activity or if the instructor is notified in a timely, professional manner.

Any student not attending in person for two consecutive weeks of class is considered to have withdrawn from the course for non-attendance with a grade of IU.

Absences due to commitments such as athletic events, cultural performance events, course trips, or other activities, in which students are representing the college, are managed separately from the course policy. It is the student's responsibility to advise his or her professors of any impending absence for a college activity or trip in advance of that absence. This is an obligation of the student not of the event or sport coordinator.

Dress and Behavior:

Georgia Military College expects its students to dress and groom to reflect high standards of personal conduct that demonstrates good taste and is appropriate for college. Student dress may not present a health or safety hazard, violate city or state law, or present the potential for disrupting the instructional program.

Attire or accessories which advertise, display or promote any drug, including alcohol or tobacco, sexual activity, violence, lewd language, disrespect and/or bigotry towards any group are not acceptable.

Unacceptable clothing and accessories include, but are not limited to, any gang-related attire, excessively tight or revealing clothes, short shorts, mini-skirts, bare midriff, low-cut revealing

blouses, tank tops, halter tops, tube tops, see-through tops, cropped shirts, spiked jewelry, or chains. Shorts, slacks, jeans and dresses must adequately cover the front, back, sides, and midriff. As a matter of common courtesy and respect, hats or caps are not to be worn inside college buildings.

Drop/Add Procedures:

Completion of the drop/add process and the withdrawal process is the responsibility of the student.

Instructor Authority:

The instructor has the authority to remove any student from class for disruptive behavior or failure to abide by the policies set forth in this syllabus.

Make up and Late Work Policy:

No assignments will be accepted late or make-up exams given except in extraordinary cases or excused absences. Work that is accepted late may be subject to a severe point deduction. An excused absence is one where the instructor was notified and approved prior to the absence, and/or the student provides documentation concerning the absence. Examples of excused absences include a doctor's excuse, participation in official college activities, verified illness, responding to a court order or summons, and responding to military orders.

The time, place, and manner of the make-up work are arranged at the discretion of the professor in consultation with the student and according to the make-up policies provided in the class syllabus. Students have the responsibility to contact their professor before a college-sanctioned absence to schedule the date and time of the make-up session.

Technology:

Except in cases of classroom or work place emergency, personal communications devices such as mobile telephones, pagers, and other electronic devices may not be used inside Georgia Military College classrooms, in places where classes, meetings, and assemblies are being conducted, and where use of these

devices would disrupt classes, assemblies, or meetings.

Assignments for this course will be completed online. Technology failure is not an acceptable excuse for submitting assignments late, or missing submissions. Computer labs are available for student use if needed.

Ethics

Tentative Schedule

Monday	Tuesday	Wednesday	Thursday	Friday
Nov 30	Dec 01 Syllabus Declaration of Independence	Dec 02	Dec 03 Chapter 1 Federalist 1	Dec 04
Dec 07	Dec 08 Chapter 2 Federalist 10	Dec 09	Dec 10 Chapter 3 Chapter 1 quiz due	Dec 11
Dec 14	Dec 15 Exam 1 Chapter 2 quiz due	Dec 16 Winter Break Begins	Dec 17	Dec 18
Dec 21	Dec 22	Dec 23	Dec 24	Dec 25 Merry Christmas!
Dec 28	Dec 29	Dec 30	Dec 31	Jan 01 Happy New Year!
Jan 04	Jan 05 Chapter 6 Chapter 3 quiz due	Jan 06	Jan 07 Chapter 7	Jan 08
Jan 11	Jan 12 Chapter 8 Chapter 6 quiz due	Jan 13	Jan 14 Chapter 9 Chapter 7 quiz due	Jan 15
Jan 18 Martin Luther King, Jr. Holiday	Jan 19 Georgia Government Guide Chapter 8 quiz due	Jan 20	Jan 21 Chapter 4 Chapter 9 quiz due	Jan 22
Jan 25	Jan 26 Chapter 5 Georgia Government Guide quiz due	Jan 27	Jan 28 Exam 2 Chapter 4 quiz due	Jan 29
Feb 01	Feb 02 Chapter 10 Chapter 5 quiz due	Feb 03	Feb 04 Chapter 11	Feb 05
Feb 08	Feb 09 Chapter 12 Chapter 10 quiz due	Feb 10	Feb 11 Chapter 13 Chapter 11 quiz due	Feb 12 Student Survey Opens
Feb 15 Presidents' Day	Feb 16 Acts like Monday	Feb 17	Feb 18 Chapter 14 Chapter 12 quiz due Chapter 13 quiz due	Feb 19
Feb 22	Feb 23 Final Exam Chapter 14 quiz due	Feb 24	Feb 25	Feb 26 Student Survey Closes
Feb 29 Last Day of Classes	Mar 01	Mar 02	Mar 03 Grades due by 10 AM	Mar 04

Syllabus Acknowledgement

I have received and reviewed a copy of the course syllabus for PLS 101: Introduction to American Government. I have read it and understand the course content, class procedures, and what is expected of me to earn credit with a specific grade in this class.

Initial that you have read each section:

Initials

Syllabus Section

_____ Course description, learning outcomes, and required resources

_____ Student expectations

_____ Course assignments, grading procedures, and factors which may reduce my grade including not submitting work, submitting work late, and not attending class.

_____ Administrative Policies including academic integrity, dress and behavior, use of technology, and attendance.

_____ Georgia Military College Honor Code

_____ Course schedule and assignment due dates.

Print Student Name

Sign Student Name

Date