

Bainbridge State College

POLS 1101

American Government

Fall 2016



Dr. John P. Vanzo

OFFICE: Room 233

HOURS: TR 11am - 2pm, TR 4pm – 6pm

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WEB:

CRN	COURSE	TITLE	CREDIT	DAYS	ROOM	TIME
80432	POLS-1101	American Government	3 Hours	TR	273	9:30am - 10:45am
80433	POLS-1101	American Government	3 Hours	MW	269	10:30am - 11:45am
80434	POLS-1101	American Government	3 Hours	TR	269	2:00pm - 3:15pm
80435	POLS-1101	American Government	3 Hours	TR	269	6:30pm - 7:45pm
80695	POLS-1101	American Government	3 Hours	MW	268	4:00pm - 5:15pm

IMPORTANT DATES:

First Day of Classes = August 15

100% Refund Drop Deadline = August 19

Labor Day Holiday = September 5

Midterm Drop Deadline = October 11

Thanksgiving Holiday = November 23-25

Last Day of Regular Classes = December 5

Final Exams = December 6-8

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INSTRUCTOR:

Dr. John P. Vanzo

Office:

Room 233, Cypress Hall building

Hours:

TR 11am - 2pm and TR 4pm – 6pm

Phone:

(229) 243-3162

E-Mail:

jvanzo@bainbridge.edu

Webpage:

COURSE DESCRIPTION:

This class is an introductory survey course designed to acquaint students with the laws, political structures, processes and policies involved in our American national and Georgia state governments. Special attention will be paid to the Constitutional foundation underlying our federal political system, as well as various controversies currently being debated in the national arena. In addition to achieving the relevant curricular learning outcomes for US Perspectives, the course aims to enhance students' political efficacy as participant citizens, as well as increasing their competencies in various practical life skills such as lecture note-taking, internet research and public discussion.

REQUIRED TEXTBOOK:

American Government & Politics Today (2016-2017 Brief Edition) by Schmidt, Shelley & Bardes (Wadsworth/Cengage Learning). The online ACCESS option is not required for this course. Handouts will be provided by your instructor. Students are advised to keep abreast of current political developments through the regular reading of a reputable daily newspaper or watching national news broadcasts.

GRADING:

During this course you will take seven examinations. Each exam covers one chapter in the textbook and will be composed of objective-type questions (multiple choice, true-false, matching, fill-in-the-blank, etc.). There may be an eighth state-required overall course review test that will be composed of several short answer essay questions. Permission to make-up missed exams or other work will be granted only in the case of documented emergencies. Make-up exams will be essay tests.

A student's lowest exam grade will be dropped. The instructor may also occasionally offer opportunities for students to earn extra credit. The extra credit assignments are designed for individual work only; no points will be awarded for "collaborative" efforts.

The instructor's policies for grading, withdrawals, incompletes, etc. conform to the standards set forth in the current *Bainbridge College Catalog* and *Student Handbook*. For instance, withdrawal after the Midterm Drop Date produces an automatic "WF" (Withdrawal-Failing) grade unless approved by both the Instructor and the Vice-President of Academic Affairs. An "I" (incomplete) grade is available only for nonacademic reasons. A student must secure permission for an incomplete PRIOR to the ending of the semester. Students must complete the missed assignments/tests during the next semester or the grade becomes an "F" automatically. Students may not re-register for the class, and they must be able to finish the work without returning to the classroom. Confer with your instructor as soon as you anticipate any action that may result in a withdrawal or failure for the course.

ATTENDANCE:

Class attendance is required. Students who have four unexcused absences may be withdrawn from this class by the instructor. Students who do NOT meet the class attendance policy may be withdrawn by a faculty-initiated withdrawal with a grade of W prior to the October 11 midterm date or a grade of WF after the midterm date. After October 11, students will earn a grade of F for not meeting the class attendance policy. Withdrawal after midterm will result in an automatic "WF" unless a "W" is approved by the instructor and the Vice President for Academic Affairs for a non-academic hardship.

CONDUCT:

Issues of academic and non-academic irregularities will be dealt with in strict accordance with Bainbridge College and University System of Georgia policies. It is therefore necessary that students fully familiarize themselves with the relevant provisions of the Student Code of Conduct as outlined in the current *Student Handbook*, which can be found online on the Bainbridge College website. Your instructor can answer any questions you have in this regard.

Students are strongly encouraged to exercise their rights to free expression and inquiry within the parameters of good classroom deportment. However, any display of conduct (including cell phone use or texting) that in the opinion of the instructor disrupts the maintenance of good order and a positive learning environment will result in a loss of extra credit points and the student being asked to leave the classroom.

ACADEMIC DISHONESTY POLICIES & PROCEDURES:

All cases of academic dishonesty are handled according to the procedures outlined in your Student Handbook under "Academic Integrity - Policies and Procedures." Bainbridge State College defines academic dishonesty in the following way:

- Receiving or providing unauthorized assistance for an academic course.
- Procuring or providing unauthorized material for an academic course.
- Reusing one's own work produced for another course.
- Plagiarizing.

Any instance of academic dishonesty will result in failure of the assignment and, depending upon the importance of the assignment and the egregiousness of the instance, may result in failure of the course and the assignment of an "FX" (failure due to academic dishonesty) to the student's record. The instructor will determine the nature of the infraction; however, the student has the right to appeal any infraction affecting his/her standing in the course through the appeals process. See the Student Handbook for more details on policies and procedures.

TURNITIN POLICY:

Bainbridge State College has a license agreement with Turnitin.com, a service that helps prevent plagiarism by comparing student papers with Turnitin's database and Internet sources. Students who take this course agree that all required papers may be submitted to Turnitin.com. While student privacy is protected, papers submitted to Turnitin do become source documents in Turnitin's reference database solely for the purpose of detecting plagiarism of such papers. Use of the Turnitin service is subject to the Terms and Conditions of Use posted on Turnitin's website. Bainbridge State College is fully committed to preserving academic integrity as defined by the Academic Integrity--Policies and Procedures. See the Student Handbook for honesty policy details.

SPECIAL NEEDS:

Bainbridge State College is committed to providing accessibility to all students in accordance to ADA/504 guidelines. Students should not hesitate to contact the Disabilities Services and Testing offices; Katie Harrell (BSC Main Campus) at (229)243-3021, or Lori Haddock (BSC Early County Center) at (229)724-2405, regarding accessibility, if any accommodations are necessary. The Instructor will not be able to discuss any accommodations without a formal letter from the Disabilities Services and Testing office.

The development of note-taking skills is one of the academic objectives of this course; therefore the tape recording of lectures will not be allowed except as an accommodation for a special needs student.

WEEKLY ASSIGNMENT SCHEDULE: (Tentative)

WEEK 1 (Aug15-Aug18)	Introduction
WEEK 2 (Aug22-Aug25)	Read Chapter One
WEEK 3 (Aug29-Sep1)	Exam #1
WEEK 4 (Sep5-Sep8)	Read Chapter Two (<i>Labor Day Holiday: September 5</i>)
WEEK 5 (Sep12-Sep15)	Exam #2
WEEK 6 (Sep19-Sep22)	Read Chapter Nine
WEEK 7 (Sep26-Sep29)	Exam #3
WEEK 8 (Oct3-Oct6)	Read Chapter Ten
WEEK 9 (Oct10-Oct13)	(<i>Midterm Drop Deadline: October 13</i>)
WEEK 10 (Oct17-Oct20)	Exam #4
WEEK 11 (Oct24-Oct27)	Read Chapter Twelve
WEEK 12 (Oct31-Nov3)	Exam #5
WEEK 13 (Nov7-Nov10)	Read Chapter Four
WEEK 14 (Nov14-Nov17)	Exam #6
WEEK 15 (Nov21-Nov24)	Read Chapter Five (<i>Thanksgiving Holiday: November 23-25</i>)
WEEK 16 (Nov28-Dec1)	Exam #7
WEEK 17 (Dec5-Dec8)	Exam #8 (Final Exams: December 6-8)

NOTE: *This syllabus is intended to provide structure for the semester and will be followed as closely as possible. However, the professor reserves the right to make changes as course needs arise. All handouts, lectures and other course-related materials are the copyrighted intellectual property of Dr. John Vanzo and may not be reproduced, quoted or distributed in any manner without his written permission.*

Downloading Handouts for Dr. Vanzo's classes

STEP 1: Access the internet and navigate to the Bainbridge State College Homepage at www.bainbridge.edu

STEP 2: Go to the top row of menu items and place your cursor over the "Students" tab. When the menu drops down, click "Faculty Web Pages"

STEP 3: Look under "Faculty Web Pages" for "Arts & Sciences Division" and double-click "Dr. John Vanzo"

STEP 4: On Dr. Vanzo's web page there is a table titled "American Government Handouts". Double-click to open each of the handouts, and then print them, one after another. Have your handouts with you for each class meeting.

Other Important American Government Websites

www.house.gov (Official U.S. House of Representatives website)

www.senate.gov (Official U.S. Senate website)

www.whitehouse.gov (Official U.S. Executive Branch website)

www.realclearpolitics.com (Excellent website for political news, editorial opinion and current polling data)