

AMERICAN GOVERNMENT
Political Science 101.12
T/TH: 10:50-12:05
Education Center, Room 115 Fall 2022
3.0 Credit Hours

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I. OBJECTIVES

This class is intended to provide students with an understanding of the basic history, structure, theoretical justifications, and operation of the American government system. Emphasis will be placed upon recognizing the relationships between current political issues and long-standing dilemmas in government and on the similarities and/or differences between the normative and empirical aspects of our national government. The class is also designed to increase students' grasp of politics in order to augment their interest in the American political system.

As defined by the Department of Political Science, upon completion of the course, a student should be able to: 1) Identify and explain the central principles, institutions, procedures, and decision-making processes of the American political system; 2) Evaluate the basic strengths and weaknesses of the American political system through the application of political concepts and ideas; 3) Relate historical events and/or developments to contemporary political issues, debates, and outcomes in the United States; and 4) Develop an analytical, social science disposition toward American politics.

General Education Learning Requirements

As part of a general education learning outcome, students can apply social science concepts, models or theories to explain human behavior, social interactions or social institutions. This outcome will be assessed in an essay during the semester which will count as 15% of your overall grade.

Course Prerequisites

None.

II. REQUIRED TEXTS

The REACH Act requires that students read the following documents in their entirety: the U.S. Constitution, Declaration of Independence, 5 of the Federalist Papers (1, 10, 51, 70, 84), the Emancipation Proclamation, and one additional document foundational to the

African-American freedom struggle- We Shall Overcome.

Additional readings are assigned and will be posted on OAKS. It is the **student's** responsibility to check email and OAKS regularly for information about any changes in course material, class schedule, or exams.

Please **read the assigned material listed in the syllabus prior to the class session.**

III. EVALUATION

Grades will be based upon three in-class examinations (two mid-terms and one final), one in-class presentation/debate, class participation, and reading quizzes. The first exam will constitute 15% of the final grade, the second 20%, and the final 25%; the debate 15%, class participation 15%, and reading quizzes 10%. Details for each of these are listed below.

These assignments correspond with the above learning objectives in the following way:

Objective	Assignment(s)
Identify and explain the central principles, institutions, procedures, and decision-making processes of the American political system	Exams (Objective, Identification, and Short Answer Questions); Class Participation; Reading; Quiz
Evaluate the basic strengths and weaknesses of the American political system through the application of political concepts and ideas	Exams (Identification and Short Answer Questions); Class Participation; Paper
Relate historical events and/or developments to contemporary political issues, debates, and outcomes in the United States	Exams (Objective, Identification, and Short Answer Questions); Class Participation; Reading; Quiz
Develop an analytical, social science disposition toward American politics	Exams (Objective, Identification, and Short Answer Questions); Class Participation; Debate

Examinations (15% of final grade)

The **one mid-term examination** will be a combination of objective (multiple choice and true/false), identification, short answer, and essay. Examinations must be taken at the scheduled time, unless arrangements have been made with the instructor at least **48 hours** prior to the exam. Make-up exams will only be offered **once** and will be more difficult than the regular test.

Debate/Class Presentations (20% of final grade)

The course will also require participation, as part of a small group, in a **formal** in-class debate on a particular “hot topic” in American politics. Instructions for the debate will be forthcoming and group assignments will be posted mid-semester. Please be aware that ALL students must complete the assigned debate readings and that **audience members will be required to participate** via voting and/or peer evaluations.

Class Participation (20% of final grade)

Class participation is **highly** encouraged, as reflected in its contribution to the final grade. The grade will be based upon how actively you participate in the course. Active participation means that, at a minimum, you come to class having completed the reading(s) assigned for that day. You will be evaluated based upon both the frequency and substance of your involvement in class discussions.

Reading Quizzes (30% of final grade)

To ensure students are reading the text prior to class, there will be frequent reading and pop quizzes that must be completed.

Final Paper (15% of final grade)

A final paper will be assigned before Thanksgiving Break to be turned in during exams.

Grading Scale

The grading system is based upon the following scale: 93-100% A; 90-92 A-; 87-89% B+; 83-85% B; 80-82% B-; 77-79% C+; 73-76% C; 70-72% C-; 67-69% D+; 63-67% D; 60-62% D- 0-59%: F.

IV. ATTENDANCE AND CLASS BEHAVIOR

Attendance is **required** for all classes. Attendance will be taken during every in-person class. Only documented illness (subject to exception for Covid-related absences), family emergency, or institutional permission constitute excused absences. Please let me know of any such absences in advance whenever possible; if you will be missing class for a school-related reason (activity, athletics etc.), you must let me know twenty-four hours before your absence.

Any student with a **Covid-related absence should inform me as soon as possible**. The student and I will make reasonable accommodations/arrangements as needed. My classes are built on mutual respect and trust, and I expect that you will be honest and truthful about the cause of your absence(s).

As tardiness disrupts the classroom environment, any student who is **late more than two times will have their participation grade dropped by 10%**.

If classes are suspended due to inclement weather, pandemic or substantial interruption of instruction, I will announce a plan for a change in modality to ensure the continuity of learning. All students must have access to a computer equipped with a web camera, microphone, and Internet access. Resources are available to provide students with these essential tools.

The rules of the student code of conduct apply in this class. Appropriate behavior is always required. Students may not speak while other students or the instructor is speaking. Classroom debate is highly encouraged, but students are expected to conduct themselves with decorum and respect.

Laptops are not allowed during in-person class sessions. Use of cell phones during class is strictly prohibited. Turn phones off before entering the classroom session.

V. ACADEMIC INTEGRITY

Lying, cheating, attempted cheating, and plagiarism are violations of our Honor Code that, when identified, are investigated. Each incident will be examined to determine the degree of deception involved.

Incidents where the instructor determines the student's actions are related more to a misunderstanding will be handled by the instructor. A written intervention designed to help prevent the student from repeating the error will be given to the student. The intervention, submitted by form and signed both by the instructor and the student, will be forwarded to the Dean of Students and placed in the student's file.

Cases of suspected academic dishonesty will be reported directly by the instructor and/or others having knowledge of the incident to the Dean of Students. A student found responsible by the Honor Board for academic dishonesty will receive an XXF in the course, indicating failure of the course due to academic dishonesty. This grade will appear on the student's transcript for two years after which the student may petition for the XX to be expunged. The F is permanent. The student may also be placed on disciplinary probation, suspended (temporary removal) or expelled (permanent removal) from the College by the Honor Board.

Students should be aware that unauthorized collaboration--working together without permission-- is a form of cheating. Unless the instructor specifies that students can work

together on an assignment, quiz and/or test, no collaboration during the completion of the assignment is permitted. Other forms of cheating include possessing or using an unauthorized study aid (which could include accessing information via a cell phone or computer), copying from others' exams, fabricating data, and giving unauthorized assistance. Research conducted and/or papers written for other classes cannot be used in whole or in part for any assignment in this class without obtaining prior permission from the instructor.

Students can find the complete Honor Code and all related processes in the Student Handbook [t http://studentaffairs.cofc.edu/honor-system/studenthandbook/index](http://studentaffairs.cofc.edu/honor-system/studenthandbook/index).

VI. DISABLED STUDENTS

The College will make reasonable accommodations for persons with documented disabilities. Students should apply for services at the Center for Disability Services/SNAP located on the first floor of the Lightsey Center, Suite 104. Students approved for accommodations are responsible for notifying me as soon as possible and for contacting me at least **one week before accommodation is needed**.

VII. INCLEMENT WEATHER, PANDEMIC OR SUBSTANTIAL INTERRUPTION OF INSTRUCTION

If in-person classes are suspended, I will announce to students a detailed plan for a change in modality to ensure the continuity of learning. All students must have access to a computer equipped with a web camera, microphone, and Internet access. Resources are available to provide students with these essential tools

VII. ASSIGNMENTS AND LECTURE TOPICS

Please note that I reserve the right to alter assignments as necessary. Notice of such changes will be provided in advance and students are expected to alter their reading as necessary.

All assignments are posted on the class calendar in OAKS with Required Reading links.

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- First Day of Class!

2022 Fall American Government (POLI-101-12)

First Day of Class!

Aug 23, 2022 10:50 AM - 12:05 PM

Education Center 115 at 25 St. Philip St.

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- Aug 25, 2022
Birth of a Nation (Declaration of Independence)
Prepare: Read Declaration of Independence
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- Aug 30, 2022
Attempt to Govern (Articles of Confederation)
Prepare: Read Articles of Confederation and review class notes on Declaration of Independence for Tuesday's quiz

 - Sep 1, 2022
Course Correction for the Nation (US Constitution)
Prepare: Read the US Constitution and review class notes on the Articles of Confederation for Thursday's quiz

 - Sep 6, 2022
Persuasion - Overview of the Federalists and Anti-Federalists
Prepare: Watch "Hamilton," the musical & gather 5 facts about your Founder

 - Sep 8, 2022
State of Affairs (Federalist Papers 1, 70 & 84)
Prepare: Read Federalist Papers 1, 70 & 84 and write only one sentence summarizing each of the three papers

 - Sep 13, 2022
Effects of Human Nature (Federalist Papers 10 & 51)
Prepare: Read Federalist Papers 10 & 51

 - Sep 15, 2022
The Compromise (Bill of Rights)
Prepare: Read the Bill of Rights. Be prepared to tell the class what each Amendment is (1-10) and which is your "favorite" or the one you feel is most important. Research the rights from other countries.

 - Sep 20, 2022
3 Branches - The President & the bureaucrats

 - Sep 22, 2022
3 Branches - Congress (The US Constitution)

 - Sep 27, 2022
3 Branches - Judiciary (US Constitution)
Prepare: Read "Judicial Construction"

 - Sep 29, 2022
Mid-Term Review and Debate Assignments
Prepare: Complete Mid-Term Study Guide

 - Oct 4, 2022

MID-TERM in class

Prepare: Study for Mid-Term. Test will be in class on Oct. 4th

- Oct 6, 2022
States Rights (10th Amendment)
Prepare: Read "How to Debate Outline" and watch "Debate Advice" video - Meet with your debate team
- Oct 11, 2022
Slavery - What took so long? (Emancipation Proclamation and 13th Amendment)
Prepare: Read the Emancipation Proclamation and the 13th Amendment to the US Constitution
- Oct 13, 2022
MEET AT THE AVERTY RESEARCH CENTER
125 Bull Street
Prepare: Read "Cigar Factory Strike" and listen to NPR's "We Shall Overcome" both linked in Required Readings. Submit team persuasive papers by midnight Sunday, Oct. 16.
- Oct 18, 2022
Individual Rights and the Dobbs Case
Prepare: Read "Penumbra - Right to Privacy" and "Dobbs - No Right to Privacy anymore?"
- Oct 20, 2022
Debate - Team 1
Prepare: Read both Debate Team 1 persuasion papers and prepare to participate and ask questions.
- Oct 25, 2022
Debate - Team 2
Prepare: Read both Debate Team 2 persuasion papers and prepare to participate and ask questions
- Oct 27, 2022
Debate - Team 3
Prepare: Read both Debate Team 3 persuasion papers and prepare to participate and ask questions
- Nov 1, 2022
Debate - Team 4
Prepare: Read both Debate Team 4 persuasion papers and prepare to participate and ask questions

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- Nov 3, 2022
Debate - Team 5
Prepare: Read both Debate Team 5 persuasion papers and prepare to participate and ask questions

 - Nov 8, 2022
No Class - Fall Break

 - Nov 10, 2022
The Fourth Estate & Civil Discourse
Prepare: "Circular News" video and "Where to Get Your News"
Set Watch "Circular News" video and "Where to Get Your News"

 - Nov 15, 2022
Elections and Politics
Prepare: Watch campaign video and read news article on Templeton in "Required Readings"

 - Nov 17, 2022
The Economy - Tax & Spend
Prepare: Read "Where our tax dollars are spent" and "Three Types of Tax"

 - Nov 22, 2022
Final Paper Assigned - No class

 - Nov 24, 2022
Happy Thanksgiving! No class
*See Final Paper Assignment

 - Nov 29, 2022
Final Paper Assigned

 - Dec 1, 2022
Final Class
*Final Paper Due by midnight December 5th