

UNIVERSITY OF WEST GEORGIA

COURSE SYLLABUS

FALL 2009

Professor:

S. Waymon, Ph.D.

UNIVERSITY OF WEST GEORGIA

COURSE SYLLABUS
Fall 2009

Course Title: POL 1101- Sections 11 or L2R or LXR 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:

Office

Phone

S. Waymon, Professor
839-4990

Pafford Bldg.(Room 123)

(678)

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

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

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 (4 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 11 pages**) (**including 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.**

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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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