

# POLS 1150: POLITICS & SOCIETY

TR 2:00 - 3:15 pm

A & S 2-75



Dr. Keith Lee

A & S 2-09

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Office Hours:

Tuesday & Thursday

9:00 - 10:30 am; 1:00-2:00 pm

or by appointment.

## Course Description:

A study of the structures and processes of American national government. The course is taught in three parts: (1) “Foundations” covering the Constitution, federalism, civil liberties, and civil rights, (2) “Politics” covering public opinion, elections, political parties, interest groups, and the media, and (3) “Institutions” covering Congress, the presidency, the courts, and the bureaucracy. We will also spend an appreciable amount of time discussing current events and how these events tie into the material presented in the course.

### Learning Outcomes:

1. Be able to recall the controversies and compromise surrounding our nation’s founding, to include the role of federalism, civil rights, and civil liberties when the Constitution was written;
2. Be able to evaluate the role of the public in shaping policy outcomes through elections, political parties, interest groups, and the media;
3. Be able to explain the roles of the three governing institutions at the national level as well as how the bureaucracy is incorporated in the government.
4. Be able to communicate effectively through well-reasoned, well-researched ideas and arguments.

**Required Textbook:** Bianco & Canon’s *American Politics Today*, 5<sup>th</sup> Edition

*The bookstore has copies, but if you prefer e-book you can get the e-book with InQuizitive access for \$35 directly from the publisher.*

**Supplemental Readings:** I will post readings that supplement the material to GeorgiaView.

## Course Requirements:

- **Section Exams:** There will be three section exams that cover the major topic areas listed on the previous page (policy and institutions will be tested together.) Each exam will consist of multiple choice and short essay questions.
- **InQuizitive:** InQuizitive is a program developed by Norton to supplement student learning and can be accessed using the code found in your textbook (if purchased new) or bought independently from the publisher if you bought a used copy.
- **Short Essay:** You will draft two short essays (500-750 words) during the course of the semester. A list of questions will be posted in GeorgiaView and you will choose two of the questions to answer in essay form.
- **Final Exam:** There will be a two-hour in-class final exam administered during finals week. Students with  $\geq 67.5$  points (an A in the course) prior to the final exam will be allowed to exempt the final exam.
- **Extra Credit:** I do give extra credit. However, you **must** complete all assignment in order for extra credit to be added to your grade. In other words, to receive *extra* credit you must do all of the *regular* credit.

## Grade Distribution:

InQuizitive	100 points
Short Essay 1	100 points
Short Essay 2	100 points
Section I Exam	150 points
Section II Exam	150 points
Section II Exam	150 points
Final Exam	250 points
<hr/> Total	<hr/> 100 points

## Letter Grade Distribution:

$\geq 90$ points	A
80 points - 89 points	B
70 points - 79 points	C
60 points - 69 points	D
$\leq 60$	F

## Course Policies:

- **Office Hours and Contact:** Office hours are stated on the front page of the syllabus. I will be in my office to assist students during the times listed UNLESS an emergency arises in which case I will post an announcement to GeorgiaView. Students should contact me via GeorgiaView for all course related issues. However, you should use the email address on the front page of the syllabus to contact me regarding other matters, e.g., letter of recommendation, future course offerings, research opportunities, etc.
- **Late Policy:** No assignments will be accepted after the due date. Every assignment will be posted with ample time to complete them, thus a medical/family emergency on the due date is not an acceptable excuse. Get your work done early and you should not have any issues.
- **Attendance and Absences:** Students can miss two classes without penalty. Each additional missed class will result in a 5 point deduction in the course.
- **Classroom Behavior:** Instructors have the responsibility to set and maintain standards of classroom behavior appropriate to the discipline and method of teaching. Students may not engage in any activity which the instructor deems disruptive or counterproductive to the goals of the class, especially speaking while others are speaking. Disruptive behavior will result in the student being asked to leave.
- **Technology:** I have banned technology from my classrooms in the past, but I know how valuable technology can be in the note taking and learning process. Therefore, I am going to allow electronic devices in the classroom. However, I reserve the right to revoke this privilege in the event that it becomes a problem. Please sit in the back of the classroom if you are going to be using your laptop so that you do not distract your neighbor behind you when you inevitably stumble on Twitter, Reddit, Tumblr, and any other sites that may tempt you.
- **Cheating:** Cheating, which includes plagiarism, will result in a 0 for the assignment. Plagiarism prevention will be used for the short essay assignments. Cheating on exams will result in a 0 for the exam. This class has 55 students enrolled so you will be sitting close to each other during the exam. It is imperative that you keep your eyes on your own paper. Students caught looking at another exam will be called out and asked to turn in the exam, regardless of whether the glance (or stare) was intentional. Students must remain diligent and avoid the appearance of cheating. If you must look around the room, look at the ceiling or toward the front of the class. Similarly, students may not wear hats during the exam as it shields my view of your view.

## Georgia College Policies

- **Religious Observance Policy:** Students are permitted to miss class in observance of religious holidays and other activities observed by a religious group of which the student is a member without academic penalty. Exercising of one's rights under this policy is subject to the GC Honor Code. Students who miss class in observance of a religious holiday or event are required to make up the coursework missed as a result from the absence. The nature of the make-up assignments and the deadline for completion of such assignments are at the sole discretion of the instructor. Failure to follow the prescribed procedures voids all student rights under this policy.
- **Assistance for Student Needs Related to Disability:** If you have a disability as described by the Americans with Disabilities Act (ADA) and the Rehabilitation Act of 1973, Section 504, you may be eligible to receive accommodations to assist in programmatic and physical accessibility. Disability Services can assist you in formulating a reasonable accommodation plan and in providing support in developing appropriate accommodations to ensure equal access to all GC programs and facilities. Course requirements will not be waived, but accommodations may assist you in meeting the requirements. For documentation requirements and for additional information, we recommend that you contact Disability Services located in Lanier Hall at 478-445-5931.
- **Student Rating of Instruction Survey:** Near the end of the semester, you will be asked to complete an online survey. Your responses are valued because they give important feedback to instructors to help improve student learning. All responses are completely confidential and your name is not stored with your responses in any way.
- **Academic Honesty:** The integrity of students and their written and oral work is a critical component of the academic process. The submission of someone else's work as one's own is plagiarism and will be dealt with using the procedures outlined in the GC Catalog. Remember that allowing another student to copy one's own work violates standards of academic integrity.
- **Fire Drills:** Fire drills will be conducted annually. In the event of a fire alarm, students will exit the building in a quick and orderly manner through the nearest hallway exit. Learn the floor plan and exits of the building. Do not use elevators. If you encounter heavy smoke, crawl on the floor so as to gain fresh air. Assist disabled persons and others if possible without endangering your own life. Assemble for a head count on the front lawn of main campus or other designated assembly area.
- **Electronic Recording Policy:** Electronic video and/or audio recording is not permitted during any class unless the student obtains permission from the instructor and every student present. If permission is granted, any distribution of the recording is prohibited. Violation of this policy is grounds for removal from the class and referral for disciplinary action. Students granted specific electronic recording accommodations from Disability Services do not require special permission; however, the instructor must be notified. Any distribution is prohibited.

## **Course Outline:**

### **Week 1: Introduction to the Course**

**Last day to add a course is Wednesday August 23**

**Last day to drop a class without penalty is Friday August 25**

Dates: 8/22 & 8/24

Reading: Syllabus & Chapter 1

InQuizitive: Chapter 1 Due 8/28

### **Week 2: The Constitution and the Founding**

Dates: 8/29 & 8/31

Readings: Chapter 2

InQuizitive: Due 8/28 by 9 pm

Additional Reading:

Robertson, David Brian. 2005. "Madison's Opponents and Constitutional Design." *American Political Science Review*. 99(2): 225-243 (Posted in GeorgiaView)

### **Week 3: Federalism**

Dates: 9/5 & 9/7

Reading: Chapter 3

InQuizitive: Due 9/4 by 9 pm

### **Week 4: Civil Liberties and Civil Rights**

Dates: 9/12 & 9/14

Reading: Chapter 4 & Chapter 5

InQuizitive: Due 9/11 by 9 pm

### **Week 5: Exam Week**

**Section I Exam Thursday September 21**

Dates: 9/19 & 9/21

Reading: Review Chs. 1-5

InQuizitive: None

### **Week 6: Public Opinion and the Media**

Dates: 9/26 & 9/28

Reading: Chapter 6

InQuizitive: Due 9/25 by 9 pm

## **Week 7: Political Parties**

Dates: 10/3 & 10/5

Reading: Chapter 7

InQuizitive: Due by 10/2 by 9 pm Additional Reading:

Carmines, Edward G. and Michael W. Wagner. 2006. "Political Issues and Party Alignments: Assessing the Issue Evolution Perspective." *Annual Review of Political Science*. 9:67-81 (Posted in GeorgiaView)

## **Week 8: Elections**

**Fall Break on Tuesday October 10 – No Class**

**Short Essay 1 Due Sunday October 15 by 9 pm**

Dates: 10/10 & 10/12

Reading: Chapter 8

InQuizitive: Due 10/11 by 9 pm

## **Week 9: Interest Groups**

**Last day to drop with a "W" is Thursday October 19**

Dates: 10/17 & 10/19

Reading: Chapter 9

InQuizitive: Due 10/16 by 9 pm

## **Week 10: Exam Week**

**Section II Exam Thursday October 26**

Dates: 10/24 & 10/26

Reading: Review Chs. 6-9

InQuizitive: None

## **Week 11: Congress**

Dates: 10/31 & 11/2

Reading: Chapter 10

InQuizitive: Due 10/30 by 9 pm Additional Reading:

Bishin, Benjamin G. 2000. "Constituency Influence in Congress: Does Subconstituency Matter?" *Legislative Studies Quarterly*. 25(3):389-415 (Posted in GeorgiaView)

## **Week 12: The Presidency**

**GPSA Thursday November 9 – No Class**

Dates: 11/7 & 11/9

Reading: Chapter 11

InQuizitive: Due 11/6 by 9 pm

## **Week 13: The Bureaucracy**

Dates: 11/14 & 11/16

Reading: Chapter 12

InQuizitive: Due 11/13 by 9 pm

## **Week 14: Thanksgiving**

Dates: 11/21 & 11/23

Reading: None

InQuizitive: None

## **Week 15: The Courts**

**Short Essay 2 Due Sunday December 3 by 9 pm**

Dates: 11/28 & 11/30

Reading: Chapter 13

InQuizitive: Due 11/27 by 9 pm

## **Week 16: Exam Week**

**Section III Exam Thursday December 7**

Dates: 12/5 & 12/7

Reading: Review Chs. 10-13

InQuizitive: None

## **Finals Week**

**Final Exam Tuesday December 12 1:00 - 3:15 pm**