

POLS 1101 – Introduction to American Government

Class Time: TR 9:30 – 10:45am

Breakout Sessions: Wednesdays

Instructor: Jeffrey M. Glas, PhD

Contact Information:

Office Hours: By Appointment

Office Location: Baldwin 380a

Office Phone: 706.542.5964

Email: Jeffrey.Glas@uga.edu

Course Prerequisites: None

Breakout Sessions:

CRN	Start	Finish	Building	Room#	TA
10679	800	850	Leconte Hall	230	Shanshan Lian
10675	905	955	Leconte Hall	230	Ben Ayres
10686	905	955	Leconte Hall	322	Shanshan Lian
10689	1010	1100	Leconte Hall	322	Ben Ayres
10690	1010	1100	Leconte Hall	230	Zhihao Wang
10676	1115	1205	Leconte Hall	230	Zhihao Wang
10681	1115	1205	Leconte Hall	135	Kevin Spann
10678	1220	1310	Leconte Hall	135	Melanie Waddell
10683	1220	1310	Journalism	513	Hannah Morris
10672	1325	1415	Baldwin Hall	0G41	Melanie Waddell
10685	1325	1415	Journalism	513	Hannah Morris

I. Course Description:

Government and politics impact our lives in many ways. Some are obvious, others almost invisible. The primary goal of this course is introduce you to the scientific study of politics using the United States as the primary example. To this end the course is designed to provide you 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.

By the end of this course you should be able to:

- 1) Understand the constitutional foundations of United States (U.S.) government and how the Constitution sets the stage for political activity in the U.S.
- 2) Identify the different government institutions in the U.S., explain how they interact with each other and *The People* and how these interactions have changed over time.

- 3) Reconcile the opinions of the public and conduct of our elections with the governing actions taken by our representatives in government.
- 4) Evaluate the performance of one of your representatives in government and offer a strategic policy recommendation.
- 5) Understand how our humanity influences democratic politics in the U.S. and abroad.

II. Course Requirements and Graded Evaluation

(2.1) Textbooks

Kernell, Samuel, et al. *The Logic of American Politics*, 10th edition¹
 ISBN: 9781544322995

Bullock, Charles and Ronald Gaddie. *Georgia Politics in a State of Change*, 2nd edition or newer.
 ISBN: 9780205864676

(2.2) Exams

There are three exams in this class. Each exam is worth 25% 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. Blue Books are available in the bookstore for purchase, but may be procured free of charge at the Student Government Association office on the 1st floor of the Tate Student Center.

(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. Your participation is assessed through a combination of attendance, contributions to discussion, activities and quizzes.

(2.4) Exam Schedule and Grade Distribution

First Midterm Exam	25%	September 17 th
Second Midterm Exam	25%	October 15 th
Third Exam	25%	December 10 th
Participation	25%	Weekly

(2.5) 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.

A	=	94-100	C+	=	77
A-	=	90	C	=	74
B+	=	87	C-	=	70
B	=	84	D	=	60 – 69
B-	=	80	F	≤	59

¹ Previous editions will definitely suffice. Just keep in mind that the names of the political actors used in textbook examples will be outdated.

III. Class Policies

(3.1) Disability Disclosure Statement

Ableness should not impede your intellectual development. Please get in touch with me (Dr. Glas) about any accommodations you need in the classroom, your breakout sessions, 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). 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.

(3.3) 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 are ill. The UGA Health Center (www.uhs.uga.edu) is located at 55 Carlton Street (across the street from Ramsey).

(3.4) 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.

(3.5) 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.

(3.6) 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.

(3.7) 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.

(3.8) Policy on Disruptive Behavior

- 1) Turn communication devices to silent...or turn them off entirely.
- 2) Be polite during class discussion.

(3.9) 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 Reading Assignments²

Week 1 – August 14th and 15th – Thinking about Politics

Introductions and Syllabus

Week 2 – August 20th, 21st, and 22nd – The Logic of American Politics

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

Josep Colomer’s “The Public Good”

Week 3 – August 27th, 28th, and 29th – The Constitution

Chapter 2 of *The Logic*

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

Federalist #51

Week 4 – September 3rd, 4th, and 5th – Federalism

Chapter 3 of *The Logic*

Chapter 4 of *Georgia Politics [in a State of Change]*

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

Week 5 – September 10th, 11th, and 12th – Civil Liberties and Civil Rights

Chapters 4 and 5 of *The Logic*

Chapter 9 of *Georgia Politics*

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

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

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

Week 6 – September 17th and 18th – Exam 1

² The course syllabus provides a general plan for the course; deviations may be necessary.

Exam 1 will be held on Tuesday, September 17th and you will have a chance to review your exam in your breakout session on Wednesday the 25th. We will not be meeting on Thursday the 19th.

Week 7 – September 24th, 25th, and 26th – 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 – October 1st, 2nd, and 3rd – Executive Politics

Chapter 7 of *The Logic*

Skim Chapter 8 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 - October 8th, 9th, and 10th – Judicial Politics

Chapter 9 of *The Logic*

Chapter 7 of *Georgia Politics*

Federalist #78

Week 10 – October 15th, 16th, and 17th – Exam 2

Exam 2 will be held on Tuesday, October 15th and you will have a chance to review your exam in your breakout session on Thursday the 23rd. We will not be meeting on Thursday the 17th.

Week 11 – October 22nd, 23rd, and 24th – Public Opinion

Chapter 10 of *The Logic*

Plato’s “Republic” (Selection from)

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

Withdrawal Deadline – Monday, October 21st

Week 12 – October 29th, 30th, and 31st – 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"

Fall Break – No Class – Friday, November 1st

Week 13 - November 5th, 6th, and 7th – Political Parties

Chapters 12 of *The Logic*

George Washington's Farewell Address

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

Week 14 – November 12th, 13th, and 14th – Interest Groups

Chapter 13 of *The Logic*

Federalist #10

Week 15 – November 19th, 20th, and 21st – The Media

Chapter 14 of *The Logic*

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

Week 16 – Thanksgiving Break

No Class

Week 17 – December 3rd – Reflections on American Politics

Chapter 15 of *The Logic*

Reading Day – Thursday, December 5th

Week 18 – December 11th – Exam 3

Exam 3 will be held on Tuesday, December 10th. Final Grades are due to the University by 12noon on Monday, December 16th. Please contact your TA to make arrangements for reviewing your exam.

Final Exam – Tuesday, December 10th @ 12noon