

Course Syllabus

American Government

Political Science POLS 1101-L2M/LXM

Dr. Robert M. Sanders, Spring, '08,
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Division of Social Sciences,
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M,W,F, 10:00, classroom- Pafford 112, 3 cr. (office hours
announced in class).

Course Background:

This course will examine historical factors leading to the formulation of the American government as well as the structure, functions and responsibilities of the federal government. The class will explore policy formulation and implementation, interest group dynamics, and political processes of the federal government.

Class objectives: Students will demonstrate that they have developed: An understanding of the basic values of American civic culture; an understanding of the constitutional, institutional, political and legal processes of the U.S. and Georgia; an understanding of the interrelationship between American governmental institutions; an understanding of the basic terminology of political science and U.S. politics; and an understanding of how American culture, values and political institutions compare with those of other types of government.

Required text:

Wilson, James & John DiIulio. *American Government The Essentials*, 11th edition, Boston: Houghton Mifflin Co., 2004.

Requirements:

Examinations

In order to assess the student's grasp of the material, there will be four closed book exams. Tests must be taken on the dates stipulated in the syllabus.

Class Participation

In order to enhance the seminars, students are encouraged to share their knowledge and opinions of lectures, required readings, written material and research, along with any related information. Outstanding class participation will result in four, or eight points added to the total points from the tests. Students are expected to attend all classes and to be on time for class. Perfect attendance will result in four extra points. Five absences will result in a deduction of 13 points; six absences,

21 points; seven absences, 33 points; and eight or more absences, a 51 point decrease.

The student's final grade will be the average from all the exams.

Schedule:

- 1/9: Intro., Government Theory, Read Wilson., Chap.4.
 1/11-1/18: Historical Developments, Read Wilson., Chap. 2.
 1/23-1/28: Public Policy, Read Wilson., Chap. 17.
 1/30-2/4: The American Constitution, Read Wilson., Chap. 1.
 2/6: **First test.**
 2/8-2/13: Federalism, State & Local, Read Wilson., Chap. 3.
 2/15-2/20: Political Participation, Read Wilson., Chap. 8.
 2/22-2/27: Political Parties, Elections, Campaigns, Wilson,9,10.
 2/29: **Mid-term.**
 3/3-3/10*: Interest Groups, Read Wilson., Chap. 11.
 3/12-3/24: The Bureaucracy, Read Wilson., Chap. 15.
 3/26-3/31: The Judiciary, Read Wilson., Chap. 16.
 4/2: **Third test.**
 4/4-4/9: The Media, Public Opinion, Read Wilson., Chap. 12.
 4/11-4/18: Congress, Read Wilson., Chap. 13.
 4/21-4/25: The President, Read Wilson., Chap. 14.
 4/28-4/30: Social, Pol., Civil Liberties, Rights, Wilson, 5,6.
 5/7 @ 8 AM: **Final exam.**
 *3/7: GA American Public Administration Conf., Dahlonga, GA.

Additional Resources- Berman, Larry & Bruce Murphy, *Approaching Democracy*;
 Burns, James, et al., *Government by the People*;
 Cigler, Allan & Burdett Loomis, *American Politics*;
 Diclecko, Robert & Allan Hammock, *Points of View*;
 Dye, Thomas, *Politics in America*; Stinebrickner, Bruce, *American Government*;
 Edwards, David & A. Lipucci, *Practicing American Politics*;
 Hellinger, Daniel & Dennis Judd, *The Democratic Facade*;
 Miadenka, Kenneth, *The Unfinished Republic*;
 Murphy, Bruce, *Portrait of American Politics*;
 Peverill, Squire, et al., *Dynamics of Democracy*.