

CLAYTON STATE UNIVERSITY
DEPARTMENT OF SOCIAL SCIENCES
AMERICAN GOVERNMENT
POLS 1101
CRN 87382

FALL 2009

OFFICE: **A&S G 110P**

Class meets T R: 8:25-9:40

Dr. Augustine E. Ayuk

OFFICE PHONE 678-466-4848

**OFFICE HOURS: Tuesday and
Thursday: 11:15-12:15 pm, Wednesday
9:00-12:00**

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website: <http://a-s.clayton.edu/ayuk>

Classroom: Clayton Hall- T112

Course Description

American National Government in an International Context is an introductory level survey of the American political system, emphasizing a cross-cultural approach to the study of the structure and processes of policy decision-making. The course incorporates a comparison of the American political system and other types of political systems. The course also includes the study of world geography, emphasizing a knowledge of the global configuration of nation-states. This course satisfies the Georgia legislative requirement for the study of the United States and Georgia Constitutions

REQUIRED TEXTS: (Available in the CSU Bookstore)

1. Dautrich, Kenneth and David Yalof, American Government: Historical, Popular and Global Perspectives CSU Custom Edition, Cengage, 2009
2. Rand McNally Quick Reference World Atlas (most recent edition).
3. "Georgia's Constitution and Government," a monograph by A. Fleischmann and C. Pierannunzi (included in the main text)

CLASS FORMAT:

The lecture/discussion format will be utilized in this class. Students are expected to make frequent in-class verbal contributions. The instructor will initiate the discussion or presentation by focusing on issue (s) under review. A brief lecture or presentation will precede, with expectation of questions, comments, observations from students. Students may, on occasions, be asked to comment on topics covered in their last assigned reading as well as explain phenomenon studied earlier. Students are encouraged to bring news stories to the attention of class for discussion

COURSE EXPECTATIONS (to earn a passing grade in this course, student must)

1. Attend class on a regular basis and on time
2. Be prepared on assigned dates with in-class presentation
3. Participate in class discussions
4. Take all required/scheduled tests and final exam

Political Science Majors:

Outcomes and Assessments

Outcomes

Graduating political science majors should demonstrate:

- Understanding of the nature of politics, public values, and the institutions and processes of politics in their various forms with an international perspective
- Understanding of and be able to inter-relate factual knowledge and theories in the various subfields of American Government, political theory and methods, international relations and comparative politics.
- Critical thinking, analytical, research, writing, interpersonal, and communication skills
- Ability to evaluate information in the ideas of others to appreciate and accommodate diverse political ideas
- Ability to conduct independent research, analyze and formulate effective argumentation in written and oral forms.
- Knowledge of computer concepts and terminology, enabling them to use at least two software tools, such as word processors, Power Point, Excel Spread Sheets, database management systems and statistical packages.
- Sense of citizen responsibility necessary for effective civic engagement in political life

Assessments:

- POLS 4490/POLS4491 – Internship/Practicum
- SOSC 4501 – Social Methods Research
- POLS 4500 – Senior Seminar
- POLS 4500 – Senior Seminar Focus Group
- POLS 4500 – Senior Exit Survey

- Educational Testing Service Political Science Field Test, taken the semester immediately prior to graduation

ATTENDANCE

Attendance is mandatory. Roll will be taken each class session. Each student is responsible for attending class and participating in class discussion and assigned reading. Students are advised **not** to sign in for their absent friend or significant other. Because the success of the course depends on a relatively high level of student participation, each student will be allowed **two (2) absences**. Any absence thereafter, without a valid reason (supported with appropriate documents) will affect the attendance and participation portion of your grade. **Excused absences will include:** (1) *documented illnesses (you must submit a doctor's note) no later than three (3) days after returning;* (2) *religious observance. Please review the class schedule and assignments and notify me in advance of any possible conflicts.* (3) *participation in documented university activities such as athletics.*

NOTE: Any time you are absent from class, it is your responsibility to find out what was discussed, any assignments, and changes in reading etc.

CSU ATTENDANCE POLICY

Students are expected to attend and participate in every class meeting. Instructors establish specific policies relating to absences in their courses and communicate these policies to the students through the student course syllabus. Individual instructors, based upon the nature of the course, determine what effect excused and unexcused absences have in determining grades and upon student's ability to remain enrolled in their courses. The university reserves the right to determine that excessive absences, whether justified or not, are sufficient cause for institutional withdrawals or failing grades. The purpose of this policy is to increase retention. Students who have poor class attendance records often do poorly in our courses. The new policy is designed in order to emphasize to students that attending class is important and expected.

PLAGIARISM/HONOR CODE

Cheating will not be tolerated in this course. Please familiarize yourself with the CSU's honor code and rules at the following website:

<http://admins-services.clayton.edu/judicial/>

Accommodation

Individuals with disabilities who need to request accommodations should contact the Disability Services Coordinator, Student Center 255 (678-466-5445), or disabilityservices@mail.clayton.edu

CLASS ETIQUETTE:

1. All **cell phones, pagers, I PODS** should be **turned off** and placed out of sight during class.
* **Exceptions:** In emergency situations (like family member in hospital or sick child, some exceptions will be made. In such event, please inform me before class begins and put your cell phone on its most discrete ringing or vibrating setting. If it is absolutely necessary for you to take a call during class under this circumstance, please sit close to the door and quickly and quietly leave before answering.
2. **In class discussions:** Please be respectful to fellow students and the professor. Lively discussions, heated debates, disagreements on the subject under discussion will not be allowed to devolve into unwarranted arguments and personal criticisms. “ **We should criticize arguments, not the people who make them.**”
3. Students should refrain from **eating in class**. Students are allowed to bring soft drinks, water, or coffee to class. Please open your can soft drinks before bringing them to class.
4. Disruptive behavior will **not** be tolerated. Talking among students which disturbs the instructor or other students is unacceptable. Use of offensive language or derogatory remarks will not be welcome in class.
5. **Cheating or** assisting friends or colleagues during a test, quiz, or final exam will not be tolerated. Students who violate this policy will be dealt with, in keeping with the CSU Student Handbook.
6. **Browsing the internet:** Students are **not** allowed to browse the internet while in class. Violator will be asked to leave the class.

STUDENT –PROFESSOR CONFERENCES:

You are encouraged to meet with me at any time that is mutually convenient to discuss issue(s) relating to the course as well as your performance in class. If you are having difficulties with the course, I urge you to meet with me as early as you can so we can address some of your concerns. Please, do not wait till the end of the semester before seeking a conference with me about your grades.

While I will normally keep to my office hours as scheduled, periodically, exigencies may arise, requiring me to be elsewhere. Please let me know in advance that you wish to meet with me.

In class Notebook Computers

Students may use notebook computers for notes taking, **no browsing of the Internet**
Student will be asked to leave the class if found in violation of this clause.

EXAMS AND GRADING

There will be three (3) unit tests and a final exam. A combination of **short answers, fill-in-the blanks, essays, and multiple choice/True/False will be utilized.** The instructor reserves the right to use any of the test methods outlined.

Students are expected to take **all** unit tests and the **final exam.** The final exam will **not** be cumulative.

MAKE-UP EXAM

It is the policy of this class **NOT** to allow make up test or examination. *Two exceptions:*

- (1) Student with a verified medical excuse
- (2) Personal emergency, or court appearance. Only in the most unusual circumstance will a non-medical excuse be accepted. If your request is made ahead of time (before a test), your likelihood of acceptance will be greater.
- (3) Make-up test will comprise two essay questions.
- (4) **Make-up will be given on the last day of class in the semester**

GRADING

| | |
|------------------------------|-------------|
| 3 UNIT TESTS @ 15 % | 45% |
| 3 GEOGRAPHY TESTS @ 5% EACH | 15% |
| ATTENDANCE AND PARTICIPATION | 10% |
| FINAL EXAM | 30% |
| | 100% |

| | | |
|-----------------|----------|----------|
| 90 - 100 | = | A |
| 80 - 89 | = | B |
| 70 - 79 | | C |
| 60 - 69 | | D |
| BELOW 60 | | F |

SCHEDULED CLASS DATES

TOPIC/ASSIGNMENT

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|----------------------|---|
| Aug. 18 | Introduction to the course |
| Aug. 20-25 | Perspectives on American Government (1) |
| Aug. 27 | The Founding and the Constitutional (2) |
| Sep. 1 | The Founding and the Constitution (2) |
| Sep. 3 | Federalism (3) |
| | <i>Missouri Compromise, McCulloch v. Maryland, Gibbons v. Ogden</i> |
| September 5-7 | LABOR DAY BREAK (no classes) |

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|---|---|
| Sept. 8 | Federalism (3)) review for test # 1 |
| Sept. 10 | TEST # 1 |
| Sept. 15-17 | Civil Liberties (4) |
| Sept. 22 | GEOGRAPHY TEST # 1 |
| Sept 24-29 | Civil Rights, Equality, and Social Movements (5) |
| Oct. 1-6 | Interest Groups (11), review for Test # 2 |
| Oct. 8 | TEST # 2 |
| OCT 9 | LAST DAY TO WITHDRAW WITHOUT ACADEMIC ACCOUNTABILITY |
| Oct. 13-15 | Political Parties (11) |
| Oct. 20 | GEOGRAPHY TEST # 2 |
| Oct. 22-27 | Voting and Participation (14) |
| Oct. 29 | Campaigns and Elections (15), review for test # 3 |
| Nov. 3 | TEST # 3 |
| Nov. 5-12 | Congress (6)/ The Presidency (7) |
| Nov. 17-19 | The Presidency (7) |
| Nov. 24 | GEOGRAPHY TEST # 3 |
| NOVEMBER 25-29 THANKSGIVING BREAK (NO CLASSES) | |
| Dec 1-3 | The Judiciary (9) |
| Dec. 3 | Make-up test |
| Dec. 3 | LAST DAY OF CLASS |

GEOGRAPHY QUIZ # 1

- **THE UNITED STATES, SOUTH, CENTRAL (MIDDLE) AMERICA AND TWO OF THE LARGE ISLANDNATIONS OF THE CARIBBEAN SEA, CUBA AND THE DOMINICAN REPUBLIC. (70 MULTIPLE CHOICE/TRUE/ FALSE QUESTIONS)**

GEOGRAPHY QUIZ # 2

- **EUROPE, THE MIDDLE EAST AND CENTRAL ASIA (60 MULTIPLE CHOICE/ TRUE/FALSE QUESTIONS)**

GEOGRAPHY QUIZ # 3

- **AFRICA, SOUTHEAST ASIA, AND AUSTRALIA (70 MULTIPLE CHOICE/TRUE/FALSE QUESTIONS)**

Final Exam Schedule for Fall 2009: December 7-11

| Class | Exam. Date | Day | Starts | Ends |
|--------------|-------------------|------------|---------------|-------------|
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