

POLS 1101: American Government
CREDIT: 3 Semester hours
PREREQUISITE: None

COURSE DESCRIPTION: A study of the philosophical and cultural underpinnings of the U.S. Constitution and American values, institutions, and political processes. The features of the U.S. system are compared with those of parliamentary systems and those of the state of Georgia.

OBJECTIVES: The student will be able to

1. grasp the founding principles of the American regime;
2. understand the responsibilities and difficulties of self-government;
3. appreciate the use of rhetoric in American politics;
4. reflect on contemporary public policy issues;
5. possess an understanding of Georgia state government.

COURSE OUTLINE:

1. Founding Principles
 - Declaration of Independence
 - Thomas Jefferson, Letter to John Adams
 - Abigail Adams, Letter to John Adams (1776)
 - John Adams, Letter to Abigail Adams (1776)
 - Federalist* 9
 - Federalist* 10
2. Constitutionalism, Federalism, and Legislative Powers
 - Constitution, Preamble and Article I
 - Federalist* 47, 48, 49
 - Federalist* 51

 - McCulloch v. Maryland* (1819)
 - United States v. Darby* (1941)
 - United States v. Lopez* (1995)
3. Executive Powers & Foreign Policy
 - Constitution, Article II
 - Federalist* 70
 - Lincoln, Special Session
 - Franklin D. Roosevelt, Message to Congress (1942)
 - War Powers Resolution
 - Geo. Washington, Farewell Address (p. 354)
 - Franklin D. Roosevelt, "Four Freedoms" Speech
 - George W. Bush, "Iraq Policy" Speech (2003)
4. The Judiciary
 - Constitution, Article III
 - Federalist* 78
 - Marbury v. Madison* (1803)
 - Brennan, Georgetown speech
 - Griswold v. Connecticut* (1965)
 - Lawrence v. Texas* (2003)
 - Brutus, *Essay XI*
5. The "Fourth" Branch of Government
 - Alexis de Tocqueville, *Democracy in America* (p. 183)
 - Wilson, *Constitutional Government*

