

POLS 1101: Introduction to American Government Fall 2019

Instructor

Dr. Roberto F. Carlos

Office: Baldwin Hall #380B

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Office Hours: Wednesdays

3:00 PM – 4:30 PM and by appointment

Course Description and Objective

This course examines the political system in the United States. We will explore the origins, development, and functions of the executive, legislative, and judicial branches of government. An introduction to Georgia politics will also be provided. The course will also focus on larger issues and controversies that surround the study of American politics. As a class, we will analyze the political culture of the United States and examine how the basic structure of American government is set up to take input from individual citizens and interest groups and turn it into policy outcomes.

Required Text and Technology

We the People (12th Core edition) – by Benjamin Ginsberg, Theodore J. Lowi, Margaret Weir, Caroline J. Tolbert, and Robert J. Spitzer **with access to InQuizitive**

Georgia Politics in a State of Change (4th custom edition for the University of Georgia) – by Charles S. Bullock III and Ronald Keith Gaddie

******Please do not buy this book until after the first breakout session******

Sections

You are expected to attend one section in addition to the main lectures on Mondays and Wednesdays. Please note that section attendance is mandatory. All sections take place on Thursdays.

Section #	Time	Place	Instructor	Email
10922	8:00 – 8:50	Baldwin Hall/0G41	Pierre Naoufal	pierre.naoufal25@uga.edu
10920	9:05 – 9:55	Peabody Hall/0205S	Pierre Naoufal	pierre.naoufal25@uga.edu
10925	9:05 – 9:55	School of Social Work Building/241	Sam Marcotte	marcotte@uga.edu
10918	10:10 – 11:10	Peabody Hall /0205S	Sam Marcotte	marcotte@uga.edu

10937	10:10 – 11:00	School of Social Work Building/241	KT Truszczynski	kttrus@uga.edu
10919	11:15 – 12:05	School of Social Work Building/245	Audrey Elliott	Audrey.elliott25@uga.edu
10928	11:15 – 12:05	School of Social Work Building/241	KT Truszczynski	kttrus@uga.edu
10923	12:20 – 1:10	Journalism/507	Aman Bekmagambetov	ab27510@uga.edu
10924	12:20 – 1:10	Leconte Hall/341	Douglas Perkins	Douglas.Perkins@uga.edu
10926	1:25 – 2:15	Journalism/510	Aman Bekmagambetov	ab27510@uga.edu
10927	1:25 – 2:15	Journalism/509	Douglas Perkins	Douglas.Perkins@uga.edu

Evaluation

Response Paper: You will complete **one** short paper in this course. Topics are listed in the syllabus and match each week's theme. Note that the due date of the paper varies according to the topic you choose. Paper should be at least five pages (double spaced) and are due a week after the week's theme as listed on the syllabus. Please make sure to discuss the criteria of the paper with your TA in advance. Also note that there are only six spots available per topic and you must sign up with your TA by week 3. First come, first served.

Midterm: The midterm will primarily consist of multiple-choice questions with varying levels of difficulty. These questions will cover material from the first half of the semester. *As of now, the midterm exam is scheduled for Monday, October 7th, 12:20 PM to 1:10 PM in Sanford Hall 213.*

Final Exam: The final exam is **not** cumulative and will primarily consist of multiple-choice questions with varying levels of difficulty. *As of now, the exam is scheduled for Wednesday, December 11th, 12:00 PM to 3:00 PM in Sanford Hall 213.*

Weekly Assignments: There will be short weekly assignments which you can access on the **InQuizitive** website that accompanies your textbook (you can find their website here: <https://ncia.wwnorton.com/inquizitive-wethepeople12core>) You will need to create an account in order to submit your assignments, which are **due every Friday at 6pm of each week.**

When you create your account, you will be asked for a student set ID, which is linked to the section you choose. The set IDs and their corresponding breakout sections are listed below. If you have trouble with the registration process, please contact your TA.

Student Set ID is **167592** for section 10922 from 8:00am to 8:50am (TA Pierre Naoufal)

Student Set ID is **167595** for section 10920 from 9:05 to 9:55am (TA Pierre Naoufal)

Student Set ID is **167596** for section 10925 from 9:05 to 9:55am (TA Sam Marcotte)

Student Set ID is **167598** for section 10918 from 10:10am to 11am (TA Sam Marcotte)

Student Set ID is **167600** for section 10937 from 10:10am to 11am (TA KT Truszczyński)

Student Set ID is **167602** for section 10919 from 11:15am to 12:05pm (TA Audrey Elliott)

Student Set ID is **167605** for section 10928 from 11:15am to 12:05pm (TA KT Truszczyński)

Student Set ID is **167607** for section 10923 from 12:20pm to 1:10pm (TA Aman Bekmagambetov)

Student Set ID is **167610** for section 10924 from 12:20pm to 1:10pm (TA Douglas Perkins)

Student Set ID is **167609** for section 10926 from 1:25pm to 2:15pm (TA Aman Bekmagambetov)

Student Set ID is **167612** for section 10927 from 1:25pm to 2:15pm (TA Douglas Perkins)

Readings and Quizzes: The required readings typically include one chapter of the textbook per week. If any additional readings are assigned they will be made available electronically on eLC. It is important that you stay current with these readings so that you can follow along with lectures and participate in discussions in your sections. I would strongly recommend you finish the readings before your section takes place since *there will be unannounced short quizzes (3-5 questions) based on the lectures and assigned readings for that week so make sure you are familiar with each chapter's key terms.*

Lecture and In-Section Participation: Please note that attendance in the breakout section is required. Your participation grade (15%) will primarily be based on your performance in the section. There will be group discussions that should demonstrate your critical reflection on the material covered in class as well as on weekly assignments.

Online Research Study: You are required to participate in an online research study. The study will take approximately 20-25 minutes and is supposed to provide you with an understanding of political science research.

Grading Breakdown by Percentage:

Final Exam: 20%

Midterm: 20%

Response Paper: 15%

Quizzes: 15%

Attendance and Participation: 15%

Weekly Assignments: 10%

Participation in Online Research Study: 5%

Grading Scale for Final Semester Grades

100-94 A; 93-90 A-

89-87 B+; 86-84 B; 83-80 B-

79-77 C+; 76-74 C; 73-70 C-

69-60 D

59-0 F

******Please note that there is no standard rounding policy. Rounding decisions can be made on a case-by-case basis and are largely determined by your TA.******

Grade Appeals, Incompletes, Late Assignments, and Make-Up Policy

Any questions you have regarding grades should be directed to your teaching assistant. If you are unable to resolve the matter with them, you may appeal the grade to me. Keep in mind that formal grade appeals must be made in writing, and in the case of a paper, I will re-grade your entire paper. Therefore, your grade can go up or down. A final grade of “Incomplete” will only be given in this course under exceptional circumstances and is solely at the discretion of the instructor. If an incomplete is given, it is the student’s responsibility to complete the necessary requirements as early in the following semester as possible. Legitimate excuses for absence from an exam (e.g., religious holiday, medical emergency, or illness) must be presented to the teaching assistant and accepted prior to the exam when feasible. Late assignments will be docked 5 percent per day (half letter grade), for each day that a project is late (including weekends). If you need a (reasonable) extension, talk to your teaching assistant.

Office Hours

Students who are having difficulty with the course materials and/or assignments are encouraged to contact their teaching assistant. Don’t be afraid to come by. However, please note that office hours are for clarification of material, not for recreating a lecture if you skipped class. If you like to talk to me, feel free to stop by my office during office hours or make an appointment via email.

Syllabus Policy:

I reserve the right to make changes to the syllabus if necessary. I will give you fair notice (at least a week) if something, such as a reading assignment, is to change.

Disability Resource Center

If you anticipate needing classroom or exam accommodations due to the impact of a disability or medical condition, you must register for services with the Disability Resource Center. Additional information can be found here: <http://drc.uga.edu/>

Withdrawal Policy

Undergraduate students can only withdraw from four courses and receive a withdrawal- passing (WP) grade while enrolled at the University. Students can drop any class without penalty during the drop/add period at the beginning of every semester. Dropped courses during the drop/add period do not qualify as withdrawals. Instructors have the ability to withdraw a student from the class due to excessive absences (see course attendance policy). Please review the policy here: <https://reg.uga.edu/general-information/policies/withdrawals/>

Culture of Honesty Policy

You are responsible for knowing and complying with the policy and procedures relating to academic honesty. To understand what constitutes dishonest work, as defined by the University, please carefully review the policy here: https://honesty.uga.edu/_resources/documents/academic_honesty_policy_2017.pdf

Email Policy

Please give me and the Teaching Assistants 24 hours to respond to emails on weekdays, and 48 hours on weekends.

Course Schedule

First Week (starting August 13th)

Topic: Introduction to class and The Citizen and the Government

Readings: Chapter 1 in “We The People”

Second Week (starting August 19th)

Topic: The Founding and the Constitution

Readings: Chapter 2 in “We The People” & The Constitution of the United States of America pp. A11-A23.

Weekly Online Assignment: Chapter 1 and 2 on *Inquizitive*

Third Week (starting August 26th)

Topic: Federalism

Readings: Chapter 3 in “We The People”. Also, read

<http://www.npr.org/2013/03/28/175596229/the-road-to-the-supreme-court-arguments-on-gay-marriage>.

Weekly Online Assignment: Chapter 3 on *Inquizitive Potential Short Paper Topic:* Think about the medical marijuana issue, which puts state power in contention with national power. Write out your stance on whether the issue should be addressed at the national or state level. Justify your decision. (Due: September 6th)

Fourth Week (starting September 2nd, no class on Monday the 2nd)

Topic: Congress

Readings: Chapter 12 in “We The People”

Weekly Online Assignment: Chapter 12 on *Inquizitive*

Fifth Week (starting September 9th)

Topic: Congress

Readings: Mayhew, David R. from Congress: *The Electoral Connection*

Potential Short Paper Topic: Look up your representative’s recent voting records and ideological placement (<https://www.govtrack.us/congress/votes>). Make a list of five issues they voted on, and state whether you would have voted the same way on behalf of your district taking into account your district’s economic and socio-economic characteristics. Justify your decisions. (Due: September 20th)

Sixth Week (starting September 16th)

Topic: The Presidency

Readings: Chapter 13 in “We The People” Also, read

<https://www.washingtonpost.com/news/monkey-cage/wp/2018/09/08/this-is-whats-most-shocking-about-the-resistance-op-ed/>

Weekly Online Assignment: Chapter 13 on *Inquizitive*

Seventh Week (starting September 23rd)

Topic: The Bureaucracy

Readings: Chapter 14 in “We The People”

Weekly Online Assignment: Chapter 14 on *Inquizitive*

Potential Short Paper Topic: Consider President Trump’s travel ban. Explain why you think the president should or should not have the power to act on this issue. In your answer, discuss the reaction of the international community to the travel ban as well as its impact on America’s image abroad. (Due: October 4th)

Eighth Week (starting September 30rd)

Topic: The Federal Courts

Readings: Chapter 15 in “We The People”

Weekly Online Assignment: Chapter 15 on *Inquizitive*

Ninth Week (starting October 7th, Midterm October 7th)

Topic: Public Opinion

Readings: Chapter 6 in “We The People”

Weekly Online Assignment: Chapter 6 on *Inquizitive*

Tenth Week (starting October 14th)

Topic: The Media

Readings: Chapter 7 in “We The People”

Weekly Online Assignment: Chapter 7 on *Inquizitive*

Potential Short Paper Topic: Pick a current political topic and compare how it is reported on one of the national news (ABC, CBS, or NBC), one of the cable news (CNN, MSNBC, or FOX NEWS), and one newspaper (New York Times, Wall Street Journal, or The Washington Post). Identify the different frames and describe their impact. (Due: October 25th)

Eleventh Week (starting October 21th)

Topic: Participation, and Elections

Readings: Chapter 8 in “We The People”

Weekly Online Assignment: Chapter 8 on *Inquizitive*

Potential Short Paper Topic: Write a list of reasons individuals may not vote. Examine the role of personal motivation as well as institutional barriers in your answer and propose possible strategies to increase turnout. (Due: November 1st)

Twelfth Week (starting November 1st)

Topic: Political Parties

Readings: Chapter 9 in “We The People”

Weekly Online Assignment: Chapter 9 on *Inquizitive*

Thirteenth Week (starting November 4th)

Topic: Campaigns and Elections

Readings: Chapter 10 in “We The People”

Weekly Online Assignment: Chapter 10 on *Inquizitive*

Fourteenth Week (starting November 11th)

Topic: Interest Groups

Readings: Chapter 11 in “We The People”. Also, read:

<https://themonkeycage.org/2013/05/shadow-lobbyists-and-the-revolving-door-or-what-anthony-weiner-and-newt-gingrich-have-in-common/>

Weekly Online Assignment: Chapter 11 on *Inquizitive*

Fifteenth Week (starting November 18th)

Topic: Civil Liberties and Civil Rights

Readings: Chapter 4 in “We The People”

Weekly Online Assignment: Chapter 4 on *Inquizitive*

Sixteenth Week (starting November 25th, only one day of class)

Topic: Final Exam Review I

Seventeenth Week (starting Dec 2nd, only one day of class)

Topic: Final Exam Review II

Final Exam

Wednesday, December 11th, 12:00 PM to 3:00 PM in Sanford Hall 213