

EAST GEORGIA STATE COLLEGE
Augusta Campus

FALL 2020
Revised September 7, 2020

CRN 80511 POLS 1101 RC American Government – MW, 9:00 am – 10:15 am, Room 330, University Hall

I. Instructor:

Prof. Robert A. Mullins, M.A., J.D.
Associate Professor of Political Science
School of Humanities and Social Science
East Georgia State College

II. Office information: Location, Phone, Email, Hours

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Fall Office Hours:

Monday, 10:15am-11:15am; Tuesday, 2:00pm-4:15pm; Wednesday, 10:15am-11:15am; Thursday, 2:00pm-4:15pm; Friday, 11:30am-2:30pm; additional times are available by appointment. Please schedule times with me to meet. Meetings will be conducted via Zoom, email, and/or phone.

COVID Statement Requiring Face Masks

The USG has set a policy for all colleges and universities in the system that students, faculty, and staff are required to wear face masks while indoors (with the exception of your dorm room).

A protective face covering is appropriate if it covers both the mouth and nose of the individual, fits over the chin, fits snugly against the sides of the face, is securely attached to the individuals face, is made of cloth or other tightly

woven fibers or similar materials, and significantly limits the aerial transmission of respiratory droplets from the wearer's mouth or nasal cavities to others in close proximity to the wearer.

Students and employees desiring or needing to wear a face shield for medical reasons will need to go through the accommodation process.

It is important for your health and the health of those around you that you follow this policy at all times. Failure to follow this policy will lead to you being asked to leave for a first offense; if it happens a second time, you will be reported to the student conduct officer for disorderly conduct. You are also expected to maintain a distance of 6 feet from others at all times while on campus including during lectures and labs. Your professor will also ask you to continue to sit in the same seat each time you attend class in person in case there is a need for contact tracing. The combination of these efforts is designed for the health and well-being of everyone on campus.

III. Course description

This course is a study of the political structures and actual functions of the various levels of government in the United States. The national government plus state and local governments of Georgia will be emphasized. Successful completion satisfies the legislative requirements for instruction in the constitutions of the U. S. and Georgia (Course Catalog). The course is a mix of lecture/discussion and student participation. I'll draw from the textbook but will use PowerPoint, multimedia and handouts to flesh out the course topics. Review notes and do all readings to be successful in the course.

Course outline:

- A. America's Founding and Creation of Government
- B. Federalism and the US Constitution
- C. Civil Rights and Liberties
- D. Congress
- E. Presidency
- F. Bureaucracy
- G. Judiciary
- H. Voting & Elections
- I. State & Local Government
- J. Public Opinion & the Media

- K. Social and Environmental Policy
- L. Foreign Policy

This a hybrid course. Half of the class will meet in person on Mondays and the other half on Wednesday. Those students that meet on Monday are expected to attend the lecture on Wednesday via Zoom or other platform utilized by the instructor. Likewise, those students that meet on Wednesday are expected to attend the lecture on Monday via Zoom or other platform utilized by the instructor. A portion of the course is delivered online.

Students with the last name beginning with “A” through “M” will meet on Mondays.

Students with the last name beginning with “N” through “Z” will meet on Wednesdays.

IV. Prerequisites

None. However, English 0099, and Reading 0099 are highly recommended.

V. Textbook

OpenStax, *American Government*. OpenStax. 14 July 2016.
<<http://cnx.org/content/col11995/latest/>>

VI. Course Learning Outcomes with linkages to General Education Student Learning Outcomes

You should exit this course with a basic familiarity and understanding of the processes and institutions associated with the American political system. The course is taught from a theoretical and policy-oriented perspective, meaning that you should be able to grasp and understand the underpinnings of the American political process. Emphasis is placed on the role of government as both an arena and arbiter among various groups vying for power in an environment of scarce resources. In this environment, government assumes the role of decision-maker. In a more practical sense, you should come away with a basic understanding of how government impacts your daily life, through the formulation and the implementation of public policy, and the study of how government decides who gets what.

The course poses several philosophical questions and are the political science student learning outcomes:

1. Describe the historical and philosophical roots of the U.S. Constitution and government
2. Explain the structure, powers, and processes of the three branches of the U.S. Government
3. Articulate the features and roles of main actors in the U.S. political system such as interest groups and political parties
4. Describe major domestic and foreign policy issues in U.S. politics

You are expected to integrate the required readings with class lectures. East Georgia State College assesses student learning based upon the achievement of seven general education outcome electives which are listed below and are also available on the EGSC webpage:

1. Students will demonstrate college-level writing proficiency in written exposition, analysis, argumentation, interpretation, and evaluation using properly researched sources of information. (Writing Competency Area).
2. Students will demonstrate college-level proficiency in using basic numerical, symbolic, graphical, and mathematical functions for analyzing data and solving quantitative problems with the aid of appropriate technology. (Quantitative Competency Area).
3. Students will demonstrate necessary organization of materials for effective vocal and physical presentations in varied speaking contexts. (Oral and Multi-media Presentation Competency).
4. Students will demonstrate use of the principles of critical thinking including the gathering, analysis, and evaluation of information to formulate substantive and creative perspectives on challenging events in one's history and experience. (Critical Thinking Competency).
5. Students will demonstrate the recognition of important works of literature or art and the periods in history when they were created and

analyze basic characteristics and differences among their different forms. (Humanities Competency).

6. Students will demonstrate familiarity with basic nomenclature, theories, investigative practices, and laboratory work in the sciences as well as the functional components and use of the scientific method in natural science research. (Scientific Competency).
7. Students will demonstrate recognition of the basic principles and theories of human behavior, social organizations, government, laws and policies, behavioral and social deviance, and social scientific research methods. (Social Science Competency).

To assess and measure student learning outcomes in this class, the following criteria will be used through a major Institutional Power Point and Oral Analysis that will demonstrate proficiency in the three criteria:

1. Students will demonstrate necessary organization of materials for effective vocal and physical presentations in varied speaking contexts. (Oral and Multi-media Presentation Competency)
2. Students will demonstrate use of the principles of critical thinking including the gathering, analysis, and evaluation of information to formulate substantive and creative perspectives on challenging events in one's history and experience. (Critical Thinking Competency)
3. Students will demonstrate recognition of the basic principles and theories of human behavior, social organizations, government, laws and policies, behavioral and social deviance, and social scientific research methods. (Social Science Competency) The Oral and Multi-media Presentation Competency, the Critical Thinking Competency, and Social Science Competency are incorporated into the objectives of this course

Personal and Equipment (Computer and Software) Requirements:

As a hybrid course, this class depends on each student being self-disciplined, proactive, and organized to complete all required work on a timely manner.

Access to a computer with Internet access, plus a back-up plan should you encounter problems with your computer or Internet connection at any time during the quarter.

Software requirements

- In addition to Internet Explorer or Firefox as a browser, you will need:
- Microsoft Word processor, with all assignments being submitted through Word only.
 - Assignments submitted in any other format including Microsoft Works, Word Perfect, Word Pad, etc. will not be accepted.
- Microsoft PowerPoint to view my presentations.
- Microsoft Media Player or other similar media player software able to run a video over the Internet; or the ability to go to the campus library to view a video.

If you expect any of the above requirements to be a problem for you at any time during the semester, please contact me immediately.

VII. Evaluation

A. Attendance / Class Participation (100 points)

Each student is expected to attend class and participate in class discussions. You are required to check your POLS 1101 American Government course link in D2L daily for announcement made by the instructor. You are also required to check your D2L mail daily.

B. Critical Thinking Assignment

Interest Group Assignment (100 points)

This is a written assignment that requires you to present your findings. You will assess an interest group and answer questions about that group. This is a

written assignment and must be submitted in D2L's Assignment drop box by **10:00 pm on Sunday, October 11th**.

You will be required to present your interest group findings orally in class or via the approved electronic technology platform (i.e. Power Point, ZOOM, etc). You must be ready to present your findings by **Monday, October 12th**. More information will be provided in class and D2L.

C. Quizzes (200 points)

You will complete ten (10) weekly online quizzes. **All quizzes will be due by 10:00 pm on the Sunday they are due.** You are required to complete the quizzes by the deadlines. You can take the quiz as many times as needed to reach your desired grade by the deadline. After the deadline, the quiz will close. Each quiz is worth 20 points.

D. Tests (400/300 points)

You can expect four tests as set forth in the course calendar. All tests are objective and/or short answer in nature. Each test will be 100 points each for a total of 400 points. Your lowest test score will be dropped.

E. Final exam (200 points)

The final will be comprehensive covering material from the overall semester. The final exam will consist of multiple-choice questions and true/false questions.

F. Extra Credit

There may be some extra credit opportunities this semester that will include service learning, stewardship, and community engagement. Check your e-mail early and often.

VIII. Grading

Point breakdown

Class Attendance/Participation	=	100 points
Interest Group Assignment	=	100 points

Quizzes	=	200 points
Tests	=	400/300 points
<i>Lowest test score will be dropped</i>		
Final exam	=	<u>200 points</u> 900 points

<u>Total</u>	<u>900 points</u>	<u>Average Grade Score</u>
A	810 – 900	90 - 100
B	720 – 809	80 - 89
C	630 – 719	70 - 79
D	540 – 629	60 - 69
F	< 540	0 - 59

IX. Attendance Policy

Each student is expected to attend class and participate in class discussions. Please check your POLS 1101 American Government course link in D2L daily. You are also required to check your D2L mail daily. You must have daily access to a computer with Internet access.

X. Make-up Policy

You are expected to take every exam at the scheduled time, no earlier and no later. You are also expected to turn in assignments on the day the assignment is due. **If you miss a test or do not turn an assignment in on the date due, you will receive a 0 (F).**

THERE WILL BE NO MAKE-UP TESTS. I will grant you a make-up only if you are ill, attending a school sponsored activity, or family emergency. Documentation is required and is subject to verification.

Attending college and being a scholar requires taking your studies serious and being academically accountable and responsible. If there is an extenuating circumstance, however, which means an emergency (such as an accident or medical situation, not missing class because you got back from out of town late or over-sleeping), I will determine the make-up. Before any decision is made, proper written documentation is required.

XI. Plagiarism

All academic work that you turn in should be your own work. Thus, I take academic honesty very seriously. **Cheating or plagiarizing of any kind is not tolerated.** Below you will find some explanations of cheating and plagiarism as taken from the Student Handbook of East Georgia State College.

Cheating

- a. Copying from another student's paper.
- b. Use of prepared materials, notes, or texts other than those specifically permitted by the instructor during the examination.
- c. Collaboration with another student during the examination.
- d. Buying, selling, stealing, soliciting or transmitting an examination or any other material purported to be the unreleased contents of an upcoming examination, or use of any such material.
- e. Substitution for another person during an examination or allowing such substitution for oneself.
- f. Bribery of any person to obtain examination information.

Student Responsibility - It is the duty of the student to practice and preserve academic honesty. If the student has any doubt about a situation, he or she should consult with his or her instructor.

XII: ADA Regulations

If you have special needs because of a learning disability or physical disability, you should discuss this problem with me immediately. I will make every reasonable effort to accommodate you. Learning disabled students must be officially tested and diagnosed as such by EGSC Counseling Services and bring the paperwork to me before accommodations can be made.

XIII. Course withdrawal policy statement

Course Withdrawal Policy Statement: Students are responsible for their own academic progress. Decisions regarding withdrawal from courses should only be made after consultation with an academic advisor. Before withdrawing from a course, students must meet with a Financial Aid representative to discuss their personal financial aid situation. More information regarding withdrawal from courses can be found in the EGC catalog at <http://www.ega.edu/registrar/catalog/Catalog0809.pdf>

XIV. Campus Emergency Policy

- a. In the event the fire alarm is sounded, everyone must evacuate the building at once and in a calm and orderly fashion, using the nearest exit. In the event of a severe weather warning everyone must proceed immediately to the nearest designated shelter area which are marked by a small tornado symbol. All severe weather shelter locations are posted on the EGSC website. Each student should, on the first day of class, determine the location of the nearest exit and the nearest designated shelter area for each of his or her classrooms. If you have difficulties locating either ask your instructor to assist you.
- b. The **Connect-ED** system is a communication service that enables East Georgia State College administrators and security personnel to quickly contact all EGSC students, faculty and staff with personalized voice and text messages that contain emergency-related campus information (e.g., campus closing, campus threat, health scare, etc.) With **Connect-ED**, EGSC students can be reached and provided with vital instructions. (<http://www.ega.edu/connected.pdf>)

In the event of an emergency, EGSC students should follow the instructions of EGSC faculty and staff members and GRU campus officials.

XV. Tentative Schedule

WEEK/DAY	TOPIC	ASSIGNMENTS
M. Aug. 10	Introduction	Read Syllabus
W. Aug. 12	Introduction	Read Syllabus
M. Aug. 17	American Government & Civic Engagement	Chapter 1
W. Aug. 19	The Constitution & Its Origin	Chapter 2

M. Aug. 24 W. Aug. 26 S. Aug. 30	American Federalism Complete Quiz 1	Chapter 3
M. Aug. 31 W. Sep. 2	TEST 1	
M. Sep. 7 W. Sep. 9 S. Sep. 13	LABOR DAY The Politics of Public Opinion Complete Quiz 2	NO CLASS Chapter 6
M. Sep. 14 W. Sep. 16 S. Sep. 20	The Media Complete Quiz 3	Chapter 8
M. Sep. 21 W. Sep. 23 S. Sep. 27	Voting & Elections Complete Quiz 4	Chapter 7
M. Sep. 28 W. Sep. 30	TEST 2	
M. Oct. 5 W. Oct. 7 S. Oct. 11	Congress Complete Quiz 5 Interest Group Assignment Due	Chapter 11
M. Oct. 12 W. Oct. 14 S. Oct. 18	The Presidency Complete Quiz 6	Chapter 12
M. Oct. 19 W. Oct. 21 S. Oct. 25	The Courts Complete Quiz 7	Chapter 13
M. Oct. 26 W. Oct. 28	TEST 3 Civil Liberties	Chapter 4
M. Nov. 2 W. Nov. 4 S. Nov. 8	Civil Rights Complete Quizzes 8 & 9	Chapter 5
M. Nov. 9 W. Nov. 11 S. Nov. 15	State & Local Government The Georgia Constitution Review Complete Quiz 10	Chapter 14
M. Nov. 16 W. Nov. 18	TEST 4 Review	
M. Nov. 23 W. Nov. 25	THANKSGIVING BREAK THANKSGIVING BREAK	NO CLASS NO CLASS
TBA	FINAL EXAM	

XVI. ADDITIONAL COURSE REQUIREMENTS

A. Classroom Behavior and Expectations

Appropriate, courteous, respectful behavior and language is expected of all students to the instructor and to the other students. It is important that you conduct yourself in a mature manner for you and other students in the class to be able to extract the maximum benefit from this course.

Since this course encourages and is designed for your involvement, you should participate without rancor, inappropriate behavior, or harassment of any type. Rancor is defined as deep hatred, intense ill will, antagonism, animosity, antipathy, enmity, and hostility. So, please no rancor. This expression will not be permitted, and if violated, you will be asked to leave the class/room. I do support your freedom of speech and crave your opinions and comments in class but when it is rancorous, we must have respect for the law.

However, and **I want you to be clear about this fact**, the discipline of political science deals with **controversial and opposing viewpoints which are healthy to analytical classroom discussions**. If you are easily offended by this constitutionally protected speech, it is highly recommended that you reconsider taking this course. Controversial ideas, which are framed in an academic and appropriate manner, are coveted, and **needed to promote thought and stimulate dialogue**. It is imperative that you are both tolerant and understanding of opposing viewpoints. If you happen to be part of a Group Project and you are not carrying “your duties,” I will remove you from the Group and assign you with a “0” for the work. I also don’t want you to bully any members of your group or in the class. This policy is not intended to hinder academic thought, but rather to respect the civil liberties & rights of all students and me.

B. Tardiness Policy

Simple: Do not be late!!! If your class starts at 11:00am, I expect you in the classroom at least five minutes before - and make sure you social distant. This will give you time to gather your learning materials and get ready for class. Also, do not pack your stuff up at the end of the class until I say that the class

session is over. Again, it is just rude to others and I have a legal responsibility to provide a comfortable learning environment.

C. Additional COVID 19 Statement

Due to new and updated Guidelines because of COVID 19, social distancing will be followed. It is also recommended that you wear a mask to class. If you feel sick DO NOT come to class. I also personally suggest you bring some Clorox wipes and clean your seating area in class, as well as wash your hands with warm water and soap for at least 60 seconds. I would also bring to class and regularly use hand sanitizer. Please be familiar with all other local, state, and federal guidelines associated with the spread of past, current, and future infectious diseases. Maintain at least a 6-foot distance between yourself from others.

The College is encouraging its community to practice the following CDC recommendations (CDC, 2020a):
o Wear a face covering.
o Wash hands frequently with soap and water; use hand sanitizer that contains at least 60% alcohol when soap and water are not available.

Stay home or self-quarantine when sick or if you have had contact with someone who has COVID-19.

D. Recording Lectures and Photos

If you request and are granted the right, you can record the lectures on audiotape as a study aid for your own personal use. You MAY NOT share, distribute, sell, etc. my lectures and discussions without prior permission or authorization.

You may not TAKE A PICTURE OF ME or your CLASSMATES before, during, or after class and post them online or on social media or anywhere else without our/my/their prior permission. Such violation will be reported to both the college and local law enforcement authorities

E. Critical Thinking Defined

To think critically is to compare, to contrast, to analyze, to synthesize, and to see the world in fresh new ways. A critical thinker may make use of inference, analogy, metaphor, or experiment, or may recast an old idea in new and novel ways. A critical thinker has formed the reading habit and reads with a critical eye, recognizing that much that has been written is subject to interpretation and appraisal. A critical thinker is reflective and does not rush to judgment. A critical thinker is dispassionate but recognizes that emotion and sentiment often color human events and cannot be ignored. A critical thinker can weigh all available facts and to come to a defensible conclusion tempered by reason, the best available knowledge, and any relevant experience. Finally, a critical thinker must know the limits of knowledge, must have a certain intellectual humility, must be flexible, must be tolerant and open-minded, and must be willing to admit error.

Critical thinking is essential to meet demands of a rapidly changing workplace, a workplace that esteems higher order thinking and creativity. To remain competitive with the rest of the world, to preserve a robust democracy, to maintain our quality of life, we must produce thinkers, innovators, creators, and leaders- all dependent upon critical thinking. I will use this rubric below to grade your Political Tasks and Civic Engagement Projects.

East Georgia State College - Holistic Critical Thinking Rubric

Criteria	Tier 1	Tier 2	Tier 3
Question – Students will question basic understanding of the topic in order to construct a thesis.	<ul style="list-style-type: none">• Fails to identify alternatives• Fails to acknowledge uncertainties• Fails to identify a working hypothesis	<ul style="list-style-type: none">• Identifies a limited number of alternatives• Acknowledges some uncertainty• Thesis is vague	<ul style="list-style-type: none">• Thoroughly understands alternatives• Acknowledges any uncertainties inherent in the topic• Thesis precisely identifies the argument
Analyze – Students will analyze primary data to determine validity and usefulness.	<ul style="list-style-type: none">• Fails to distinguish between relevant/irrelevant data• Fails to identify bias• Fails to make reasonable inferences• Fails to identify reasons to support the thesis• Fails to identify fact from opinion• Fails to identify cause /effect relationships• Fails to make reasonable comparisons	<ul style="list-style-type: none">• Identifies data that may be relevant• Is sensitive to possible bias• Attempts to make reasonable inferences• Makes some attempt to identify reasons in support of the thesis• Attempts to distinguish between fact and opinion• Makes a limited attempt to discuss	<ul style="list-style-type: none">• Focuses on the relevant data• Bias does not interfere with the quality of the argument• Inferences are sound and supported by the data• Reasons support the argument• Successfully distinguishes fact from opinion

		cause/effect relationships • Makes limited comparisons	• Fully addresses cause/effect relationships • Comparisons are valid and strengthen the argument
Discuss – Students will be able to engage in productive verbal communication	• Fails to acknowledge opposing viewpoints • Fails to modify thesis if required • Fails to enunciate ideas clearly • Fails to identify fallacies • Fails to construct organized arguments • Fails to demonstrate knowledge of punctuation, spelling, grammar, and diction	• Acknowledges opposing viewpoints • Shows flexibility in modifying thesis • Enunciates basic ideas clearly • Some awareness of fallacies • Some problems with organization • Paper is marred by lapses in punctuation, spelling, grammar and diction	• Acknowledges strengths of opposing viewpoints • Modifies thesis based on new information • Articulates arguments persuasively • Argument is free from fallacy • Arguments is organized • Largely free of errors in punctuation, spelling, grammar and diction
Debate – Students will defend a cogent argument	• Fails to distinguish between emotional and rational responses • Fails to recognize possible counter arguments • Fails to provide rebuttals for counter arguments	• Distinguishes between emotional and rational responses • Recognizes counter arguments • Provides rebuttals for counter arguments	• Effectively guides debate from the emotional to the rational • Distinguishes between weak and strong counter arguments • Makes persuasive use of counter arguments for rhetorical advantage

Criteria	Tier 1	Tier 2	Tier 3
Critique – Students will be able to research and evaluate opposing arguments in a controversial topic	• Fails to assess the quality of evidence presented • Fails to assess the sufficiency of the evidence • Fails to develop reasonable conclusions	• Assesses the quality of evidence presented • Assesses the sufficiency of evidence presented • Develops reasonable conclusions	• Uses evidence to strengthen argument • Evidence is sufficient • Conclusion is persuasive

XVII. Campus Carry Legislation (HB 280)

Beginning July 1st, 2017, new Campus Carry legislation relating to the carrying and possession of handguns on campus will be in effect in the University System of Georgia.

Please review specific Campus Carry information on the College's website www.ega.edu/campuscarry to determine the impact this new legislation may have on you, the student. Violation of the Campus Carry law is also a violation of the EGSC Student Code of Conduct.

Please direct questions or report suspected violations to:

EGSC Police Department: Main Campus: 478-289-2090 OR Statesboro: 912-623-2462

Augusta University Police Department: 706-721-8119

XVIII. Disclaimer

Course syllabus is subject to change. Students will be advised of any such changes in advance, when possible.

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