

POLS 1101: Introduction to American Politics

CRN 52775

Spring 2021

Tuesday/Thursday: 11:10am-12:25pm

Miller Learning Center 0148

Instructor: Allison Vick

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Office: Baldwin 101W

Office Hours: Tues 1:00pm-3:00pm
(or 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

All other assigned readings can be found through Google Scholar/JSTOR, etc. or links 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. 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: 15%

Short Response Papers: 20%

Midterm Exams: 40%

Final Exam: 25%

Participation:

Attendance and participation make up 15% of the overall grade. You will benefit from being present in this class, and the class will benefit from your presence in class. I strongly believe that interacting with your peers and being part of discussion is how this course will best operate. Your participation grade displays how important it is for you to interact with the course material and with each other regularly via discussion.

Participation consists of attending class as well as answering questions, participating in any online activities, and briefly discussing your short paper assignments in class. Additionally, many weeks will have you sign up for a podcast/article to discuss and report back on in class.

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 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 March 9th** and the second is due by Thursday **April 29th**. 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 **February 11th, March 18th, and April 22nd** and the lowest of these grades will be dropped. There will also be a cumulative final exam on **May 6th** which will be worth 25%. 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.

Flexibility:

I ask that you be as flexible as possible this semester. Our current plan is to meet face-to-face. We may also adjust some of what we do week-to-week by using modules on ELC. Additionally, if the format for certain modules is better served online—we may have some course days that are covered strictly online. I will be in communication with you as the semester progresses in terms of any changes.

Course Grading:

There will be one extra credit assignment and one dropped test score. There will be no rounding or 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=94-100; **A-** =90-93; **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 have an excused absence that requires you to miss classes--please contact me as soon as possible. This way we can work out notes and ways to ensure you get participation points. If you miss a class for an unexcused absence, 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/>.

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.

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, Zoom, & ELC

Please email me if you need to schedule a Zoom appointment outside of the scheduled office hours or if you would prefer to meet via Zoom during those 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/ELC email to send any articles, updates, or podcasts that come up during the semester so please be sure to keep up with these emails.

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.

Week & Topic	<i>Dates</i>	Readings & Assignments
Week 1: An Introduction to American Politics	<i>Thursday January 14th</i>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> Syllabus & Class Overview
Week 2: The Logic of American Politics	<i>Tuesday January 19th</i> <i>Thursday January 21st</i>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> Logic Chapter 1 Federalist 51 (Appendix 5) Articles of Conf. (Appendix 1)
Week 3: The Constitution	<i>Tuesday January 26th</i> <i>Thursday January 28th</i>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> The Constitution (Appendix 3) Logic Chapter 2
Week 4: Federalism	<i>Tuesday February 2nd</i> <i>Thursday February 4th</i>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> Logic Chapter 3 https://www.brookings.edu/blog/fixgov/2020/06/08/how-the-constitutions-federalist-framework-is-being-tested-by-covid-19/
Week 5: Civil Rights	<i>Tuesday February 9th</i> <i>Thursday February 11th</i>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> Logic Chapter 4 February 11th: Midterm Exam #1
Week 6: Congress	<i>Tuesday February 16th</i> <i>Thursday February 18th</i>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> Logic Chapter 6 Watch 30 minutes of programming of the House or Senate floor proceedings on CSPAN https://www.c-span.org/networks/
Week 7: Presidency	<i>Tuesday February 23rd</i> <i>Thursday February 25th</i>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> Logic Chapter 7 Presidential Podcast (sign up for one) https://www.washingtonpost.com/graphics/business/podcasts/presidential/
Week 8: Judiciary	<i>Tuesday March 2nd</i> <i>Thursday March 4th</i>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> Logic Chapter 9 Pick a SCOTUS case (sign up for one) https://www.oyez.org
Week 9: Bureaucracy	<i>Tuesday March 9th</i> <i>Thursday March 11th</i>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> Logic Chapter 8 Pick an agency (sign up for one) https://www.usa.gov/federal-agencies March 9th: Last Day to Turn in Response Paper #1

Week 10: Midterm 2 & Miscellaneous Day	<i>Tuesday March 16th</i> <i>Thursday March 18th</i>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Review & Institutions Day • March 18th: Midterm #2 (Institutions)
Week 11: Campaigns & Elections	<i>Tuesday March 23rd</i> <i>Thursday March 25th</i>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Logic Chapter 11 • Look up your House & Senate members on ProPublica-Represent https://projects.propublica.org/represent/
Week 12: Public Opinion	<i>Tuesday March 30th</i> <i>Thursday April 1st</i>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Logic Chapter 10 • Bring a public opinion poll to class with you (Gallup; Pew; 538, etc.)
Week 13: Interest Groups	<i>Tuesday April 6th</i> <i>Thursday April 8th</i> (Instructional Break— No Classes)	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Logic Chapter 13
Week 14: Political Parties	<i>Tuesday April 13th</i> <i>Thursday April 15th</i>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Logic Chapter 12 • Sign up for a Civics 101 podcast topic https://www.civics101podcast.org/episodes
Week 15: The Media	<i>Tuesday April 20th</i> <i>Thursday April 22nd</i>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Logic Chapter 14 • April 22nd: Midterm Exam #3
Week 16: Civil Liberties & Review	<i>Tuesday April 27th</i> <i>Thursday April 29th</i>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Logic Chapter 5 • Logic Chapter 15 • April 29th: Last Day to Turn in Response Paper #2
FINAL EXAM PERIOD	<i>Thursday May 6th</i> <i>12:00-3:00pm</i>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Final Exam

COVID-19 Information:

This information is by no means exhaustive but is meant to provide resources for you that the University has identified and provided here:

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.