

Dr. Scott H. Ainsworth  
Bank of America, Room 411

**Office Hours:**

M: 3:00-4:00 and by appointment

Please contact me at [sainswor@uga.edu](mailto:sainswor@uga.edu) to finalize all appointments.

**Focus and Design:**

This course examines the institutions and processes of the U.S. and Georgia governments, introducing some of the common modes of analysis in political science. Historical foundations as well as current events will inform our discussions. Students will be encouraged to think and write critically about the design, philosophy, and practice of democracy in the U.S. and Georgia. We will try to understand cause-and-effect relationships in politics as well as strategic actions taken by citizens and elected officials.

**Course Objectives:**

- Introduce students to basic features and principles of American government
- Analyze different facets of the American political system in light of democratic ideals
- Integrate and apply course concepts to current political issues and events
- Strengthen critical thinking and communication skills by encouraging students to consider the development of their own views, reflect on different perspectives, and develop and articulate nuanced positions

**Required Reading and Technology:**

- Kollman. *The American Political System, 2<sup>nd</sup> Edition* has been ordered through the campus bookstore. It may also be available at other bookstores.
- Bullock and Gaddie. *Georgia Politics in a State of Change*.
- Top Hat (<http://ctl.uga.edu/top-hat/students>)
- From time to time, I may ask that you read articles online from various free outlets such as the *Washington Post* or the *New York Times*.

**Top Hat**

Students should register for Top Hat before the first day of class or as soon as possible thereafter. An invitation to register for Top Hat should be sent to you by email. If you fail to receive this email, please register by visiting our course website: <https://app.tophat.com/e/235881>. Our Course Join Code is 235881. Top Hat requires a paid subscription. The University of Georgia has deeply discounted rates. For more information about how to register for Top Hat, as well as an overview of how to use the system, visit <https://success.tophat.com/s/article/Student-Top-Hat-Overview-and-Getting-Started-Guide>. If you need assistance with Top Hat at any time, please contact their support team directly by email at [support@tophat.com](mailto:support@tophat.com) or by calling 1-888-663-5491.

**Grading:**

Points are distributed as follows:

first test 20%	January 31 <sup>st</sup>
second test 20%	February 28 <sup>th</sup>

third test 20%  
final 25%  
section grade 10%  
engagement 5%

April 6<sup>th</sup>  
May 4<sup>th</sup>, 12:00-3:00

A's will be given to anyone receiving 92 or more points, A- 89-91, B+ 86-88, B 82-85, B- 78-81, C+ 74-77, C 70-73, C- 68-69, D 60-67, F 59 and below. You may discuss the course or your work with your TA or me at any time. Formal grade appeals must be made in writing. However, your TA will regrade your entire test. Therefore, your grade can go either up or down.

### **Extra Credit:**

There are no extra credit assignments in this course. Students are expected to put forth their best effort in the class and to communicate with their TAs and instructor if they are having trouble with the material.

### **Contact:**

Please contact your TA or me with any questions or concerns you have this semester. Email is the best way to reach me. Your TA will let you know the best way to reach him or her. If you are struggling to understand the course material, please talk to us early in the semester so that we can work together to get things on track before too much time has passed and your grade has suffered.

### **Additional Notices:**

- 1) Education requires that one fully engage challenging material. Students should come to class prepared and on time, ready to contribute to a thriving learning environment.
- 2) Much learning is cooperative and interactive in nature. Strive to participate in section and lecture. We will feel free to call on students.
- 3) All students are responsible for maintaining the highest standards of honesty and integrity in every phase of their academic careers. All course work must meet the standards established in the University of Georgia Academic Honesty Policy. You can access the policy at <https://ovpi.uga.edu/academic-honesty/academic-honesty-policy>. *Students are responsible for informing themselves about those standards before performing academic work.*
- 4) If you anticipate needing classroom or exam accommodations due to the impact of a disability or medical condition, you must register for services with the UGA Disability Resource Center (DRC). Students with registered disabilities will be accommodated according to university policy. If you have documentation for such accommodations from the DRC, please present it to your TA as soon as possible, and please notify the lead instructor if you need additional assistance. For more information, visit <https://drc.uga.edu> or call the DRC at 706-542-8719.
- 5) By using available student resources, you can enrich your University of Georgia experiences. The Division of Academic Enhancement (<http://dae.uga.edu/student-resources/>) provides a range of four resources, including study tips, tutoring, and workshops, to help students develop solid learning strategies. The Writing Center (<https://writingcenter.english.uga.edu>) and the Miller Learning Center (<http://mlc.uga.edu/>) also offer resources to assist students with their research and writing.
- 6) A course syllabus is a general plan for the course. Deviations announced to the class might be necessary.
- 7) Make-up tests are seldom given.
- 8) Guidelines for your etiquette are straightforward. Treat everyone with respect. As a first step, avoid behaviors that others might find distracting.
- 9) Remember that even if you're not interested in politics, politics is interested in you!

*Week of 1/9*

## **I. INTRODUCTION TO POLITICS AND POLITICAL SCIENCE**

Collective Action Dilemmas and Institutions

Chapter 1

B&G, Part 1

*Weeks of 1/9 and 1/16*

## **II. FOUNDATIONS OF AMERICAN GOVERNMENT**

**A.** The Constitution

Chapter 2

U.S. Constitution, Appendix

Federalist Papers # 10 and #51, Appendix

B&G, Part 2

*Weeks of 1/16 and 1/23*

**B.** Federalism

Chapter 3

*Weeks of 1/30 and 2/6*

**C.** Civil Liberties and Civil Rights

Chapter 4

B&G, Part 3

*Weeks of 2/6 and 2/13*

## **III. FORMAL INSTITUTIONS IN AMERICAN GOVERNMENT**

**A.** Congress

Chapter 5

*Week of 2/20*

**B.** The Presidency

Chapter 6

*Week of 2/27*

**C.** The Executive Branch

Chapter 7

*Week of 3/13*

D. The Federal Courts  
Chapter 8

*Week of 3/20*

### **III. PARTICIPATION AND MASS BEHAVIOR**

A. Public Opinion and Mass Media  
Chapters 9 and 14

*Week of 3/27*

B. Political Participation  
Chapter 10  
B & G, Part 4

*Week of 4/3*

C. Interest Groups and Social Movements  
Chapter 11

*Week of 4/10*

D. Political Parties  
Chapter 12

*Week of 4/17*

E. Elections and Campaigns  
Chapter 13

*Week of 4/24*

### **IV. CATCH-UP, CONCLUSION, AND RECAP**

## Friday breakout sections

22509	F: 8:00-8:50	Starks	Journalism 118
22510	F: 9:05-9:55	Funk	Journalism 118
22513	F: 9:05-9:55	Jin	Journalism 511
22514	F: 10:10-11:00	Funk	Journalism 516
22515	F: 10:10-11:00	Watson	Journalism 511
22517	F: 11:15-12:05	Harper	Journalism 516
22518	F: 11:15-12:05	Watson	Journalism 511
22520	F: 12:20-1:10	Harper	Journalism 507
22521	F: 12:20-1:10	Zier	Journalism 511
22523	F: 1:25-2:15	Starks	Journalism 507
22524	F: 1:25-2:15	Zier	Journalism 509