This is a Core IMPACTS course that is part of the <u>Social Sciences</u> area.

Core IMPACTS refers to the core curriculum, which provides students with essential knowledge in foundational academic areas. This course will help students master course content, and support students' broad academic and career goals.

This course should direct students toward a broad <u>Orienting Question</u>:

- How do I understand human experiences and connections?

Completion of this course should enable students to meet the following <u>Learning Outcome</u>:

- Students will effectively analyze the complexity of human behavior, and how historical, economic, political, social, or geographic relationships develop, persist, or change.

Course content, activities and exercises in this course should help students develop the following <u>Career-Ready Competencies</u>:

- Intercultural Competence
- Perspective-Taking
- Persuasion

This is a Core IMPACTS course that is part of the <u>Citizenship</u> 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 support students' broad academic and career goals.

This course should direct students toward a broad <u>Orienting Question</u>:
- How do I prepare for my responsibilities as an engaged citizen?

Completion of this course should enable students to meet the following <u>Learning Outcome</u>:
- Students will demonstrate knowledge of 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 <u>Career-Ready Competencies</u>:
- Critical Thinking
- Intercultural Competence
- Persuasion

INTA 1200
American Government
Fall 2024

Online and Asynchronous

<u>Course Instructor</u>

Chris McDermott
chris.mcdermott@gatech.edu

<u>Course Teaching Assistants</u>

Chandler Thornhill
chandlerthornhill@gatech.edu

COURSE OBJECTIVES AND LEARNING OUTCOMES

This course is designed to give students an introduction to American political institutions, actors, and processes but with an added comparative perspective. The student will not only be expected to understand these topics but also be able to critically evaluate them.

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.

- 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 other structures around the world.
- Students will be able to demonstrate knowledge of principal contemporary global challenges in the field of international affairs

COURSE MATERIALS

There is no required textbook for this course. However, there are mandatory readings that will be posted to Canvas. All readings are subject to change but students will be notified in advance. Unless otherwise noted, all readings, audio files, or videos are mandatory.

All course lectures/materials can be found in the Modules section of Canvas.

TEACHING STYLE, OFFICE HOURS, & GUIDELINES

My goal is to make this course both informative and enjoyable, taking all bias out of our discussions. In other words, I will analyze and discuss but not give you my opinion or feelings. Some days I will assign a video to watch instead of a lecture, which will be shown in class.

INSTITUTE and 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 (Links to an external site.)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://w (Links to an external site.)ww.policylibrary.gatech.edu/student-affairs/academic-honor-code (Links to an external site.) or http://www.catalog.gatech.edu/rules/18/). (Links to an external site.)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 – **This is an online course and attendance is not recorded. However, completion of the syllabus quiz is the same as verification of participation. THIS MUST BE DONE.** Completion of all lectures/reading/assignments prior to the exams is essential to success in this course.

*Excused Absence policy – This course will follow the University's policy for excused absences. Absences for medical or personal emergencies will be excused upon verification by the Office of Student Life. You can find an outline of the policy here http://www.catalog.gatech.edu/policies/student-absence-regulations/ (Links to an external site.) This would apply to illness as well as personal emergencies. Please review this page if you are not familiar with it. In addition, all institute approved absences will honored, which would include university sanctioned function, athletics, etc. when accompanied by the appropriate

documentation. 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.
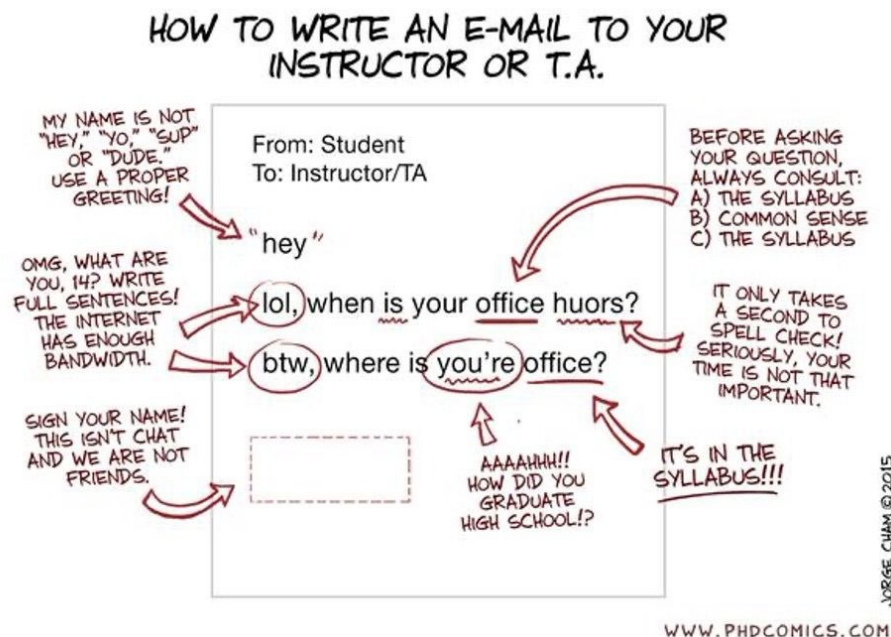
Classroom Policies - **Professional behavior will be required of all students at all times.** We live in a politically charged environment and *everyone* is entitled to their own beliefs and opinions, but you are to treat the professor, teaching assistants, and your peers with respect. The following behavior is not appropriate: foul language, bigoted language, and disrespect toward other students or professor. **Students engaging in these behaviors will be removed from class and reported to the appropriate personnel.**

CORRESPONDENCE

All course-related concerns/email will be addressed by the TAs within 2 business days.

- **TAs will communicate to the general class via Announcements. Pay attention to these announcements.**
- ALL correspondence will be directed to the TAs and will be done so via email or via canvas direct messaging.
- Only direct questions/concerns to your assigned TA.
- **The professor does not answer emails unless specifically directed to by the TA.**

Email Etiquette: Students will address the TAs with respect in ALL correspondence with them. Do not make demands of them or otherwise bombard them with questions concerning grades. The grade policy is very clear (see it under the grading procedures section). If unclear, see graphic below for what an appropriate email should (and should not) look like:

HOW TO WRITE AN E-MAIL TO YOUR INSTRUCTOR OR T.A.

MY NAME IS NOT "HEY," "YO," "SUP" OR "DUDE." USE A PROPER GREETING!

From: Student
To: Instructor/TA

"hey"

OMG, WHAT ARE YOU, 14? WRITE FULL SENTENCES! THE INTERNET HAS ENOUGH BANDWIDTH.

lol, when is your office huors?

btw, where is you're office?

SIGN YOUR NAME! THIS ISN'T CHAT AND WE ARE NOT FRIENDS.

AAAAHHH!! HOW DID YOU GRADUATE HIGH SCHOOL!?

BEFORE ASKING YOUR QUESTION, ALWAYS CONSULT:
A) THE SYLLABUS
B) COMMON SENSE
C) THE SYLLABUS

IT ONLY TAKES A SECOND TO SPELL CHECK! SERIOUSLY, YOUR TIME IS NOT THAT IMPORTANT.

IT'S IN THE SYLLABUS!!!

JORGE CHAM © 2015

WWW.PHDCOMICS.COM

ASSIGNMENTS

Exams (E1-25%, E2-25%, E3-25%) - The exams will test your knowledge of the material covered in lecture, assigned videos, guest lectures, as well as any supplemental readings. Each exam covers only a designated section of the course. Therefore, Exam 3 is not cumulative.

There are no study guides.

There are no make-up exams unless there is an Institute approved absence (see above).
- Conflicts with scheduling must be discussed with a TA no later than **ONE WEEK** prior to the exam.
- Exams will consist of a blend of 40 multiple choice questions, term identification, and True/False.
  - **Exams will be administered on Canvas and completed on the day it is assigned.**
    - You may complete the exam wherever you wish, whenever you wish during the timeframe listed directly below.
    - The exam can be completed any time between 12:00am-11:59pm on the day it is assigned.
      - It is recommended that you do not wait until the end of the day to complete the exam just in case you have technical issues.
    - If you miss the exam, I only allow make-ups if you provide formal Institute documentation that excuses you missing the exam. Otherwise it is a zero.
    - You cannot take the exam earlier or later than the assigned date without appropriate documentation from the Institute.
  - **You will have 50 minutes to complete the exam unless you have submitted ODS documentation.**
  - **Questions will be "shuffled,"** so each exam for each student will be unique to them.
  - **Respondus Lockdown Browser will be used.**

Group Paper (10%) –

Once the course roster is finalized after the first week of class, more details on the paper assignment will be published. In essence, you will be auto-assigned to a group where you will write a 10-page GROUP comparative essay on the American governmental system and another country's governmental system. This assignment is a group assignment, and as such your grade will reflect your ability to coordinate efforts within the group.

Peer Paper Review (5%) –

You will receive an opportunity to assess your peers for the group paper assignment. This is an audit to make sure that everyone contributes equally to writing the paper.

Syllabus Day Quiz (10%) – **complete the quiz by 11:59pm Monday, August 26th**

GRADING PROCEDURES

A = 100-89; B = 88-79; C = 78-69; D = 68-59; F = 58 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.***

Do not email asking for extra credit to bump your grade up, there is no extra credit in this course.

If you are seriously struggling with course content or are worried about your grade, please reach out to your TA and ask for help.

SCHEDULE

This is meant as a guide to show what will be covered on each exam, students should note that for each exam, they are accountable for all of the readings and lectures up until that point and if there are schedule changes those will not impact exam dates. Finally, additional readings or videos may be added.

There is no schedule for this course. You are expected to complete the readings/lectures/videos in the modules section prior to each exam.

The syllabus is subject to change and students will be notified of changes via Canvas

Syllabus Day Quiz – You MUST take by Monday, August 26th by 11:59pm

American Political Foundation & Culture

Declaration of Independence, Articles of Confederation, & The Constitution
      Readings:
      Federalist #15 and #51.

Federalism

Legislative I

Legislative II

Executive I

Executive II
      Readings:
      Richard Neustadt "The Power to Persuade," from *Presidential Power*

The Bureaucracy

Judicial

EXAM I

Elections and Voting

Public Opinion

Interest Groups
      Readings:
      Federalist #10; Mancur Olson, "The Logic of Collective Action"

Political Parties I

Political Parties II

Civil Liberties

Civil Rights
      Readings:
      Martin Luther King, Jr., "Letter from Birmingham Jail"

EXAM II

US Domestic Policy I

US Domestic Policy II

US Foreign Policy I

US Foreign Policy II

Georgia Government I

Georgia Government II

EXAM III

FACULTY/STUDENT AGREEMENT

Preamble
The Georgia Tech community believes that it is important to continually strive for an atmosphere of mutual respect, acknowledgement, and responsibility between faculty members and the student body. Therefore, we herein endeavors to enumerate the specific expectations of each side. However, this document is not intended to be either comprehensive or limiting in regards to the Institute's statutes. Ultimately, simple respect for knowledge, hard work, and cordial interactions will help build the environment we seek. We remain committed to the ideals of Georgia Tech, agree to abide by these principles in our time here, and will encourage each other to uphold these responsibilities.

Student Expectations
We hold that all students have the right to expect:
1. a positive, respectful, and engaged academic environment inside and outside the classroom;
2. to attend classes at regularly scheduled times without undue variations and without penalty if the student cannot attend instructional, lab, or examination hours not institutionally scheduled; to have their instructor of record be present during most scheduled lecture periods.
3. to receive a syllabus which should include an outline of the course objectives, evaluation criteria, and any other requirements for successful completion of each course during the first week of class meetings and to be clearly informed of any changes made to the syllabus during the semester with reasonable time to adjust to these changes;
4. to consult with faculty outside of usual classroom times through regularly scheduled office hours or a mutually convenient appointment;
5. to have reasonable access to Institute facilities and equipment in order to complete course assignments and/or objectives;
6. to have reasonable time to learn course material prior to the administration of an examination;
7. to receive a clear explanation of the faculty's definition and interpretation of academic misconduct within the course that extends over and beyond those clearly defined in the Georgia Tech Honor Code;
8. to have reasonable access to graded materials for assignments, projects, or exams, to review graded material in a timely fashion, and to have a clear explanation of grading criteria and grade determination;
9. to have their letter grade in a class based on their performance based on course criteria and not solely on their performance relative to their classmates;
10. faculty to adhere to formal Institute policies, rules and regulations, such as the policy on Final Instructional Class Days and Reading Periods, and the confidentiality policies of FERPA.
11. faculty to be supportive of students' desires and needs to find rewarding careers after graduation from Georgia Tech. Faculty should be flexible in allowing students to attend the Georgia Tech All Majors Career Fair that occurs in the Fall and Spring Semesters and should refrain when possible from scheduling quizzes or tests on those days;

12. faculty to be flexible during the semester when students have off campus interviews for jobs or graduate/professional schools and should allow students to make up missed work when possible.
13. to be allowed to make up course assignments that were due prior to the student's addition of that course during Phase II registration.

Faculty Expectations
We hold that all faculty members have the right to expect:
1. a positive, respectful, and engaged academic environment inside and outside the classroom;
2. students to appear regularly for class meetings in a timely fashion;
3. to select qualified Teaching Assistants in accordance with departmental protocols as well as the right to delegate grading, studio and laboratory instruction, tutoring, and other academic activities to these individuals;
4. students to appear at office hours or a mutually convenient appointment for official matters of academic concern;
5. full attendance at examination, midterms, presentations, studios, and laboratories, with the exception of formal pre-approved excused absences or emergency situations;
6. students to be prepared for class, appearing with appropriate materials and having completed assigned readings and homework;
7. full engagement within the classroom, including meaningful focus during lectures, appropriate and relevant questions, and class participation;
8. to cancel class due to emergency situations and to cover missed material during subsequent class meeting times at the discretion of the instructor;
9. students to act with integrity and to adhere to the principles of the Georgia Tech Student Honor Code;
10. students to adhere to the formal Institute policies, such as the Student Code of Conduct.
11. students to make every effort to minimize their absences from scheduled lectures, laboratories, and studios during the Georgia Tech All Majors Career Fair that occurs in the Fall and Spring Semesters, and to notify them in advance if they intend to miss class to attend the Georgia Tech All Majors Career Fair;
12. students to notify them as soon as possible when they have off campus interviews for jobs or graduate/professional schools that conflict with class attendance.
13. students would be responsible for obtaining and completing any missed assignments or material in a timely manner when they add a course during Phase II registration after the first class meeting.

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