

Political Science 1101-01D: American Government

Dr. Heather A. D. Mbaye

Pafford 130

Office hours: T-Th 9:30am to 11:00am; Tuesday 2:00pm to 3:30pm

Wednesday 1:00pm to 3:00pm

This course will explore the political system of the United States and Georgia. We will explore basic issues of Federalism, executive configurations, legislative systems, party systems, electoral systems, and bureaucracy. When you are finished, you will be able to speak knowledgeably about the politics and the political system of this country with peers and others and you will have a basic understanding of government in Georgia and the USA.

Grading:

A total of between 500 and 600 points will be available.

- Three exams, two midterms and final, will be worth 100 points each.
- 100 points will be available with the completion of a 1400-1800 word paper on the importance of local government.
- 150 points will be distributed via quiz scores.
- The remainder (0-50 points) will be distributed via **other in-class grades and other assignments.**

Attendance, Tardies, and Participation:

Attendance is compulsory. Let me repeat: ***ATTENDANCE IS MANDATORY WHEN THE SYLLABUS SAYS TO MEET IN CLASS.*** This to do well in this class, you need to be here each time class meets. There will be pop-quizzes that you cannot make up unless you get your absence excused.

Excused absences are possible *only when you speak with me prior to a necessary absence*. If you are ill and unexpectedly must miss class (or you have a flat tire or the like), you must leave a message on my office phone or send an email as soon as possible and **provide proof**. Only a doctor's note or a note from the health center will be considered proof of illness; if you are ill enough to miss class you need a medical professional.

Students who are tardy to class without good excuse three times will record an unexcused absence in my grade book. Tardies will be determined by whether you are in class when I call your name from the roll.

Plagiarism, fabrication, and cheating:

It is university policy that plagiarism, fabrication, and cheating are not allowed. Cheating is using information obtained in forbidden ways during an examination or assignment, including furnishing that information to another student. *Cheating will result in a zero on the examination for students receiving information and for students who furnish it.*

Fabrication is intentionally falsifying facts to support your conclusions. *Fabrication will result in a failing grade on the assignment.*

Finally, plagiarism is "representing the words or ideas of another as one's own. Direct quotations must be indicated and ideas of another must be appropriately acknowledged" (UWG Connection and Student Handbook, p. 106). In addition, the purchase and use of ghost-written papers and reports, or incorporating into a report, term theme, research paper, or project, ideas and information obtained from another person without giving credit to the person from whom such information was obtained. Further, inclusion of the published or unpublished writings of another person without duly noting these sources according to normal scholarly procedures shall be considered plagiarism. The above definition of academic misconduct applies equally to improper use of electronic sources of information and opinion" (Faculty Handbook, University of West Georgia, January 2004, page 75).

**If you plagiarize even a single sentence from another person,
including a website author, you will fail this course.**

Other expectations:

1. You are expected to check your *UWG email* and *WebCT* several times per week. “I didn’t see the email / announcement / assignment” is not a valid excuse.
2. You should do each assignment on time, and be on time to class. “I couldn’t find a parking place close to Pafford” is not a valid excuse.)
3. You **will read the assigned reading** prior to arriving in class on the day listed in the syllabus and prior to reviewing the online PowerPoint lecture and taking the quiz.
4. You will complete a quiz on every lecture, and there will be a quiz every time you come to class.
5. You will meet in class **EVERY TUESDAY**.
6. ALL cell phones must be turned OFF – not on vibrate, OFF – when class begins. NO CELL PHONES should EVER be out in class. Anyone who has a cell phone out during a quiz or test will receive a zero on that quiz or test. Anyone who has a cell phone out during a regular class period will loose TEN POINTS off their grade on a paper assignment. The second infraction will result in a zero on the paper assignment.

Required text:

We the People, Georgia 7th edition. Ginsberg, Lowi, and Weir. W.W. Norton and Company.

Thursday, August 13	Introduction
Tuesday, August 18	Meet in class: American political culture Read: Chapter 1
Thursday, August 20	Online lecture: American Political Culture Quiz on Chapter 1
Tuesday, August 25	Meet in class: American political culture
Thursday, August 26	Online lecture: The Founding and the Constitution Read Chapter 2 Quiz on Chapter 2
Tuesday, September 1	Meet in class: The Founding
Thursday, September 3	Online lecture: Federalism Read Ch 3 Quiz on chapter 3
Tuesday, September 8	Meet in class: Federalism and Congress Read Chapter 12
Thursday, September 10	Online Lecture: Congress Quiz on chapter 12
Tuesday, September 15	Meet in class: The Presidency Read Ch 13
Thursday, September 17	Online lecture: The Presidency Quiz on Chapter 13
Tuesday, September 22	Meet in class: First Midterm Exam Bring a number 229633 answer fill in sheet from the bookstore
Thursday, September 24	Online lecture: Bureaucracy in a democracy Read ch. 14 Quiz on Chapter 14
Tuesday, September 29	Meet in class: Bureaucracy in a democracy
Thursday, October 1	Online lecture: The Courts

	Read: Chapter 15 Quiz on Chapter 15
Tuesday, October 6	Meet in class: Georgian State politics and the Georgia Constitution Read the Section on Georgia Politics at the beginning of the book
Thursday, October 8	Online Lecture: Chapter 6 Read: chapter 6 Quiz on Chapter 6
Tuesday, October 13	Online Lecture: Chapter 7 Read: chapter 7 Quiz on Chapter 7
Thursday, October 15	Fall Break
Tuesday, October 20	Meet in class: Groups and interests Read chapter 11
Thursday, October 22	Online lecture: chapter 11 Quiz on chapter 11
Tuesday, October 27	Meet in class: Second Midterm Exam Bring a number 229633 answer fill in sheet from the bookstore
Thursday, October 29	Online lecture: Civil Liberties Read: Chapter 4 Quiz on chapter 4
Tuesday, November 3	Meet in class: Civil Liberties and rights
Thursday, November 5	Online lecture: Civil Rights Read: Chapter 5 Quiz on chapter 5
Tuesday, November 10	Meet in class: Civil Rights
Thursday, November 12	Online lecture: Participation and voting Read: Chapter 8 Quiz on chapter 8
Tuesday, November 17	Meet in class: Participation and Voting Groups and participation exercise
Thursday, November 19	Online lecture: Political Parties, Campaigns and Elections Read: Chapter 9 Quiz on chapter 9
Tuesday, November 24	Online lecture: Campaigns and elections Read chapter 10 Quiz on chapter 10
Thursday, November 26	No class (Thanksgiving Break)
Tuesday, December 1	Meet in class: Review for the final exam Local Government Project Due
Thursday, December 10	Final Exam: 2-4pm