



POLS 1101 - 203 American Government, Fall 2025 (Term D)

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(Please send messages through Brightspace/D2L as primary source of correspondence)

Virtual Office Hours:

Every Wednesday and Thursday 7pm-9pm

<https://us02web.zoom.us/j/82758624838?pwd=OQgMz3Npl4Bs78VMO3cMAsbv8WEhS.1>

NOTICE: You can contact me with any questions via Desire2Learn email. You can also attempt to reach me at the external email provided to the left. Your primary method of contacting me should be via email within Desire2Learn since I do not have a physical office on campus.

Please use the internal course e-mail for general correspondence. I provide my external e-mail address for emergencies only. I cannot answer questions, accept assignments, or discuss grades via external e-mail so please use it for emergencies only.

Response Time: Unless you are notified otherwise, I will work to respond to all student questions and emails within 24 hours during the week and 48 hours during the weekend.

ATLANTA METROPOLITAN STATE COLLEGE
School of Social Sciences & Humanities

**American Government - 8 Week Session Distance Education Online Session (Term D), Fall 2025**

Semester: Fall 2025, Term D	End of Drop/Add Period: October 16, 2025 Last day to withdraw with a "W": November 17, 2025 Last day to withdraw with a "WF" penalty: December 6, 2025
Instructor: Tarria S. Whitley, MS, MPA, MPP	Course Start Date: October 13, 2025
Course Number: Political Science 1101 – 202	Midterm Exams: November 3-6, 2025
CRN: 80358	Last Day of Course: December 6, 2025
Course Credit Hours: 3	Final Exams: December 9-11, 2025
	<i>Students who do not attend/login their course nor contact course instructor prior to the end of the late registration period are reported to the Registrar as a "No Show" and will be withdrawn from the course.</i>

Attendance Verification & Semester Dates

IMPORTANT - In order to confirm your attendance and participation in this course, you must complete the Mandatory Attendance Quiz AND the Introductions discussion activity by **Sunday, October 19th at 11:55pm EST**. BOTH of these activities are required and can be found within the START HERE module.

Please note: failure to complete these activities may result in you being removed from the course.

Catalog Course Description

Catalog Course Description

This course is a study of the American system of government with emphasis on the structure, functions, institutions, and processes for participation in the American political system. Attention is also focused on Georgia government. This course satisfies the state requirement for study of the United States and Georgia constitutions.

POLS 1101 Course Learning Outcomes

Students should be able to:

- Demonstrate an understanding of the American system of government with emphasis on structure, foundations, institutions, and processes for participation in the American political system.
- Demonstrate an understanding of the development and ratification of the U.S. Constitution, as well as, the evolving nature of it into the 21st century stemming from legislative law-making, presidential influence and enforcement power, and judicial interpretation.
- Demonstrate an understanding of similarities and differences between national government and State of Georgia constitutional government.
- Demonstrate an understanding of historical, political, and cultural contexts from which contemporary issues develop.
- Identify and explain national government and State of Georgia lawmaking, enforcement, and interpretation powers and processes within systems of checks and balances.

Prerequisites

Registration permitted with ENGL 0999 and ENGL 1101 or exit or exemption from Learning Support English. Accessed from AMSC 2018 - 2019 Catalog that is accessible at

https://www.atlm.edu/downloads/Catalogs/College%20Catalog%202018_Finalv5.pdf

Course Texts

Title We The People, 15th Edition

Author	Thomas E. Patterson
Contributors	Unavailable
Publisher	McGraw Hill
Edition/Year	2024
Required /Optional?	REQUIRED
Access	**Click Textbook (Day 1 Ready) link on top of class D2L/ Brightspace page**

Unit Breakdown

The following lessons are covered in this course:

- Lesson 1 - Critical Thinking, Political Culture, and Constitutional Democracy
- Lesson 2 - Federalism and Civil Liberties
- Lesson 3 - Equal Rights, Public Opinion, and Political Socialization
- Lesson 4 - Political Parties, Political Participation and Elections
- Lesson 5 - Interest Groups and Media
- Lesson 6 - Congress and The Presidency
- Lesson 7 - The Judicial System and Federal Bureaucracy
- Lesson 8 - Policymaking and Foreign Policy

This is a Core IMPACTS course that is part of the Citizenship area.

Core IMPACTS refers to the core curriculum, which provides students with essential knowledge in foundational academic areas. This course will help master course content, and support students' broad academic and career goals.

This course should direct students toward a broad **Orienting Question**:

- How do I prepare for my responsibilities as an engaged citizen?

Completion of this course should enable students to meet the following **Learning Outcome**:

- Students will demonstrate knowledge of the history of the United States, the history of Georgia, and the provisions and principles of the United States Constitution and the Constitution of Georgia.

Course content, activities and exercises in this course should help students develop the following **Career-Ready Competencies**:

- Critical Thinking
- Intercultural Competence
- Persuasion

Atlanta Metropolitan State College General Education Learning Outcome (GELO) Related to Course Completion of this Political Science 1101 course will enable students to:

- GELO 9 – Explain historical, political, and cultural contexts from which contemporary issues develop.

Attendance, Participation, and Time Commitment

Attendance Policy – Students are required to login to this Desire2Learn (D2L)/Brightspace course throughout the semester. Student attendance is taken on a weekly basis and is determined according to the student's submission of at least one assignment during the week. Failure to submit an online assignment during the week will result in the student being marked as "absent".

You will be expected to participate in ongoing discussions of the lesson topics and to interact with other students and your instructor regularly. It is expected that you will demonstrate a positive attitude and courtesy toward other participants in the discussion and observe good discussion etiquette. Be sure to read and observe the following procedures:

- Practice manners and civility, and be polite and respectful of your instructor and classmates in all your communication.
- Submit online assignments on time
- Keep your instructor informed of your status.
- Use correct grammar and punctuation in all your communication

In the online environment, problems associated with power outages, networks being down, and ISP troubles inevitably result in legitimate reasons for delays, however, you should still be prepared to deliver your work by the stated deadlines. If you have a problem, let your instructor know as soon as possible.

Time Commitment

As a general rule, in this course you will be expected to:

- Log in regularly to check messages from your instructor and other students.
- Check the Calendar for announcements from your instructor.
- Study, read online materials, and work all assigned problems for each lesson.
- Complete all course work and assignments in the time allowed.

Conduct

You are expected to refrain from profanity, crudeness, and slurs of any kind. In other words, you are expected to behave and treat your fellow students and instructor fairly, just as you would in the traditional classroom.

Just as you would listen to others speak in the classroom, you are expected to read and respond politely and thoughtfully to others in the online course. You are expected to refrain from crude or unbecoming comments and be supportive to the class. Proper conduct applies to all forms of communication in the course.

Late Policy

All coursework should be submitted on the days and times that they are due. Failure to submit materials by deadlines outlined in the syllabus and other guidelines given by the instructor will result in a grade of "zero" for the assignment. Students should alert the instructor of any emergency circumstance that would prevent the student from submitting coursework as assigned and be prepared to submit documentation regarding the circumstance. The instructor should also be made aware of technical difficulties associated with assignments IMMEDIATELY, ideally before the assignment is due. All submission deadlines are in accordance with Eastern Standard Time (EST).

Methods of Assessments

Graded Activity	Points	Weight	Brief Description
Discussions x 8	800	30%	8 Module discussions worth 100 points each. Discussions will be graded based on the Discussion Board Rubric.
Quizzes x 8	800	20%	8 Module quizzes worth 100 points each. Quizzes cover information in each module.
Writing Assignments x 2 question type categories	200	20%	Brief writing assignments (issue and self-reflection categories) randomly administered throughout semester.
Midterm Exam	100	15%	Covers Module Lessons 1 – 3
Final Exam	100	15%	Covers Module Lessons 4– 8 with a few questions from Lessons 1 – 3
Total Points	2000	100%	

Center for Academic Advising and Success: <https://www.atlm.edu/academics/academic-advising.aspx>

Galileo Homepage: <http://www.galileo.usg.edu>. Fall 2023 GALILEO password for off campus access: STARTER

Tutorial Services available via [tutor.com](#) accessible within this Desire2Learn course.

Grade Scale

Grades are based on student performance and capability. It is extremely important for students to carefully follow instructions given for assignments and to submit assignments by the deadline specified by the instructor. Simply turning in all the assignments does not guarantee that the student will receive a "good grade." To receive a higher grade, a student must demonstrate proficiency in the material. For different students, gaining that proficiency requires different levels of work, because not all students walk into the class with the same aptitude for the course content. The standards for the respective grades are as follows:

A: 90-100%

B: 80-89%

C: 70-79%

D: 60-69%

F: 0-59%

Expectations and Standards

A – To achieve this grade you must display superior performance in his/her course work. This includes demonstrating the ability to process and comprehend complex ideas, and to be able to convey those ideas to others in a clear, intelligent manner. An "A" student will go beyond simple requirements and seek to excel in his/her preparation for and presentation of assigned work. He/she will demonstrate excellence in communication skills and the ability to contextualize material.

B – To achieve this grade you need to display above average performance in your course work, including demonstrating the ability to process and comprehend complex ideas, while being able to convey those ideas in a clear, intelligent manner. As a "B" student you will also go beyond minimum requirements in terms of preparation and presentation of assigned work. You will demonstrate above average communication skills and ability to contextualize material.

C – For this grade, you must meet the minimum requirements for the course, displaying adequate performance in his/her course work, and adequately demonstrate the ability to comprehend complex ideas, while also being able to convey those ideas in a like manner. A "C" student demonstrates competence in terms of preparation and presentation of assigned work. You will demonstrate adequate communication skills and ability to contextualize materials.

D – A student receiving this grade is performing below the minimum requirements for the course. This could include failure to complete or turn in assignments on a timely basis, or failure to adequately demonstrate the ability to comprehend or convey complex ideas. A "D" indicates that your performance is below the average in terms of preparation and presentation of assigned work. You may not be demonstrating adequate communication skills or ability to contextualize materials.

F – If you receive an F, you have failed to meet the requirements of the course, including failure to complete or turn in assignments, or failure to demonstrate the ability to comprehend or convey complex ideas. An "F" student has not performed in a manner satisfactory to the standards of the class.

Other Miscellaneous Policies:

Withdrawal - You may withdraw from classes UP TO MID-TERM without penalty. If you do not attend classes in courses for which you have registered, and you have not officially withdrawn from them, you have abandoned the courses. Failure to withdraw from classes that you do not attend means that you will earn a grade of F in the courses. Please remember that it is the student's responsibility to initiate the withdrawal process. Go to the following website for information: http://www.atlm.edu/current_students/course_withdrawal.html. **The last day to withdraw without penalty** can also be found in the current Semester Academic Year Calendar. This calendar may be located on Atlanta Metropolitan State College's website.

Enrollment Status: Students are ultimately responsible for ensuring that the course(s) in which they enroll are included in the approved degree plan and program map for their program of study. Students **must** periodically check their enrollment status in this course during the semester. The student is responsible for determining changes, if any in enrollment status and taking necessary steps (e.g., pursuing re-instatement in this course) following those outlined in the AMSC catalog. Additional academic and student affairs related policies and procedures can be found on the AMSC webpages, College Catalog and within the Student Handbook. Students are encouraged to review them *at*: http://www.atlm.edu/downloads/Student%20Handbook_Update_050714.pdf.

Academic Honesty: Students are expected to exhibit academic honesty throughout the semester. In the event that students do not exhibit academic honesty, Atlanta Metropolitan State College policies and procedures will be implemented.

Policy and Grading Course Management Concerns - Problems related to the grading policy for this course or other course management concerns should be first brought to the attention of the professor for the course. However, a resolution of unsettled problems or concerns may be pursued by following the grievance procedures outlined in the AMSC Student Handbook and the Academic Catalog.

School of Social Sciences & Humanities – Procedures for Reviewing and Resolving Complaints and Grade Appeals

Designated Complaint and Grade Appeal School of Social Sciences & Humanities Dean: **Dr. Harry Akoh**

1. Generally, problems related to the grading policy for courses—including course grade appeals—or other course management concerns should be brought to the attention of the **Course Instructor first**. However, a resolution of unsettled problems or concerns may be pursued by following the grievance procedures outlined in the **AMSC Academic Catalog** according to the specific nature of the issue.

2. If the matter is not resolved with the instructor to the satisfaction of the student, then the student may fill out a School of Social Sciences & Humanities Concern/Complaint Form which is available in Room S-126 or online and turn it in to the School of Social Sciences & Humanities Dean. The School of Social Sciences & Humanities Dean will assign it to the School of Social Sciences & Humanities Head for Inquiry and resolution. The student should attach to the form a detailed letter with documentation explaining the concern or complaint.

3. The School of Social Sciences & Humanities Head meets separately with the student regarding the complaint or grade appeal, and requests additional documentation for support and clarity as deemed necessary.

4. The School of Social Sciences & Humanities Head also meets separately with the instructor to discuss the student's concerns. The School of Social Sciences & Humanities Head must ask the instructor to submit a detailed written statement with documentation for support and clarity in response to the student complaint or grade appeal.

5. If deemed necessary to expeditiously resolve the matter to the satisfaction of all involved or to get a better understanding of the issues from all perspectives, the School of Social Sciences & Humanities Head may consider meeting with both student and instructor in the main office of the School of Social Sciences & Humanities.

6. To reach a decision, the School of Social Sciences & Humanities Head must review all information provided by the parties involved and consult pertinent policies for Atlanta Metropolitan State College, particularly those related to the Office of Academic Affairs. The decision of the School of Social Sciences & Humanities Head must be sent to the student in a formal letter; a copy of the letter must be sent to the instructor, as well as the Dean of School of Social Sciences & Humanities and Vice President for Academic Affairs.

7. If a student wishes to appeal the decision made by the School of Social Sciences & Humanities Head, he/she must first file the appeal with the Dean of School of Social Sciences & Humanities. The Dean of School of Social Sciences & Humanities will review the case and the School of Social Sciences & Humanities Head's decision. The Dean can either affirm the decision of the School of Social Sciences & Humanities Head or take a different course of action to resolve the matter.

8. If not satisfied with the decision of the Dean of School of Social Sciences & Humanities, the student may file an appeal with the Vice President for Academic Affairs.

General Grade Appeal Process (AMSC Catalog)

If a student believes that he or she has been assigned a grade in error, the student has the right to appeal the grade. The appeals process must be initiated within **one** semester (fall, spring, summer) immediately following the semester in which the grade was

- Step 1.** Within the first semester immediately following the assignment of a final grade, the student who wishes to appeal the grade must meet with the instructor. At this meeting, the student and instructor must make every effort to resolve the disagreement and arrive at a mutual consensus. **Note:** If the instructor is not on campus, the School of Social Sciences & Humanities Dean will contact the instructor.
- Step 2.** If, after Step 1, a student wishes to further pursue a change of grade, the student must make a written appeal to the School of Social Sciences & Humanities Dean within **twenty** working days of the meeting with the instructor. Supporting documentation should be attached.
- Step 3.** The Dean may meet with the student and instructor individually or jointly to review the student's appeal and to review any materials needed to form an objective decision and discuss options for resolution.
- Step 4.** The Dean will make a decision and submit that decision in writing to the faculty member and student within ten (10) working days. **Step 5.** If the student wishes to further appeal the decision of the School of Social Sciences & Humanities Dean, he or she may seek redress from the Vice President for Academic Affairs (VPAA). The VPAA will review the student's original written appeal, supporting documentation and the decision by the School of Social Sciences & Humanities Dean before rendering a decision.
- Step 6.** The Vice President for Academic Affairs will provide a written decision to the student within ten (10) days.
- Step 7.** If, after Step 6, the student still wishes to appeal his or her grade, the student has ten (10) working days in which to make a written appeal to the President. The judgment of the President will be considered the final and binding decision on the matter.

Who's My Advisor?

- Go to www.atlm.edu
- Scroll over Students
- Click on Student Portal
- Enter your AMSC ID# and PIN#
- Click on Student Services and Financial Aid
- Click on View Information
- Select Term (Spring, Summer or Fall)
- Submit

Your primary Advisor's names will appear on this page along with a link to your advisor's email. You must schedule an appointment with your advisor during his/her office hours.

Weekly Schedule	Reading Assignments	Lesson Module	Activities – What's Due
October 13th - October 19th	N/A		Introduction Quiz Introduction Forum
October 20th- October 26th	Democracy and The U.S. Constitution Federalism and Civil Liberties CHAPTER 1- Critical Thinking and Political Culture: Becoming a Responsible Citizen CHAPTER 2- Constitutional Democracy: Promoting Liberty and Self-Government	1	Lesson 1 Discussion Posts Lesson 1 Quiz
October 27th - November 2nd	Equal Rights, Public Opinion and Political Socialization Political Participation Political Parties and Elections CHAPTER 3- Federalism: Forging a Nation CHAPTER 4- Civil Liberties: Protecting Individual Rights CHAPTER 5 Equal Rights: Struggling Toward Fairness CHAPTER 6 Public Opinion and Political Socialization: Shaping the People's Voice	2 3	Lesson 2 Discussion Posts Lesson 2 Quiz Lesson 3 Discussion Posts Lesson 3 Quiz
November 3rd - November 9th	CHAPTER 7: Political Participation- Activating the Popular Will CHAPTER 8 Political Parties, Candidates, and Campaigns: Defining the Voters' Choice	4	Lesson 4 Discussion Posts Lesson 4 Quiz
November 10th - November 16th	CHAPTER 9 Interest Groups: Organizing for Influence CHAPTER 10 The News Media and the Internet: Communicating Politics	5	Lesson 5 Discussion Posts Lesson 5 Quiz Writing Assignment #1 Due

November 17th - November 23rd	CHAPTER 11 Congress: Balancing National Goals and Local Interests	6	Lesson 6
		7	Discussion Posts
			Lesson 6 Quiz
			Lesson 7
	CHAPTER 12 The Presidency: Leading the Nation		Discussion Posts
			Lesson 7 Quiz
	Chapter 13 – The Federal Bureauarcy		
	Chapter 14 – The Federal Judiciary		
Policy Making and Foreign Policy			
November 24th - November 30th	CHAPTER 15 - Economic and Environmental Policy	8	Module 8
			Discussion Post
			Module 8 Quiz
	CHAPTER 16- Income, Welfare and Education Policy		
December 1st - December 6th		Writing Assignment #2 Due	
December 9th - December 11th	Final Exam	Lessons 5 – 8 with a few questions from Lessons 1-3	

Note: Dates are tentative and are subject to change. Additionally, the dates on this course syllabus semester timeline reflect the dates in which course instructional materials are scheduled to be released to the class. Keep in mind that students enrolled in this course should have access to this course within D2L/Brightspace 24 hours a day.

Frequently Asked Questions and Helpful Links

I need:	LINK
D2L/BrightSpace Student Orientation	https://www.atlm.edu/downloads/advisement/Brochure%20-%20Student%20Orientation%20to%20Desire2Learn.pdf
For help with password and other technical support issues	https://d2lhelp.view.usg.edu/
ADA Accommodations	https://www.atlm.edu/students/counseling-and-disability-services.aspx
Academic Support and Advising	https://www.atlm.edu/academics/CAAS.aspx
To Make a Student Complaint	https://atlm-advocate.symplicity.com/public_report/index.php/pid810499?
To Make a Grade Appeal	https://www.atlm.edu/downloads/advisement/CAAS%20Grade%20Appeal%20Brochure.pdf
To Withdraw from a Course	https://www.atlm.edu/downloads/Registrars_Office_Forms/Withdrawal%20Form%202018.pdf
To Request a Hardship Withdrawal	https://www.atlm.edu/downloads/advisement/CAAS%20Hardship%20Withdrawal%20Application%20-%20June%202017.pdf
To Know the Campus Carry/ HB 280 Policy	https://www.usg.edu/hb280/additional_information

ADA Statement

Atlanta Metropolitan State College is committed to providing support for all students and making their college experiences an enriching opportunity. In compliance with Section 504 of the Rehabilitation Act of 1973, and the Americans with Disabilities Act of 1990, the Office of Counseling and Accessibility Services oversees the coordination of services for students with documented disabilities. The Coordinator of Disability Services collaborates with faculty and staff to offer provisions for reasonable accommodations to students who meet the requirements. Accommodations cannot be provided until a reasonable accommodation plan is in place. To the greatest extent possible all college representatives shall observe confidentiality. This office is located in the Student Services and Success Center, Building 650, Suite 252. Telephone contact information for the aforementioned office is 404-756-4016. Additional information regarding this office can also be located at <https://www.atlm.edu/students/counseling-and-disability-services.aspx>

Computer Hardware & Software Requirements: One of the challenges many encounter with enrolling in and completing an online course is the accessibility to the required and recommended software and hardware. Different institutions, and even different courses within the same institution, have varying technology requirements. Check your hardware and software systems to determine its compatibility with the online course you have selected.

Minimum hardware recommendations to take online courses:

D2L System Requirement

Internet Connection:

- Ethernet Network required
- Wireless Network required

Operating System Requirements

- PC:
 - Compatible Operating System:
 - Web Browser: Firefox, Chrome
- Mac:
 - Compatible Operating System:
 - Web Browser: Firefox, Chrome, Safari

Hardware requirements:

Minimum Technical Specifications for Hardware:

- A processor of 2GHz or faster
- 4GB RAM or greater
- 500 GB of Hard Drive space
- Monitor and video card with a minimum resolution of 1024x768
- Keyboard and mouse

Minimum Technical Specifications for Computer Peripherals:

- Speakers
- Headphones

- Microphone
- Webcam

Software requirements:

Browser Requirements/Supported Browsers

Compatible Browsers:

- [Apple Safari](https://support.apple.com/downloads/safari) - <https://support.apple.com/downloads/safari> (Mac)
- [Google Chrome](https://www.google.com/chrome/) - <https://www.google.com/chrome/> (Mac or PC)
- [Mozilla Firefox](https://www.mozilla.org/en-US/firefox/new/) - <https://www.mozilla.org/en-US/firefox/new/> (Mac or PC)

Application Software

- Microsoft Office 2016 (Word, Excel, PowerPoint) (Mac or PC)
- [Adobe Reader](https://get.adobe.com/reader/) - <https://get.adobe.com/reader/>

Plug-ins

- [Java](https://www.java.com/en/download/) - <https://www.java.com/en/download/>
- [Adobe Flash Player](https://get.adobe.com/flashplayer/) - <https://get.adobe.com/flashplayer/>
- [Windows Media Player](https://www.microsoft.com/en-us/download/details.aspx?id=20426) - <https://www.microsoft.com/en-us/download/details.aspx?id=20426>
- [Apple QuickTime](https://support.apple.com/downloads/%2523quicktime) - <https://support.apple.com/downloads/%2523quicktime>
- [Microsoft Silverlight](https://www.microsoft.com/getsilverlight/Get-Started/Install/Default) - <https://www.microsoft.com/getsilverlight/Get-Started/Install/Default>

Accessibility: Wi-Fi is also available for use in the campus parking lots.

Disclaimer: Information contained in this syllabus and schedule was, to the best knowledge of the instructor, considered correct and complete when distributed for use at the beginning of the semester. This syllabus should be considered only a guide for instructor and students, not a formal contract between Atlanta Metropolitan State College and any student. The instructor reserves the right, acting within the policies and procedures of AMSC, to make changes in course content or instructional techniques.