



CLASS SYLLABUS

SPRING 2013
POLS 1150
POLITICS AND SOCIETY

INSTRUCTOR INFORMATION

Name

Daniel Rhodes Simpson, MPA
Academic Advisor
Center for Student Success

Contact

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Office

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Hours

Appointments are STRONGLY encouraged. To schedule an appointment, go to:
<http://tinyurl.com/gcsuadvising>

COURSE INFORMATION

Meeting Time

5:30 – 8:15 PM Mondays

CRN

20665

Meeting Location:

Arts & Sciences 2-75

COURSE RESOURCES

Texts

- George C. Edwards, Martin P. Wattenberg, and Robert L. Lineberry, *Government in America: People, Politics, and Policy, Brief 11th Edition*, (Boston: Longman, 2011) ISBN: 0205806589
 - MyPoliSciLab access is NOT required
- Three scantrons will be required (50 question).
- Other handouts will be distributed through the course website.
 - It is recommended to keep all handouts in a 3-ring binder.

COURSE DESCRIPTION

How societies resolve conflicts over values and resources. Focusing on the institutions of government, this course also compares conflict resolution in the American system with that in other national systems. Successful completion of this course satisfies the state legislative requirement on the U.S. and Georgia Constitutions. This course is required for all Political Science majors.

COURSE OBJECTIVES

- Understand the role of government in human society
- Understand different forms of governments that exist
- Understand the theoretical background and historical context that underpin and shape the American political system.
- To gain a broad understanding of the institutions, actors, participants, and processes of politics and government in America.
- To understand how government, politics, and policy affect your daily life.
- Understand the basic structure and operations of Georgia state government
- Understand how the American governmental system is similar to and different from government in other countries.

STUDENT EXPECTATIONS

- Regular class attendance is expected.
- 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.

ADMINISTRATIVE POLICIES

Academic Honesty

The integrity of students and their written and oral work is a critical component of the academic process. The submission of another's work as one's own is plagiarism and will be dealt with using the procedures outlined in the GC Catalog. Remember that allowing another student to copy one's own work violates standards of academic integrity.

Religious Observance

Students are permitted to miss class in observance of religious holidays and other activities observed by a religious group of which the student is a member without academic penalty. Exercising of one's rights under this policy is subject to the GC Honor Code. Students who miss class in observance of a religious holiday or event are required to make up the coursework missed as a result from the absence. The nature of the make-up assignments and the deadline for completion of such assignments are at the sole discretion of the instructor. Failure to follow the prescribed procedures voids all student rights under this policy.

Assistance for Student Needs Related to Disability

If you have a disability as described by the Americans with Disabilities Act (ADA) and the Rehabilitation Act of 1973, Section 504, you may be eligible to receive accommodations to assist in programmatic and physical accessibility. Disability Services, a unit of the GC Office of Institutional Equity and Diversity, can assist you in formulating a reasonable accommodation plan and in providing support in developing appropriate accommodations to ensure equal access to all GCSU programs and facilities. Course requirements will not be waived, but accommodations may assist you in meeting the requirements. For documentation requirements and for additional information, we recommend that you contact Disability Services located in 125 Lanier Hall at (478) 445-5931.

Student Opinion Surveys

Given the technological sophistication of Georgia College students, the student opinion survey is being delivered through an online process. Your constructive feedback plays an indispensable role in shaping quality education at Georgia College. All responses are completely confidential and your name is not stored with your responses in any way. In addition, instructors will not see any results of the opinion survey until after final grades are submitted to the University. An invitation to complete the online opinion survey is distributed to students near the end of the semester. Your participation in this very important process is greatly appreciated.

Fire Drills

Fire drills will be conducted annually. In the event of a fire alarm, students will exit the building in a quick and orderly manner through the nearest hallway exit. Learn the floor plan and exits of the building. Do not use elevators. If you encounter heavy smoke, crawl on the floor so as to gain fresh air. Assist disabled persons and others if possible without endangering your own life. Assemble for a head count on the front lawn of main campus or other designated assembly area.

Turnitin

This course uses plagiarism prevention technology. Students will submit papers online through a plagiarism prevention service. The papers may be retained by the service for the sole purpose of checking for plagiarized content in future student submissions.

Student Use of Technology

Students are encouraged to utilize technology to supplement learning, but must use these technologies appropriately. All devices should be set to operate silently (not on vibrate) and must not distract others. Inappropriate use of technology or use which distracts other students or the instructor is not permitted and may result in seizure of the device by the instructor until the end of the class period.

Students may make audio or video recordings of course activity. However, the redistribution of audio or video recordings from the course to individuals who are not students in the class is prohibited without the express permission of the faculty member and any of the students who are recorded.

Class Attendance Policy

Although it is recognized that absences will sometimes be necessary, students are expected to attend classes regularly.

It is the responsibility of students to be cognizant of their own record of absences and to consult the instructor regarding work missed. The decision to permit students to make up work rests with the instructor. If a student is representing the University in an official capacity, as verified on a list released from the Office of the Provost, the instructor will not penalize the student for those absences. However, students should consult their instructor before anticipated absences.

Students who wish to have their instructors notified of a medical or family emergency necessitating their absence from classes, or who wish to provide documentation in support of a request for excused absences, make-up work, or grades of "W" or "I" due to an emergency, may contact the Office of the Vice President for Student Affairs. The Student Affairs staff will inform students about procedures, assist with communication to instructors, receive and file documentation, and advise students regarding their own self-advocacy; however, the final determination of excused absences, make-up classwork, and grading is determined by the instructor.

COURSE ASSIGNMENTS

All assignments must be submitted electronically through GeorgiaVIEW. In a technology driven age, this not only provides an electronic forum for learning and evaluation, it also reduces waste and the consumption of paper and ink.

All assignments must be typed, formatted on 8 ½ x 11 pages with 1 inch margins in Times New Roman 12 point font. Any outside information must be appropriately cited according to the Chicago Manual of Style, or the [Kate Turabian Manual for Writers](#). Ask the instructor if you have any questions regarding formatting.

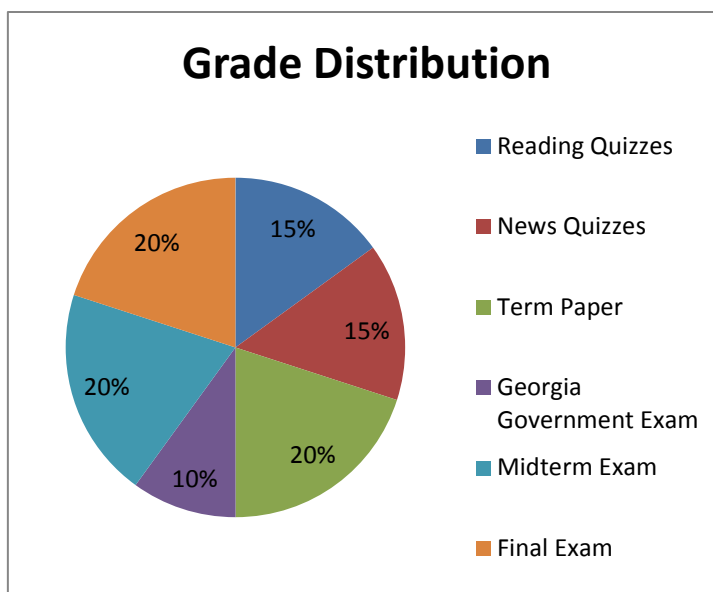
Assignments should be submitted prior to the posted due date. No late assignments will be accepted for full credit except in extraordinary circumstances. Assignments are due online if you are present in class or not. If you have difficulties with the technology, contact the instructor immediately.

Grade Distribution:

Reading Quizzes	15 %
News Quizzes	15 %
Term Paper	20 %
Georgia Government Exam	10 %
Midterm Exam	20 %
Final Exam	20 %
Total	100 %

Grading Scale:

A	90 – 100 points
B	80 – 89 points
C	70 – 79 points
D	60 – 69 points
F	0 – 59 points



Reading Quizzes

You will complete a reading quiz for each chapter of the text. Each quiz will open following the class where we cover the chapter and close approximately one week later at 11:59 PM. (For exact due dates, see Assignment Schedule). Extensions will not be given due to technology issues unless they extend the entire time the quiz is open. Computer labs are available to complete the quizzes if necessary. It is up to the student to complete the quizzes in a timely manner.

Other homework and reflection papers may be assigned.

News Quizzes

There will be two quizzes over current events over the course of the semester. Each quiz will cover major political news stories from national, state, and local government. It is up to the student to stay up to date on current events as a basis for classroom discussion in the course. Links will be provided to different news sources which will provide the basis for these quizzes.

Term Paper

The student will select a political film and write an analysis of the political themes contained within it. This is not a film review. The film is only a launching point for further discussion. Outside sources should be utilized to expand upon and clarify the issue. Each issue should be discussed from multiple viewpoints in a professional and unbiased manner. The details for the assignment will be contained in a separate handout.

This assignment will be checked for plagiarism. If found, it will result in an automatic grade of ZERO for the assignment and other penalties as outlined in the Student Handbook and University Catalog.

Exams

There are three exams in this course. Each exam will be questions from the material we have covered. The Midterm Exam includes Chapters 1-3 and 11-14. The Georgia Government Exam includes information from the Georgia Government Guide. The Final Exam is comprehensive and covers material throughout the course. Each exam will consist of 50 multiple choice questions. A 50 question scantron will be required for each exam.

The Final Exam for this course will be given Friday, May 3, from 1:00 – 3:15 PM.

IMPORTANT DATES FOR SPRING 2013

<i>Date</i>	<i>Event</i>
January 7	Classes begin
January 9	Last day to add a course
January 11	Last day to drop a course (reduce course load) without fee penalty
January 21	Martin Luther King, Jr. holiday (no classes)
February 26	Midterm Grades due
March 4	Last day to drop a course or withdraw from ALL courses without academic penalty (Unless previously assigned an "F" by instructor for absences)
March 11 - 14	Summer and Fall 2013 Registration begins for Continuing, Degree-Seeking Students
March 25-29	Spring Break
April 29	Last day of classes
April 30 – May 3	Final exams
May 3	Residence Halls close
May 8	Grades due no later than 9 a.m.

COURSE SCHEDULE

	Class Topic	Assignments and Notes
Jan 07	Syllabus and Historical Readings	1/11 is last day to drop a course
Jan 14	Chapters 1-2	
Jan 21	Martin Luther King, Jr. Holiday	Chapters 1-2 RQ Closes (1/22)
Jan 28	Chapters 3, 14	
Feb 04	Chapter 11	Chapters 3,14 RQ Closes News Quiz 1 closes
Feb 11	Chapters 12-13	Chapter 11 RQ closes
Feb 18	Midterm Exam	Chapters 12-13 RQ closes
Feb 25	Georgia Government	
Mar 04	GA Government Exam	
Mar 11	Chapters 4-5	
Mar 18	Chapters 6-7	Chapters 4-5 RQ closes
Mar 25	Spring Break	No Class
Apr 01	Chapters 8-9	Chapters 6-7 RQ Closes
Apr 08	Chapters 10, 17	Chapters 8-9 RQ closes Term Paper Due
Apr 15	Chapters 15-16	Chapters 10, 17 RQ closes
Apr 22	Film	Chapters 15-16 Closes News Quiz 2 Closes
Apr 29	Review	
May 03	Final Exam	Final Exam is at 1:00 - 3:15 PM

*Subject to change as needed.
Any changes will be announced in class and on the course website.*

ASSIGNMENT SCHEDULE

Assignment	Due Date	Grade
Reading Quiz Chapter 1	Jan 22	
Reading Quiz Chapter 2	Jan 22	
Reading Quiz Chapter 3	Feb 04	
Reading Quiz Chapter 14	Feb 04	
Current Event Quiz 1	Feb 04	
Reading Quiz Chapter 11	Feb 11	
Reading Quiz Chapter 12	Feb 18	
Reading Quiz Chapter 13	Feb 18	
Midterm Exam	Feb 18	
Georgia Government Exam	Mar 04	
Reading Quiz Chapter 4	Mar 18	
Reading Quiz Chapter 5	Mar 18	
Reading Quiz Chapter 6	Apr 01	
Reading Quiz Chapter 7	Apr 01	
Reading Quiz Chapter 8	Apr 08	
Reading Quiz Chapter 9	Apr 08	
Term Paper	Apr 08	
Reading Quiz Chapter 10	Apr 15	
Reading Quiz Chapter 15	Apr 15	
Reading Quiz Chapter 16	Apr 22	
Reading Quiz Chapter 17	Apr 22	
Current Event Quiz 2	Apr 22	
Final Exam	May 03	

All assignments are due at 11:59 PM on the day listed.



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**SYLLABUS
ACKNOWLEDGEMENT**

POLS 1150
POLITICS AND SOCIETY

I have received and reviewed a copy of the course syllabus for POLS 1150: Politics and Society. 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 and Objectives

_____ Student Expectations

_____ Administrative Policies including academic honesty, religious observance, Disability Services, technology, and attendance.

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

_____ Course schedule and assignment due dates.

Print Student Name

GCID

Sign Student Name

Date