

INTA 1200
MWF 12:20-1:10
Office and Office Hours:
Habersham 143, By appointment MWF

Spring 2018
ES&T L1255

American Government
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Office Hours: By Appointment

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. Although the class will find its foundations in lecture, there will be discussion, debate, and group work. Good luck and I look forward to working with everyone.

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 underpin and shape the American political system.
- To gain a broad understanding of the institutions, actors, participants, and processes of politics and government in America.
- To 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 in other countries.

COURSE MATERIALS

Keeping the Republic (Brief edition, bundled with Georgia State Profile) by Christine Barbour and Gerald C. Wright. Hereafter referred to as "KTR".

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 and one quiz. If you miss any of the course exams or quizzes 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 either your TA or myself 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.

UNIVERSITY COURSE POLICIES

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.** Students are also permitted to be absent from class to take part in religious observances, but for planning purposes, they are expected to provide written notice of their upcoming absence within the first two weeks of class. 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 or exams and 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. M-F 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 (E1-25%, E2-25%, E3-25%)- 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 are cumulative.

Georgia Politics and Constitution quiz (10%)- This exam will be a multiple-choice exam on just Georgia politics and constitution.

Participation (10% total)- This will be a combination of attendance and in-class activities.

Short Writing assignments (5%) Short out-of-class writing assignments to be handed out to and completed by those in attendance.

General Format Rules for reading exercises- Typed, single-spaced with 12pt font and may be either Times New Roman or Arial. All assignments must have page numbers and they need to be stapled if over two pages. Your papers must include **your name, the due date, and word count**. Finally, if you quote the material then you must cite the page number that the quote appeared on.

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.

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.**

Class 1: Mon. January 8- Introduction
Welcome, course guidelines, etc.

Class 2: Wed. January 10- Political Science and American Political Culture
KTR Chapter 1 (optional)

Class 3: Fri. January 12- Prior to the Constitution
Myths of Political Science and early government

Mon. January 15- No class

Class 4: Wed. January 17- Constitution
Drafting the Constitution, Federalist No. 15 and No. 51, Government under the Constitution
KTR Chapter 2

Class 5: Fri. January 19- Federalism
KTR Chapter 3

Class 6: Mon. January 22- Federalism/Congress I
Creation, Powers, Functions, and Congressional Elections
KTR Chapter 6

Class 7: Wed. January 24- Congress II
Committee Structure, Leadership, Bills
Readings: Edmund Burke, "Speech to the Electors of Bristol" and David R. Mayhew excerpt from *Congress: The Electoral Connection*;

Class 8: Fri. January 26- Congress III
Leadership, Bills, Pork-Barrel Politics
Reading: Citizens Against Government Waste "2007 Pig Book Summary"

Class 9: Mon. January 29- President I
Reality of becoming President, Presidential Roles
KTR Chapter 7

Class 10: Wed. January 31- President II
Executive power and the Imperial Presidency
Reading: Richard Neustadt "The Power to Persuade," from *Presidential Power*

- Class 11: Fri. February 2- President/Executive more generally
Executive Organization (First Lady and VP)
- Class 12: Mon. February 5- Bureaucracy I
Nature, Size, Organization and Staffing
KTR Chapter 8
- Class 13: Wed. February 7- **Exam 1**
- Class 14: Fri. February 9- Bureaucracy II
Bureaucratic Reform and Policymaking
- Class 15: Mon. February 12- Judiciary I
Federalist #78, Sources of American Law, the Federal Court System
KTR Chapter 9
- Class 16: Wed. February 14- Judiciary II
The Court as Policymakers
Reading: David O'Brien "The Court in American Life," from *Storm Center: The Supreme Court in American Politics*
- Class 17: Fri. February 16- Judiciary III
- Class 18: Mon. February 19- Elections and Voting
History of Suffrage, Who Runs, Campaigning and Winning
KTR Chapter 12
- Class 19: Wed. February 21- Elections and Voting II
Campaigning continued, Presidential Elections (including the Electoral College) Ballots and voting
- Class 20: Fri. February 23- Elections and Voting III
Turnout, How Voters Decide, Begin the Media
- Class 21: Mon. February 26- Media and Politics
KTR Chapter 13
- Class 22: Wed. February 28- Public Opinion I
Defining, measuring and the technology of public opinion, Political Socialization
KTR Chapter 10
Reading: George Gallup, "Polling the Public," from *Public Opinion in a Democracy*
- Class 23: Fri., Friday March 2- Public Opinion II
Political Socialization Continued, Public Opinion's effect on Government
- Class 24: Mon. March 5 Interest Groups
Federalist #10, Interest Group's Role, Why people join
Optional Reading: Mancur Olson, "The Logic of Collective Action," from *Rise and Decline of Nations*
Second half KTR Chapter 11

Class 25: Wed. March 7- Interest Groups II
Types of Interest Groups and what makes them powerful

Class 26: Fri. March 9- Political Parties I
Functions, history, party organization
First half KTR Chapter 11

Class 27: Mon. March 12- Political Parties II
Past and future

Class 28: Wed. March 14- **Exam 2 (Bureaucracy up to Interest Groups)**

Class 29: Fri. March 16- Catch up class or start Civil Liberties

Spring Break March 19-23: No Classes

Class 30: Mon. March 26- Civil Liberties I
Freedom of Religion, Expression, Press, and Issues of Privacy
KTR Chapter 4

Class 31: Wed. March 28- Civil Liberties II
Issues of Privacy continued, Individual vs. society

Class 32: Fri. March 30- Civil Rights I
KTR Chapter 5

Class 33: Mon. April 2- Civil Rights II
Reading: Martin Luther King, Jr., "Letter from Birmingham Jail"

Class 34: Wed. April 4- Domestic/Social Policy I
KTR Chapter 14 pages through Social Policy
Readings TBD

Class 35: Fri. April 6- Domestic/Social Policy II
Readings TBD

Class 36: Mon. April 9- Economic Policy
KTR Chapter 14 pages on Economic policy
Readings TBD

Class 37: Wed. April 11- Foreign and Defense Policy I
What is foreign policy, challenges, who makes foreign policy?
KTR Chapter 14 pages on Foreign Policy
Readings TBD

Class 38: Fri. April 13- Georgia Government, Institutions, and Constitution
Reading: Georgia Politics Supplement

Class 39: Mon. April 16- **Georgia Politics Quiz**

Class 40: Wed. April 18- Foreign and Defense Policy II
Who Makes foreign policy continued, major themes, Terrorism, and Missile Defense
Reading: President Barrack Obama, “Renewing American Leadership”
from *Foreign Affairs*

Class 41: Fri. April 20- National Security
No readings

Class 42: Mon. April 23- U.S. National Security II
No readings

April 25-26 reading period

Final Exam is currently scheduled for Wednesday, May 2 11:30-2:20

Grades available to students May 8th

Additional Dates to remember

Deadline for Registration/Schedule Changes	January 12 at 4:00pm
Grade Mode Changes	March 14
Withdrawal Deadline	March 14 at 4:00pm