

**STATE UNIVERSITY OF WEST
GEORGIA**

COURSE SYLLABUS

SPRING 2008

Professor:

S. Waymon, Ph.D.

STATE UNIVERSITY OF WEST GEORGIA
COURSE SYLLABUS
Spring 2008

Course Title: POL 1101- Sections 09 or 11 American Government

Course Credits: 3 Semester Hours

Course Hours: Class: 3 hours/week, **T,TR (9:30am to 10:45am)**
T,TR (12:30pm to 1:45pm)

Course Placement: N/A

Prerequisites: none

Course Description:

A course in American Government focuses upon how institutions and actors interact within a given political system. Questions are raised relative to the functions, objectives, and the legitimacy of the institutions and the actors. We hope to explore the institutions, motives and actions of the actors during our sojourn over the next several months. A good result can only be obtained with the full participation of all members of the class.

Course Faculty:

S. Waymon, Professor
Office hours (T, TR- 9:00am- 9:30am and 11am-12:30pm)

Office

Pafford Bldg.(Room 123)

Phone

(678) 839-4990

Course Objectives: At the completion of POL 1101, the student will:

1. Discuss the basic function and development of American Government.
2. Identify and discuss tensions or strains in federal, state, and local government relations.
3. Identify and discuss the various political institutions, political actors, and social actors in American Government.
4. Compare and contrast the various theories that have had a significant impact in shaping America's political ideological spectrum.
5. Discuss contemporary issues that have challenged the very core of our nation's political foundation.
6. Demonstrate the ability to critically assess and construct arguments and explanations.

Content Outline:

Foundations	Political Parties/	State & Local Government
U.S. Constitution	Campaigns	(Final Exam)
Federalism	Voting Behavior	
(First exam)	Presidency	
Civil Liberties	Bureaucracy	
Equal Rights/	Congress	
Race Relation	Judicial System	
Media & Politics	Foreign Policy	
(Second exam)	Economy/Welfare State	

Evaluation of Student Learning:

1. Participation in class discussions
2. Homework assignments and special projects
3. Quizzes on readings
4. Exams (First, Second and final)
5. Group project and presentation

Specifics of requirements:

Participation is defined as punctual and consistent class attendance, involvement in class discussion, and turning in assignments on time (3 absences only).

The format for all quizzes and exams may vary from multiple choice, matching, and true/false. A final exam (same format) will be given at the end of the semester, and will cover only the material discussed **after** the 2nd exam.

Each student will be assigned to a particular group. Each individual group will be responsible for examining a federal or state (Georgia) agency. Each group will be required to write a research paper (**minimum 8 pages**) (**excluding title, outline & source pages**) about that agency. The research should include the following: purpose, mission statement, history, organizational chart, and **at least three** public policy issues affecting that particular agency. Be prepared to make a short oral presentation.

Note: There must be evidence of 100% participation from each group member.

The paper should be typed and double spaced. It should also follow proper footnoting and other related procedures as prescribed in the current edition of Kate L. Turabian, A Manual for Writers. **Academic honesty is expected.**

Course Evaluation Methodology:

1. General Education Course Evaluation Tool

Requirement for Successful Completion of American Government:

1. Minimum grade average of 70.

Course Grading System:

First Exam	25%
Second Exam	25%
Final Exam	30%
Group project	15%
Participation	<u>5%</u>
	100%

Required Textbook:

Waymon, S. and R. Wilkes, Understanding Democracy: Policies and Procedures of American Government (First Edition). Thomson Custom Publishers 2006.

Suggested Readings:

As assigned in class.

Special Note:

*The class will be informed in advance when the first, second, and finals exams will be given.

*The group project will be due as assigned in class.

*Absolutely! No tape recorders or listening devices allowed in class.

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