

POLS 1101.L2M: American Government
CREDIT: 3 Semester hours
PREREQUISITE: None
SEMESTER: Fall 2009

COURSE DESCRIPTION: A study of the philosophical and cultural underpinnings of the U.S. Constitution, institutions, and political processes. The features of the U.S. system are compared with parliamentary systems and those of the state of Georgia.

OBJECTIVES: The student will be able to

1. grasp the founding principles of the American regime;
2. understand the responsibilities and difficulties of self-government;
3. appreciate the use of rhetoric in American politics;
4. reflect on contemporary public policy issues;
5. possess an understanding of Georgia state government.

COURSE OUTLINE:

1. Founding Principles

- Declaration of Independence
- Thomas Jefferson, Letter to John Adams
- Federalist 9*
- Federalist 10* [quiz]

2. Constitutionalism, Federalism, and Legislative Powers

- Constitution, Preamble and Article I
- Federalist 47, 48, 49*
- Federalist 51*

http://www.sourcewatch.org/index.php?title=Category:How_Congress_works

- McCulloch v. Maryland* (1819)
- United States v. Darby* (1941) [quiz]
- United States v. Lopez* (1995)

3. Executive Powers & Foreign Policy

- Constitution, Article II
- Federalist 70*
- Lincoln, Special Session
- Franklin D. Roosevelt, Message to Congress (1942)
- War Powers Resolution
- Geo. Washington, Farewell Address (p. 354)
- Franklin D. Roosevelt, "Four Freedoms" Speech

4. The Judiciary

- Constitution, Article III
- Federalist 78*
- Marbury v. Madison* [quiz]
- Brennan, Georgetown speech
- Abraham Lincoln, "First Inaugural Address" (1861)

5. The "Fourth" Branch of Government

- Alexis de Tocqueville, *Democracy in America* (p. 183)
- Wilson, *Constitutional Government*
- LBJ, State of the Union

