

COVID

Put this syllabus in your time capsule, because the Fall of 2020 will require special procedures that (hopefully) we will never see again. Here are the COVID procedures for POLI 1090-001:

Attendance: This class is being offered *blended*. On lecture days and at the scheduled time, a reduced group from class will meet in-person, and the lecture will be broadcast synchronously on Zoom (ID: 7720942787). **It will not be recorded.** You will need to attend class in-person or watch synchronously during the scheduled time. *You are not required to attend class in-person at any point if it makes you uncomfortable for any reason.* Instead, you should attend class virtually by participating in the Zoom broadcast.

To ensure an equitable and safe classroom with room for social distancing, classroom capacity will be limited to 30 students (which is lower than the number enrolled). If you plan to attend class in-person, you will need to sign up to attend on Canvas. Signups for the week of class will open on Mondays. Since not everyone will be able to attend, I'll stagger the ability to sign up alphabetically so that everyone is given an equal chance week-by-week. On odd weeks of class, last names A - J will be able to sign up to attend starting at 9 AM. Signups will open to everyone at 12 PM. See the following example for the first two weeks of class:

Week 1 (Odd): Class on Tuesday (8/18) and Thursday (8/20) at 11 AM. On Monday (8/17), you can sign up (on **Canvas**) to attend in-person. Last names A - J can sign up starting at 9 AM. Signups open to everyone at 12 PM.

Week 2 (Even): Class on Tuesday (8/25) and Thursday (8/27) at 11 AM. On Monday (8/24), you can sign up (on **Canvas**) to attend in-person. Last names K - Z can sign up starting at 9 AM. Signups open to everyone at 12 PM.

If you attend online, please participate in class by asking questions through the Zoom chat feature as well as completing the **Top Hat** exercises (explained below).

In-person policy: If you attend in-person, you must adhere to the following guidelines.

Six-foot bubble. The person next to you has tetanus rabies. Don't approach them. I don't care if you're roommates, if you shared a Klondike bar before class, or if you've already had COVID. As per University guidelines, you'll stay six feet apart for everyone's comfort and safety while we're indoors. That includes social distancing from me, unfortunately. It's not personal; it's just COVID.

Masks. Everyone in Haley will wear a mask that **covers your nose and mouth** at all times while indoors. **I will not provide masks**, so if you want to attend in-person, you need to have a mask.

"But I forgot my mask."

Find a pretty tree outside and Zoom under it. Masks are required when you're indoors, no exceptions.

“But masks cut off my air and lower oxygen.”

No they do not (USA Today: <https://bit.ly/3gwc7RF>. FOX News: <https://fxn.ws/2DHhG0j>. Peer-reviewed study of pilots: <https://bit.ly/311RuRN>. Doctor testimonial: <https://bit.ly/33Bxtcm>. Irish doctor on an oxygen saturation measurement: <https://bit.ly/3fDjm9a>.)

“But masks don’t protect me from COVID, so why should I bother?”

The point of the mask isn’t to protect you. It’s to protect other people from you. Masks help stop community spread by limiting air exchange between people (Mayo Clinic: <https://mayoclinic.in/3gzHqkE>). Masks limit how far your infectious air goes around when you cough or breathe (cool YouTube video: <https://youtu.be/b4ts7Vf1Pno>).

Even then, masks still help you. COVID isn’t like amputating an arm: it’s not all or nothing. You can be infected to certain degrees. Masks lower the extent to which you’re infected, which helps your body fight the infection and increases survival (<https://bit.ly/31o4Qgk>).

“But I’ve already had COVID.”

You’re only thinking of yourself. The pandemic has caused huge mental distress (New England Journal of Medicine: <https://bit.ly/3kd6REB>), leading to current and projected increased physical distress, including suicide (Quarterly Journal of Medicine: <https://bit.ly/3keBE8T>). We don’t wear badges to signify our COVID status. **Wearing a mask is an act of compassion, both in helping reduce spread of a disease to the people around you *as well as* easing mental distress of being in close quarters.** You can do something simple to help people’s well-being, or you can relentlessly argue about a position not grounded in scientific consensus.

“But masks make me uncomfortable.”

“I believe in the human touch, which cultivates sympathy with my fellow men and mutual helpfulness and brings happiness for all.” That’s part of the Auburn Creed. Either you are willing to have sympathy for your fellow classmates and do something that makes you uncomfortable, or you’re not. If you’re not, don’t come to class in-person.

“But masks violate my freedoms.”

I’m excited you’re in class, because you don’t know the Constitution. You have no Constitutionally guaranteed right not to wear a mask. In fact, it’s the opposite. In times of public health emergencies, government has wide latitude to enforce provisions that help guarantee public health and safety as long as the measures are neutral (don’t target a specific group), generally applicable, and grounded in medical advice (*Jacobson v. Massachusetts*, see <https://bit.ly/3gxZeqb>). All apply here.

Even absent this precedent, government has always had the Constitutional authority to regulate even fundamental rights (not your fictional right not to wear a mask: that’s not a right), like freedom of speech, as long as there was a compelling government interest in regulating the behavior

(like stopping a pandemic) (<https://bit.ly/33HFXPB>). Moreover, Auburn is a public university, meaning it's subject to government (including state) guidelines and will *always* err on the side of safety. Also, here's the Auburn Creed again: "I believe in obedience to law because it protects the rights of all." Either you stand with Auburn or you don't. If you don't, you're invited to do that at home instead of in-person.

Finally, you'll see that 5% of your overall grade is "Meeting Public Health Guidelines." *All you have to do to get this 5% is wear a mask if you come to in-person classes or stay home if you don't want to wear a mask. That's it.* Put the other way, if you choose to come to class and *don't* wear a mask, you lose 5% of your course grade. If you attend online, masks are not required.

Masks are required to enter the classroom. If you come to class in-person with a mask on and, at any time, take it off or are not properly masked, I will warn you on the first occasion. The second occasion, you lose the full 5% of the course grade and will be asked to leave and not return for the rest of the semester. If you don't, I'll stop class for the day, everyone will leave, I'll send you a private email telling you you're not welcome in class, I'll send a telegram to Santa so that you get nothing but masks for Christmas, I'll send you a Nick Saban bobblehead every day for the rest of your life, and your children will grow up Alabama fans.

If you come to class, please, please, please just wear a mask. If you are bothered by this request, please just attend online.

Office Hours: Haley is super old with approximately no air circulation in my office. As such, face-to-face meetings in closed quarters in my office are a bad idea, and I do not plan to be in my office this semester. My apologies. Instead, I will have a Zoom room open (ID: 7720942787) on Tuesday and Thursday from 2 PM to 3 PM. If you need to meet outside of this time, please email me to schedule a meeting. You are still very much encouraged to meet with me if you have questions about the course or assignments.

Contingency plans:

If I get sick. Another instructor will continue to deliver lecture as scheduled in the syllabus.

If the University moves to completely online at any point. The exams will stay scheduled on the same days and the lectures will continue to be delivered synchronously at the scheduled days and times.

If you get sick or must quarantine. Attend the class via Zoom. Let me know if this is not feasible. *If you miss a class meeting or exam due to illness, let me know as soon as possible and **be prepared to document your absence.*** A University-approved and documented absence will be required to make up any assignment or exam.

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 for more details.

Text

There is only one required textbook for this class.

Krutz, Glen. 2017. *American Government*. OpenStax. ISBN: 978-1-947172-19-7.

The textbook is free and sponsored by the open-access OpenStax project. Your instructor believes in a high quality education that is accessible to as many students as possible. OpenStax is a first step towards that reality. The only problem is that there are many, many versions of the book. Notice: we are using an older edition of the book. Please make sure that you are using the correct version. There are two options for the book.

Option 1: An electronic version is available at tinyurl.com/1090book. I have the *exact* version I use available at tinyurl.com/1090gradecalc. Option 2: A second version, which I personally edit, will be on Top Hat (explained below). I highly, highly, highly recommend using this edited version.

Any other supplementary readings will be accessible to all Auburn University students through the University Libraries or Canvas.

Other Course Materials

Auburn University partners with Top Hat. This service allows me to make classes much more interactive. You can view lecture slides on your phone or other device, take notes on top of slides, answer questions in class, and much more. More importantly, you have access to a special version of the textbook *edited by your instructor*. I do not like the regular textbook, but I use it because it is free. On Top Hat, I delete all the material I think is not useful and add material I think clarifies politics. I highly, highly, highly recommend using this version.

You've already been enrolled in Top Hat through All Access, a program of the AU bookstore. You receive an unique access code from them, and it is billed to you electronically. We will complete exercises in-class through Top Hat, and these will count towards your course grade.

Assignments and Grades

The assignments are three examinations, weekly course notes, weekly Top Hat exercises, and a memo assignment (all submitted assignments lose 10 points for each day they are late). These assignments are detailed below. For your grade, the grade percentages are:

Exam 1, September 17 (Thursday):	18%
Exam 2, October 22 (Thursday):	26%
Exam 3, December 3 (Thursday):	31%
Class summary notes (each Sunday evening):	10%
Weekly Top Hat exercises:	5%
Memo assignment, October 16 (Friday):	5%
Meeting public health guidelines:	5%

When calculating your grades, I use the standard Auburn University grading scale.

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

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/1090gradecalc. Do not email me about when test grades will be posted or to calculate your grade. Do not email me about your grade in general: I cannot discuss grades over email.

Exams

Makeup examinations will only be offered to those with a University excused absence, which can be found at 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.

Makeup examinations will be individually scheduled. These examinations may differ in content from the regular exams, but not in difficulty. More information will be available as a makeup examination approaches.

Class Summary Notes

The best way of studying for the exams is to interact with your notes early and often. But we're often tempted to study the night before and ignore everything until then. To that end, I require you to submit weekly summaries of the class notes. Each week, you have to produce a one-page summary of the notes for the *week just concluded*. **It cannot be longer than one page.** Notes must be submitted by 11:59 PM on the Sunday of the week *after* class. In other words: if you are summarizing Week 1 Notes, they are due the Sunday *after Week 1*. The summary must be submitted as a **.pdf** on **Canvas**. For example, the notes for Week 1 (August 18 - 20) are due Sunday, August 23, at 11:59 PM.

You cannot submit summaries for the weeks of Exam 1 or Exam 2 (Weeks 5 and 10).

There are 13 weeks of class, not including the two exam weeks during the semester. You must submit 10 summaries of course notes. That means you can miss three weeks (you can pick 10 of the 13 weeks to submit notes). This also means *I will not accept late submissions for any reason whatsoever*. You can replace poor grades by re-submitting later weeks if you like. In other words, if you submit all 13 weeks of summaries, I'll only count the top 10 summaries.

Weekly Top Hat Exercises

During lecture, **Top Hat** allows me to ask questions of the class to help spur participation and discussion. You earn credit by answering these questions. During class, have **Top Hat** open and pay attention; answer questions when they are asked. That's it!

Memo Assignment

After Exam 1, you will be responsible for a one-page electronic memo. There will be a full assignment (with specific instructions) uploaded to **Canvas** after Exam 1. The Memo Assignment is due Friday, October 16, at 11:59 PM on **Canvas**.

Meeting Public Health Guidelines

Wear a mask if you come to class in-person. That's it. See the COVID section.

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

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 [1090-001] 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 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.

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 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 18 - 20): What is “Politics” or “Science”? How is Political Science “Scientific”?

American Government, Chapter 1

Week 2 (August 25 - 27): The Constitution

American Government, Chapter 2

The Constitution. <http://constitutionus.com/>

Week 3 (September 1 - 3): The Constitution, Civil Liberties, and Civil Rights

American Government, Chapters 4 and 5

The Constitutional Amendments. <http://constitutionus.com/#rbillofrights>

September 4 (Friday): 15th Class Day (last day to drop with no grade assignment).

Week 4 (September 8 - 10): Federalism

American Government, Chapter 3

Week 5 (September 15 - 17): Political Parties

American Government, Chapter 9

September 17 (Thursday): Exam 1.

PART II: THE INSTITUTIONS OF THE GOVERNMENT

Week 6 (September 22 - 24): Presidency and Bureaucracy

American Government, Chapters 12 and 15

Week 7 (September 29 - October 1): Judiciary and Interest Groups

American Government, Chapters 10 and 13

Week 8 (October 6 - 8): Congress and Lawmaking

American Government, Chapter 11

October 5 (Monday): Mid-semester grades posted.

Week 9 (October 13 - 15): Policies: Economic, Domestic, and Foreign

American Government, Chapters 16 and 17

October 13 (Tuesday): 41st Class Day (deadline to request moving final exam).

October 16 (Friday): Memo assignment due at 11:59 PM.

Week 10 (October 20 - 22): Policies and Catchup Day

October 22 (Thursday): Exam 2.

PART III: HOW YOU TYPICALLY THINK AND PARTICIPATE

Week 11 (October 27 - 29): Campaigns, Elections, and Voting

American Government, Chapter 7

Week 12 (November 3 - 5): Primaries, Conventions, and Local Elections

American Government, Chapter 14

Week 13 (November 10 - 12): Partisanship and Mass Media

American Government, Chapter 8

Week 14 (November 17 - 19): Public Opinion and Political Psychology

American Government, Chapter 6

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

Pro tip: you must be logged in to lib.auburn.edu to access this reading.

Week 15 (November 24): Polarization and Representation

Abramowitz, Alan I. and Steven W. Webster. 2018. "Negative Partisanship: Why Americans Dislike Parties But Behave Like Rabid Partisans." *Advances in Political Psychology* 39 (1): 119-135. DOI: 10.1111/pops.12479.

November 24 (Tuesday): Last day to withdraw with no grade penalty (W).

December 3 (Thursday): Exam 3 at 12 PM to 2:30 PM.