

Introduction to American Government
Political Science 1105H
Spring 2019
Class Time: MWF 10:10 – 11:00am
Instructor: Jeffrey M. Glas, PhD

Contact Information:

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

Office Location: Baldwin 380a

Office Phone: 706.542.5964

Email: Jeffrey.Glas@uga.edu

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 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

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	25%	February 11 th
Second Midterm Exam	25%	March 18 th
Final Exam	25%	May 3 rd
Participation	25%	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 March 21st. All students who withdraw after this date will receive a “WF”.

IV. Course Schedule and Assignments¹

Week 1 - January 9th and 11th - Perspectives on Politics & Government

Syllabus

Chapter 1 of *The Logic [of American Politics]*

Josep Colomer’s “The Public Good”

Week 2 - January 14th, 16th, and 18th - Early American Government & the US Constitution

Chapter 2 of *The Logic*

Madison’s “Vices of the Political System of the United States”

Federalist #51

Week 3 - January 21st, 23rd, and 25th - Federalism

Chapter 3 of *The Logic*

Chapter 4 of *Georgia Politics*

Shipan, C.R. and Volden, C., 2012. Policy diffusion: Seven lessons for scholars and practitioners. *Public Administration Review*, 72(6), pp.788-796.

No Class – Monday, January 21st

Week 4 - January 28th, 30th, and February 1st – Civil Rights

Chapter 4 of *The Logic*

Chapter 9 of *Georgia Politics*

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

Week 5 - February 4th, 6th, and 8th – Civil Liberties

Chapter 5 of *The Logic*

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

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

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

Week 6 - February 11th – Exam 1

Monday, February 11th

Week 7 - February 18th, 20th, and 22nd – Legislative 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 8 - February 25th, 27th, and March 1st – Executive 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 9 – March 4th, 6th, and 8th – Judicial Politics

Chapter 9 of *The Logic*

Chapter 7 of *Georgia Politics*

Federalist #78

Week 10 – Spring Break

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

Week 11 - March 18th - Exam 2

Monday, March 18th

Withdraw Deadline – Thursday, March 21st

Week 12 - March 25th, 27th, and 29th – Public Opinion and Political Socialization

Chapter 10 of *The Logic*

Plato’s “Republic” (Selection from)

James Druckman and Lawrence Jacobs’s “Who Governs?” (Selection from)

Week 13 - April 1st, 3rd, and 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 14 - April 8th, 10th, and 12th – Political Parties

Chapters 12 of *The Logic*

George Washington's Farewell Address

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

Week 15 - April 15th, 17th, and 19th – Interest Groups

Chapter 13 of *The Logic*

Federalist #10

Week 16 - April 22nd, 24th, and 26th – American Politics and the Media

Chapter 14 of *The Logic*

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

Week 17 – May 3rd - Final Exam Week

Friday, May 3rd @ 9am

Last Day of Classes – Tuesday, April 30th

Reading Day – Wednesday, May 1st