

INTA 1200
MWF 1:55-2:45

FALL 2018
DM Smith 105

American Government

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By appointment MW 12-1:30

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This course is designed to give the student an introduction to American political institutions, actors, policies and processes as well as the basic structure and operation of Georgia government. The student will be expected not only to understand these topics but be able to critically evaluate these subjects as well.

Note: This course can be used to satisfy the Social Science or US Perspectives requirement for undergraduates. It also satisfies the state's "Legislative" requirement for a course on Georgia History/Constitution. For more details, please see the "Core Curriculum" section of the Georgia Tech Catalog or meet with your undergraduate advisor.

COURSE OBJECTIVES AND LEARNING OUTCOMES

- Understand the background and historical context that shapes the American political system.
 - Gain a broad understanding of the institutions, actors, participants, and processes of politics and government in America.
 - Understand how government, politics, and policy impact your daily life.
 - Understand the basic structure and operations of GA state government
 - Understand how the American governmental system is similar to and different from government structures in other countries.
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COURSE MATERIALS

Keeping the Republic (Brief edition, bundled with Georgia State Profile) by Christine Barbour and Gerald C. Wright. Here after referred to as “KTR”. ***Suggested Textbook***

Additional readings will be posted on Canvas or handed out in class. All readings are subject to change with emailed notification. Unless otherwise noted, all readings, audio files, or videos are mandatory.

COURSE RULES AND GUIDELINES

- 1) There are a total of three exams in the course. If you miss any of the course exams, you will automatically receive a zero for the exam, as there are no make-up exams unless there is an excused absence (see below). Conflicts with scheduling must be discussed with me ahead of time.
 - 2) Reading pages and assignments are due the day they appear on the syllabus.
 - 3) Cell phones are to be placed on vibrate or turned off and must remain out of sight (this means not on your desk, in your lap, etc.). If you are expecting an emergency call, please let me know before class. In addition, there is no texting during class. Violations of the cell phone policy will impact your participation grade, and thus your course grade directly.
 - 4) No laptops are permitted in class unless the student has an accommodations letter from the university or I have allowed them in class for that day.
 - 5) No recording devices (audio or video) are permitted in class unless the student has an accommodations letter from the university.
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UNIVERSITY COURSE POLICIES

Statement of Inclusion: The Ivan Allen College of Liberal Arts supports the Georgia Institute of Technology's commitment to creating a campus free of discrimination on the basis of race, color, religion, sex, national origin, age, disability, sexual orientation, gender identity, or veteran status. We further affirm the importance of cultivating an intellectual climate that allows us to better understand the similarities and differences of those who constitute the Georgia Tech community, as well as the necessity of working against inequalities that may also manifest here as they do in the broader society.

Request for Modification - If you are a learner that requires some adaptations for you to succeed in this course or are a student with disabilities that requires accommodations, please contact the Office of Disability at (404) 894-2563 or <http://disabilityservices.gatech.edu> as soon as possible to make an appointment to discuss your needs and obtain the appropriate accommodations letter. Any student requiring instructional modifications due to a documented disability should make an appointment to meet with me as soon as possible so that the appropriate accommodations can be made. I am happy to do whatever I can to ensure that you succeed.

Academic Integrity - By attending Georgia Tech you have all committed to upholding the ideals of honor and integrity as well as refusing to betray this trust that has been bestowed upon you as a member of our academic community (<http://www.policylibrary.gatech.edu/student-affairs/academic-honor-code> or <http://www.catalog.gatech.edu/rules/18/>). Any student who is suspected of violations of this honor code including but not limited to cheating or plagiarizing on a quiz, exam, or assignment will be automatically reported to the Office of Student Integrity. This office will investigate the incident as well as recommend the penalties for the violations.

Attendance and Participation - First and foremost, you cannot participate if you are not in class. Thus, attendance is mandatory and if you miss a class you are responsible for getting the material from another student. Lecture slides and/or notes will not be available online, nor made available by me or the TA unless there was an excused absence. Finally, any reading assignments will only be handed out to those in attendance. Thus, there is value to being in class. Participation will be measured in two ways, with an attendance sheet and various in-class activities.

At various times during the course of the semester an attendance sheet will be circulated. Signing the attendance sheet but not being present for the full class or having a friend sign on your behalf is a form of academic misconduct and is a violation of the honor code. Such occurrences will result in severe grade penalties.

During the course of the semester we will also have various group activities, during which time there will be opportunities to complete a short writing assignment. The collection of these assignments will also go into the calculation of your participation score. A student may have two “free” missed classes or assignments before they impact your participation score. After that there is a 10% deduction in participation grade for every missed class or assignment.*

*Excused Absence policy - Absences for medical or personal emergencies will be excused upon verification by the TA or professor. In order for an absence to be considered excused, it must either be approved ahead of time in writing or be accompanied by the appropriate documentation. This would include car problems, illness, university functions, participation in university athletics, etc. It should be noted, however, that any documentation must be able to show why you were not in attendance specifically during the class meeting time.

Finally, absences resulting from oversleeping, alarms not going off, computer crashes, drink or food specials, lost wallets, lost purses, or dogs eating papers, books, flash drives, etc. will not be considered approved absences. The excused absence policy only covers assignments and exams—not lecture notes. Make-ups after verification of the excused absence will be arranged with the TA.

Classroom Policies - Professional behavior will be required of all students at all times. The following behavior is not appropriate: use of cell phones, extraneous conversations, and disrespect toward other students or professor. Students engaging in these behaviors may be

asked to leave class. In addition, no audio or video recording is allowed in class unless approved by the professor in accordance with an accommodation letter.

Correspondence - All course-related concerns/email will be addressed first to your TA. Monday through Friday, your email will be returned within 48 hours. If you have not received a reply within that time frame, please email me directly.

All policies subject to review by the professor and are subject to change with written notice to the students ahead of time.

COURSE STRUCTURE

Exams (E1-30%, E2-30%, E3-30%) - The exams will test your knowledge of the material covered in lecture, the text, as well as any supplemental readings. The test itself will be made up of term identification, multiple choice, short answer and True/False. As we get closer to the first exam I will give greater details, however, each exam covers only a designated section of the course. Thus, neither the second nor third exam is cumulative.

Participation and Writing Assignments (10% total) - This will be a combination of attendance and in-class activities as well as short out-of-class writing assignments to be handed out to and completed by those in attendance.

GRADING PROCEDURES

A = 100-90; B = 89-80; C = 79-70; D = 69-60; F = 59 and below. Mid-term grades or progress reports will be listed as S = Satisfactory, meaning 70 and above, or U = Unsatisfactory, indicating a grade below 70. If you are taking the class Pass/Fail, then the same mid-term grade standard will also be applied for a final grade of "S" = Satisfactory as well.

WEEKLY READINGS AND SCHEDULE

This is meant as a guide and students will be notified of any changes. Students should note that for each exam, they are accountable for all of the readings and lectures up until that point.

Additional readings may be added.

August 20 - Intro and policies

August 22 - Political Science and the Study of Politics

August 24 - American Politics and American Political Culture

Readings:

KTR Chapter 1

August 27 - The Myths of American Politics and AOC

August 29 - Constitution

Readings:

Federalist #15 and #51, *KTR* Chapter 2

August 31 - Federalism

Readings:

KTR Chapter 3

No Class September 3 - Labor Day

September 5 - Federalism/Congress I

Readings:

KTR Chapter 6

September 7 - Congress II

Readings:

Edmund Burke, "Speech to the Electors of Bristol" and David R. Mayhew excerpt from *Congress: The Electoral Connection*

September 10 - Congress III

Readings:

Citizens Against Government Waste "2007 Pig Book Summary"

September 12 - President I

Readings:

KTR Chapter 7

September 14 - President II

Readings:

Richard Neustadt "The Power to Persuade," from *Presidential Power*

September 17 - President

September 19 - Bureaucracy I

Readings:

KTR Chapter 8

September 21 - Bureaucracy II

September 24 - EXAM 1

September 26 - Judiciary

Readings:

Federalist #78, *KTR* Chapter 9

September 28 - Judiciary II

October 1 - Judiciary III

Readings:

David O'Brien "The Court in American Life"

October 3 - Elections and Voting

Readings:

KTR Chapter 12

October 5 - Elections and Voting II

No class Fall Recess October 8

October 10 - Elections and Voting III

October 12 - Public Opinion I

Readings:

KTR Chapter 10

October 15 - Public Opinion II

Readings:

George Gallup, "Polling the Public", "Four Pollsters"

October 17 - Interest Groups I

Readings:

Federalist #10; Mancur Olson, "The Logic of Collective Action"

KTR Chapter 11 (second half)

October 19 - Interest Groups II

October 22 - Political Parties I

Readings:

KTR Chapter 11 (First Half)

October 24 - Political Parties II

October 26 - Catch up class or start Civil Liberties

October 29 EXAM 2

October 31 - Civil Liberties

Readings:

KTR Chapter 4

November 2 - Civil Liberties II

November 5 - Civil Rights I

Readings:

KTR Chapter 5

November 7 - Civil Rights II

Readings:

Martin Luther King, Jr., "Letter from Birmingham Jail"

November 9 - Domestic/Social Policy I

Readings:

Reading TBD

November 12 - Domestic/Social Policy II

November 14- Foreign and Defense Policy I

Readings:

Reading TBD

November 16 - Foreign and Defense Policy II

November 19 - National Security (*Film*)

November 21-23 No class Thanksgiving Break

November 26 - National Security (*Film*)

November 28 - National Security Discussion

November 30 - Georgia Government

December 3 - Course Wrap up.

Final exam- Thursday December 13, 2018 from 2:40-5:30.

Additional Dates to remember

August 24, 2018 4:00 PM - Registration/Schedule Change Deadline

October 27, 2018 4:00 PM - Grade Mode and Withdrawal Deadline