

POLS 1101: Introduction to American Government
Class Time: MW 11:30am – 12:20pm, F*
Instructor: Jeffrey M. Glas, PhD

Contact Information:

Office Hours: By Appointment, Online Only

Office Location: Baldwin 380a

Email: jeffrey.glas@uga.edu

CRN	Start	Finish	Building	Room #	TA
38501	11:30am	12:20pm	Journalism	513	Asia Parker
38506	12:40pm	1:30pm	Baldwin Hall	G41	Bryan Freeman
38507	8:00am	8:50am	Journalism	513	Adam Burchfield
38509	9:10am	10:00am	Journalism	513	Kevin Spann
38511	1:50pm	2:40pm	Psychology	243	Bryan Freeman
38513	12:40pm	1:30pm	Journalism	513	Melanie Waddell
38515	9:10am	10:00am	Journalism	511	Adam Burchfield
38517	10:20am	11:10am	Journalism	511	Asia Parker
42884	1:50pm	2:40pm	Journalism	513	Melanie Waddell
42885	10:20am	11:10am	Journalism	513	Mariliz Kastberg-Leonard
42886	11:30am	12:20pm	Baldwin Hall	G41	Mariliz Kastberg-Leonard

Course Prerequisites: None

*** Important Note:**

Due to the ongoing Covid-19 pandemic the lecture portion of this course will be provided asynchronously online (distributed using Content folders on eLC).

Breakout sessions will also be offered online, but a very limited face-to-face capacity will also be offered. In person attendance is 100% optional.

You will be able to successfully complete this class without stepping foot in a classroom.

Should you choose to attend a breakout session in person you will be required to follow all University protocols to ensure your safety as well as ours.

Pages 7 and 8 of this syllabus contains additional details for you about the pandemic and your responsibilities as a member of our university community.

* All course content will be provided asynchronously online through eLC to ensure you are not coerced into compromising your safety and well-being to succeed in this class.

I. Course Description:

This course is a college level introduction to government and politics. The primary goal of this course is to introduce students to the scientific study of politics using the United States and its history as the primary example. To this end the course is designed to provide students 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) Required Text

Kernell, Samuel, et al. The Logic of American Politics (9th edition)
ISBN: 9781544322995

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

(2.2) Exams

There are three exams in this class. Each exam is worth 25% of your grade.

(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. For most weeks of this class you will have a short assignment to complete. These assignments will be covered in your breakout sessions and posted to Assignment Folders in eLC. Attending breakout sessions will be optional, but you will be expected to either digitally attend via Zoom or watch uploaded videos of the breakout session.

Details about who will be permitted to attend given breakout sessions will be distributed in the first week of classes.

(2.4) Exam Schedule and Grade Distribution

Exam 1	25%	September 23 rd
Exam 2	25%	October 21 st
Exam 3	25%	December 14 th
Weekly Assignments	25%	Weekly

(2.5) Grading

All grades (including final grades) will be assigned following the system depicted below:

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

III. Class Policies

(3.1) Participation

Each week there is a brief participatory exercise designed to actively engage you with the course content. These assignments will be covered by your breakout leader in their breakout sessions and assignment prompts are provided on eLC (using the Assignments tool). Your submissions should be uploaded to eLC as .pdf documents. Missed assignments are awarded a grade of zero. Late assignments will be accepted with a penalty of five points for each calendar day late.

(3.2) Exams

If you miss an exam, you will receive a zero. All exams in this class are provided online using the Quizzes tool in eLC. You will be able to access exams on the dates and during the time frames listed on eLC. Time limits are strictly enforced, so be mindful of the timer. And yes, these time limits are put into place to assess what you have learned rather than your ability to look up the answers online.

(3.3) 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, examine the university policy and /or ask the instructor.

(3.4) Problems and Emergencies

If a problem or emergency arises that prevents you from attending an exam or coming to class, you should contact Professor Glas as soon as possible.

(3.5) Disability Disclosure Statement

Please advise the instructor if you have a documented disability that needs to be accommodated. Students with disabilities requiring accommodations must be registered with the Disability Resource Center (DRC) before an instructor can modify instruction or expectations.

(3.6) Withdraw Policy

Be advised that the last day to withdraw from a course without failing is October 27th. All students who withdraw after this date will receive a “WF”.

IV. Course Schedule¹

Week 1 – August 21st – First Day of Class

Syllabus

Introductions

Week 2 – August 24th, 26th, and 28th – Perspectives on Politics and Government

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

Josep Colomer’s “The Public Good”

Week 3 – August 31st, September 2nd and 4th – Early American Government and the U.S. Constitution

Chapter 2 of *The Logic*

Federalist #51

Week 4 – September 9th, and 11th – Federalism

Chapter 3 of *The Logic*

Chapter 4 of *Georgia Politics*

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

Monday, September 7th – Labor Day

Week 5 – September 14th, 16th, and 18th – Civil Rights & Civil Liberties

Chapters 4 & 5 of *The Logic*

Chapter 9 of *Georgia Politics*

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

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

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

Week 6 – September 21st, 23rd, and 25th – Exam 1

¹ The course syllabus provides a general plan for the course; deviations may be necessary.

Week 7 – September 28th, 30th, and October 2nd – 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 5th, 7th, and 9th – Executive & Bureaucratic Politics

Chapters 7 & 8 of *The Logic*

Chapter 6 of *Georgia Politics*

Richard Neustadt’s “The Power to Persuade” (Selection from)

Week 9 – October 12th, 14th, and 16th – Judicial Politics

Chapter 9 of *The Logic*

Chapter 7 of *Georgia Politics*

Federalist #78

Week 10 – October 19th, 21st, and 23rd – Exam 2

Week 11 – October 26th and 28th – Public Opinion

Chapter 10 of *The Logic*

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

Tuesday, October 27th – Withdraw Deadline

Friday, October 30th – Fall Break

Week 12 – November 2nd, 4th, and 6th – 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”

Week 13 – November 9th, 11th, and 13th – Political Parties

Chapter 12 of *The Logic*

George Washington’s Farewell Address

Green, Palmquist, and Shickler’s “Partisan Hearts and Minds” (Selection from)

Week 14 – November 16th, 18th, and 20th – Interest Groups

Chapter 13 of *The Logic*

Federalist #10

Week 15 – No Class

Wednesday, November 25th – Friday, November 27th – Thanksgiving Break

Week 16 – November 30th, December 2nd and 4th – The American Media

Chapter 14 of *The Logic*

Plato’s “Republic” (Selection from)

Week 17 – December 7th and 8th – No Class

Thursday, December 10th – Reading Day

Week 18 – December 14th – Exam 3

Coronavirus Information for Students

Face Coverings:

Effective July 15, 2020, the University of Georgia—along with all University System of Georgia (USG) institutions—requires all faculty, staff, students and visitors to wear an appropriate face covering while inside campus facilities/buildings where six feet social distancing may not always be possible. Face covering use is in addition to and is not a substitute for social distancing. Anyone not using a face covering when required will be asked to wear one or must leave the area. Reasonable accommodations may be made for those who are unable to wear a face covering for documented health reasons. Students seeking an accommodation related to face coverings should contact Disability Services at <https://drc.uga.edu/>.

DawgCheck:

Please perform a quick symptom check each weekday on DawgCheck—on the UGA app or website—whether you feel sick or not. It will help health providers monitor the health situation on campus: <https://dawgcheck.uga.edu/>

What do I do if I have symptoms?

Students showing symptoms should self-isolate and schedule an appointment with the University Health Center by calling 706-542-1162 (Monday-Friday, 8 a.m.-5 p.m.). Please DO NOT walk-in. For emergencies and after-hours care, see <https://www.uhs.uga.edu/info/emergencies>.

What do I do if I am notified that I have been exposed?

Students who learn they have been directly exposed to COVID-19 but are not showing symptoms should self-quarantine for 14 days consistent with Department of Public Health (DPH) and Centers for Disease Control and Prevention (CDC) guidelines. Please correspond with your instructor via email, with a cc: to Student Care & Outreach at sco@uga.edu, to coordinate continuing your coursework while self-quarantined. If you develop symptoms, you should contact the University Health Center to make an appointment to be tested. You should continue to monitor your symptoms daily on DawgCheck.

How do I get a test?

Students who are demonstrating symptoms of COVID-19 should call the University Health Center. UHC is offering testing by appointment for students; appointments may be booked by calling 706-542-1162.

UGA will also be recruiting asymptomatic students to participate in surveillance tests. Students living in residence halls, Greek housing and off-campus apartment complexes are encouraged to participate.

What do I do if I test positive?

Any student with a positive COVID-19 test is **required** to report the test in DawgCheck and should self-isolate immediately. Students should not attend classes in-person until the isolation period is

completed. Once you report the positive test through DawgCheck, UGA Student Care and Outreach will follow up with you.

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>. 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.