



## POLS 1101 – American Government

CRN 80397, Face-to-Face, TR, 08:00 AM - 09:15 AM, CORREL 111A  
Fall 2025

### INSTRUCTOR INFORMATION

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**Instructor:**

Dr. Drew Cagle, Assistant Professor of Political Science

**Email:**

dcagle@ccga.edu

### COURSE DESCRIPTION

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An introductory course in American government covering the organization, functions, and processes of federal, state, and local governments, with emphasis on the federal. This course satisfies the Georgia requirement for proficiency in studies of the United States and Georgia Constitutions.

### COURSE MATERIALS

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**Required Text:**

*Attenuated Democracy*, David Hubert. Free E-book  
<https://slcc.pressbooks.pub/attenuateddemocracy/>

**Required Video Series:**

*Crash Course: U.S. Government and Politics.*

These videos are available for free at <https://www.youtube.com/playlist?list=PL8dPuuaLjXtOfse2ncvfffeelTrqvhrz8H>

### Optional Podcast Series:

*Civics 101 – NPR*

Available at: <https://www.civics101podcast.org/podcast-episodes>

Also available on podcast streaming platforms like Spotify

### Other materials:

I will post any additional required course material to our D2L page.

## OUTCOMES AND EVALUATION

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### Course Learning Outcomes:

Upon successful completion of this course, students will understand the following:

- What is going on in US politics today, the clashing ideologies and interests, public opinion and how to follow politics in the news media.
- The founding ideals and structure of American government (separation of powers, federalism, individual rights) as represented in the Declaration of Independence, the Constitution and its 27 amendments.
- The presidency, Congress and the federal courts, including the US Supreme Court.
- The role played by political parties, interest groups and elites, and elections in US politics.
- How the federal government works, including major public policies and the federal budget.
- State and local governments, particularly the government of the state of Georgia and local governments in Glynn County and the City of Brunswick.

### Core IMPACTS:

This is a Core IMPACTS course that is part of the **Citizenship** area. Core IMPACTS refers to the core curriculum, which provides students with essential knowledge in foundational academic areas. This course will help master course content and will support students' broad academic and career goals.

This course should direct students toward a broad Orienting Question:

- How do I prepare for my responsibilities as an engaged citizen?

Completion of this course should enable students to meet the following Learning Outcome:

- Students will demonstrate knowledge of the history of the United States, the history of Georgia, and the provisions and principles of the United States Constitution and the Constitution of Georgia.

Course content, activities and exercises in this course should help students develop the following career-ready competencies:

- Critical Thinking, Intercultural Competence, Persuasion

### **Methods of Evaluation:**

#### **Methods of Evaluation:**

Weekly Quizzes – 20%

Reflections – 20%

Attendance and Participation – 20%

Exams – 20%

Final Exam – 20%

### **Attendance and participation:**

You are required to attend class (I will take attendance). For every unexcused absence after two freebies, you will lose 1% point from this category. Excused absences are allowed in cases of personal illness, death in the family, or obligations to the college. Whenever possible, the instructor must be notified of a student's excused absence before class begins. Students will receive a 1-point boost to their final grade per freebie remaining.

There will also be in-class assignments and activities. Missing an in-class assignment/activity will result in a zero for that assignment, which will be weighted according to this category.

I am generally accepting of the use of electronic devices during class. You may use your tablets, laptops, etc. for note-taking or other academic purposes. Please do not use electronic devices for entertainment during class. You may be asked to discontinue use of your electronic device if it becomes a distraction to other students.

**Weekly Quizzes:** Each week you will complete a short quiz on D2L. These quizzes are multiple choice, over the readings and lectures from the previous week. You will have 3 attempts to make a 100 on each quiz. Quizzes are due each Monday at 11:59 PM and cannot be attempted after the due date.

**Weekly Reflections** Each week, you'll complete a short response journal entry on D2L. This will serve as a reflection on the previous week's material. Responses must be at least one paragraph. Low-effort responses will be given a 0.

**Exams:** We will take two regular exams over the course of the semester. One roughly around midterms and one two weeks before finals week. Exams will contain multiple questions.

**Final Exam:** We will take a cumulative final exam during finals week.

### **Extra Credit:**

Extra credit is at the instructor's discretion. Any extra credit opportunity provided to one student must be provided to all students. I do NOT provide extra credit upon request, nor do I provide individual extra credit.

### **Final Grades:**

Except in the cases of a mathematical or computational error, final grades are non-negotiable. I round final grades to the nearest whole number, either up or down. Success in this course is performance-based, not effort based. Any request to re-evaluate a final grade (or any other graded assignment) may result in a higher or lower grade than originally given.

### **Grade Reassessment:**

You may request a reassessment of any graded work in this course, subject to the following conditions:

Students may only request the reassessment of returned coursework in writing. A verbal appeal is not appropriate and will not be accepted nor will requests be made through other methods (e.g. email, office hours, etc.).

Students must provide a written rationale for requesting reassessment, with specific reference to the learning outcomes, assessment rubric, qualitative grade descriptors, and any written feedback provided to you. Requests that do not include a rationale that references these will be rejected.

Students who submit an item for reassessment are advised that the entire work will be regraded, so that the resultant grade may increase, stay the same, or decrease accordingly.

Graded work may only be reassessed once -- you may not request reassessment a second time for the same problem, and any changes to the grade made during reassessment will be final.

### **Grading Scale:**

A = 90-100

B = 80-89

C = 70-79

D = 60-69

F = 00-59

# COURSE POLICIES

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## **Time Commitment:**

The amount of time required to complete the work for this course may vary per student. However, please be prepared to spend, at minimum, 9 hours per week attending class, studying, and completing coursework.

## **Make-Up Work Course Policy:**

To receive full credit for an assignment, it must be submitted by the due date listed either in the syllabus or on D2L. There is an automatic 24-hour grace period after the assignment due date. For every subsequent day an assignment is late, beginning 24 hours after the “official” due time, I will deduct 10% from the overall assignment grade. After 5 days, I will no longer accept late work, and the assignment will be given a 0.

All assignment due dates are located within the syllabus. I will not accept any work after the last regular class day. Certain exceptions may be granted for university approved excuses such as a documented medical emergency, school-related travel, family emergency, etc.

## **Attendance Course Policy:**

You are required to attend class (I will take attendance). For every unexcused absence after two freebies, you will lose 1% point from this category. Excused absences are allowed in cases of personal illness, death in the family, or obligations to the college. Whenever possible, the instructor must be notified of a student’s excused absence before class begins. Students will receive a 1-point boost to their final grade per freebie remaining.

There will also be in-class assignments and activities. Missing an in-class assignment/activity will result in a zero for that assignment, which will be weighted according to this category.

Finally, you will be expected to informally discuss the case(s) that you are assigned to brief during the week in which those cases are to be discussed. An absence during that time or a failure to participate will result in a loss of points. Failure to attend the SCOTUS simulation during the last week of class will result in a 0 for that assignment.

Collaborative learning is a key aspect of politics, government, and this course. You cannot engage collaboratively if you do not attend class.

## **Expected Feedback Time:**

I will return the work to you with constructive feedback/recommendations within one week of initial submissions. Extra time may be needed for complete feedback on the final paper assignment.

**Course Evaluations:**

Course evaluations are completed online by the student during the specified time period before final exams.

**College-wide Policies:**

All college policies are in effect during this course. For relevant policies and procedures to the classroom, please visit [Policies Relevant to Academics](#).

**Student Support and Resources:**

- For academic assistance, the [ATTIC](#) and [Writing Center](#) offer their services, including student tutoring, in face-to-face and online formats. Visit [Find a Tutor](#) or <https://www.ccgga.edu/academics/studentsuccess/writing> for instructions on how to connect with a tutor or a writing coach.
- Contact eLearning for support with Brightspace (D2L) and Respondus by calling 912.279.4543 or emailing [elearning@ccgga.edu](mailto:elearning@ccgga.edu).
- Online support for D2L, including live chat, is available 24/7 at the [D2L Help Center](#).
- Contact Technology Services for support with passwords, email, and other campus systems by calling 912.279.5760.

**Reserve Clause:**

The instructor reserves the right to revise, alter, or amend this syllabus as necessary. Students will be notified in writing / email of any such changes. Any issue not directly addressed by existing class or college policy shall be managed at the discretion of the instructor.