I. Course Description

Popular sovereignty…these two words form the foundation of republicanism and modern democratic governance. *We the People* are the sole source of political power in the United States and it is through elections that we choose who will use the powers of government. But who votes? How are they deciding who to vote for? How do the conduct of campaigns and elections in the US impact voter behaviors? These are the motivating questions behind the design of this course and their answers invariably have profound implications for American government. By the end of this course you will:

1. **Obtain broad exposure** to the political science literature on voter turnout and decision making, as well as the relationship between our political institutions and the People of the United States.

2. **Understand** the psychological, sociological, institutional, and economic forces behind voting and participatory behaviors.

3. **Think** in a more nuanced and scientific way about voting behavior and elections.

4. **Collect and Analyze** data on elections and voting behaviors.

II. Course Requirements and Graded Evaluation

1. **Required Textbooks**

None! This class is will make use of the tremendous, publicly available resources made available to us by the public good we call scientific knowledge. Most of our class readings will be journal articles published in reputable peer-reviewed academic journals as well as book/book chapters made available electronically to you as students at the University of Georgia (Go Dawgs!).
(2.2) **Course Assignments**
Learning is an active exercise. Students at all levels of learning and accomplishment benefit when they are actively engaged with course material. Your grade in this class will be assessed through class participation, three short papers, and three exams. Short papers will be due on exam day.

<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th>Date</th>
<th>Assignment</th>
<th>Weight</th>
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<tbody>
<tr>
<td>September 21st</td>
<td>Short Paper 1 Due</td>
<td>10%</td>
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<tr>
<td></td>
<td>Exam 1</td>
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<tr>
<td>October 21st</td>
<td>Short Paper 2 Due</td>
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<td></td>
<td>Exam 2</td>
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<tr>
<td>December 9th</td>
<td>Short Paper 3 Due</td>
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<td></td>
<td>Exam 3</td>
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<tr>
<td>Weekly</td>
<td>Participation</td>
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(2.3) **Grading**
All grades (including final grades) will be assigned following the system depicted below. You must earn a C or higher to pass this class. Grades will not be curved.

<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th>Grade</th>
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<tr>
<td>D</td>
<td>60 – 69</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>F</td>
<td>≤ 59</td>
</tr>
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III. **Class Policies**

(3.1) **Disability Disclosure Statement**
Abled-ness should not impede your intellectual development. Please get in touch with me (Dr. Glas) about any accommodations you need in the classroom and for exams. We have some amazing resources for you here at UGA. For testing accommodations please contact the Disability Resource Center (DRC) as soon as possible. For more information please check out the DRC’s website ([www.uga.drc.edu](http://www.uga.drc.edu)). The DRC is located at 825 Lumpkin Street (Clark-Howell Hall) and can be contacted by phone at 706.542.8719.

(3.2) **Student Athletes**
Representing our university in athletics places some unusual scheduling obligations on you. Please get in touch with me (Dr. Glas) about your schedule so we can make sure you are able to achieve in the classroom as well as on the field or in the arena.
**Absences**
John Lennon once said, “Life happens while you’re busy making other plans.” Attending class is critical for your success in this class. Participation is a significant portion of your grade and there is a significant amount of course content that we will cover in our class meetings and breakout sessions. Absences will be excused for legitimate reasons (and I am reasonable).

Please do not come to class if you ill. The UGA Health Center ([www.uhs.uga.edu](http://www.uhs.uga.edu)) is located at 55 Carlton Street (across the street from Ramsey).

**Makeup Exams**
If you miss an exam, you will receive a zero (which means passing the class will be unlikely). 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 excuses. All make-up exams are administered by the Department of Political Science, but require my permission.

**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.

**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, please examine the university policy and /or ask the instructor.

**Problems and Emergencies**
If a problem or emergency arises that prevents you from attending an exam or coming to class, you should contact me (Dr. Glas) as soon as possible.

**Policy on Disruptive Behavior**
1) Turn communication devices to silent…or turn them off entirely.
2) Be polite during class discussion.

**Withdraw Policy**
Be advised that the last day to withdraw from a course without failing is Monday, October 21st. All students who withdraw after this date will receive a “WF”.
IV. Course Schedule and Assignments

Week 1 – August 14th and 16th – The Scientific Study of Electoral Behavior

Syllabus

Class Handout – Study Sheet

Week 2 – August 19th, 21st, and 23rd – Thinking Formally about Electoral Behavior


Week 3 – August 26th, 28th, and 30th – Electoral Systems and Voter Turnout


Week 4 – September 4th, and 6th – Institutional Barriers


***No Class – Monday, September 2nd – Labor Day***

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1 The course syllabus provides a general plan for the course; deviations may be necessary.
Week 5 – September 9th, 11th, and 13th – Who Votes?


Week 6 – September 16th – Exam 1

***Short Paper 1 Due and Exam 1***

Week 7 – September 23rd, 25th, and 27th – Working with Election Data

***See Associated Folder in eLC***

Week 8 – September 30th, October 2nd, and 4th – Social Influences on Electoral Behavior


***Semester Midpoint***

Week 9 - October 7th, 9th, and 11th – Media and Participation


**Week 10 – October 14th, 16th, and 18th – Campaign Effects [and the Lack Thereof]**


**Week 11 – October 21st – Exam 2**

***Short Paper 2 Due and Exam 2***

**Week 12 – October 28th and 30th – Working with Voter Data**

***See Associated Folder in eLC***

***Fall Break, November 1st – No Classes***

**Week 13 - November 4th, 6th, and 8th – How Voters Decide**

Selection from:


**Week 14 – November 11th, 13th, and 15th – Information Shortcuts**


Week 15 – November 18th, 20th, and 22nd – Partisanship

Selection from:


Week 16 – November 27th and 29th – Rainy Day Readings & Thanksgiving Break


***No Class***

Week 17 – December 2nd – Final Thoughts


Week 18 – December 9th @ 8am – Exam 3

***Short Paper 3 Due and Exam 3***