



POLS

1101

Fall 2009

INTRODUCTION TO AMERICAN GOVERNMENT (CRN: 2680)

Sec.: B; Time: M,W,F 10¹⁰-11⁰⁵; Loc.: 214 Young Hall; Credit: 3 hours
Professor: Carl Cavalli; Office: 338 West Main Hall
Phone: 706-864-1872; E-mail: ccavalli@ngcsu.edu
Office Hours: M,W,F 11⁰⁵-12²⁰; T,R 2⁵⁰-4⁰⁰, by email or appointment

[Y]ou must first enable the government to control the governed; and in the next place oblige it to control itself.
-James Madison

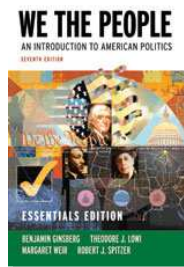
Course Description:

Prerequisite to all POLS 3000/4000-level courses.

This course is an intensive examination of the Constitution and the three governmental divisions. It includes a study of the national government in its relation to the states. Examples from the government of Georgia are included.

Required Readings:

Texts:



Ginsberg, Lowi, Weir, and Spitzer. 2009. *We the People*, 7th Essentials edition

Web Site:



Yahoo! News/Politics

WEB SITES: Main - <http://www.ngcsu.edu/cavalli/1101.htm>; Turnitin.com - <http://turnitin.com/static/index.html>; WebCT Vista – <https://ngcsu8.view.usg.edu>

Course Objectives and Format:

The **objectives** of this course are to acquire an **understanding** of our government; explore relevant **issues**; promote the value of **open-mindedness**; and promote a sense of political **efficacy** with the practical applications of the knowledge acquired in class.

I want this course to consist of as much **discussion** and as little lecture as possible (and after listening to me, believe me, you will too!). To that end, you need to read the assignments before their due date. Be able to discuss and answer questions about them. The text lays out the basics (Online you can take advantage of the *We the People StudySpace*, at <http://www.wwnorton.com/college/polisci/wtp7e/essentials/>). I will lead text lectures. We will also debate class topics and follow related current events in *Yahoo! News* (<http://news.yahoo.com/politics>) articles. You will lead these activities. In groups, **all of you** will either present and lead a discussion of an article or debate a class topic. With my approval, article presenters will select articles from *Yahoo! News* that complement class topics. So in a very real sense, you will help shape the content of the course! Of course, you **all** are responsible for **all** assigned readings. The **debates** and **other activities** (e.g., court simulations) also count as presentations. There are also audio, video and other materials (some are listed in the schedule)—they do not require prior preparation, but you are responsible for them.

There are **two ‘midterms’ and a final**. Each is worth 20% (20 points) of your final grade. They consist of multiple choice and essay questions. I will not give **makeups** unless you 1) **notify me or the department in advance** (no exceptions); and 2) **verify extreme circumstances in writing**. There are also **written exercises** (see links on main POLS 1101 web site). The **first** exercise is an “Ideology Quiz” that is worth 6% (6 points) of your final grade. **Two** other exercises may be done by **either** writing “**quote analyses**”, or “**web assignments**”. Each is 5% (5 points) of your final grade. The final paper is a “**civic participation**” assignment, requiring you to attend a government or political meeting. It is also 5% (5 points). **Do not turn in late papers!** If I accept late papers (and I may not!), you will lose 1 point of your paper grade for each class late. **Additional work** (written work or presentations) may be offered (see FAQs, below) or required. Your **debate or presentation** is 10% (10 points) of your grade. Your class **participation and attendance** is 10% (10 points) including your participation on a **WebCT Vista Bulletin Board** set up specifically for this course (from the POLS 1101 web site, click on “WebCT Vista”). Use the table below to keep track of your grades and calculate your course grade:

Exam	Point / %	Your Grade	Written exercises	Point / %	Your Grade	Other	Point / %	Your Grade	90+ = A
#1	20		Ideology Quiz	6		Debate/Presentation	10		80 to 89 = B
#2	20		Quote or Web #1	5		Participation/Attend.	10		70 to 79 = C
Final	20		Quote or Web #2	5					60 to 69 = D
			Civic Paper	5					Grand Total: 101
Total:	60		Total:	21		Total:	20		Your Total:

While I do not **grade** on a curve (You earn what you earn, and I *hope* you all earn “A”s!), the typical class average is around a middle or upper “C” (*Despite* the often inflated nature of grading, a “C” is *average*—not below average; and a “B” is *above-average*). Simply completing the course requirements will most likely earn a “C” (70-79). A “B” (80-89) requires some demonstration of effort beyond just the requirements. An “A” (90-100) requires extraordinary performance. *Two final notes on attendance*: 1. While the **NGCSU attendance policy** (see the *NGCSU Student Handbook*, or the *NGCSU 2008-2010 Bulletin*, p. 79) applies to this course, and I will take attendance, I’m only interested in your general attendance. If you’re only absent once or twice, don’t worry. If you’re absent a *lot* (NGCSU does not recognize “cuts”), your grade *will* suffer (note also: late = absent); 2. Any class **announcements** are considered sufficient notice. So, one way or the other, *attendance matters*.

Frequently Asked Questions (FAQs)

- *Do we have to know this for the exam?* Unless I specifically say otherwise, yes. Anything covered in class may appear on an exam. If I didn't think you should know it, I would not assign it.
- *Is the final exam cumulative? Yes and no.* Yes in that you have to understand earlier parts of the course in order to comprehend the last part; and no in that I will not ask you about any previously tested material.
- *Is there anything I can do for extra credit?* First, note that the graded items in the above table add up to 101% of your grade, so one point of extra credit is **built in** to your normal grade. Next, if available, **additional debates/presentations** are open to anyone, but *priority* goes to those who have *not* presented. Finally, I may announce additional extra credit projects during the course (be sure to check WebCT Vista!), but I will not offer anything on an individual basis.

Course Schedule:

Legend: WTP # = Ginsberg, et al, *We the People 7th Essentials* chapters (see Required Readings, above). Following the chapter numbers are **chapter titles/weekly topics**. *Italicized titles* refer to videos. Items in **bold** are assignments or activities. *Debate #* = class debates and article presentations (see Presentations handout). **WE #** = Written Exercises (Quote analyses, Web Assignments, or Civic Participation, see <http://www.ngcsu.edu/cavalli/1101.htm>).

Week	Monday	Wednesday	Friday
8/17	—SCHOOOOOOLLLL (AAAAH!!!)—	Introduction ("Hello, my name is...")	WTP 1—Citizen/Government; <i>My Tax Dollars</i>
8/24	Thumb Wrestling ; Discussion: What is a "Citizen"?	WTP 2—Founding; Drop/add ends at 5pm	<i>Liberty! (episode VI)</i>
8/31	WTP 3—Federalism	Debate 1: The Founders	WTP 5—Public Opinion
9/7	— Labor Day: Last chance to rethink college! —	Debate 2: Liberal v. Conservative; Ideology Quiz due	Measuring Opinion; WTP 6—Media
9/14	<i>News War, Part II</i>	Debate 3: Media and Government	WTP 8 —Interest Groups
9/21	<i>The "L" Word</i>	Debate 4: Interest Group influence; REVIEW (if time)	—Exam #1—; Written Exercise 1 (WE1) due
9/28	WTP 7—Parties/Elections	<i>Run DNC; Mr. Spritz Goes to Washington</i>	Debate 5: Election Reform
10/5	WTP 9—Congress	Organization; <i>Surge Debate</i>	—Fall Break : Not a moment too soon!—
10/12	Legislative Process; <i>Ever Spending Story</i> ; Last day to drop is Tue.	Debate 6: Representation; <i>Head of State</i>	WTP 10—Presidency
10/19	<i>Executive Privilege</i>	Debate 7: Presidential Power; WTP 11—Bureaucracy	Debate 8: Red tape?; WTP 12—Federal Courts
10/26	Marbury v. Madison (1803); <i>The People's Court</i>	Debate 9: Judicial Activism?; REVIEW (if time)	—Exam #2—; WE2 due [today's my birthday - be nice!]
11/2	WTP 4—Liberties/Rights	<i>Seven Words; The Word: Bleep</i>	Moot Court (arguments); Spying on the Homefront
11/9	Moot Court (decision) ; Civil Rights	Civil Rights (continued); <i>Bull Connor; George Wallace</i>	—No Class: I'll be out drinking -- er, I mean, at a conference!—
11/16	Debate 10: Affirm. Action; WTP 13—Domestic Policy	<i>Global Depression</i>	Debate 11: Welfare
11/23	WTP 14—Foreign Policy; <i>Cold War</i> excerpts	—Thanksgiving Break: Turkey! Football! Relative who stay too long! I can't wait!! —	
11/30	Debate 12: World Police?; REVIEW (if time); WE3 due	—The nightmare is almost over!—	

Final Exam: Monday, December 7th, 10:30am to 12:30pm

Space for notes on syllabus or course:

NGCSU Early Intervention required statement:

As part of NGCSU's Early Intervention commitment to your academic success, I may refer you to university services designed to help you succeed. Please understand that such referrals are not a form of punishment – they are intended to help you. In turn, I expect you to take advantage of the offer.

Plagiarism in any form is a violation of NGCSU Academic Integrity policies and will not be tolerated:

Students agree that by taking this course all required papers may be subject to submission for textual similarity review to Turnitin.com for the detection of plagiarism. All submitted papers will be included as source documents in the Turnitin.com reference database solely for the purpose of detecting plagiarism of such papers. Use of the Turnitin.com service is subject to the Terms and Conditions of Use posted on the Turnitin.com site.

NGCSU Integrity Code: "I will not lie, cheat, steal, plagiarize, evade the truth or tolerate those that do."

All students in this class are bound by the above Integrity Code. For information on Academic Integrity as defined by NGCSU, see the *NGCSU 2008-2010 Undergraduate Bulletin*, p. 90. See also the *FAQs* page on *Turnitin.com*



Disability Access:

North Georgia College & State University (NGCSU) is committed to the full inclusion of individuals with disabilities and to the principle of individual rights and responsibilities. To that end, the policies and procedures of NGCSU reasonably ensure that a person with a disability is not, on the basis of that disability, denied full and equal access to and the enjoyment of academic programs and co-curricular activities or otherwise is subjected to discrimination in such programs and activities.

To receive disability accommodations, please contact the Coordinator of Disability Resources, Office of Academic Support Programs, 122 Barnes Hall (phone: 706-867-2782). Approval of reasonable accommodations will be made on a case-by-case basis.