

POLS 1101: Introduction to American Politics

Fall 2019

M/W/Friday: 12:20pm-1:10pm

Baldwin Hall 302

Instructor: Allison Vick

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Office: Baldwin 101W

Office Hours: MW 2:30pm-3:30pm

(and by appointment)

Course Description:

This course will interact with a multitude of themes related to American and Georgia Politics. This semester we will encounter topics regarding American political development, political institutions, public opinion, elections, and the media. Throughout this semester the course will provide an opportunity to examine how the American political system developed and how it has evolved over time.

Learning Objectives:

By the completion of this course, you should be able to:

- Describe the varying branches of government and how they interact with each other.
- Analyze the role of the parties, the public, and the media in the modern political system.
- Articulate the importance of the political process.

Required Textbooks:

Samuel Kernell, Gary C. Jacobson, Thad Kousser and Lynn Vavreck. 2019. *The Logic of American Politics*, 9th Edition. CQ Press. ISBN-10: 1544322992

Bullock, Charles S. and Ronald Keith Gaddie. 2013. *Georgia Politics in a State of Change*, Fourth Custom Edition. Pearson. ISBN-10: 1256813362.

All other assigned readings can be found through Google Scholar/JSTOR, etc. or will be provided in advance of our class meeting.

Outside Reading:

One of the goals of this course is for us each to increase our understanding and knowledge of the world of politics. We will often discuss and look at a variety of news sources in class. Therefore, outside of the required/assigned reading from the textbook I would like you to keep up to date with current or relevant news as well. This can come from a variety of sources online or in print. The University of Georgia provides a free subscription to students for the *New York Times* and the *Wall Street Journal*. For those of you who prefer podcasting on your commute or bus ride: there are plenty of those as well (FiveThirtyEight, NPR, ABC News, CQ on Congress etc.).

If you need any additional reading or podcast suggestions please do not hesitate to ask. We will also have opportunities throughout the semester for you to bring in some of this outside reading/listening into class discussion so it may be helpful to find a few sources early on in the semester.

Assignments & Due Dates:

Attendance & Participation: 10%

Short Response Papers: 20%

Midterm Exams: 40%

Final Exam: 30%

Participation:

Attendance and participation make up 10% of the overall grade. You will benefit from being present in this class, and the class will benefit from your presence in class. *Attendance will be tied to your participation grade.* Participation consists of answering questions in class, participating in any online activities, or briefly discussing your short paper assignments in class. Additionally, this class will cover a variety of topics and ideas. This class will center around a respectful environment. Dialogue both on ELC and in person should remain respectful at all times. Laptops are allowed as long as they are being used for class purposes.

Two Short Paper Assignments:

Here the goal is that you have selected two different topics from our semester where each week represents one overarching topic. **Each of these assignments is worth 10%.** These papers should be brief, approximately 1-2 double-space pages and should make a connection between the readings for class the day in which you turn it in and a connection to an out of class source. This can include a news article, podcast, tv show, movie, etc. The goal here is to make connections with what you are reading, and what we are talking about in class. Papers are due when you arrive to class. Also, be prepared to briefly discuss these connections the day that you submit your paper. The first one is due by the **Midterm October 7th** and the second is due by the last class before Thanksgiving break, **November 22nd**. All late papers past these dates will have a 10% deduction per day.

Exams:

There will be four exams this semester. Three will be midterm exams (non-cumulative) on **September 13th, October 16th, and November 20th** and the lowest of these grades will be dropped. There will also be a cumulative final exam on **December 11th** which will be worth 30%. More information as to test format will be provided as we get closer to the date of each test. If something comes up and requires you to miss an exam you must provide documentation and let me know as soon as you can so we can schedule a makeup exam. It is possible that you will receive a different copy of the exam in these instances.

Extra Credit:

On **Monday September 16 at 1:30** there will be a Constitution Day lecture in the chapel by Dr. Alan Taylor who is an American History Professor from the University of Virginia. Proof of attendance is all that is required. If you are unable to attend the lecture and you want an opportunity for extra credit, there will be a brief 1 double-space page response paper that you can turn in by **September 20th**. You can either do one or the other. This will add five points to your Final Exam grade. More details to come on the written assignment.

Course Grading:

There is one extra credit assignment and one dropped test score. There will be no additional points added to the final grade: so if you want extra points please do the extra credit assignment. Late assignments will have a 10% deduction for each day that it is late.

The grading policy is as follows:

A=93-100; **A-**=90-92; **B+**=87-89; **B** = 83-86; **B-** = 80-82;

C+ =77-79; **C**=73-76; **C-** =70-72; **D** =60-69; **F** = 0-59.

Classroom Behavior & Attendance:

If you miss a class, please request any notes or missed information from a peer. For more information on attendance please look to the section on Attendance and Participation.

Disability Resource Center

The Disability Resource Center webpage states that the “Disability Resource Center professional staff work directly with students to assess their individual disability-related needs and to develop appropriate plans for academic accommodations and services.” Please contact the DRC and the instructor if you need to request accommodations or services. The DRC can be contacted at **706-542-8719** or by email: drc@uga.edu. The Disability Resource Center is located in Clark Howell Hall at 825 S Lumpkin St, Athens, GA 30605. Additional information can be found here: <http://drc.uga.edu/>.

Academic Honesty

The University of Georgia Academic Honesty policy states, “As a University of Georgia student, you have agreed to abide by the University’s academic honesty policy, “A Culture of Honesty,” and the Student Honor Code. All academic work must meet the standards described in “A Culture of Honesty” found at: <https://honesty.uga.edu/Academic-Honesty-Policy/>. Lack of knowledge of the academic honesty policy is not a reasonable explanation for a violation. Questions related to course assignments and the academic honesty policy should be directed to the instructor.”

Email & ELC

Please email me if you need to schedule an appointment outside of the scheduled office hours. Email is also the best way to get in touch with me if you have any questions come up throughout the semester. Additionally, I may contact you via your UGA email to send any articles, updates, or podcasts that come up during the semester. Some assignments or readings may also be posted to ELC. For example, on Friday August 30th we will not meet for class, but there will be an online discussion post assignment put up on ELC.

Course Schedule:

The course dates for this semester are listed below. *The course syllabus is a general plan for the course; deviations announced to the class by the instructor may be necessary.* Readings should be done **prior** to the student's arrival in class each day.

The primary book for the semester will be the *Logic of American Politics* book. The course schedule will simply list this as *Logic*. The Georgia politics text will be listed as *Georgia*.

Week 1: An Introduction to American & Georgia Politics

Wednesday 8/14

- Syllabus & Class Overview

Friday 8/16

- *Georgia* Chapter 1

Week 2: The Logic of American Politics

Monday 8/19

- *Logic Chapter 1*: 3-19

Wednesday 8/21

- *Logic Chapter 1*: 19-34

Friday 8/23

- *Federalist 51: In the Back of the Book*
- *"The Articles of Confederation: In the Back of the Book*

Week 3: The Constitution

Monday 8/26

- *The Constitution (with Amendments): In the Back of the Book*
- *Logic Chapter 2*: 38-60

Wednesday 8/28

- *Logic Chapter 2: 61-90*
- *Georgia Chapter 4*

Friday 8/30

- **APSA (NO CLASS: Online Discussion Assignment)**
 - This online exercise will consist of student's identifying an article that ties into their major or interest and make connections to the political process.

Week 4: Federalism

Monday 9/2

- **NO CLASS: LABOR DAY**

Wednesday 9/4

- *Logic Chapter 3: 93-119*

Friday 9/6:

- *Logic Chapter 3: 120-133*
- *Georgia Chapter 2 and 3*

Week 5: Civil Rights

Monday 9/9

- *Logic Chapter 4: 135-166*

Wednesday 9/11

- *Logic Chapter 4: 167-183 & Review*

Friday 9/13

- **Midterm Exam #1: The Nationalization of Politics**

Week 6: Congress

Monday 9/16

- *Logic Chapter 6: 231-256*

Wednesday 9/18

- *Logic Chapter 6: 257-295*

Friday 9/20

- *Georgia Chapter 5*

Week 7: Presidency

Monday 9/23

- *Logic Chapter 7: 297-316*

Wednesday 9/25

- *Logic Chapter 7: 317-341*

Friday 9/27

- *Georgia Chapter 6*

Week 8: Judiciary

Monday 9/30

- *Logic Chapter 9: 389-409*

Wednesday 10/2

- *Logic Chapter 9: 410-429*

Friday 10/4

- *Georgia Chapter 7*

Week 9: Bureaucracy

Monday 10/7

- **Last Day to Turn in Response Paper #1**
- *Logic Chapter 8: 345-369*

Wednesday 10/9

- *Logic Chapter 8: 370-387*

Friday 10/11

- *Georgia Chapter 8*

Week 10: Midterm 2 & Miscellaneous Day

Monday 10/14

- Review

Wednesday 10/16

- **Midterm #2: The Institutions**

Friday 10/18

- Watch 30 minutes of programming of the House or Senate floor proceedings on CSPAN this week—write a paragraph reflection and bring it to class. (You can also go to their website and look at their Video Library for Sessions). Reflection should include what

time you watched, what was happening on the floor, and if there was anything interesting to you that happened. We will have a group discussion.

Week 11: Campaigns & Elections

Monday 10/21 (**Withdrawal Deadline**)

- *Logic Chapter 11: 475-489*

Wednesday 10/23

- *Logic Chapter 11: 490-510*

Friday 10/25

- *Georgia Chapters 9 & 13*

Week 12: Public Opinion

Monday 10/28

- *Logic Chapter 10: 432-455*

Wednesday 10/30

- *Logic Chapter 10: 456-472*

Friday 11/1

- **NO CLASS: FALL BREAK**

Week 13: Political Parties & Interest Groups

Monday 11/4

- *Logic Chapter 12: 513-547*

Wednesday 11/6

- *Logic Chapter 12: 548-560*
- *Logic Chapter 13: 563-581*

Friday 11/8

- *Logic Chapter 13: 582-604*
- *Georgia Chapter 11*

Week 14: The Media

Monday 11/11

- *Logic Chapter 14: 607-624*

Wednesday 11/13

- *Logic Chapter 15: 625-642*

Friday 11/15

- *Logic Chapter 5: 185-202*

Week 15: Midterm 3 & Civil Liberties

Monday 11/18

- Review

Wednesday 11/20

- **Midterm #3 Public Influence**

Friday 11/22

- **Last Day to Turn in Response Paper #2**
- *Logic Chapter 5: 203-228*

Week 16: Break Week

Monday 11/25

- Civil Liberties Discussion
- Start to Organize Notes for Final Exam

Wednesday 11/27

- **NO CLASS: THANKSGIVING BREAK**

Friday 11/29

- **NO CLASS: THANKSGIVING BREAK**

Week 17: End of Semester

Monday 12/2:

- *Logic Chapter 15*

Wednesday 12/4 (Last Day of Class):

- Review For Final Exam

FINAL EXAM PERIOD

Scheduled by University currently for ***Wednesday, December 11th from 12pm-3pm*** in Baldwin 302.