

POLS 1105H, call 41089
MWF: 2:30 a.m.-3:20 p.m.
Baldwin 101B
Spring, 2009

Dr. Keith Dougherty
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American Government, Honors

This course introduces students to the organization and principles of American Government. Roughly two-thirds of the course covers “facts” concerning the institutions and history of American Government, while the other one-third introduces “theories” which explain various political phenomena.

My section of this course is organized around themes from the Federalist Debates. After engaging in our own Federalist debate, we will investigate whether the fears of the Anti-Federalists have come to pass. We will also address questions such as why is our government organized the way it is? What is a good democracy? Why do successful political candidates always appear to be moderate? Do voting rules in Congress affect political outcomes, and if so, how? Does our system guarantee that every citizen's interest is equally represented? If not, what does this mean for democracy? Applying themes from the Federalist debates to our course should energize the topics and give you an understanding of one of the most important debates in American political history.

Grading

You will be assigned a Federalist/Anti-Federalist presentation, a mid-term exam, an assignment on political parties, a five page paper, and an in class final exam. I expect students to attend all classes and assume that you are mature enough to understand what happens when you miss a class. Ask another student for notes if you miss a class before asking me for help. I will not give out notes nor put them on the web. However, all assignments will be on-line. Please look at my web page if you miss the day I hand out an assignment.

Although I generally think of 90-100 as an A, 80-90 as a B, etc., your overall grade for the course will be based upon the following scale:

	A	94 or above	A-	90-93.99
B+	B	82-87.99	B-	80-81.99
C+	C	72-77.99	C-	70-71.99
D+	D	62-67.99	D-	60-61.99
F		59.99 or below		

Federalist Debates

Shortly after the course begins you will be divided into groups of three and assigned to one of three debates. With the members of your group you will prepare to debate one side of a Federalist / Anti-Federalist issue. These debates will allow you to understand the philosophical

theory behind the United States Constitution and some important issues in democratic theory. You will be graded on a five page summary of your party's position on the issue (due Feb 4th, the first day of the debates), a presentation or refutation before the class, and your response to questions from the audience. These debates can be very entertaining, but they must be taken seriously as they represent 15% of your final grade. **Students who are absent during the presentation part of their debate, or enter the course late, will be required to turn in a 10 page paper in lieu of their presentation. The paper will summarize the philosophical tradition of the entire Federalist/Anti-federalist debates and be due in the class immediately following the student's assigned debate. Late penalties apply.** Working with groups may also help you prepare for exams and provide a source of notes if you miss a day.

Term Papers

20% of your grade is reserved for a term paper on one of the theoretical issues addressed in class. You will have a list of essay questions to choose from. This essay may require some research, so please get started on your research as soon as the assignments are handed out in class.

Midterms and Final Exam

The final part of your grade will be two mid-terms and a final exam. All three exams will contain multiple choice, fill in the blank, possible problem solving, and essay type questions worth 20% each. The idea is to give you multiple types of questions to evaluate your understanding of the material, not your aptitude for a particular type of test question. Since the lectures and the readings sometimes cover different material, please be prepared to answer questions from the readings that were not covered in class. Those questions *will* be on the exams. The final is not cumulative.

	<u>Date</u>	<u>Percent of Grade</u>
FEDERALIST DEBATES	Feb 4-9	15%
MIDTERM 1	Feb 23	20%
MIDTERM 2	Mar 25	20%
TERM PAPER	Apr 15	20%
POLITICAL PARTIES ASSIGNMENT	Apr 24	5%
FINAL EXAM	May 4	20%

Make-ups

Assignments and term papers require a fair amount of analysis time. Please plan ahead to avoid turning them in late. **Late assignments will be lowered one letter grade for every *working day they are late*.** If an assignment is late, it would be a good idea to stick it under my office door (Baldwin 408) as soon as possible to avoid any unnecessary late penalties. Grades are lowered for every *working day* they are late, not every class day they are late.

If you miss the first midterm exam for a good reason and have a written excuse, you will be allowed to complete a make-up midterm on Friday, February 27 at 3:30 p.m. If you miss the second midterm exam for a good reason and have a written excuse, the make-up midterm will be

Friday, March 27 at 3:30 p.m. Both make-ups will meet in my office, Baldwin 408. **THERE WILL BE NO OTHER TIME TO MAKE UP THE MID-TERM EXAM AND NO MAKE-UP EXAM FOR THE FINAL. NO EXCUSES!** It also should be noted that the make-up exams will be considerably more difficult than the regular mid-term exams and should be avoided. Please plan ahead.

Student Honesty

All academic work must meet the standards contained in “A Culture of Honesty.” Students are responsible for informing themselves about these standards before performing academic work. The penalties for academic dishonesty are severe and ignorance is not an acceptable defense. Also note that the course syllabus is a general plan for the course and that deviations announced to the class by the instructor may be necessary.

Required Texts

Reading assignments vary in length. When you are assigned a short reading you may want to read ahead so that you don't fall behind on future, longer reading assignments. Readings come from three sources: 1) the text book, 2) the course reader, 3) on-line readings (which you can get from my web page). All are required. The Kernell and Jacobson text outlines the American Government system and is fairly easy to read. Although my lectures will diverge from this text, I will test you on many of the Kernell and Jacobson readings that are not discussed in class. On the other hand, on-line readings and readings from the course reader are theoretical and considerably more difficult. They may require a second reading in order to be fully understood.

Please read the entire assignment once (at least superficially) before coming to class. The study guide, in the course reader, will help you search for major themes in the readings and prepare for the discussions in class. Remember, if you work hard and complete all the readings, this should be a very rewarding class. Expect two hours of reading for every hour of class time, except during the exams. The following books can be purchased from the campus book store.

1. Kernell, Samuel and Gary Jacobson. (2008) The Logic of American Politics, 4th ed. Washington, DC: CQ Press (used books should work as well).
2. *Choices: An American Government Reader*. New York: Pearson Custom Publishing. Make sure you get the one with my name on it (Dougherty, ISBN: 0536097852). Any semester will work, only the study guide was updated *after* the fall of 2007.
3. On-line readings will be posted on my web page <<http://dougherk.myweb.uga.edu/>>. Look for my American Government course page. The password is “dougherty” (all lower case).

Schedule of Topics and Readings

Jan 9 1. Introduction

Jan 12 - 14 *Kernell and Jacobson, *Logic of American Politics*, Chapter 1, The logic of American Politics.

2. The Constitution and Foundations of the U.S. Republic

- Jan 16 - 26 *Kernell and Jacobson, *Logic of American Politics*, Chapter 2, The Constitution.
 *Storing, “What the Anti-Federalists Were For,” course reader.
- Jan 19 NO CLASS: MLK DAY!
- Jan 28 *Beard, “An Economic Interpretation of the Constitution,” course reader.
- Jan 30 - Feb 2 *Kernell and Jacobson, *Logic of American Politics*, Appendix 3, Constitution of the United States, **bring your textbook to class.**
 *Fleischmann and Pierannunzi, *Georgia’s Constitution and Government*, pp. 1-18 (only), course reader.
- Feb 4 - 9 THE FEDERALIST DEBATES (SEE HANDOUT FOR READINGS)**

3. Federalism

- Feb 11 *Kernell and Jacobson, *Logic of American Politics*, Appendix 4 & 5, Federalist no. 10 & 51 (re-read).
- Feb 13 - 18 *Kernell and Jacobson, *Logic of American Politics*, Chapter 3, Federalism.
- Feb 20 Catch-up & Review
- Feb 23 Midterm Exam 1**

4. Civil Rights and Civil Liberties

- Feb 25 - 27 *Kernell and Jacobson, *Logic of American Politics*, Chapters 4, Civil Rights (section “What are Civil Rights” only), and Chapter 5, Civil Liberties (all).

5. The Judiciary

- Mar 2 - 6 *Kernell and Jacobson, *Logic of American Politics*, Chapter 9, The Federal Judiciary.
- Mar 9 - 13 NO CLASS: SPRING BREAK!
- Mar 16 **“Griswold v Connecticut,” course reader.
 **“Roe v. Wade,” course reader.

Mar 18 - 20 *“Planned Parenthood of Southeastern Pennsylvania v. Casey.”
*”Gonzales, Attorney General v. Carhart et al.,” both on-line readings, see
my web page (password: dougherty).

Mar 23 Catch-up & Review

Mar 25 Midterm Exam 2

6. The Legislature

Mar 27 - Apr 1 *Kernell and Jacobson, *Logic of American Politics*, Chapter 6, Congress.
*Fleischmann and Pierannunzi, *Georgia’s Constitution and Government*,
pp. 19-22 (only), course reader.

Apr 3 NO CLASS: MWPSA MEETINGS!

Apr 6 *Mayhew, “Congress: the Electoral Connection,” course reader.

Apr 8 - 10 *Hinich and Munger, “The Spatial Model of Downs and Black,”
Analytical Politics, on-line reading, see my web page (password:
dougherty).

7. The Executive

Apr 13 - 15 *Kernell and Jacobson, *Logic of American Politics*, Chapter 7, The
Presidency.
*Fleischmann and Pierannunzi, *Georgia’s Constitution and Government*,
pp. 22-26 (only), course reader. **Term papers due Apr 15.**

8. Parties and Elections

Apr 17 *Kernell and Jacobson, *Logic of American Politics*, Chapter 11, Voting,
Campaigns, and Elections.

Apr 20 & 24 *Kernell and Jacobson, *Logic of American Politics*, Chapter 12, Political
Parties. **Parties Assignment due Apr 24.**

Apr 22 No Class: Honors Day Ceremony

Apr 27 - 29 *Downs, “An Economic Theory of Democracy,” on-line reading, see my
web page (password: dougherty).

Apr 30 Catch-up and Review (classes on Monday schedule)

May 4 FINAL EXAM: 3:30-5:30 pm (same location)