

**POLS 1101 – Introduction to American Government**

**Class Time: TR 11:00am – 11:50am**

**Breakout Sessions: Fridays**

**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](mailto:Jeffrey.Glas@uga.edu)

**Course Prerequisites:** None

**Breakout Sessions:**

CRN	Start	Finish	Building	Room#	TA
10662	800	850	Journalism	513	Abdullah Kabaoglu
10628	905	955	School of Social Work Building	0G16	Simon Williamson
10649	905	955	Journalism	513	Abdullah Kabaoglu
10646	1010	1100	Journalism	511	Pedro Goulart
10655	1010	1100	Journalism	513	John Henry Jackson
10644	1115	1205	Journalism	515	Pedro Goulart
10647	1115	1205	Journalism	511	John Henry Jackson
10652	1220	1310	Journalism	511	Ahrum Chang
10654	1220	1310	Journalism	515	Sarah Dunning
10643	1325	1415	Baldwin Hall	0G41	Ahrum Chang
10656	1325	1415	Journalism	511	Sarah Dunning

**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*, 10<sup>th</sup> edition<sup>1</sup>  
 ISBN: 9781544322995

Bullock, Charles and Ronald Gaddie. *Georgia Politics in a State of Change*, 2<sup>nd</sup> 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 1<sup>st</sup> 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 <sup>th</sup>
Second Midterm Exam	25%	October 15 <sup>th</sup>
Third Exam	25%	December 12 <sup>th</sup>
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

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<sup>1</sup> 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**

Able-bodiedness 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](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.

#### **(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](http://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 21<sup>st</sup>. All students who withdraw after this date will receive a “WF”.

**IV. Course Schedule and Reading Assignments<sup>2</sup>**

**Week 1 – August 15<sup>th</sup> and 17<sup>th</sup> – Thinking about Politics**

Introductions and Syllabus

**Week 2 – August 20<sup>th</sup>, 22<sup>nd</sup>, and 23<sup>rd</sup> – The Logic of American Politics**

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

Josep Colomer’s “The Public Good”

**Week 3 – August 27<sup>th</sup>, 29<sup>th</sup>, and 30<sup>th</sup> – The Constitution**

Chapter 2 of *The Logic*

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

Federalist #51

**Week 4 – September 3<sup>rd</sup>, 5<sup>th</sup>, and 6<sup>th</sup> – 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 10<sup>th</sup>, 12<sup>th</sup>, and 13<sup>th</sup> – 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/du_e_process)

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

Randy Barnett’s “Two Conceptions of the 9<sup>th</sup> Amendment”

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

## **Week 6 – September 17<sup>th</sup> and 20<sup>th</sup> – Exam 1**

Exam 1 will be held on Tuesday, September 17<sup>th</sup> and you will have a chance to review your exam in your breakout session on Friday the 20<sup>th</sup>. We will not be meeting on Thursday the 19<sup>th</sup>.

## **Week 7 – September 24<sup>th</sup>, 26<sup>th</sup>, and 27<sup>th</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”

## **Week 8 – October 1<sup>st</sup>, 3<sup>rd</sup>, and 4<sup>th</sup> – 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 8<sup>th</sup>, 10<sup>th</sup>, and 11<sup>th</sup> – Judicial Politics**

Chapter 9 of *The Logic*

Chapter 7 of *Georgia Politics*

Federalist #78

## **Week 10 – October 15<sup>th</sup> and 18<sup>th</sup> – Exam 2**

Exam 2 will be held on Tuesday, October 15<sup>th</sup> and you will have a chance to review your exam in your breakout session on Friday the 18<sup>th</sup>. We will not be meeting on Thursday the 17<sup>th</sup>.

## **Week 11 – October 22<sup>nd</sup>, 24<sup>th</sup>, and 25<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)

\*\*\*Withdrawal Deadline – Monday, October 21<sup>st</sup>\*\*\*

**Week 12 – October 29<sup>th</sup> and 31<sup>st</sup> – 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 1<sup>st</sup>\*\*\*

**Week 13 - November 5<sup>th</sup>, 7<sup>th</sup>, and 8<sup>th</sup> – 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 12<sup>th</sup>, 14<sup>th</sup>, and 15<sup>th</sup> – Interest Groups**

Chapter 13 of *The Logic*

Federalist #10

**Week 15 – November 19<sup>th</sup>, 21<sup>st</sup>, and 22<sup>nd</sup> – 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 3<sup>rd</sup> – Reflections on American Politics**

Chapter 15 of *The Logic*

\*\*\*Reading Day – Thursday, December 5<sup>th</sup>\*\*\*

**Week 18 – December 11<sup>th</sup> – Exam 3**

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

\*\*\*Final Exam – Thursday, December 12<sup>th</sup> @ 12noon\*\*\*