



## Expectations

College is an environment in which you learn how to manage your time and set your priorities. I do not take attendance. There is, however, a strong correlation between course attendance and performance (not to mention that a substantial portion exam material is drawn from lectures). If you choose to come to class, you should do so responsibly. I fully expect that you will have done any assigned readings before coming to class. Class is much more interesting when you engage with both your instructor and the material. I also expect that you make a reasonable effort to maintain classroom decorum by refraining from reading newspapers, doing crossword puzzles, sleeping, texting, or playing on Facebook (or whatever social network/game/trend that I'm oblivious to). Please silence all cell phones. These ideas are formally outlined in the Auburn University Classroom Behavior policy: see [tinyurl.com/au-st-pol](http://tinyurl.com/au-st-pol) for more details.

## Text

There is only one required textbook for this class.

Geer, John G., Wendy J. Schiller, Jeffrey A. Segal, Richard Herrera, and Dana K. Glencross. 2015. *Gateways to Democracy (The Essentials) [3rd Edition]*. Cengage. ISBN: 978-1-285-85291-1.

The textbook is available at the Auburn University Bookstore, as well as the internet. There are older editions of this textbook. It is important to get the current edition, especially because of the 2014 election coverage. If you get an older edition, I can't promise that chapters and material will be identical. Roll the dice at your own discretion. Any other supplementary readings will be accessible to all Auburn University students through the University Libraries. Your textbook should come with access to Cengage's supplementary service, bizarrely named *MindTap*. There are optional quizzes (to prepare for tests), videos, and flashcards at this site. Only new copies come with *MindTap*.

## Exams

The only assignments are three examinations and a short written assignment. The exams are drawn from a mixture of lecture material and textbook material. The exam dates are:

Exam 1, September 16 (Friday):	23%
Exam 2, October 21 (Friday):	33%
Exam 3, December 6 (Tuesday):	39%
Memo assignment, assigned later:	5%

On exam days, you are required to bring two things: a large Auburn University Scan Sheet and a photo identification (Auburn University student identification, driver's license, passport). You will not be permitted to take an examination without these two items. Grades will be posted at Canvas as soon as possible. Make every effort to arrive to examinations on time. No examinations will be given out after the first examination is returned.

Makeup examinations will only be offered to those with a University excused absence, which can be found at [tinyurl.com/au-st-pol](http://tinyurl.com/au-st-pol). It is your responsibility to ensure that your absence is covered by the University, and it is your responsibility to comply with all policies. These policies require that you notify me of your absence prior to the date of absence if such notification is feasible, but within one week from the missed class. Your makeup examination must be scheduled within two weeks of this notification (though I recommend much, much earlier). If I need additional information on your absence (doctor's notes, for instance), you must provide this additional documentation within one week of the last date of the absence. Note that this policy also allows for makeup examinations for reasons deemed appropriate by the instructor. If you do not have a University excused absence, and you are going to miss an examination, it is much easier for me to work with you if you notify me promptly, especially if you can provide some sort of documentation. You can view your exams in my office the Monday after the relevant makeup period.

Makeup examinations will be offered the Friday after the regularly scheduled exam in Haley. These examinations may differ in content from the regular exams, but not in difficulty. More information will be available as a makeup examination approaches.

### Grades

89.5-100:	A
79.5-89.49:	B
69.5-79.49:	C
59.5-69.49:	D
59.49↓:	F

I use the standard Auburn University grading scale. To maintain fairness, I do not change grades under any circumstances except when I make a mathematical error in computing your grade. There is a grade calculator at [tinyurl.com/1090gradecalculator](http://tinyurl.com/1090gradecalculator). Do not email me about when test grades will be posted or to calculate your grade.

### Extra Credit

Extra credit may be offered at the discretion of the instructor throughout this class. There is absolutely no guarantee of extra credit. You should plan on there being no extra credit.

### Et Cetera

Look around! There are a bunch of people in the class with you! As such, I ask that follow three guidelines when attempting to contact me. First: include the course number and section number [1090-004] in the subject of your email. Your email will almost certainly get lost in the abyss if it missing this information. Second: wait at least 48 hours, not including weekends, to send a second email. I promise I will get to it, but it may not be immediate. Third: email me only from your Auburn University official email address. In the event that I need to contact you, it will almost certainly be at your [@auburn.edu](mailto:@auburn.edu) email address. You should check this email often!

## **Student Academic Honesty**

Auburn University is a institution committed to integrity and honor. It is your job as a University citizen to uphold those values. I will not tolerate any cheating or plagiarism, broadly defined as using unauthorized aids during examinations or attempting to represent someone else's work as your own. You are not as sly as you think you are. With hundreds of heads facing forward, it is extremely easy to tell who is working alone and who is not. Be aware that academic dishonesty can lead directly to failing the course and being referred to the Academic Honesty Committee. Penalties include expulsion from Auburn, as per Chapter 1202 of Title XII. For additional information visit [tinyurl.com/au-st-pol](http://tinyurl.com/au-st-pol).

## **Emergency Contingency**

If normal class is disrupted due to illness, emergency, or crisis situation, the syllabus and other course plans and assignments may be modified to allow completion of the course. If this occurs, an addendum to your syllabus and/or course assignments will replace the original materials.

## **Students with Disabilities**

The Americans with Disabilities Act (ADA) is a federal anti-discrimination statute that provides comprehensive civil rights protection for persons with disabilities. Among other things, this legislation requires that all students with disabilities be guaranteed a learning environment that provides for reasonable accommodation of their disabilities. If you believe you have a disability requiring an accommodation, please electronically submit your approved accommodations through AU Access and make an individual appointment with the me during the first week of classes (or as soon as possible if accommodations are needed immediately). If you have not established accommodations through the Office of Accessibility, but need accommodations, make an appointment with the Office of Accessibility, 1228 Haley Center, 844-2096 (V/TT).

Any requests or arrangements made with the instructor in person must be followed up with an official email request for documentation. If you believe you may need an accommodation, it is your responsibility to secure it before the first exam.

## **Copyrighted Materials**

The lectures, presentations (including slides), readings, and exams for this course are copyrighted, so you do not have the right to copy and distribute them. This includes recording class lectures.

## **Course Outline**

### PART I: WHAT THE GOVERNMENT MEANS TO YOU

Week 1 (August 17 - 19): What is "Politics" or "Science"? How is Political Science "Scientific"?

*Gateways to Democracy*, Chapter 1

Week 2 (August 22 - 26): The Constitution

*Gateways to Democracy*, Chapter 2  
The Constitution. <http://constitutionus.com/>

Week 3 (August 29 - September 2): The Constitution, Civil Liberties, and Civil Rights

*Gateways to Democracy*, Chapters 4 and 5  
The Constitutional Amendments. <http://constitutionus.com/#rbillofrights>

Week 4 (September 5 - 9): Federalism

*Gateways to Democracy*, Chapter 3  
**September 5 (Monday): Labor Day (no class).**  
September 6 (Tuesday): 15th Class Day (last day to drop with no grade assignment).

Week 5 (September 12 - 16): Political Parties

*Gateways to Democracy*, Chapter 8  
**September 16 (Friday): Exam 1.**

## PART II: THE INSTITUTIONS OF THE GOVERNMENT

Week 6 (September 19 - 23): Presidency and Bureaucracy

*Gateways to Democracy*, Chapters 11 and 12

Week 7 (September 26 - 30): Judiciary and Interest Groups

*Gateways to Democracy*, Chapters 7 and 13  
September 28 (Wednesday): Mid-semester grades posted.

Week 8 (October 3 - 7): Congress and Lawmaking

*Gateways to Democracy*, Chapter 10

Week 9 (October 10 - 14): Policies: Economic, Domestic, and Foreign

*Gateways to Democracy*, Chapter 14  
October 12 (Wednesday): 41st Class Day (deadline to request moving final exam).  
**October 14 (Friday): Fall break (no class).**

Week 10 (October 17 - 21): Policies and Catchup Day

*Gateways to Democracy*, Chapter 14 (again)  
**October 21 (Friday): Exam 2.**

## PART III: HOW YOU TYPICALLY THINK AND PARTICIPATE

Week 11 (October 24 - 28): Campaigns, Elections, and Voting

*Gateways to Democracy*, Chapter 9

Week 12 (October 31 - November 4): Primaries, Conventions, and Local Elections

*Gateways to Democracy*, Chapter 9 (again)

November 4 (Friday): Last day to withdraw with no grade penalty (W).

Week 13 (November 7 - 11): Partisanship and Mass Media

*Gateways to Democracy*, Chapter 6

Week 14 (November 14 - 18): Public Opinion and Political Psychology

Lau and Redlawsk, *Voting Correctly*. <http://www.jstor.org/stable/2952076>

*Pro tip*: you must be logged in to [lib.auburn.edu](http://lib.auburn.edu) to access this reading.

Week 15 (November 21 - 25): No Class (Thanksgiving Break)

Week 16 (November 28 - December 2): Polarization and Representation

Abramowitz and Saunders, *Is Polarization a Myth?*

<http://www.jstor.org/stable/10.1017/s0022381608080493>

Fiorina, Abrams, and Pope. *Polarization in the American Public: Misconceptions and Misreadings*.

<http://www.jstor.org/stable/10.1017/S002238160808050X>

**December 6 (Tuesday): Exam 3.**