

**AMERICAN GOVERNMENT  
POLS 1101  
Summer Session I: 2006**

**Instructor:** Professor Hood

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**Course Website:** [www.arches.uga.edu/~th/pols1101.htm](http://www.arches.uga.edu/~th/pols1101.htm)

**Office Hours:** Monday—Friday by appointment

**Required Texts:**

Text (Available at the Off-Campus Bookstore or Baxter Street Books):

*American Government, Power and Purpose, Core 9<sup>th</sup> ed.* [L,G,&S]

**Course Overview:**

Students will gain a more complete understanding of the basic organization and functions of the United States and Georgia governments through a series of assigned readings and lectures. Emphasis will be placed on learning basic concepts and ideas concerning how our government actually works (or fails to work). After successfully completing this course you will hopefully be able to comprehend, and meaningfully participate in, the American political process.

**Course Requirements:**

*Exams:* You are expected to take all three of the regularly scheduled exams as well as the final. The grade earned on the final exam, in addition to counting for the assigned 20% of a student's grade, may also be substituted for the lowest grade earned from Exams 1-3. In the event that a student misses one of the exams scheduled during the semester (Exams 1-3), the normal procedure will be to substitute the final exam grade (Exam 4) for the missed exam. Students must take Exam 4.

*Participation:* Your grade in this area will be based on both attendance and participation in class. One should note that it is difficult to participate in class discussions without being physically present. Class attendance is a necessary, but not sufficient, condition for a high participation grade. In order to adequately prepare for class, all assigned readings should be examined by the dates indicated on this syllabus. Not all assigned readings may be discussed in class; however this does not negate your responsibility to familiarize yourself with these materials.<sup>1</sup>

*Quizzes/Discussion Modules:* Three Friday sessions during the course of the semester will be reserved for a series of class discussions based upon a set of assigned readings. These readings will be made available electronically prior to the dates outlined on the

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<sup>1</sup>Being tardy will diminish your participation grade. Using a cell phone, pager, PDA, Game Boy, X-Box or any other electronic device with no relevance to coursework will not likely help one's participation grade. Given the recent conditions around the world, students will be allowed to take calls in class if the President needs immediate advice in the area of national security. Likewise, filling out the crossword puzzle in the Red and Black in full view of the instructor will not boost a student's grade in this area.

syllabus. At the beginning of each of these class periods a short quiz that covers material from the assigned readings will be administered. The remainder of these class sessions will be devoted to discussing the assigned materials. Your participation in these discussions will affect the calculation of your participation grade.

### Grading Procedure:

Your course grade will be based on the following distribution:  
 4 Exams @ 20% each  
 3 Quizzes @ 5% each  
 Participation Grade: 5%

### Course Outline:

Date:	Topic:	Required Readings:
6/8	Course Introduction—The Purpose of Government	L,G,&S, Ch. 1
6/9	The U.S. and Georgia Constitutions	L,G,&S, Ch. 2
6/12	Federalism	L,G,&S, Ch. 3
6/13	<b>Exam 1</b>	
6/14	Public Opinion	L,G,&S, Ch. 9
6/15	The Role of the Media	L,G,&S, Ch. 13
6/16	<b>Discussion Module; Quiz 1</b>	Electronic Posting
6/19	Political Parties	L,G,&S, Ch. 11
6/20	<b>Exam 2</b>	
6/21	Elections and Political Participation <b>Midpoint Withdrawal Deadline</b>	L,G,&S, Ch. 10
6/22	Interest Groups	L,G,&S, Ch. 12
6/23	<b>Discussion Module; Quiz 2</b>	Electronic Posting
6/26	Legislatures—U.S./Georgia Cont.	L,G,&S, Ch. 5
6/27	<b>Exam 3</b>	
6/28	The Executive—The President/The Georgia Governor	L,G,&S, Ch. 6
6/29	The Bureaucracy	L,G,&S, Ch. 7
6/30	<b>Discussion Module; Quiz 3</b>	Electronic Posting
7/3	The Judicial Branch—U.S./Georgia	L,G,&S, Ch. 8
7/4	<b>Holiday: Independence Day</b>	
7/5	<b>Last Class;</b> Video Presentation on Campaigns and Elections: <i>Journeys with George</i>	Class Discussion
7/6	<b>FINAL EXAM</b> (Exam 4); 9:15-10:45 a.m.	