

**Introduction to American Government**  
**Political Science 1101**  
**May 2019**  
**Class Time: M, T, W, TR, F 11:00am - 1:45pm**  
**Instructor: Jeffrey M. Glas, PhD**

**Contact Information:**

Office Hours: Open door and by appointment

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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, 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) Quizzes and Exams**

There are five quizzes and two exams in this class. Collectively, the quizzes are worth 25% of your final grade. Each exam is worth 25% of your grade.

**(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

Weekly Quizzes	25%	Weekly
Midterm Exam	25%	May 24 <sup>th</sup>
Final Exam	25%	Due June 6 <sup>th</sup>
Participation/Attendance	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 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 May 24<sup>th</sup>. All students who withdraw after this date will receive a “WF”.

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

### Wednesday, May 15<sup>th</sup> – Perspectives on Politics and Government

Syllabus

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

Josep Colomer’s “The Public Good”

### Thursday, May 16<sup>th</sup> – Early American Government and the U.S. Constitution

Chapter 2 of *The Logic*

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

Federalist #51

Quiz 1

### Friday, May 17<sup>th</sup> – 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.

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

## **Monday, May 20<sup>th</sup> – Civil Rights & Civil Liberties**

Chapters 4 & 5 of *The Logic*

Chapter 9 of *Georgia Politics*

[https://www.law.cornell.edu/wex/equal\\_protection](https://www.law.cornell.edu/wex/equal_protection)

[https://www.law.cornell.edu/wex/duo\\_process](https://www.law.cornell.edu/wex/duo_process)

Randy Barnett's "Two Conceptions of the 9<sup>th</sup> Amendment"

Quiz 2

## **Tuesday, May 21<sup>st</sup> – 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"

## **Wednesday, May 22<sup>nd</sup> – Executive and Bureaucratic 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)

Quiz 3

## **Thursday, May 23<sup>rd</sup> – Judicial Politics**

Chapter 9 of *The Logic*

Chapter 7 of *Georgia Politics*

Federalist #78

## **Friday, May 24<sup>th</sup> – Midterm Exam**

\*\*\*Last Day to Withdraw\*\*\*

**Monday, May 27<sup>th</sup> – Memorial Day**

No Class

**Tuesday, May 28<sup>th</sup> – Public Opinion**

Chapter 10 of *The Logic*

Plato’s “Republic” (Selection from)

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

**Wednesday, May 29<sup>th</sup> – Voting, Elections, and Campaigns**

Chapter 11 of *The Logic*

Chapters 13 of *Georgia Politics*

Louis Menand’s “The Unpolitical Animal: How Political Science Understands Voters”

Quiz 4

**Thursday, May 30<sup>th</sup> – Parties and Interest Groups**

Chapters 12 & 13 of *The Logic*

George Washington’s Farewell Address

Green, Palmquist, and Shickler’s “Partisan Hearts and Minds” (Selection from)

Federalist #10

**Friday, May 31<sup>st</sup> – The American Media**

Chapter 14 of *The Logic*

W. Lance Bennett’s “News: The Politics of Illusion” (Selection from)

Quiz 5

**Thursday, June 6<sup>th</sup> – Final Exam**