

University of West Georgia

POLS 1101: American Government Syllabus
Fall Semester 2007
August 15 – December 5

TEXTBOOK:

Essentials of American Government: Continuity and Change

INSTRUCTOR:

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ABOUT COURSE:

An introductory Course that provides an overview of the Constitutional foundations of the nation, government institutions and political processes.

FORMAT:

This course will meet each Monday and Wednesday from August 15 thru December 5, 2007. Classes will generally consist of lectures and class discussions. There will be five exams (four regular and a final exam). There will also be class assignments and quizzes.

Grades will be calculated as follows:	Grade Scale:
Exams (15% each): 75%	90-100 A
Quizzes and Assignments: 15%*	80-89 B
Class Participation: 10%	70-79 C
	60-69 D
*Drop lowest quiz/assignment grade	Below 60 F

ATTENDANCE:

Roll will not be taken regularly during this course, however, it is important for each student to attend class regularly to stay current on assignments and to fully grasp the material. Keep in mind that class participation is assessed and counts for ten percent of your final grade.

There will be no make-ups for quizzes or exams so plan to attend. You are allowed to drop your lowest quiz grade so if you are absent on quiz day that will count as your lowest grade.

TENTATIVE COURSE SCHEDULE:

Week in Semester	Material For Discussion
1	Introduction
2	The Constitution
3	The Constitution and Federalism
4	Federalism and Exam I
5	Civil Liberties
6	Civil Liberties
7	Civil Rights
8	Civil Rights and Exam II
9	The Congress
10	The Congress and the Presidency
11	The Presidency and the Judiciary
12	The Judiciary and Exam III
13	Public Opinion and News Media
14	Political Parties and Interest Groups
15	Out of class research and Thanksgiving Holiday
16	Political Parties and Interest Groups and Exam IV
17	Review for Final Exam
18	Finals Week