POLS 1101 – Introduction to American Government
Class Time: Online Monday - Friday
Instructor: Jeffrey M. Glas, PhD

Contact Information:
Office Hours: By Appointment (via telephone or Zoom)
Email: jeffrey.glas@uga.edu

Course Prerequisites: None

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 to 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 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

We are using two textbooks in the class, both of which have been made freely available by the publisher on RedShelf.com through May 25th.

ISBN: 9781544322995

ISBN: 9780205864676

1 Previous editions will definitely suffice. Just keep in mind that the names of the political actors used in textbook examples will be outdated.
(2.2) **Exams**
There are three exams in this class. Each exam is worth 25% of your grade. Exams will be administered through the Quiz tool in eLC. Exams will be timed, consist of a combination of closed and open response items.

(2.3) **Course Participation**
Learning is an active exercise. Students at all levels of learning and accomplishment benefit when they are actively engaged with the course material. This is no different with an online class. Your participation in the course will be assessed through a series of five short assignments covering American government and politics.

(2.4) **Exam Schedule and Grade Distribution**
<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th>Exam</th>
<th>Percentage</th>
<th>Date</th>
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</thead>
<tbody>
<tr>
<td>First Exam</td>
<td>25%</td>
<td>May 20(^{th})</td>
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<tr>
<td>Second Exam</td>
<td>25%</td>
<td>May 27(^{th})</td>
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<tr>
<td>Third Exam</td>
<td>25%</td>
<td>June 4(^{th})</td>
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<tr>
<td>Attendance/Participation</td>
<td>25%</td>
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(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.

<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th>Grade</th>
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<tr>
<td>A</td>
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<tr>
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<td>80</td>
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<tr>
<td>C</td>
<td>74</td>
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<tr>
<td>C-</td>
<td>70</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>D</td>
<td>60 – 69</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>F</td>
<td>≤ 59</td>
</tr>
</tbody>
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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) **Makeup Exams**
If you miss an exam, you will receive a zero (and 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.

(3.3) **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.
(3.4) **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.

(3.5) **Problems and Emergencies**
If a problem or emergency arises that prevents you from completing coursework please contact me as soon as possible.

(3.6) **Withdraw Policy**
Be advised that the last day to withdraw from a course without failing is Friday, May 22nd. All students who withdraw after this date will receive a “WF”.

### IV. Course Schedule

**Wednesday, May 13th – Perspectives on Politics and Government**

Syllabus

Chapter 1 of *The Logic of American Politics*

Josep Colomer’s “The Public Good” (see content folder in eLC)

**Thursday, May 14th – Early American Government and the U.S. Constitution**

Chapter 2 of *The Logic*

*Colonial Assemblies*

Madison’s “Vices of the Political System of the United States” (see content folder in eLC)

Federalist #51 (see content folder in eLC)

**Friday, May 15th – Federalism**

Chapter 3 of *The Logic*

Chapters 4 and 8 of *Georgia Politics [in a State of Change]*

Shipan, C.R. and Volden, C., “Policy diffusion: Seven lessons for scholars and practitioners.” (see content folder in eLC)

***Importing Public Policy Assignment***

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2 This is a general course outline, some deviations may be necessary.
Monday, May 18th – Civil Rights

Chapter 4 of *The Logic*

Chapter 9 of *Georgia Politics*

[https://www.law.cornell.edu/wex/due_process](https://www.law.cornell.edu/wex/due_process)

Tuesday, May 19th – Civil Liberties

Chapter 5 of *The Logic*

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

Randy Barnett’s “Two Conceptions of the 9th Amendment” (see content folder in eLC)

***Protest Song Assignment***

Wednesday, May 20th – Exam 1

Exam 1 can be accessed on eLC between 11am and 2pm on Wednesday the 20th.

Time Limit: 75 minutes

Thursday, May 21st – Legislative Politics

Chapter 6 of *The Logic*

Chapters 5 and 10 of *Georgia Politics*

David Mayhew’s “Congress: The Electoral Connection” (see content folder in eLC)

Richard Fenno’s “U.S. House Members in Their Constituencies: An Exploration” (see content folder in eLC)

***Better Know a District Assignment***

Friday, May 22nd – Executive and Bureaucratic Politics

Chapter 7 of *The Logic*

Skim Chapter 8 of *The Logic*

Chapter 6 of *Georgia Politics*

Richard Neustadt’s “The Power to Persuade” (see content folder in eLC)

***Withdraw Deadline***
Monday, May 25th – Memorial Day

No Class

Tuesday, May 26th – Judicial Politics

Chapter 9 of *The Logic*

Chapter 7 of *Georgia Politics*

Federalist #78 (see content folder in eLC)

Wednesday, May 27th – Exam 2

Exam 2 can be accessed on eLC between 11am and 2pm on Wednesday the 27th.

Time Limit: 75 minutes

Thursday, May 28th – Public Opinion

Chapter 10 of *The Logic*

Plato’s “Republic” (Book VII, 514a – 520a) (see content folder in eLC)

Friday, May 29th – Voting, Elections, and Campaigns

Chapter 11 of *The Logic*

Chapters 13 of *Georgia Politics*

Louis Menand’s “The Unpolitical Animal: How Political Science Understands Voters” (see content folder in eLC)

***Voter Turnout Assignment***

Monday, June 1st – Political Parties

Chapter 12 of *The Logic*

Chapter 11 of *Georgia Politics*

George Washington’s Farewell Address (see content folder in eLC)
Tuesday, June 2nd – Interest Groups

Chapter 13 of *The Logic*

Chapter 12 of *Georgia Politics*

Federalist #10 (see content folder in eLC)

***Better Know an Interest Group***

Wednesday, June 3rd – The American Media

Chapter 14 of *The Logic*

W. Lance Bennett’s “Four Information Biases that Matter” (see content folder in eLC)

Thursday, June 4th – Exam 3

Exam 3 can be accessed on eLC between 11am and 2pm on Thursday the 4th.

Time Limit: 75 minutes