

**American Government**  
**Political Science 1101**  
**Spring 2003**

**Course Objective:** This course explains how the American political system works. It focuses not only upon the institutional and legal frameworks set out in the U.S. and state Constitutions but also upon the historical, philosophical, psychological and sociological aspects of the American policy-making process. The goal is to enhance students' knowledge of their governments and to motivate them toward greater participation in the politics of the United States at all levels.

**Learning Outcomes:** Students will demonstrate that they have developed an understanding of: the basic values of American civic culture; of the constitutional, institutional, political and legal processes of the U.S. and Georgia; the interrelationship between American governmental institutions; the basic terminology of political science and American politics; and how American culture, values and political institutions compare with those of other types of government. This course is required in Core Area E and satisfies the first and third learning outcomes for the area.

**Textbook:** All professors use at least one basic American Government textbook.

**Grading:** There will be periodic examinations given during the semester. Grading scales and assignments vary by professor, using multiple choice, essay, or a combination of each.

**Topics Covered**

I. Introduction

- A. Definitions
- B. Setting

II. Environment of the political system

- A. The Constitution
- B. Federalism

III. Inputs

- A. Public opinion and Media
- B. Interest Groups & Parties
- C. Campaigns & Elections

IV. Policy makers

- A. Legislatures
- B. Executives
- C. Bureaucracies
- D. Judiciaries

V Outputs

- A. Civil liberties
- B Civil rights