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| **Course:** POLS 1101  | **Term:** Fall 2020 |
| **Title:** American Government | **Professor:** David Cottrell |
| **In-person Class Meetings:** MWF, 3:00pm - 3:50pm | **Email:** david.cottrell@uga.edu  |
| **Location:** Instructional Plaza 0066-N106 | **Office Hours:** Online, by appointment. |

**Course Description:**

This course introduces students to the study of American government. The course will cover a wide range of topics exploring the history and processes that define the American political system. Students will learn about the government’s constitutional foundation, its protection of civil rights and liberties, its federal structure, its three branches of government, its political parties, its electoral system and more. The course will take a political science approach to exploring these topics by systematically explaining political phenomena using theory and observation. The ultimate goal is for students to gain a useful analytical framework for making sense of the complex world of U.S. politics.

**Method of instruction before Thanksgiving:**

This course will use a flipped-classroom (or hybrid) method of instruction. Rather than hold lectures during the regularly-scheduled class period, lectures will be pre-recorded each week and posted online in eLC for students to watch from home. In-person class time will instead be dedicated to Q&A and discussion in order to give students the opportunity to engage with me and their peers face-to-face. In class, we will discuss current political events and review the material assigned for that week.

Students are encouraged to attend in-person classes. However, *in-person attendance is completely optional.*Students who prefer not to attend class do not have to do so. I will not be taking attendance and all graded components of the course will be completed remotely. Moreover, I will be available for online meetings by appointment over Zoom.

**Method of instruction after Thanksgiving:**

 After Thanksgiving break, the course will transition to 100% remote instruction. *All remaining class sessions will take place online*. I will hold class sessions using Zoom during the regular class times.

**Required Texts:**

We will be using two books in this class: a textbook and a reader. Both books are listed below. Students are required to obtain both texts before the beginning of class. Both the textbook and the reader are available for purchase in the campus bookstore. The textbook is also available as an E-book which can be purchased online here: <https://wwnorton.com/books/9780393675283>

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| TEXTBOOK: | Ken Kollman. 2019. *The American Political System*. New York: W.W. Norton & Co. Third Edition, Election Update. |
| READER: | Ken Kollman. 2019. *Readings in American Politics: Analysis and Perspectives.* New York: W.W. Norton & Co. 5th Edition.  |

**Organization of the course:**

The course is organized by weekly modules covering a single topic each week. In the typical week students will do the following:

* Read the assigned chapter in the textbook (see course agenda below).
* Read the assigned excerpts in the reader (see course agenda below).
* View recorded lectures.
* Attend classes in-person for discussion and Q&A (optional).
* Complete an online quiz for the assigned chapter.
* Answer an online response question.

**Evaluation:**

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| **(40%)** | **Online chapter quizzes** – Every week you will read a chapter in the textbook and complete a multiple-choice quiz associated with that chapter. The weekly quizzes will be made available on eLC on the Monday that begins the week and must be completed by the following Monday. While you may use your books, notes, and lectures as reference while taking the quiz, please do not collaborate with others. You must take the quizzes independently. There will be 14 quizzes for the 14 chapters that we cover. Each quiz will be worth the number of points. I will drop the quiz with your lowest score. |
| **(30%)** | **Online response questions** – In addition to the quizzes every week, you will also be required to answer a critical response question. This question will prompt you to think critically about a concept discussed in the textbook or reader and it will ask you to provide a thoughtful response. This will be your opportunity to dig deeper into the material and elaborate your opinions. Responses should be between 2 and 4 paragraphs and should display a solid grasp of the material covered in the text. Like the quizzes, they will be made available on eLC on the Monday that begins the week and must be completed by the following Monday. |
| **(30%)** | **Online final –** The final will consist of multiple choice and short answer questions on the material covered in the lectures, textbook, and reader throughout the semester. Like the quizzes, you may use your books, notes, and lectures as reference, but you may not collaborate with others. |

**Letter grades:**



**Policy on electronic devices:**

Please do not use electronic devices in class.

**UGA Student Honor Code:**

Please adhere to the university’s standards for academic honesty and integrity. Procedures for handling cases of suspected dishonesty, can be found at [www.uga.edu/ovpi](http://www.uga.edu/ovpi).

**Mental Health and Wellness Resources:**

* If you or someone you know needs assistance, you are encouraged to contact Student Care and Outreach in the Division of Student Affairs at 706-542-7774 or visit [https://sco.uga.edu](https://sco.uga.edu/). They will help you navigate any difficult circumstances you may be facing by connecting you with the appropriate resources or services.
* UGA has several resources for a student seeking mental health services (<https://www.uhs.uga.edu/bewelluga/bewelluga>) or crisis support (<https://www.uhs.uga.edu/info/emergencies>).
* If you need help managing stress anxiety, relationships, etc., please visit BeWellUGA (<https://www.uhs.uga.edu/bewelluga/bewelluga>) for a list of FREE workshops, classes, mentoring, and health coaching led by licensed clinicians and health educators in the University Health Center.
* Additional resources can be accessed through the UGA App.

**Course Agenda:**

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| WK | DAY | DATE | TEXTBOOK |  READER |
| 0 | F | 08/21 |  |  |
| 1 | MWF | 08/2408/2608/28 | * CH 1: Introduction
 | * Olson, “Logic of Collective Action.” (p.1)
* Hardin, “Tragedy of the Commons.” (p.20)
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| 2 | MWF | 08/3109/0209/04 | * CH 2: The Constitution
 | * Federalist 10 and 51 ([online here](https://guides.loc.gov/federalist-papers/full-text))
* Brutus, “The Antifederalist, No. 1” (p.57)
* Dahl, “How Democratic Is the American Constitution?” (p.66)
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|  | M | 09/07 | LABOR DAY |
| 3 | WF | 09/0909/11 | * CH 3: Federalism
 | * Riker, “Federalism: Origin, Operation, Significance.” (p.92)
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| 4 | MWF | 09/1409/1609/18 | * CH 4: Civil Rights and Liberties
 | * Tessler, “Post-Racial or Most-Racial?” (p. 113)
* *Brown vs. Board of Education of Topeka (1954).* (p. 129)
* *District of Columbia v. Heller* (2008) (p. 134)
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| 5 | MWF | 09/2109/2309/25 | * CH 5: Congress
 | * Mayhew, “Congress: The Electoral Connection.” (p.161)
* Fenno, “Homestyle.*”* (p.173)
* Cox and McCubbins, “Setting the Agenda.” (p.177)
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| 6 | MWF | 09/2809/3010/02 | * CH 6: The Presidency
 | * Cameron, “Bargaining and Presidential Power.” (p.222)
* Canes-Wrone, “Who Leads Whom?” (p. 228)
* Howell, “Power without Persuasion.” (p. 249)
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| 7 | MWF | 10/0510/0710/09 | * CH 7: The Bureaucracy
 | * McCubbins and Swartz, “Congressional Oversight Overlooked.” (p.287)
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| 8 | MWF | 10/1210/1410/16 | * CH 8: The Judiciary
 | * Rosenberg, “Hollow Hope.*”* (p.323)
* *Lawrence vs. Texas (2003)*. (p.339)
* *National Federation of Independent Business vs. Sebelius (2012).* (p.350)
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| 9 | MWF | 10/1910/2110/23 | * CH 9: Public Opinion
 | * Lupia and McCubbins, “The Democratic Dilemma.*”* (p.387)
* Cramer, “The Politics of Resentment.” (p.412)
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| 10 | MW | 10/2610/28 | * CH 10: Political Participation
 | None (short week) |
|  | F | 10/30 | FALL BREAK |
| 11 | MWF | 11/211/411/6 | * CH 13: Elections and Campaigns
 | * *Citizens United v. Federal Election Commission* (p.567)
* *Shelby County v Holder* (p. 579)
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| 12 | MWF | 11/911/1111/13 | * CH 11: Interest Groups and Social Movements
 | * Bartels, “Unequal Democracy.” (p. 504)
* Kollman, “Outside Lobbying.” (p. 489)
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| 13 | MWF | 11/1611/1811/20 | * CH 12: Political Parties
 | * Aldrich. “Why Parties?” (p. 521)
* Campbell, et al, “American Voter.” (p. 537)

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|  | MWF | 11/2311/2511/27 | THANKSGIVING |
| 14 | MWF | 11/3012/ 212/ 4 | * CH 14: Mass Media and the Press
 | * Baum, “Soft News Goes to War.” (p. 629)
* Hunt and Allcott “Social Media and Fake News in the 2016 Election.” (p. 644)
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| 15 | MW | 12/712/9 | (review for final) |  (review for final) |
|  | M | 12/14 | ONLINE FINAL EXAM |