

**East Georgia State College
Social Sciences Division**

**POLITICAL SCIENCE 1101 (CRN 20369; 1100-1150; M/W/F)
AMERICAN GOVERNMENT**

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-EGSC's official mode of communication is via email. Therefore, check your EGSC and D2L email daily.

III. Course Description:

"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" (Catalog of East Georgia State College, 2013-2014, p. 107).

IV. Prerequisites: A desire to advance one's knowledge of the higher potentialities of politics and government.

V. Textbooks

TEXTS:

-Wilson, James Q. American Government, Brief Version, 11th Edition (2012; ISBN: 1133594379).

-McClellan, James. Liberty, Order, and Justice. Indianapolis: Liberty Fund, 2001 (ebook in D2L).

-Minogue, Kenneth. Politics: A Very Short Introduction. Oxford: Oxford University Press, 2000 (ebook in D2L).

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

This three credit hour course is designed to be an introduction to American Government. The course covers the constitutional foundations of our nation, which includes the political theory that inspired the formation of the government, institutions that comprise government in the United States, how the U.S. Government functions, and protected constitutional rights of individuals. The US's government will be viewed not only from a domestic perspective, but also from a global perspective. Some of the current major policy debates facing our country and how the process of governance in the U.S. has adapted through time, will also be explored. Throughout the course, general education goals will be cultivated, including reading and listening comprehension; and writing, research, and critical thinking skills demonstrated through analysis of political events or issues past and present.

Of utmost importance, is your acknowledgement of and active participation in this course. We meet three times a week (**Monday** and **Wednesday** and **Friday**); however, the lectures, assignments, and

supplemental materials are augmented by the College's learning management system, **D2L**. There is no learning experience equal to attending class. I will take attendance every day!

COURSE OBJECTIVES

This course is an integral part of the liberal arts core and preparation for further study. In particular, it is primarily designed to help students communicate effectively through speaking, writing, reading, and listening and to demonstrate knowledge of history and political systems and their implications in a variety of contexts. Each of these is an essential element of the University of North Georgia's academic mission as outlined in its general education outcomes.

By the time you have finished this course, you should be able to:

1. Describe how the American political system works.
2. Describe and explain the historical and philosophical roots of America's system of government and its Constitutional components.
3. Describe the basic workings of Georgia's system of government, including its Constitutional framework.
4. Explain the importance of civic responsibility in a participatory republic, including involvement in issue debates and elections.
5. Formulate and defend logical arguments, based on and supported by evidence, in discussing a variety of contemporary political questions, including those arising from cultural differences within the United States and from the evolving status of the United States within the global area.
6. Demonstrate well-developed analytical thinking, writing and oral communication skills through evaluating, based on evidence and citing examples, the strengths and weaknesses of the American political system.
7. Use computer technology to discover information relating to politics and government.
8. Assess the accuracy, completeness and potential bias of sources of information pertaining to politics and government.

VII. and VIII.: Evaluation and Grading

Tests

Tests will cover the text, lectures, and any additional material passed out or assigned. It is important to both read the material and listen attentively in class.

Missed Test or Late Assignment

Making-up a missed test or turning in an assignment late will be allowed only in special circumstances and if **accompanied by official documentation**. Let me know prior to the deadline or test date if there is a genuine conflict or crisis. Please discuss all concerns about completing course requirements or conflicting life situations with me. **There will be no make-up quizzes.**

Cheating/Plagiarism

Academic Integrity is expected. *Cheating and plagiarism will result in failure of the test or assignment and possible consequences from the College.*

What to Bring to Class

Your personage, a writing instrument, textbooks, and writing paper. On test days, students should bring to each class a no. 2 pencil, pen, Scantron sheets (can be purchased from the bookstore), and notebook paper (not torn out of a spiral), the textbook, and a notebook. A folder with pockets is also recommended. This is to be prepared for any of the weekly quizzes that will be given each Thursday during the semester and to take notes. Sometimes class discussion will center on the textbook; thus, this should be available in case it is needed.

Disruptive Behaviors in Class

Students who exhibit behaviors that are considered to obstruct or disrupt this class or its learning activities will be considered under the *Board of Regents Policy on Disruptive Behavior*. Behaviors which are considered to be inappropriate in this classroom include sleeping, eating, coming in late, interrupting others, talking out of turn, inappropriate behavior during group work, verbal behavior that is disrespectful of other students or the faculty member, or other behaviors that may be disruptive. Students who exhibit such behavior may be temporarily dismissed from the class by the instructor and may be subject to disciplinary procedures outlined in the EGSC Student Handbook.

Georgia Constitution and Government Requirement

Each University System of Georgia institution is mandated to introduce students to both the U.S. and Georgia constitutions and governments. As part of AREA E at EGSC students must take POLS 1101 American Government which is designed to meet this legislative requirement.

GRADING SCALE

Grades for the semester will follow the University of North Georgia approved regimen:

<u>The grading scale:</u>	<u>With the Final</u>	<u>Without the Final</u>
A = 100 – 90		
B = 89 – 80	Test 1 20%	Test 1 25%
C = 79 – 70	Test 2 20%	Test 2 25%
D = 69 – 60	Test 3 20%	Test 3 25%
F = 59 - 0	Quiz Grade 20%	<u>Quiz Grade</u> 25%
	<u>Final</u> 20%	TOTAL 100%
	TOTAL 100%	

ASSIGNMENTS AND DUE DATES

A. Evaluation Activities; or Cheek's Excursions Beyond the official "Course Policies"; and, how to perform wonderfully in POL 1101:

1. Class attendance/participation: Attendance is a matter of geography: either you are in class or you are not in class. The only way to succeed in college is to attend class!
2. Daily assignments: You must read the texts to adequately discuss and understand the material.
3. Withdrawals: You are responsible for completing the proper withdrawal form when deciding not to complete the course. Failure to follow the established procedures will result in a failing grade for the term.
4. Cheek's Student Behavior Policy: You are expected to

conduct yourself as a scholar in search of the truth. Students whose conduct hinders the academic achievement or environment of other students will be dropped from class. The official starting time for class is Dr. Cheek's watch and is not a topic for debate; as the Indian proverb suggests, court begins when the judge arrives. Tardiness to class will have a negative influence on your class participation grade and you will also be forced to suffer the Wrath of Cheek (in a gentle, supportive manner!).

5. Exams: There will be three exams given during the regular semester and one comprehensive exam given during finals week.
6. Make-Up Exams: Students are expected to take the exams at the scheduled time.
7. Quizzes: Approximately once a week, on Fridays, a small quiz over the reading will be given. **There will be no make-up for these quizzes.** Only those who are in attendance will benefit. These quizzes will be compiled into a portion of your grade.
8. Extra-Credit: Any writing assignment given by the Professor may qualify as extra credit.

IX. Attendance Policy

If you are absent, it is your responsibility to get the course notes from a classmate. I will not copy and hand out my lecture notes, except in extreme circumstances documented by a medical or other agreed upon official documentation. Classroom attendance is important as it supplements the text readings. Excessive absences will hurt your understanding of the material, comprehension of what is expected in assignments, and your grade.

XI. Plagiarism & Academic Dishonesty (please see EGSC Student Handbook http://www.ega.edu/counseling_center/handbook2008.pdf)
See also **VII. and VIII.** above.

XII. ADA Statement (can be found at http://www.ega.edu/counseling_center/disabilityaccommodations.htm)

XIII. 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 EGSC 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 East Georgia State College 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, East Georgia State College students can be reached and provided with vital instructions anywhere, anytime, through their cell phones, home phones, e-mail, TTY/TDD receiving devices, or other text-receiving devices. (<http://www.ega.edu/connected.pdf>)

XV. Additional Course Requirements

XVI. Outline of Topics and Course Calendar

1. Introduction
2. Sources of Politics
3. The Nature of Government
4. Citizenship in the Modern World
5. Patriotism and Nationalism
6. Religion and Politics
7. Theories of the State
8. The Modern State
9. Organizing the State
10. Constitutional Foundations I
11. Constitutional Foundations II
12. Constitutional Foundations III
13. Political Culture and Ideology
14. Public Opinion and Mass Media
15. Interest Groups
16. Political Parties
17. Voting and Elections
18. Legislative Power
19. Executive Power
20. Bureaucracy
21. Judicial Power and International Law
22. Civil Rights Liberties and Human Rights
23. Public Policy - Domestic Policy
24. Public Policy - Foreign Policy

(Specific details of this syllabus may be subject to change.)

WEEK	TOPIC	ASSIGNMENTS
M. 13 Jan.	0.1 Introduction	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Read Syllabus • Read “Study” article from <u>W.S.J.</u> on EL • Wilson C1 • Minogue C1 • McClellan, pp. 1-9 • Lectures
W. 15 Jan. F. 17 Jan.	0.2 Sources of Politics	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Wilson C1 • Minogue C1 and C11 • McClellan, pp. 1-9 • Lectures • Quiz
M. 20 Jan.	0.3 Nature of Government 20 Jan. is a holiday; no <u>formal</u> class meeting.	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Wilson C1 • Minogue C1 and C11 • McClellan, pp. 1-9 • Lectures
W. 22 Jan.	0.3 Nature of Government	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Wilson 2 • Minogue 2 • McClellan 108-110; 415-417
F. 24 Jan.	0.4 Citizenship	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Wilson C2 • Minogue C3 • McClellan pp. 108-110; pp. 415-417 • Quiz
M. 27 Jan.	0.5 Patriotism and Nationalism	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Wilson C2 • Minogue C3 • McClellan pp. 108-110; pp. 415-417
W. 29 Jan.	0.6 Religion and Politics	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Wilson C2 • Minogue C4 • McClellan pp. 108-110; pp. 415-417 • Politics and Religion background article
F. 31 Jan.	0.7 Theories of the State	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Wilson C2 • Minogue C5, C6, and C7 • McClellan pp. 10-22 • Quiz
M. 3 Feb.	0.8 The Modern State	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Wilson C2 • Minogue C5, C6, C7, C8, C9 • McClellan pp. 10-22
W. 5 Feb.	0.9 Organizing the State	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Wilson C2 • Minogue C5, C6, C7, C8, C9 • McClellan pp. 10-22
F. 7 Feb.	1.12 Constitutional Foundations I	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Wilson C2

		<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Minogue C7, C8, C9, C10 • McClellan pp. 89-121; 183-187; 230-238 • Quiz
M. 10 Feb.	1.12 Constitutional Foundations II	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Wilson C2 • Minogue C7, C8, C9, C10 • McClellan pp. 89-121; 183-187; 230-238
W. 12 Feb.	1.13 Constitutional Foundations III	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Wilson C2 • McClellan pp. 121-164 • Declaration Article • Dictionary Article
F. 14 Sept.	1.14 Constitutional Foundations IV/Federalism	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Wilson C5 • McClellan pp. 121-164
M. 17 Feb.	EXAM 1	
W. 19 Feb.	1.15 Political Culture and Ideology	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Wilson C6 • Minogue C11, C12, C13
F. 21 Feb.	1.16 Public Opinion and Mass Media	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Wilson C6 • Handout • Quiz
M. 24 Feb.	1.16 Public Opinion and Mass Media	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Wilson C6 • Handout
W. 26 Feb.	1.17 Interest Groups	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Wilson C6
F. 28 Feb.	1.18 Political Parties	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Wilson C7 • McClellan pp. 576-577 • Minogue C9 • Quiz
M. 3 March	1.19 Voting and Elections	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Wilson C8 • Minogue 8 • McClellan 576-577
W. 5 March	2.20 Legislative Power	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Wilson C9 • McClellan 303-306; 337-339; 486-487
F. 7 March	2.20 Legislative Power	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Wilson C9 • McClellan 303-306; 337-339; 486-487 • Quiz
M. 10 March	2.20 Legislative Power	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Wilson C9 • McClellan 303-306; 337-339; 486-487
W. 12 March	2.20 Legislative Power	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Wilson C9 • McClellan 303-306; 337-339; 486-487
F. 14 March	Exam II	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Wilson 10 • McClellan 265-268; 313-315
17-21 March	Spring Break—Opportunity to Study!	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Wilson 10 • McClellan 265-268; 313-315
M. 24 March	2.21 Executive Power	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Wilson 10 • McClellan 265-268; 313-315
W. 26 March	2.21 Executive Power	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Wilson 10

		<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • McClellan 265-268; 313-315
F. 28 March	2.21 Executive Power	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Wilson 11 • McClellan 311-312; 508-511 • Quiz
M. 31 March	2.22 Bureaucracy	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Wilson 11 • McClellan 311-312; 508-511 • Quiz
W. 2 April	2.22 Bureaucracy	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Wilson 12 • McClellan 311-312; 508-511 • Minogue Chap 10 • Lecture
F. 4 April	2.23 Judicial Power and International Law	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Wilson 12 • McClellan 311-312; 508-511 • Minogue Chap 10 • Quiz
M. 7 April	2.23 Judicial Power and International Law	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Wilson 12 • McClellan 311-312; 508-511 • Minogue Chap 10
W. 9 April	2.23 Judicial Power and International Law	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Wilson 12 • McClellan 311-312; 508-511 • Minogue Chap 10
F. 11 April	2.24 Civil Rights and Liberties	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Wilson C3, C4 • Quiz
M. 14 April	2.24 Civil Rights and Liberties	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Wilson C3, C4
W. 16 April.	2.24 Civil Rights and Liberties	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Wilson C3, C4
F. 18 April	2.25 Policy Process – Domestic Policy 2.26 Policy Process – International Policy	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Wilson 13, 14 and 15 • Minogue Chaps. 11, 12, and 13 • Quiz
M. 21 April	2.25 Policy Process – Domestic Policy 2.26 Policy Process – International Policy	
W. 23 April	2.27 Georgia Politics and Constitution	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Handouts
F. 25 April	2.27 Georgia Politics and Constitution	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Quiz
M. 28 April	2.27 Georgia Politics and Constitution	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Handouts
W. 30 April	Exam III	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Handouts
F. 2 May	Final Exam Review	
W. 7 May	FINAL EXAM 11:30am-1:30pm	