

POLS 1150(H): Politics & Society

Dr. Keith E. Lee Jr.

Fall 2019

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Office Hours: MWF 8:00 - 9:45 am or by appt.

Office: A & S 2-09

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Class Hours: MWF 10:00-10:50 am

Class Room: A & S 2-15

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) "Institutions" covering Congress, the presidency, the courts, and the bureaucracy, and (3) "Politics and Society" covering public opinion, elections, political parties, interest groups, and the media. We will also spend an appreciable amount of time discussing current events and how these events tie into the material presented in the course. Students will also participate in a four-week simulation of the Constitutional Convention of 1787.

Required Readings

Ken Kollman. 2019. *Readings in American Politics: Analysis & Perspectives*. W.W. Norton & Company.

John Patrick Coby. 2017. *The Constitutional Convention of 1787: Constructing the American Republic*. W.W. Norton & Company. **Note: This book will be provided.**

Learning Outcomes

1. Be able to recall the controversies and compromises 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 explain the roles of the three governing institutions at the national level as well as how the bureaucracy is incorporated in the government.
3. Be able to evaluate the role of the public in shaping policy outcomes through elections, political parties, interest groups, and the media.

4. Be able to communicate effectively and demonstrate critical thinking through well-reasoned and well-researched ideas and arguments.

Course Assignments

Exams: There will be three exams during the semester: two midterm exams and one comprehensive final exam.

RTTP Participation: Students will participate in a Reacting to the Past simulation and will be graded on their speeches, written assignments, participation, and staying in character.

Georgia Constitution Exam: This exam is a graduation requirement and you must receive a C on the exam to pass the course.

Grading

Assignment	Value	Letter Grade	Range
RTTP Participation	50%	A	90-100%
Final Exam	20%	B	80-89.999%
Midterm Exam 1	15%	C	70-79.999%
Midterm Exam 2	15%	D	60-69.999%
		F	0-59.999%

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 notify students. Students should contact me using the email address at the top of the syllabus.
- **Late Policy:** No assignments will be accepted after the due date.
- **Attendance and Absences:** Students are allowed three unexcused absences. Each absence thereafter will result in one letter grade deduction.
- **Academic dishonesty:** Cheating, including plagiarism, will not be tolerated and will result in an “F” in the course. This class will use plagiarism detection via GeorgiaView.
- **Changes to the Syllabus:** I reserve the right to make changes to this syllabus at any time. Students will be notified when changes are made.
- Please read these additional [common syllabus statements](#) provided by Georgia College.

Class Schedule

Week 01, 08/19 - 08/23: Course Introduction

Monday

- Syllabus

Wednesday

- Mancur Olson Jr., from *The Logic of Collective Action: Public Goods and the Theory of Groups*
- Garrett Hardin, "The Tragedy of the Commons," *Science*

Friday

- Robert A. Dahl, from *Polyarchy: Participation and Opposition*
- Hanna Fenichel Pitkin, from *The Concept of Representation*

Week 02, 08/26 - 08/30: The Constitution and the Founding

Monday

- Brutus, *The Antifederalist*, No. 1

Wednesday

- Robert A. Dahl, from *How Democratic is the Constitution*

Friday

- Mila Versteeg and Emily Zackin, from "Constitutions Unentrenched: Toward an Alternative Theory of Constitutional Design," *American Political Science Review*

Week 03, 09/02 - 09/06: Federalism

Monday

- Labor Day

Wednesday

- Christopher Haammons, from "State Constitutions, Religious Protection, and Federalism," *University of St. Thomas Journal of Law and Public Policy*
- William H. Riker, from *Federalism: Origin, Operation, Significance*

Friday

- Pamela McCann, Charles Shipan, and Craig Volden, from "Top-Down Federalism: State Policy Responses to National Government Discussions," *Publius*

Week 04, 09/09 - 09/13: Civil Rights and Civil Liberties

Monday

- Michael Tesler, from *Post-Racial or Most-Racial? Race and Politics in the Obama Era*
- *Brown v. Board of Education* (1954)

Wednesday

- *District of Columbia v. Heller* (2008)
- Andrew R. Lewis, from *The Rights Turn in Conservative Christian Politics: How Abortion Transformed the Culture Wars*

Friday

- Exam 1

Week 05, 09/16 - 09/20: Reacting to the Past

Monday

- RTTP Session 1

Wednesday

- RTTP Session 2

Friday

- RTTP Session 3

Week 06, 09/23 - 09/27: Reacting to the Past

Monday

- RTTP Session 4

Wednesday

- RTTP Session 5

Friday

- RTTP Session 6

Week 07, 09/30 - 10/04: Reacting to the Past

Monday

- RTTP Session 7

Wednesday

- RTTP Session 8

Friday

- RTTP Session 9

Week 08, 10/07 - 10/11: Reacting to the Past

Monday

- RTTP Session 10

Wednesday

- RTTP Session 11

Friday

- RTTP Session 12

Week 09, 10/14 - 10/18: Congress

Monday

- Fall Break

Wednesday

- David Mayhew, from *Congress: The Electoral Connection*
- Richard F. Fenno Jr., from *Home Style: House Members in Their Districts*

Friday

- Gary W. Cox and Matthew D. McCubbins, from *Setting the Agenda: Responsible Party Government in the U.S. House of Representatives*
- William Bernhard and Tracy Sulkin, from *Legislative Style*
- Frances Lee, from *Insecure Majorities: Congress and the Perpetual Campaign*

Week 10, 10/21 - 10/25: The Presidency and Bureaucracy

Monday

- Richard E. Neustadt, from *Presidential Power and the Modern Presidents: The Politics of Leadership from Roosevelt to Reagan*
- Charles M. Cameron, from *Veto Bargaining: Presidents and the Politics of Negative Power*
- Brandice Canes-Wrone, from *Who Leads Whom? Presidents, Policy, and the Public*

Wednesday

- William G. Howell, from *Power without Persuasion: The Politics of Direct Presidential Action*
- Corey Robin, from *The Reactionary Mind: Conservatism from Edmund Burke to Donald Trump*
- James Q. Wilson, from *Bureaucracy: What Government Agencies Do and Why They Do It*

Friday

- Matthew D. McCubbins and Thomas Schwartz, from "Congressional Oversight Overlooked: Police Patrols versus Fire Alarms," *American Journal of Political Science*
- Daniel P. Carpenter, from *The Forging of Bureaucratic Autonomy: Reputations, Networks, and Policy Innovation in Executive Agencies, 1862–1928*
- Susan L. Moffitt, from *Making Policy Public: Participatory Bureaucracy in American Democracy*

Week 11, 10/28 - 11/01: The Judiciary

Monday

- *Marbury v. Madison* (1803)
- Gerald N. Rosenberg, from *The Hollow Hope: Can Courts Bring About Social Change?*

Wednesday

- Tracey E. George and Lee Epstein, from "On the Nature of Supreme Court Decision Making," *American Political Science Review*
- *Lawrence v. Texas* (2003)
- *National Federation of Independent Business v. Sebelius* (2012)

Friday

- Exam 2

Week 12, 11/04 - 11/08: Georgia Constitution

Monday

- Georgia Constitution Handbook

Wednesday

- TBD /GPSA

Friday

- TBD /GPSA

Week 13, 11/11 - 11/15: Public Opinion and Political Participation

Monday

- Arthur Lupia and Matthew D. McCubbins, from *The Democratic Dilemma: Can Citizens Learn What They Need to Know?*
- John R. Zaller, from *The Nature and Origins of Mass Opinion*
- Donald R. Kinder and Cindy D. Kam, from *Us against Them: Ethnocentric Foundations of American Opinion*

Wednesday

- Katherine Cramer, from *The Politics of Resentment: Rural Consciousness in Wisconsin and the Rise of Scott Walker*
- James Campbell, from *Polarized: Making Sense of a Divided America*
- Lilliana Mason, from *Uncivil Agreement: How Politics Became Our Identity*

Friday

- Janelle Wong et al., from *Asian American Political Participation: Emerging Constituents and Their Political Identities*
- Jan Leighley and Jonathan Nagler, from *Who Votes Now? Demographics, Issues, Inequality, and Turnout in the United States*
- Eitan Hersh, from *Hacking the Electorate*

Week 14, 11/18 - 11/22: Interest Groups and Political Parties

Monday

- Ken Kollman, *Outside Lobbying: Public Opinion and Interest Group Strategies*
- Larry M. Bartels, *Unequal Democracy: The Political Economy of the New Gilded Age*
- Benjamin Page and Martin Gilens, *Democracy in America? What Has Gone Wrong and What We Can Do About It*

Wednesday

- John H. Aldrich, from *Why Parties? A Second Look*
- Campbell et al., from *The American Voter: An Abridgement*
- Cohen et al., from *The Party Decides: Presidential Nominations Before and After Reform*

Friday

- Ken Kollman, "Who Drives the Party Bus?"
- Eric Shickler, from *Racial Realignment: The Transformation of American Liberalism*

Week 15, 11/25 - 11/29: Georgia Constitution

Monday

- Georgia Constitution Exam

Wednesday/Friday

- Thanksgiving Break

Week 16, 12/02 - 12/06: Elections and the Media

Monday

- *Citizens United v. Federal Election Commission* (2010)
- *Shelby County, Alabama v. Holder* (2013)
- Richard L. Fox and Jennifer L. Lawless, from “Gendered Perceptions and Political Candidacies: A Central Barrier to Women’s Equality in Electoral Politics,” *American Journal of Political Science*

Wednesday

- Christopher Achen and Larry M. Bartels, from *Democracy for Realists: Why Elections Do Not Produce Responsive Government*
- James Stimpson, from *Tides of Consent: How Public Opinion Shapes American Politics*

Friday

- Matthew A. Baum, from *Soft News Goes to War: Public Opinion and American Foreign Policy in the New Media Age*
- Marisa A. Abrajano, from *Campaigning to the New American Electorate: Advertising to Latino Voters*
- Hunt Allcott and Matthew Gentzkow, from “Social Media and Fake News in the 2016 Election,” *The Journal of Economic Perspectives*

Week 17, 12/09 - 12/13: Public Policy

Monday

- Suzanne Mettler, from *The Submerged State: How Invisible Government Policies Undermine American Democracy*
- Andrea Campbell, from *How Policies Make Citizens: Senior Political Activism and the American Welfare State*
- Danny Hayes and Matthew Guardino, from “Foreign Voices, Party Cues, and U.S. Public Opinion about Military Action,” *International Journal of Public Opinion Research*

Wednesday

- Final Exam 10:30 - 12:45