

# American Government: In Comparative Perspective

POLS 1101/07 – 3 Credit Hours

Mondays and Wednesdays 5:00 pm - 6:15 pm

Social Sciences Building Room 3023

D2L: [kennesaw.view.usg.edu/d2l/login](http://kennesaw.view.usg.edu/d2l/login)

Prerequisite: POLS 1101



Assistant Professor

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Office Hours: Monday and Wednesday

3:30-4:45 and by appointment

Office: Social Sciences 5059

## What this course is about?

This course examines the institutions and processes of American government and Georgia State government. Global comparisons are made between the governments of the U.S. and other modern nation-states.

## Class Policies for Success

1. **Attendance:** Attendance will not be taken, but in-class assignments are given frequently and they cannot be made up\* (3 lowest dropped). It is a student's responsibility to find out what they missed. *Please check the syllabus and ask a classmate before e-mailing the professor to ask what you missed.*
2. **Be respectful:** Be respectful of other students' right to speak and *at all times refrain from texting or other distracting activity.*
3. **Do the reading:** Students are expected to have completed the readings and InQuizitive for that week before class.
4. **Check your university e-mail:** Important information will come through e-mail.
5. **Turn in your assignments on time:** Late work will lose 2.5% per day.\*
6. **Communicate with the professor:** Office hours and e-mail are preferred.
7. **If all else fails! Officially Drop the Course Before Feb. 28:** Nonattendance does not constitute a withdrawal.

## Student Resources

Writing Center:

[writingcenter.kennesaw.edu](http://writingcenter.kennesaw.edu)

Academic Support Services:

[kennesaw.edu/stu\\_dev/msrs/academic.html](http://kennesaw.edu/stu_dev/msrs/academic.html)

Student Disability Services:

[kennesaw.edu/stu\\_dev/dsss/welcome.html](http://kennesaw.edu/stu_dev/dsss/welcome.html)

ESL Study and Tutorial Center:

[uc.kennesaw.edu/academicinitiatives/docs/Guide\\_to\\_the\\_ESL\\_Center.pdf](http://uc.kennesaw.edu/academicinitiatives/docs/Guide_to_the_ESL_Center.pdf)

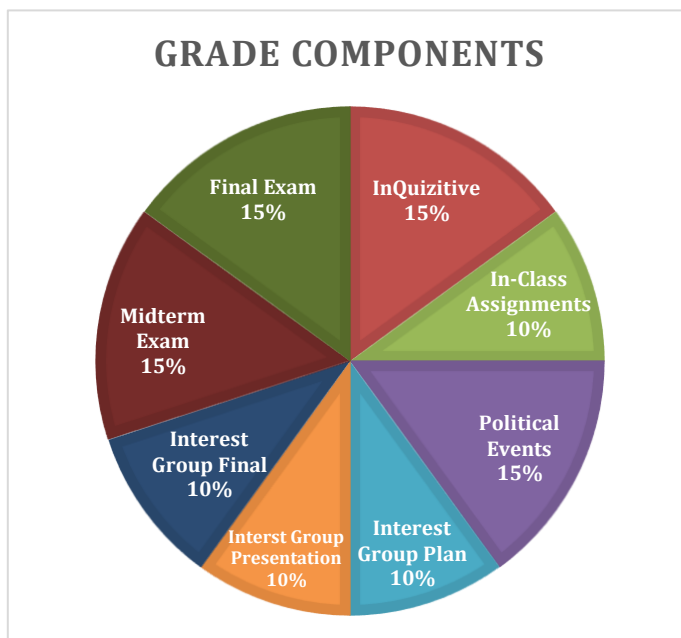
Counseling and Psychological Services

[kennesaw.edu/studentssuccessservices/cps/services.php](http://kennesaw.edu/studentssuccessservices/cps/services.php)

\* unless you have documentation of a medical excuse or participation in an official University function.

## Assignments

**I. Interest Groups:** Over the course of the first few classes we will form interest groups with political agendas. In consultation with the professor, your group will develop and carry out a plan, which (at a minimum) will involve everyone in the group tweeting at, writing a letter to, calling, and e-mailing some part of the government. You will be graded on the initial plan, an evaluation of your midterm progress with an in-class presentation that will be scheduled during the semester, and your final product.



## II. Political Events:

1. A one page description and analysis of a visit (this semester) to a government meeting (city council, public utility commission, etc.)
2. A one page description and analysis of an off-campus political event (protest, rally, speech, other meeting) you attended this semester.

Grading Scale	
<b>A</b>	90-100
<b>B</b>	80-90
<b>C</b>	70-80
<b>D</b>	60-70
<b>F</b>	0-60

**III. InQuizitive Assignments:** Before Monday class every week, students will be expected to have completed the reading and then log into D2L to complete the InQuizitive Assignment.

**IV. In-Class Assignments:** Given frequently during class (3 lowest grades dropped).

**V. Midterm Exam:** Online multiple choice D2L exam.

**VI. Final Exam:** Online multiple choice D2L exam.

## The Goal

By the end of this course students should be able to:

1. Explain the fundamental institutions of the US political System
2. Contrast this system with those of other countries
3. Describe how political parties and interest groups influence policy
4. Enumerate basic civil, political, and human rights
5. Apply this knowledge to participate in politics and influence government

## General Education Statement

POLS 1101 satisfies one of Kennesaw State University's general education program requirements. It addresses the US Perspectives learning outcome. For more information about KSU's General Education program requirements and associated learning outcomes, please visit:

[catalog.kennesaw.edu/preview\\_program.php?catoid=12&pooid=881](http://catalog.kennesaw.edu/preview_program.php?catoid=12&pooid=881)

## Class Schedule

Date	Topic	Reading	Deadlines
Jan 8-10	Syllabus & Introduction	APT ch. 1, Dahl ch. 1	InQuizitive: how to use & charts and graphs
Jan 17	Founding and Constitution	APT ch. 2, Dahl ch. 2	Drop/Add Ends ( <b>Jan. 16 at noon</b> ) InQuizitive ch. 1-2
Jan 22-23	Federalism	APT ch. 3, Dahl ch. 3	InQuizitive ch. 3
Jan 29-31	Civil Liberties	APT ch. 4	InQuizitive ch. 4
Feb 5-7	Civil Rights	APT ch. 5	InQuizitive ch. 5
Feb 12-14	Media and Public Opinion	APT ch. 6	InQuizitive ch. 6
Feb 19-21	Political Parties	APT ch. 7	InQuizitive ch. 7 Interest Group Plan ( <b>Feb. 21</b> )
Feb 26-28	Elections	APT ch. 8, Dahl ch. 4	Last Day to Withdraw ( <b>Feb. 28</b> ) InQuizitive ch. 8
March 5-7	Interest Groups	APT ch. 9, Dahl ch. 5	Midterm ( <b>Oct. 9</b> ) InQuizitive ch. 9
March 12-14	Congress	APT ch. 10, Dahl ch. 6	InQuizitive ch. 10
March 19-21	The Executive and The Bureaucracy	APT ch. 11-12	InQuizitive ch. 11-12
March 26-28	The Courts	APT ch. 13, Dahl ch. 7	1 <sup>st</sup> Political Event ( <b>March 30</b> ) InQuizitive ch. 13
April 2-4	<b>Spring Break: No Class</b>		
April 9-11	Economic & Social Policy	APT ch. 14 Dahl ch. 8	InQuizitive ch. 14
April 16-18	Foreign Policy	APT ch. 15	InQuizitive ch. 15 2 <sup>nd</sup> political event ( <b>April 20</b> )
April 23-25	Review for Final		Interest Group Final ( <b>April 23</b> )
May 2	Final Exam		Final Exam Due ( <b>May 2</b> )

### Required Texts

[American Politics Today](#) (APT)  
Essentials Fifth Edition  
William Bianco and David Canon  
W. W. Norton & Company, 2017

You must subscribe to Norton's InQuizitive service (this should be include with your book purchase.)  
See the InQuizitive link on D2L

[How Democratic is the American Constitution?](#) (Dahl)  
Robert A. Dahl  
Yale University Press, 2003

### Campus Policies

Every KSU student is responsible for upholding the provisions of the Student Code of Conduct, including **academic integrity:**

[web.kennesaw.edu/scai/content/ksu-student-code-conduct](http://web.kennesaw.edu/scai/content/ksu-student-code-conduct)

**Confidentiality and Privacy Statement:**

[enrollmentservices.kennesaw.edu/training/ferpa.php](http://enrollmentservices.kennesaw.edu/training/ferpa.php)

**Student Rights Statement:**

[catalog.kennesaw.edu/content.php?catoid=27&navoid=2263](http://catalog.kennesaw.edu/content.php?catoid=27&navoid=2263)

**Sexual Harassment Statement:**

[scai.kennesaw.edu/codes.php](http://scai.kennesaw.edu/codes.php)

**Course Accessibility Statement (ADA statement):**

[sss.kennesaw.edu/sds/institutional-policies.php](http://sss.kennesaw.edu/sds/institutional-policies.php)

**Concealed Carry of Firearms:**

[police.kennesaw.edu/campuscarry.php](http://police.kennesaw.edu/campuscarry.php)