

**University of West Georgia**  
**Dept. of Political Science and Planning**  
**AMERICAN GOVERNMENT**  
**POLS 1101/Section 07**

**Semester:** Fall 2007

**Instructor:** Mr. Sheikh T. Drammeh

**Office:** Pafford 117

**Class Location:** TLC 1303

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**Class Hours:** T & Th. 11:00AM-12: 15 PM

**Office Hours:** T & Th 10.00AM-11.00 AM or by appointment

**Course Background:**

This introductory course explores the American political system (the structure, the political linkages, the Institutions, and the functions of American Government). In addition to its introductory function, the course also serves as a base in understanding future American Government courses in particular and Political Science in general.

**Course Design**

In the interest of enhancing understanding of the material, the course is designed to follow four complimentary areas. Area One: Structural foundation of the American political system (Liberal Democracy, the Constitution, and Federalism). Area Two- Political Linkages (Public opinion, the media, political parties and interest groups, campaign and elections. Area Three: Government Institutions (Congress, The Presidency, The Bureaucracy, and The Judiciary). Area Four: Functions of Government (Civil Rights and Civil Liberties, U. S. Domestic Policy, and U. S. Foreign and Military Policy). The course will also explore Georgia State politics.

**Teaching aids** in the form VHS/DVD, the Internet, radio, television, court cases, will also be used to help augment understanding of the subject matter.

**Course Outcomes**

At the end of the course students will demonstrate a general knowledge of:

- 1) The basic values of American civic and political culture.
- 2) The constitutional and institutional framework, political, and legal processes of the U.S. and the State of Georgia.
- 3) The interrelationship between American Governmental institutions.
- 4) The basic terminology of political science & U.S. politics.
- 5) American culture, values, and political institutions as compare with those of other types of government.

**Required Text:**

We The People: Reflections on American Politics, Custom Edition. New York, NY: Longman, 2006 (with contributions by Said Sewell and Augustine Ayuk).

### **Academic Dishonesty**

**“F” grade** will result in the instance of academic honesty. This grade will apply to the student involved or to both student and accomplish(s) in the case of collaboration. Therefore, it is the student’s responsibility not to share their work, exams, and exam grades. **Plagiarism** may result to expulsion from the University.

### **Class Attendance and Participation**

Attendance and participation is mandatory. Attendance includes **punctuality** and participation includes reading ahead and ready to discuss the day’s topic. In effect, students are expected to engage in **active participation** (read ahead, interact, and contribute). Students are responsible for materials and discussions missed. Such includes other learning materials used such as tapes, DVDs, current events (newspapers, radio, online), and so on.

### **Examination and Make-ups**

Three exams and a final exam will be instituted throughout the fall quarter. Exams will be in the form of true/false, multiple choices filling-in blanks and matching. Each exam is limited to the covered material in that segment. The Final exam is not comprehensive. Exams can be made up condition to approved excuse, and/or prior arrangements. **NO** make-up on quizzes, outlines and assignments. **No late assignments** will be accepted regardless of reason, because enough time will be allowed for completion.

### **Learning Disabilities**

If special arrangements are needed in this area contact me as soon as possible.

### **Housekeeping Notes**

Respect for you fellow students and the instructor is expected, therefore:

No I pods, walkmans or other listening devices.

Switch off/vibrate all cellular phones.

No computer usage during class except for the purposes of the class.

No working on other assignments during this class period.

No sideshows; one speaker at a time.

No packing before the official ending of the class period.

### **SCHEDULE**

Class overview

#### **PART ONE**

#### **Structural Foundations: Introduction: Main Themes**

Chapter 1. Democracy and American Politics

*Readings (Chapters 1)*

#### **PART THREE**

#### **What Government Does**

Chapter 5: Freedom: The Struggle for Civil Liberties

Chapter 6: Civil Rights: The Struggle for Political Equality

*Readings (Chapters 5, 6)*

**EXAM ONE (Chapter1, 5, & 6)**

## **PART TWO**

### **Structure**

Chapter 2. The Constitution

Chapter 3. Federalism: States and Nation

Chapter 4. The Structural Foundation of American Government and Politics

**Reading: (Chapters 2, 3, 4)**

**EXAM TWO (2,3,4)**

## **PART FOUR**

### **Political Linkage**

Chapter 7. Interest Groups and Business Corporations

Chapter 8. Social Movements

Chapter 9. Political Parties

Chapter 10. Participation Voting and Elections

**Readings (Chapters 7,8,9,10)**

**EXAM THREE (Chapters 7,8,9,10)**

*Thanksgiving; 11/22/07*

## **PART FIVE**

### **Government Institutions**

Chapter 11. Congress

Chapter 12. The President

Chapter 13. The Courts

**Reading (Chapter, 11,12,13)**

**FINAL EXAM (11,12,13)**

### **Assessment:**

Exam One	15%
Exam Two	15%
Exam Three	15%
Final Exam	20%
Chapter outlines*	15%
Quizzes/ Assignments	15%
Attendance and Participation	<u>5%</u>
	100%

*\*Chapter outlines due the day we start a new chapter, no late outlines accepted. Each chapter outline attracts one percentage point. Turning in all thirteen-chapter outlines attract two-percentage points bonus.*

*(Dates are syllabus subject to adjustments and changes as necessary)*

**HAVE A GREAT SEMESTER!**

