

Dr. Scott H. Ainsworth
Baldwin Hall, 180B

Office Hours

M: Immediately after class

W: 3:00-4:00

By appointment

Please contact me at sainswor@uga.edu or the Department of Political Science to finalize office appointments.

Focus and Design

Lecture:

Lectures focus on the institutions and processes of the U.S. government, 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.

Section:

Your section gives you an opportunity to work in smaller groups. There will be 3 projects that are required for your section grade. Some projects require you to work in small groups.

In addition to managing the projects, your TA has two other key tasks. Your TA will introduce material related to politics in Georgia. He or she will answer any questions you might have regarding the assigned reading material.

Course Objectives

Lecture:

- 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

Section:

- Introduce students to basic features and principles of politics in Georgia
- Contrast different facets of the American and Georgian political systems in light of democratic ideals
- Integrate and apply course concepts to current political issues and events
- Work in small groups to strengthen critical thinking and communication skills, reflect on citizens' varied different circumstances, and develop and articulate nuanced positions

Required Reading

- Kollman. *The American Political System, 3rd Edition.*

- Bullock and Gaddie. *Georgia Politics in a State of Change.*

Both books have been ordered through the campus bookstore.

- 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*.

Grading

Points are distributed as follows:

25%	first test	Sept 6 th
25%	second test	Oct 9 th
25%	third test	Nov 15 th
25%	final	Dec 8 th , 8:00-11:00am

(All tests and the final are held in the lecture hall.)
(Of the 3 tests and final, you may drop the lowest grade.)

25% section grade

A's will be given to anyone receiving 93 or more points, A- 90-92, B+ 86-89, B 83-85, B- 79-82, C+ 74-78, 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, and in the case of an appeal our TA will re-grade your entire test.

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. 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 – including texting, excessive chatting, surfing, twerking, and knitting with loud needles.
- 9) Remember that even if you're not interested in politics, politics is interested in you!

<p><i>Week of 8/14</i></p> <p>Lecture: Collective Action Dilemmas and Institutions</p> <p>Kollman Chapters 1 & 2</p>	<p>Section: What distinguishes politics from political science?</p> <p>What are some good practices for political science?</p> <p>Be ready to discuss https://www.texasobserver.org/the-rise-and-fall-of-the-freest-little-city-in-texas/</p>
<p><i>Week of 8/21</i></p> <p>Lecture: The Constitution</p> <p>Kollman Chapter 2</p>	<p>Section: Be ready to discuss Kollman Appendix: Federalist Paper # 10 Federalist #51</p> <p>How do political institutions affect the ways in which individuals interact?</p> <p>Can (and should) political institutions help to reduce (amplify) differences across individuals?</p>
<p><i>Week of 8/28</i></p> <p>Lecture: Federalism</p> <p>Kollman Chapter 3</p>	<p>Section: Work on Project 1: Better know your County and district and country!</p> <p>https://www.washingtonpost.com/wp-stat/graphics/business/income/index.html https://www.census.gov/mycd/ https://ballotpedia.org/State_Politics</p> <p>Be ready to discuss Bullock & Gaddie Chapters 1, 2, & 8</p>

<p><i>First Test 9/6</i></p>	<p>Section: Continue work on Project 1 in Section.</p>
<p><i>Weeks 9/11 and 9/18</i></p> <p>Lecture: Civil Liberties and Civil Rights</p> <p>Kollman Chapter 4</p>	<p>Section: Be ready to discuss Bullock & Gaddie Chapters 4, 9 & 10 http://www.slate.com/blogs/future_tense/2017/07/28/federal_court_rules_public_officials_cannot_block_social_media_users.html</p> <p>Are political structures neutral? How can one tell whether a political structure is neutral, fair, or unfair?</p>
<p><i>Weeks of 9/25 and 10/2</i></p> <p>Lecture: Congress</p> <p>Kollman Chapter 5</p>	<p>Section: Be ready to discuss Bullock & Gaddie Chapter 5</p> <p>Begin Work on Project 2: Varieties of Legislatures. https://ballotpedia.org/State_Legislatures http://www.ncsl.org/research/about-state-legislatures/the-legislative-pay-problem636360604.aspx</p> <p>How do political norms and structures affect the policy process and policy outcomes? How do political actors adjust political structures and norms and why?</p>
<p><i>Second Test 10/9</i></p>	<p>Section: Continue work on Project 2.</p> <p>How does the structure and design of legislatures affect who runs for office?</p>

Weeks of 10/9 and 10/16

Lecture:

The Presidency

Kollman Chapter 6

Section:

Be ready to discuss

Bullock & Gaddie Chapter 6

Start Project 3: Political Rhetoric in the U.S.

What does FDR ask of the Scouts?

<http://www.presidency.ucsb.edu/ws/index.php?pid=16055&st=boy+scouts&st1>

Is Ike suggesting that some political correctness is not so bad?

<http://www.presidency.ucsb.edu/ws/index.php?pid=9905&st=boy+scouts&st1>

For LBJ, what is the role of government and who comprises the government?

<http://www.presidency.ucsb.edu/ws/index.php?pid=26391&st=boy+scouts&st1>

According to GF, who is American and what makes America great?

<http://www.presidency.ucsb.edu/ws/index.php?pid=4824&st=boy+scouts&st1>

What stories does DJT offer? What does DJT ask of the Scouts?

<http://www.presidency.ucsb.edu/ws/index.php?pid=126749&st=boy+scouts&st1>

Week of 10/23

Lecture:

The Executive Branch

Kollman Chapter 7

Section:

Be ready to discuss

https://www.washingtonpost.com/opinions/kenneth-starr-mr-president-please-cut-it-out/2017/07/26/b9af0c78-723e-11e7-8f39-eeb7d3a2d304_story.html?utm_term=.73a7c17dd134

Review

Bullock & Gaddie Chapter 6

How much guidance and control should a president have over various types of agencies?

<p><i>Week of 10/30</i></p> <p>Lecture: The Federal Courts</p> <p>Kollman Chapter 8</p>	<p>Section: Be ready to discuss Bullock & Gaddie Chapter 7</p> <p>What are some differences between the state and federal courts?</p>
<p><i>Week of 11/6</i></p> <p>Lecture: Public Opinion and Mass Media</p> <p>Kollman Chapters 9 & 14</p>	<p>Section: How do we measure public opinion? How do we mismeasure public opinion? How might social scientist measure bias?</p>
<p><i>Week of 11/13</i></p> <p>Lecture: <i>Begin</i> discussion of Parties, Participation, & Elections</p> <p>Kollman Chapter 10, 12, & 13</p>	<p>Section: How does participation in Georgia contrast with other states and the nation?</p> <p>Who participates and why?</p> <p>Be ready to discuss http://www.people-press.org/2017/07/20/since-trumps-election-increased-attention-to-politics-especially-among-women/ Bullock & Gaddie Chapter 13</p>
<p><i>Third Test 11/15</i></p>	
<p><i>Weeks of 11/27 and 12/2</i></p> <p>Lecture: Continue discussion of Political Parties and Elections and Campaigns</p> <p>Kollman Chapters 12 & 13</p>	<p>Section: Last, best time for review.</p> <p>Are elections party matters or government matters?</p>
<p>Final Examination <i>December 8th, 8:00-11:00am</i></p>	

Friday breakout sections

10628	8:00-8:50 AM	F	Baldwin Hall / 301	Kaitlin Powers kp69893@uga.edu
10643	9:05-9:55 AM	F	Journalism / 511	Kaitlin Powers kp69893@uga.edu
10644	9:05-9:55 AM	F	Leconte Hall / 135	Matthew Bassett mfb21008@uga.edu
10646	10:10-11:00 AM	F	Leconte Hall / 135	Sarah Harper sarah.harper25@uga.edu
10647	10:10-11:00 AM	F	Journalism / 511	Matthew Bassett mfb21008@uga.edu
10649	11:15 AM-12:05 PM	F	Baldwin Hall / 301	Sarah Harper sarah.harper25@uga.edu
10652	11:15 AM-12:05 PM	F	Journalism / 511	Pedro Goulart pedro.avila@uga.edu
10654	12:20-1:10 PM	F	Baldwin Hall / 301	Pedro Goulart pedro.avila@uga.edu
10655	12:20-1:10 PM	F	Journalism / 511	Adam Burchfield awb4710@gmail.com
10656	1:25-2:15 PM	F	Psychology / 309	Alice Barker aeb52197@uga.edu
10662	1:25-2:15 PM	F	Journalism / 511	Adam Burchfield awb4710@gmail.com