

POLSCI 1101E: Introduction to American Government Syllabus

Summer Thru Session June 5-July 27, Final Exams: July 30 & 31

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Virtual Office Hours: 11 am to 12 pm on W and by appointment; I will be available to you via our course online chat room, eLC message pager if I am on eLC, and Skype via appointment, and by phone during work hours. The BEST way to reach me FAST is through my email: polaah@uga.edu. I generally will respond quickly but no later than 24 hours. If you do not hear from me, email me again. Why? There is likely a problem with the email.

Course Description: This course is concerned with government and politics in the United States, primarily at the national level, but attention will be given to state and local government, particularly the nature of Georgia's Constitution. We will examine the institutional rules and human behaviors that shape government, the operation of elections, the development of parties and interest groups, public opinion, and the functioning of Congress, the presidency, and the courts. An historic overview of the topics will shed light on how the current system has evolved. This is important since the foundation of our system and the rules and norms established early have a great impact on how the government performs what policies it produces and how its citizens relate to it.

We will also focus our attention on current political, social and economic events and discuss how they relate to the governmental concepts we will be studying. During this time we will also discuss a variety of theories of, and perspectives on government. At times, I will post news articles or bits of information on the discussion board and your thoughts are welcome and expected.

Specific topics and the time at which they will be covered, as well as your assigned reading can be found on the calendar on this course's eLC portal.

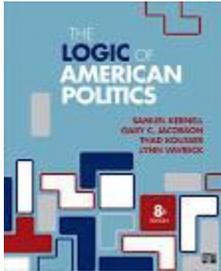
Prerequisites of the Course: None

Technical requirements of the course: If you are able to access the Internet on a regular basis, you meet the technical requirements for the course. It is important that you have reliable Internet service, particularly as the tests are time sensitive. You also need a reliable laptop or desktop computer.

Course objectives: At the start of each of our content modules, you will see a list of course objectives. They range from general understanding of a process to very specific skills (such as being able to determine what type of collective action problem is being described or predicting the outcome of a political situation. Please make sure to read through these objectives. They will correspond to the learning outcomes/assessments.

Course textbook: Logic of American Politics 8th edition. You may purchase the electronic version or the custom paper text, whichever text you feel more comfortable working with for your course reading.

You may purchase the hard copy of the textbook through whatever online bookstore you prefer, but it must be this book:



The Logic of American Politics (8th edition)
Samuel Kernell, Gary C. Jacobson, Thad Kousser, and Lynn Vavreck
CQ Press
Paperback or e-version
Published: March 21, 2017

ISBN: 1506358667 (print) 1506385184 (ebook)

You may also rent the text. One easy way to obtain the ebook is through Vital Source.

The screenshot displays the product page for 'Interactive: The Logic of American Politics Interactive eBook' on the Vital Source website. On the left, there is a thumbnail of the book cover and a text box with the following details: 'Interactive: The Logic of American Politics Interactive eBook by Samuel Kernell', 'Publisher: SAGE Publications, Inc', 'Print ISBN: 9781506385174, 1506385176', 'eText ISBN: 9781506385181, 1506385184', 'Edition: 8th', and 'Copyright year: 2017'. Below this is a section titled 'eTextbook Features' with three icons: 'Reflowable' (book icon), 'Read Anywhere 100% Offline' (tablet icon), and 'Study Tools' (pencil icon). On the right side, there is a 'Rent eTextbook (3 Options) USD' section with three rental options: '90 Day Rental' for \$43.00 (Expires Aug 12, 2018), '120 Day Rental' for \$48.00 (Expires Sep 11, 2018), and '180 Day Rental' for \$53.00 (Expires Nov 10, 2018). Below the rental options, the 'Print List Price' is \$106.00, 'Savings' is \$58.00, and the 'Your Price' is \$48.00. A prominent orange 'Add to Cart' button is located at the bottom right of the rental section. At the very bottom, there is a small star icon and the text 'Your satisfaction matters Learn More'.

You may even use the least expensive option, the 90 day rental, which is \$43. There is no other textbook to purchase. You are welcome. When you rent or purchase an eBook, you generally need to create an account with that source.

Below are the instructions for using VitalSource Bookshelf on a web browser, computer, or mobile device. For quick demos, visit our online Tutorial Videos here

(<http://downloads.vitalbook.com/tutorials/publish/index.html?did=generic>). There is a module for each device, with expanding navigation arrows revealing subtopics. The most popular features are Searching, Highlighting, and making Notes. Should you need further assistance please visit <http://support.vitalsource.com>

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To read your book in Bookshelf for Online, please do the following:

- Go to (<http://bookshelf.vitalsource.com>)
- Sign in with your Bookshelf account email address and password.
- Click on the name of the title to open the book.

To open your book in Bookshelf on your computer, you first must have a Bookshelf account, and then do the following:

- Download Bookshelf for Mac or PC. (<http://www.vitalsource.com/downloads>)
- Once Bookshelf is installed, launch Bookshelf.
- Sign in with your Bookshelf account email address and password.
- Click on "All Titles" in the collection pane to view all the books in your account.
- Double click on the title to download the book to your computer. Once downloaded, double-click again to open the book.

To open your book in Bookshelf for iOS and Android, you first must have a Bookshelf account, and then do the following:

- Download Bookshelf for iOS or Android. (<http://www.vitalsource.com/downloads>)
- Once Bookshelf is installed, launch Bookshelf.
- Sign in with your Bookshelf account email address and password.
- Click on "All Titles" in the collection pane to view all the books in your account.
- Tap on the title to download the book to your mobile device. Once downloaded, double-click again to open the book.

If you have any questions, please let me know. I have downloaded my copy and it is quite easy to use. It basically sits in the cloud waiting for you.

If you would like a hard copy, you can purchase a custom one at a variety of places, online or one of the bookstores in Athens. Simply tell them what you wish to purchase and they will order it for you. I have NOT asked for a certain number to be purchased at any bookstore given most students opt for the eBook due to its "searchable" nature.

Online Learning Environment: This course is hosted on UGA eLC. If you have any issues at any point, make sure to contact:

EITS Help Desk: helpdesk@uga.edu or 706.542.3106.

Business hours are 8am - 10pm (Mon-Thurs), 8am-6pm (Fri), and 1pm-7pm (Sat-Sun)

Go to the University System of Georgia Desire2Learn Online Help Center at <http://D2Lhelp.view.usg.edu>. From this site, you can search the Knowledge Base, browse popular articles, or click the link for live support (24x7x365) in the scrolling news area.

Grading and Assignments:

Your grade for this course will be determined by your scores on your practice tests, tests, quizzes and essays, your final project, and your participation via the discussion board. Each counts toward a percentage of your grade. To see the distribution of weight for each assessment, simply go to the Grades link on the course page and review the list of assessments and their individual and group weights.

Note that you will basically have a concept or video quiz, practice quiz and test every week during the course of this shortened semester. We will work in tandem. There will also be weeks where you have a discussion exercise. There is a final project as well, rather than a final exam. The tests are open book, but they are timed. You must do your reading and studying ahead of time.

Grades:

Practice quizzes	15%
Concept, video, other quizzes	20%
Discussion assignments	15%
Exams	30%
Course project	15%
Wrap-up Assessment	5%
Total:	100%

Grade scale:

A	93.0000 and above
A-	92.9999 to 90.0000
B+	87.0000 to 89.9999
B	86.9999 to 83.0000
B-	82.9999 to 80.0000
C+	77.0000 to 79.9999
C	76.9999 to 70.0000
D	65.0000 to 69.9999
F	64.9999 and below

THERE IS NO ROUNDING OR CURVING AT THE END OF THE SEMESTER. Note this now so that you are properly motivated to achieve your grade goal.

Learning Activities: In this course your learning activities consist of the following: reading your text, viewing/listening to course lectures, completing skill builder exercises, taking practice quizzes, discussing relevant topics on the discussion board with your professor and your peers, completing your tests and discussion essays, working on your final project, and viewing relevant videos. Almost all activities are graded.

Course outline and schedule: The course is outlined extensively on its eLC course site. The schedule is located on the calendar. If you have any questions at all about the schedule, please contact Dr. Haynes immediately. (See an example of a module below.)

<ul style="list-style-type: none"> Module 1: Why Government? Logic CH 1 Begins June 4 23 	<p>are institutions created? How do institutional rules (institutional design) make a difference to the nature of political action and political outcomes? What types of rules are found in representative government?</p>
<ul style="list-style-type: none"> Module 1 Checklist 2 	<p>Module 1 Learning Objectives:</p> <p>By completing this module, students will:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Describe how conflict emerges among individuals with different preferences and how politics can resolve this conflict. • Explain how bargaining and compromise are critical components of politics. • List and describe the primary collective action problems that emerge and how they are solved by institutional rules. • Define the terms transaction costs and conformity costs and explain why they are inversely related. • Detail the constitutional arrangements that were used to solve some of the problems and costs associated with collective action during the Constitutional Convention in 1787. Name their institutional design principles and describe how were each used. • Clarify the difference between direct and indirect democracy.
<ul style="list-style-type: none"> Module 1 Lecture and Formative Learning Content 13 	
<ul style="list-style-type: none"> Module 1 Study Tools 3 	
<ul style="list-style-type: none"> Module 1 Summative Assessments 1 	
<ul style="list-style-type: none"> For the student who wants to know more... 2 	<p>-----</p> <p>Thought for the module:</p> <p>Why does the public think this is a bad word?</p>
<ul style="list-style-type: none"> Post Module 1 Feedback Survey 1 	<p>pol·i·tics 'pālo, tīks/</p>

This is an example of what a Module Checklist will look like. Each checklist directions and links to the materials and assessments you will be working with.

Module 1 Checklist



Module 1 Check List

- ✓ Read Chapter 1 in Logic of American Government



Due Aug 18, 2017 11:30 PM

Read Chapter One of the latest edition of Logic of American Government. This is a great book, with the general theme that it is not easy to govern oneself as a nation. Indeed, there are many obstacles to the pursuance of collective action. Only by understanding these problems can we overcome them.

[Kernell Be Ch 1 .pdf](#) chapter for your convenience

- ✓ Complete the Study Guide for Chapter 1



Due Aug 21, 2017 11:30 PM

[Chapter 1 Study Guide Logic](#)

The study guide is designed to help you figure out what in the text is important and deserving of your more focused attention. You can use the study guide as a pretest - read the chapter, study the material, then see which questions you can answer. Go back and study the ones you miss. You may also simply complete the guide and use it to study the materials and use it as an informational source when you take your Module Exam, which is open note and open book. Remember that you only have 60 minutes for the exam. In order to do well you must be prepared. When the 60 minutes is over, so is your opportunity to take the exam. It will CLOSE! So make sure you prepare. **Note that the study guide is for your use and we do not grade it.**

- ✓ Listen and review the powerpoint lectures



Due Aug 22, 2017 11:30 PM

If you are an auditory learner, listening to the lectures and watching the powerpoints may help you digest the material. As with the study guide, the powerpoints and the YouTube lectures that accompany them, are designed to help you reach the general learning objectives. There are abundant pieces of fact that are components of those learning objectives. Think about each component as part of a story or a small piece of a large puzzle. Once you master all the components, you will see the big picture and all of its parts.

[MODULE 1 Lecture Part 1: What is politics?](#)

[MODULE 1 Lecture Part 2: The necessity of governments](#)

[MODULE 1 Lecture 1 Part 3: Collective Action Costs](#)

[MODULE 1 Lecture Part 4: Institutions and Collective Action](#)

[Module 1 Collective Action-Coordination Issues](#)

[Module 1 Lecture slides](#)

NOTE: I am not a trained entertainer or digital media producer. These took time and effort but are self-made and clearly done without spending your tax money wildly. They are here to help. I would suggest that after reading, you listen to these while you walk, bike, clean your kitchen. Like you listen to NPR. Relax and allow it to sink into your brain. You can pull these up on your smart phone. Go to eLC and scroll down to use the desktop version and you can pull up everything we have on the course page.

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- ✓ Review the concepts of Prisoner's Dilemma, Free Rider and Tragedy of the Commons through the posted videos x

Due Aug 23, 2017 11:30 PM

[The Problem of Free Riders](#)

[Tragedy of the Commons Explained and Expanded](#)

These are not optional. Please review so you will fully understand the concepts.

[Prisoner's Dilemma Explained](#)

- ✓ Complete Module 1 short quizzes after concept videos and the Practice Quiz when you are ready x

Due Aug 23, 2017 11:30 PM

In order to truly understand and be able to apply a number of the core concepts, you should watch these concept videos and then take the quizzes that follow to see if you can apply what you have learned correctly. These quizzes are all graded. **GET FEEDBACK IF YOU DO NOT UNDERSTAND THE CONCEPT, CONTACT YOUR TA OR DR. HAYNES FOR HELP.**

QUIZ: What is free riding?

QUIZ: The Prisoner's Dilemma

QUIZ: Tragedy of the Commons

- ✓ Complete the Module 1 Practice Quiz x

Due Aug 24, 2017 11:30 PM

[Graded Practice Quiz: Chapter 01: The Logic of American Politics](#)

Take this practice quiz. You have two attempts. I would take the first attempt and **when you submit, you will see which questions you missed.** Go back and read the material related to the question and then make sure you are on the right track. Then you make take it again. **The two grades are AVERAGED.** So you should have have read and reviewed prior to taking this practice quiz. Practice quizzes are graded and thus required.

NOTE: eLC auto grading can only recognize one right answer. If your question has anything that YOU type in, unless you match the "right" answer perfectly - even capitalization - it may make it as incorrect. But that doesn't mean it is. We will go in and correct those manually so **DO NOT PANIC.** If days and days go by and it doesn't change then send us a reminder. We do not want you to lose points!

- ✓ Complete the Module 1 Test and then fill out or feedback survey x

Due Aug 26, 2017 10:00 PM

[Module 1 Exam \(Foundations of Government\)](#)

For each module, there is an exam. Each one is open book and open note, however they are timed. You have 60 minutes to complete the 50+ question online exam. Once you begin, **YOU MUST FINISH.** So study ahead of time as you would for any exam. There is only **ONE** Attempt for Module tests.

When you are done, pat yourself on the back. You did it. And give us some feedback. How did the course perform? How could we make the material clearer or more accessible? The survey is anonymous so feel to be honest, but constructive and kind.

[Post Module 1 Feedback from Students](#)

- ✓ Remember to review the Georgia Politics Module: You may complete it any time but must be done by July 27th. x

Due Nov 13, 2017 11:30 PM

The GA Politics Module is a stand alone, self-serve module on GA Government. There are not due dates set for each reading and quiz. Rather, they are all due on **NOVEMBER 13TH.** Make sure you find the time to get them done as you go. They are relatively short, informative readings (a couple are a little longer) followed by quizzes. You are allowed to utilize your notes for these quizzes. So make sure to take good notes as you read as they will be useful. If you have any questions about the GA material, please email Dr. Haynes. She is glad to help you get clarity on the concepts and how the processes work.

NOTE: The GA Legislative materials should be done **AFTER** we have completed Module 4 on the US Congress as there is a comparative component to the quiz.

Here is the checklist with links if you want to get a sense of how much work you will have. They can also be accessed by clicking on Content in the Navigation Bar at the top right of this page, going to the content page, scrolling down to Module 11. There they all are.

[Module 11: Ga Government Checklist](#)

- ✓ Don't forget your media project x

[Add Due Date](#)

[Checklist for Final Course Project](#)

- ✓ Don't forget to complete the post Module 1 Survey x

Due Aug 28, 2017 12:01 PM

Policies: This course follows all policies related to Academic Honesty and Student Code of Conduct as outlined by the University of Georgia.

http://www.conduct.uga.edu/code_of_conduct/codeofconduct.pdf

<http://ovpi.uga.edu/academic-honesty/academic-honesty-policy>

Agreement: By enrolling in this course, you agree to adhere to these policies linked above and to do your best to be a good, productive, and **honest** student. You also agree to work with Dr. Haynes to make sure that you have a positive learning experience and a rewarding course outcome and that you will not neglect to stay on top of your work. Nor will you interact with your peers to collaborate on any exams, essays or projects unless they are clearly designated as group projects or work.

Given this is an online course that moves quickly, if you have any issues regarding test dates (such as a conflict, or you become ill during a portion of the course) it is imperative that you communicate with me (Dr. Haynes) and/or your assigned Teaching Assistant, and work out any issues. Your instructor (me) will try to be flexible given the online nature of this course, which may be new to some of you. So it is very important that you keep communication lines open. It is very important that you stay on top of your reading and your test deadlines. I have designed this course so that while we move quickly, we are testing **only one module at a time**. Even though they are open book, given that they are time limited (and they will remain so – only those students with accommodations may seek extended time), you need to be prepared and knowledgeable or you will not be able to complete the test in the time allowed.