

Introduction to American Government
Political Science 1105H
Fall 2018
Class Time: T TH 11:00am – 12:15pm
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

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, 8th edition*
ISBN: 9781506358666

Bullock, Charles and Ronald Gaddie. *Georgia Politics in a State of Change, 2nd 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

In addition to the course exams you will be assigned three short writing assignments. Each assignment corresponds with the unit of the course and they will build on one another as we progress through the semester.

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 class discussions. 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	20%	September 24 th
Second Midterm Exam	20%	October 22 nd
Final Exam	20%	December 11 th
Writing Assignments	20%	Due on Exam Days
Participation	20%	Daily

(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 17th. All students who withdraw after this date will receive a “WF”.

IV. Course Schedule and Assignments¹

Week of August 13th – Syllabus

Syllabus

Week of August 20th – The Logic of American Politics

Chapter 1 of *The Logic*

Josep Colomer’s “The Public Good”

Week of August 27th – The Constitution

Chapter 2 of *The Logic*

Federalist #51

Week of September 3rd – Federalism

Chapter 3 of *The Logic*

Chapter 4 of *Georgia Politics*

Week of September 10th – Civil Rights

Chapter 4 of *The Logic*

Chapter 9 of *Georgia Politics*

https://www.law.cornell.edu/wex/equal_protection

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

Week of September 17th – Civil Liberties

Chapter 5 of *The Logic*

Randy Barnett’s “Two Conceptions of the 9th Amendment”

https://www.law.cornell.edu/wex/du_e_process

Week of September 24th – Exam 1

Exam 1 will be held on Tuesday, September 25th

No Class – Thursday, September 27th

Week of October 1st – Congressional Politics

Chapter 6 of *The Logic*

Chapter 5 of *Georgia Politics*

David Mayhew’s “Congress: The Electoral Connection” (Selection from)

Richard Fenno’s “U.S. House Members in Their Constituencies: An Exploration”

Week of October 8th – Presidential Politics

Chapter 7 of *The Logic*

Chapter 6 of *Georgia Politics*

Richard Neustadt’s “The Power to Persuade” (Selection from)

Stephen Skowronek’s “The Politics Presidents Make” (Selection from)

Week of October 15th – Judicial Politics

Chapter 9 of *The Logic*

Chapter 7 of *Georgia Politics*

Federalist #78

Withdrawal Deadline – Wednesday, October 17th

Week of October 22nd – Exam 2

Exam 2 will be held on Tuesday, October 23rd

No Class – Thursday, October 25th

Week of October 29th – Public Opinion

Chapter 10 of *The Logic*

Plato's "Republic" (Selection from)

James Druckman and Lawrence Jacobs's "Who Governs?" (Selection from)

Week of November 5th – Voting, Campaigns, and Elections

Chapter 11 of *The Logic*

Chapters 13 of *Georgia Politics*

Louis Menand's "The Unpolitical Animal: How Political Science Understands Voters"

Week of November 12th – Political Parties and Interest Groups

Chapters 12 & 13 of *The Logic*

Federalist #10

George Washington's Farewell Address

Green, Palmquist, and Shickler's "Partisan Hearts and Minds" (Selection from)

Week of November 19th

No Class – Thanksgiving Break - Monday, November 19th through Friday, November 23rd

Week of November 26th – The Media

Chapter 14 of *The Logic*

Shanto Iyengar's "Media Politics" (Selection from)

W. Lance Bennett's "News: The Politics of Illusion" (Selection from)

Week of December 3^d

Reading Day – Wednesday, December 5th

Week of December 10th

Final Exam – Tuesday, December 11th @ 12:00pm