

Introduction to American Government
Political Science 1101
Spring 2019
Class Time: TTH 11:00am – 12:15pm
Instructor: Jeffrey M. Glas, PhD

Contact Information:

Office Hours: Mondays and Wednesdays 1:00pm – 3:00pm

Office Location: Baldwin 380a

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Course Prerequisites: None

I. Course Description:

This course is a college level introduction to 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 States 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 30% 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. Participation is assessed through a combination of attendance, contributions to the discussion, activities and assignments.

(2.4) Exam Schedule and Grade Distribution

First Midterm Exam	30%	February 12 th
Second Midterm Exam	30%	March 19 th
Final Exam	30%	May 2 nd
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 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 Disability Resource Center (DRC) 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 March 21st. All students who withdraw after this date will receive a “WF”.

IV. Course Schedule and Assignments¹

Week 1 - January 10th – Perspectives on Politics & Government

Read Syllabus & Chapter 1 of *The Logic [of American Politics]*

Week 2 - January 15th & 17th - Early American Government & the US Constitution

Read Chapter 2 of *The Logic*

SPSA Conference – Wednesday, January 16th – Friday, January 19th

Week 3 - January 22nd & 24th - Federalism

Read Chapter 3 of *The Logic*

Read Chapter 4 of *Georgia Politics*

No Class – Monday, January 21st

Week 4 - January 29th & 31st – Civil Rights

Read Chapter 4 of *The Logic*

Read Chapter 9 of *Georgia Politics*

Week 5 - February 5th & 7th – Civil Liberties

Read Chapter 5 of *The Logic*

Week 6 - February 12th – Exam 1

Tuesday, February 12th

Week 7 - February 19th & 21st – Legislative Politics

Read Chapter 6 of *The Logic*

Read Chapter 5 of *Georgia Politics*

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

Week 8 - February 26th & 28th – Executive Politics

Read Chapter 7 of *The Logic*

Read Chapter 6 of *Georgia Politics*

Week 9 - March 5th & 7th – Judicial Politics

Read Chapter 9 of *The Logic*

Read Chapter 7 of *Georgia Politics*

Week 10 – Spring Break

No Class – Monday, March 11th – Friday, March 15th

Week 11 - March 20th & 22nd – Exam 2

Tuesday, March 19th

Withdraw Deadline – Thursday, March 21st

Week 12 - March 19th & 21st – Public Opinion and Political Socialization

Read Chapter 10 of *The Logic*

Week 13 – March 26th & 28th – Voting, Campaigns, and Elections

Read Chapter 11 of *The Logic*

Read Chapters 13 of *Georgia Politics*

Week 14 – April 2nd & 4th – Political Parties

Read Chapter 12 of *The Logic*

Week 15 - April 9th & 11th – Interest Groups

Read Chapter 13 of *The Logic*

Week 16 - April 16th & 18th – American Politics and the Media

Read Chapter 14 of *The Logic*

Week 17 - April 23rd & 25th – Policy Week

TBD after class discussion

Week 18 – May 2nd - Final Exam Week

Thursday, May 2nd @ 12pm

Last Day of Classes – Tuesday, April 30th

Reading Day – Wednesday, May 1st