POLS 1101, American Government, Fall 2018

<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th>*Class Meeting Time/Location</th>
<th>Online Hours</th>
<th>By appointment</th>
</tr>
</thead>
<tbody>
<tr>
<td>Tues &amp; Thurs 3:30 – 4:45 Pafford 306</td>
<td>Telephone</td>
<td>404-822-1015</td>
</tr>
</tbody>
</table>

<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th>Instructor</th>
<th>westga email</th>
<th><a href="mailto:kbarrett@westga.edu">kbarrett@westga.edu</a></th>
</tr>
</thead>
<tbody>
<tr>
<td>Dr. Kathie Barrett</td>
<td>Skype or Google+ username</td>
<td>Not applicable</td>
</tr>
</tbody>
</table>

<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th>Office Location</th>
<th>Office Hours</th>
</tr>
</thead>
<tbody>
<tr>
<td>Pafford 134</td>
<td>Mon thru Thurs 8-10AM</td>
</tr>
</tbody>
</table>

Support for courses

CourseDen D2L Home Page
https://westga.view.usg.edu/

Student Services
http://uwgonline.westga.edu/online-student-guide.php

D2L UWG Online Help (8 AM – 5 PM)
http://uwgonline.westga.edu/students.php
Call: 678-839-6248 or 1-855-933-8946 or email: online@westga.edu

Center for Academic Success
http://www.westga.edu/cas/
678-839-6280

24/7/365 D2L Help Center
Call 1-855-772-0423 or search:
https://d2lhelp.view.usg.edu/

Distance Learning Library Services
http://libguides.westga.edu/content.php?pid=194430

University Bookstore
http://www.bookstore.westga.edu/

Ingram Library Services
http://www.westga.edu/library/

COURSE INFORMATION

Course Description
A study of government and politics, including the philosophical and constitutional foundations, governing institutions, political behavior and major public policy issues. This course satisfies the State legislative requirement concerning the United States Constitution and the Georgia Constitution

TEXTS, READINGS, INSTRUCTIONAL RESOURCES, AND REFERENCES

Template last updated 7/22/2015.
Textbooks will be provided by the Instructor. These are for use during the class only and must be returned during the last week of the semester.

Course material will also include videos, simulations, and other material available on the internet. These links are provided in CourseDen.

*Course Objectives and Learning Outcomes*

*Upon completion of this course, students should be able to:*

1. Demonstrate a knowledge of the U. S. Constitution.
2. Demonstrate a knowledge of the Georgia State Constitution.
3. Identify the institutions and processes of the three branches of U.S. government.
4. Recognize current political issues and explain the policy making process.
5. Analyze politics in terms of political behavior and linking institutions.
6. Demonstrate that they have developed an understanding of the political and legal processes of the U.S. and Georgia, and an understanding of the terminology of political science and U.S. politics, adapting written communication to specific purposes and audiences.

### Assignments

<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th>Assignment name</th>
<th>Description</th>
<th>Due Date</th>
<th>Points</th>
</tr>
</thead>
<tbody>
<tr>
<td>Attendance &amp; Participation</td>
<td>Students are expected to come to class prepared</td>
<td></td>
<td>20%</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Reflections</td>
<td>Students will post reflections on selected readings throughout the semester</td>
<td>Due as indicated</td>
<td>40%</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Midterm and Final</td>
<td></td>
<td>Due 11:30 PM on Sept 24 and December 10</td>
<td>40%</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td><strong>TOTAL</strong></td>
<td></td>
<td></td>
<td>100%</td>
</tr>
</tbody>
</table>
Attendance & Participation: American Government, and the issues faced, change constantly. Coming to class, being prepared, and participating in the class will lead to a better understanding of the material and appreciation of the importance of the student’s relationship with American Government.

Reflections: Readings and online games will be assigned throughout the semester. Students are expected to write a reflection about the reading. The reflections are to be original thoughts summarizing the reading, explaining how it illustrated or explained some aspect of American Government and current American political events. Reflections should be a minimum of 1 page. All reflections are to be submitted through CourseDen. An material that is not original should be properly cited.

Midterm and Final: Students will submit a midterm and final examination through CourseDen.

**Grading Information and Policy**

Grading structure and point scale

<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th>Percentage Range</th>
<th>Grade</th>
<th>Description</th>
</tr>
</thead>
<tbody>
<tr>
<td>90% - 100%</td>
<td>A</td>
<td>Demonstrates significantly above average understanding of the material.</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>80% - 89%</td>
<td>B</td>
<td>Demonstrates better than average understanding of the material.</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>70% - 79%</td>
<td>C</td>
<td>Demonstrates average understanding of the material.</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>60% - 69%</td>
<td>D</td>
<td>Demonstrates below average understanding of the material.</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>&lt; 60%</td>
<td>F</td>
<td></td>
</tr>
</tbody>
</table>

Please see the [Common Language for Course Syllabi](https://www.westga.edu/UWGSSyllabusPolicies/) available at [https://www.westga.edu/UWGSSyllabusPolicies/](https://www.westga.edu/UWGSSyllabusPolicies/) for official information on UWG’s Academic Integrity Policy. Note that I will enforce this policy.

**Communication Rules**
Communication Rules: Please stop by my office anytime during my office hours. I will also be glad to arrange other office hours, including online, by appointment. Please use CourseDen for communication. I will return all emails in 36-hours during the week and within 48 hours over the weekends.

Etiquette – Some communication will be in the classroom and some online. Please read the short list of tips communication below.

- Be sensitive and reflective to what others are saying.
- Don't use all caps in messages. It is the equivalent of screaming.
- Don't flame - These are outbursts of extreme emotion or opinion.
- Think before you hit the post (enter/reply) button. You can't take it back!
- Don't use offensive language.
- Use clear subject lines.
- Don't use abbreviations or acronyms unless the entire class knows them.
- Be forgiving. Anyone can make a mistake.
- Keep the dialog collegial and professional.
- Wonder. Consider the other person’s perspective.

Expected Response times
Most of the tests and assignments will be graded immediately through CourseDen. For essays and assignments that cannot be automatically graded I will make every effort to have them graded within a week.

Class Schedule Information (See also Class Schedule Module)

<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th>Week</th>
<th>Dates</th>
<th>Topic/Activity/Reading Assignment</th>
<th>Assignment Name &amp; Due Date**</th>
</tr>
</thead>
<tbody>
<tr>
<td>1</td>
<td>Aug 16</td>
<td>Introduction, Forms of Government</td>
<td>Open drop ends August 17 at 11:59PM</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td></td>
<td></td>
<td></td>
<td>Open add ends August 20 at 11:59PM</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>2</td>
<td>Aug 21,23</td>
<td>Background</td>
<td>Do Pre-Assessment</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td></td>
<td></td>
<td>• Readings as assigned</td>
<td></td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td></td>
<td></td>
<td>• Play Which Founder Are You?</td>
<td></td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>3</td>
<td>Aug 28,</td>
<td>Constitution, Federalism</td>
<td>Federalism Reflection</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td></td>
<td>30, Sept 6</td>
<td>• Readings as assigned</td>
<td></td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td></td>
<td></td>
<td>• Review Explore the Constitution</td>
<td></td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Week</td>
<td>Dates</td>
<td>Topic</td>
<td>Activities</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>------</td>
<td>----------------</td>
<td>----------------------------</td>
<td>---------------------------------------------------------------------------</td>
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</tbody>
</table>
| 4    | Sept 11, 13    | Civil Liberties            | • Readings as assigned  
• Play Bill of Rights Game  
• Play Tinker v. Des Moines |                                            |
| 4    | Sept 18, 20    | Civil Rights               | • Readings as assigned  
• Play Restore Bill of Rights  
• Play Do I Have a Right?                  | • Liberties and Rights Reflection          |
| 6    | Sept 25, 27    | Congress                   | • Readings as assigned  
• Play Represent Me  
• Play Lawcraft                   | • Midterm Due Sept 24                      |
| 7    | Oct 2, 9, 11   | Judiciary                  | • Readings as assigned  
• Play Supreme Decision           | Last day to withdraw is Oct 8               |
| 8    | Oct 16, 18     | President                  | • Readings as assigned  
• Play Win the White House        | • Congress & Judiciary Reflection          |
| 9    | Oct 23, 25     | Bureaucracy                | • Readings as assigned  
• Play Executive Command           | • President & Bureaucracy Reflection       |
| 10   | Oct 30, Nov 1  | Public Opinion & Media     | • Readings as assigned                                                   |                                            |
| 11   | Nov 6, 8       | Parties                    | • Readings as assigned                                                   |                                            |
| 12   | Nov 13, 25     | Voting and Elections       | • Readings as assigned  
• Play Cast Your Vote               | • Parties & Voting Reflection             |
<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th>Date</th>
<th>Nov 27,29</th>
<th>Nov 27,29</th>
<th>Dec 4,6</th>
<th>Dec 4,6</th>
<th>Final Exam</th>
<th>Final Exam</th>
</tr>
</thead>
</table>
| Policy: Domestic, Foreign, Economic | • Readings as assigned  
• Play The Fiscal Ship  
• Play Chair the Fed  
• Play People's Pie | • Policy Reflection | • Readings as assigned  
• Play Counties at Work | • Do Post-Assessment | Due December 10 | *NO work will be accepted after Dec 10 11:30PM*

**Late work policy:** No work will be accepted late except by prior arrangement.

**Expectations of Students**

**Course Structure:** This class deals with issues and problems that are occurring around the globe. Class discussion and participation is an important part of this class. Therefore, to get the most out of the class students should come to class prepared by reading class materials and knowing current events. The readings provide background and cases for class discussions. Current events provide relevant examples of the topics and theories discussed.

**Preparation for Class:** The assigned readings, exercises, and assignments are designed to provide background to and reinforce classroom lessons, activities, and discussions. The better prepared students are by reading the material before the class the more they will get out of the class.

**Special components:** All readings are available electronically through the University of West Georgia library. If you are not on-campus or if you have problems accessing the readings, please refer to the instructions in the module and sub-modules “How To Access Readings” for instructions. If you still cannot access the readings, please let me know.

**Course and UWG Policies**

**Attendance Policy:** In order to distribute Title IV funding (federal student aid), student attendance verification is required. Therefore, attendance is recorded for each class. Please ensure that your attendance is recorded.
Attendance is also understanding the course material and getting the most out of the class. Three unexcused absences are allowed during the semester. For each unexcused absence over 3 one (1) point will be deducted from the final grade.

For the Americans with Disabilities Act, UWG Email, Credit Hour, and UWG Honor Code policies as well as information on Academic Tutoring, Student Services, and Technical Requirements, Privacy Policy, and Accessibility Statements, please see the Common Language for Syllabus (available at https://www.westga.edu/UWGSyllabusPolicies/) document.

I strongly recommend that students make an electronic copy of everything submitted to me via the dropbox. Also, please ensure that dropbox submissions are readable on all machines and do not post “pages” files to dropbox. If there is any concern please copy and paste the submission into dropbox.

Additional Support Information

Center for Academic Success
The new Center for Academic Success (CAS – see http://www.westga.edu/excel/) provides services, programs, and opportunities to help all undergraduate students succeed academically. The CAS offers free appointment-based peer tutoring in core courses, as well as supplemental instruction (SI)—which is peer-facilitated collaborative learning—in a variety of disciplines. Students seeking help with study skills and strategies can attend workshops though the Academic Success Workshop series, or work individually with either a staff or peer Academic Coach. Beginning Fall 2014, the CAS will also offer “Back on Track,” a voluntary academic recovery program designed for students who want to improve their grades and academic standing. The Center for Academic Success is located in UCC 200, and can be reached at 678-839-6280. Our email address is cas@westga.edu.

Student Services
Here is a great resource of Student Services (see http://uwgonline.westga.edu/online-student-guide.php) or all students at UWG, whether or not they are taking online courses. This link provides students with most of the information they need. If a student is experiencing distress and needs some help, check out UWG Cares at http://www.westga.edu/UWGCares/