

**Introduction to American Government**  
**Political Science 1101**  
**Fall 2018**  
**Class Time: MW 10:10am – 11:00am**  
**Breakout Sessions: Fridays**  
**Instructor: Jeffrey M. Glas, PhD**

**Contact Information:**

Office Hours: MW 1:30pm – 3:00pm, T 9:00am – 10:30am

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**Course Prerequisites:** None

**Discussion Sections**

**I. Course Description:**

This course is a college level introduction to American government and politics. The primary goal of this course is introduce students to the scientific study of politics using the United States and its history as the primary example. To this end the course is designed to provide students with an historical and conceptual background of politics in the United State of America as well as a scientific perspective for understanding the relationships between different levels and branches of government, the operation of these political institutions, and how citizens interact with government in the United States and the state of Georgia.

**II. Course Requirements and Graded Evaluation**

**(2.1) Required Text**

Kernell, Samuel, et al. *The logic of American politics*, 8<sup>th</sup> edition  
ISBN: 9781506358666

Bullock, Charles and Ronald Gaddie. *Georgia Politics in a State of Change*, 2<sup>nd</sup> edition or newer.  
ISBN: 9780205864676

**(2.2) Exams**

There will be three exams in this class. Each exam is worth 20% of your grade. These are written exams, so you will need to come to the exam period equipped with a Blue Book and writing utensil.

**(2.3) Assignments, Discussion, and Attendance**

Learning is an active exercise. Students at all levels of learning and accomplishment benefit when they are actively engaged with the course material. Your participation will be assessed through attendance and participation in weekly discussion sessions held each Friday. Participation is assessed through a combination of attendance, contributions to the discussion, activities and quizzes.

#### (2.4) Exam Schedule and Grade Distribution

First Midterm Exam	30%	September 24 <sup>th</sup>
Second Midterm Exam	30%	October 22 <sup>nd</sup>
Final Exam	30%	December 7 <sup>th</sup>
Participation	10%	Weekly

#### (2.5) Grading

All grades (including final grades) will be assigned following the system depicted below:

A	=	94-100	C+	=	77
A-	=	90	C	=	74
B+	=	87	C-	=	70
B	=	84	D	=	60 – 69
B-	=	80	F	≤	59

### III. Class Policies

#### (3.1) Absences

Come to class! Attendance is critical for the successful completion of this course. If you are more than ten (10) minutes late for this class DO NOT ENTER the class unless we previously discussed your tardiness. You are permitted two unexcused absences in your Friday discussion sessions without penalty.

#### (3.2) Makeup Exams

If you miss an exam, you will receive a zero. If you are late to an exam, you must take it in the time that remains when you arrive. Make-up exams are only given to students with legitimate and documented excuses. All make-up exams are administered by the Department of Political Science, but require my permission.

#### (3.3) Missed/Late Assignments

Missed assignments are awarded a grade of zero. Late assignments will be accepted with a penalty of five points for each calendar day late.

#### (3.4) Cheating and Academic Misconduct

Violations of the academic dishonesty rules are grounds for receiving an “F” in the course as well as possible expulsion from the university. If you have any questions about what constitutes cheating, academic misconduct, or plagiarism, examine the university policy and /or ask the instructor.

#### (3.5) Problems and Emergencies

If a problem or emergency arises that prevents you from attending an exam or coming to class, you should contact Professor Glas as soon as possible.

#### (3.6) Disability Disclosure Statement

Please advise the instructor if you have a documented disability that needs to be accommodated. Students with disabilities requiring accommodations must be registered with the Office of Disability Services before an instructor can modify instruction or expectations.

### **(3.7) Policy on Disruptive Behavior**

- 1) Turn communication devices to silent...or turn them off entirely.
- 2) Be polite during class discussion.

### **(3.8) Withdraw Policy**

Be advised that the last day to withdraw from a course without failing is October 17<sup>th</sup>. All students who withdraw after this date will receive a “WF”.

## **IV. Course Schedule and Assignments<sup>1</sup>**

### **Week of August 13<sup>th</sup> – Syllabus**

Read Syllabus

### **Week of August 20<sup>th</sup> – The Logic of American Politics**

Read Chapter 1 of *The Logic*

### **Week of August 27<sup>th</sup> – The Constitution**

Read Chapter 2 of *The Logic*

### **Week of September 3<sup>rd</sup> – Federalism**

Read Chapter 3 of *The Logic*

Read Chapter 4 of *Georgia Politics*

\*\*\*No Class – Labor Day - Monday, September 3<sup>rd</sup>\*\*\*

### **Week of September 10<sup>th</sup> – Civil Rights**

Read Chapter 4 of *The Logic*

Read Chapter 9 of *Georgia Politics*

### **Week of September 17<sup>th</sup> – Civil Liberties**

Read Chapter 5 of *The Logic*

### **Week of September 24<sup>th</sup> – Exam 1**

\*\*\*Exam 1 will be held on Monday, September 24<sup>th</sup>\*\*\*

\*\*\*No Class – Wednesday, September 26<sup>th</sup>\*\*\*

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<sup>1</sup> The course syllabus provides a general plan for the course; deviations may be necessary.

### **Week of October 1<sup>st</sup> – Congressional Politics**

Read Chapter 6 of *The Logic*

Read Chapter 5 of *Georgia Politics*

### **Week of October 8<sup>th</sup> – Presidential Politics**

Read Chapter 7 of *The Logic*

Read Chapter 6 of *Georgia Politics*

### **Week of October 15<sup>th</sup> – Judicial Politics**

Read Chapter 9 of *The Logic*

Read Chapter 7 of *Georgia Politics*

\*\*\*Withdrawal Deadline – Wednesday, October 17<sup>th</sup>\*\*\*

### **Week of October 22<sup>nd</sup> – Exam 2**

\*\*\*Exam 2 will be held on Monday, October 22<sup>nd</sup>\*\*\*

\*\*\*No Class – Wednesday, October 24<sup>th</sup>\*\*\*

\*\*\*No Class – Fall Break - Friday, October 26<sup>th</sup>\*\*\*

### **Week of October 29<sup>th</sup> – Public Opinion**

Read Chapter 10 of *The Logic*

### **Week of November 5<sup>th</sup> – Voting, Campaigns, and Elections**

Read Chapter 11 of *The Logic*

Read Chapters 13 of *Georgia Politics*

### **Week of November 12<sup>th</sup> – Political Parties and Interest Groups**

Read Chapters 12 & 13 of *The Logic*

### **Week of November 19<sup>th</sup>**

\*\*\*No Class – Thanksgiving Break - Monday, November 19<sup>th</sup> through Friday, November 23<sup>rd</sup>\*\*\*

### **Week of November 26<sup>th</sup> – The Media**

Read Chapter 14 of *The Logic*

**Week of December 3<sup>rd</sup>**

\*\*\*Reading Day – Wednesday, December 5<sup>th</sup>\*\*\*

**Week of December 10<sup>th</sup>**

\*\*\*Final Exam – Friday, December 7<sup>th</sup> @ 9am\*\*\*