

POLS 1101: Introduction to American Government

Spring 2021

Lectures (led by professor): Weekly asynchronous delivery

Discussion Section: (led by TA) Friday in person meeting (Time varies by section)

Professor: Geoff Sheagley

Email: geoff.sheagley@uga.edu

Office Hours: 2-3pm, Monday and Wednesday. Meetings will take place via Zoom and need to be scheduled in advance.

Lead Teaching Assistant: Simon Williamson

Email: simon.williamson25@uga.edu

Office Hours: 4-5pm, Tuesday. Meetings will take place via Zoom and need to be scheduled in advance.

Description

This course will introduce you to the institutions, actors, and processes that make up the American political system. Students will have the opportunity to learn about the historical development of the American political system and about contemporary debates that define daily political life in the US. This course is not simply about discussing current events but rather our focus throughout the semester will be on understanding and critically assessing the American political system.

COVID-19 Related Adjustments to the Class Format

The ongoing pandemic has resulted in important changes to how this class is being delivered. One portion of the class is a lecture, which is created & delivered by Professor Sheagley. This portion takes place entirely online and will be delivered asynchronously via recorded lectures uploaded to eLC. Lectures for a given week will be available on eLC at 8am every Monday. Within that week, you will have the freedom to choose when you consume the lecture material. Once posted, lecture material will remain available for the duration of the semester.

The other portion of the class consists of breakout discussion sections that are led by a teaching assistant. The sessions take place every Friday and will take place in-person. Attendance to the breakout sessions is mandatory because the University has set aside rooms that allow the full section to attend in person while maintaining social distancing requirements. Please follow social distancing guidelines during class time and always wear a mask in class to protect yourself and others.

If you go into quarantine either because you were exposed to COVID-19 or you have been diagnosed with COVID-19, please email your TA immediately. We will find an accommodation so that you do not miss any of the class material.

Office Hours & Help

I will strive to make sure that the course is understandable and that you do not feel lost. If you have questions about course structure or lectures please contact me. If you have questions about your grades assignments, papers, breakout sessions, eLC, or InQuizitive please contact your teaching assistant. This is especially important because our class is taking place online. If you email me before 5pm on a weekday, you can expect an answer that day. If you email me after 5pm, I will reply the next morning. I do check email over the weekends, but I respond less frequently and may not reply until Monday morning.

Course Materials

We the People (12th Essentials Edition) – by Benjamin Ginsberg, Theodore J. Lowi, Margaret Weir, Caroline J. Tolbert, and Robert J. Spitzer **with access to InQuizitive.**

- This is an old edition of the text, but, 12th edition is still widely available and that is what we're using for this class.

Option 1: You can purchase a hard or digital copy of the text from the UGA bookstore. Both of these versions should include InQuizitive access.

Option 2: You can access to a digital copy directly from the book publisher. The ebook rental + inquisitive access should cost 39.95.

- Link: <https://wwnorton.com/books/9780393679670>

Note – It is essential that you gain access to InQuizitive. If you buy the text new or decide to rent, make sure you purchase a version that includes InQuizitive. If you opt to buy a used textbook, you can purchase access with the above link for \$20.

Required Technology: eLC

Our course is administered through eLC. You will find all of our course materials through this website. You will also submit assignments using Dropboxes on eLC. Finally, my primary means of communication with the class will be through announcements posted in eLC. Makes sure you receive eLC updates for our class automatically via email (eLC > Click on your profile > Notifications > Instant Notifications). Please note that you cannot reply to an email I send out via eLC (ending in @uga.view.usg.edu emails). Please also do not send me or you TAs emails through eLC.

Discussion Sections

You are required to attend one discussion on Friday. Please note that in-person attendance to discussion sections is mandatory unless you have a valid University excuse (e.g., COVID-19 quarantine or diagnosis, or other type of excused absence).

Section	Time	Location	Instructor	Email
21577	8:00-8:50	Caldwell 204	Mallory Hoffman	mallory.hoffman@uga.edu
21594	9:10-10:00	Caldwell 204	Mallory Hoffman	mallory.hoffman@uga.edu
21591	9:10-10:00	Jackson St. Bldg. 125	Simon Williamson	simon.williamson25@uga.edu
21588	10:20-11:10	Miller 350	Asia Parker	asiaparker@uga.edu
21583	10:20-11:10	Miller 250	Charles Stadtlander	csta@uga.edu
21575	11:30-12:20	Miller 350	Asia Parker	asiaparker@uga.edu
21585	11:30-12:20	Miller 148	Charles Stadtlander	csta@uga.edu
21592	12:40-1:30	Miller 248	Ju Won Park	jwpark@uga.edu
21581	12:40-1:30	Jackson St. Bldg. 123	Casey Kim	kyoungcheol.kim@uga.edu
21589	1:50-2:40	Inst. Plaza S306	Casey Kim	kyoungcheol.kim@uga.edu
21587	1:50-2:40	Miller 248	Ju Won Park	jwpark@uga.edu

Grading

Your grade in this class will be based on a mixture of exams, reading quizzes, written assignments, and activities.

Exams (35% of grade)

Midterm Exam (15% of grade): The midterm will cover roughly the first half of course material. As of now, the midterm exam is scheduled for the week of March 8. The exam will be online/remote.

Final Exam (20% of grade): The final exam is **not** cumulative and will cover material assigned after the midterm exam. The format will be the same as the midterm. The final exam will take place according to the UGA final exam schedule. The exam will be online/remote.

Reading Quizzes (25% of grade)

Most weeks you will have a short online reading assignment that you will access through InQuizitive, which accompanies your textbook. You will need to create an account in order to submit your assignments, which are due by **5pm** on Friday of each week. More information is available in the InQuizitive guide posted to eLC.

Participation (15% of grade)

Attendance in the breakout session is required. Your participation grade will primarily be based on your performance in the section. There will be group discussions that should demonstrate your critical reflection on the material covered in class as well as on weekly assignments. Note, while in-person attendance is required, you will be allowed a certain number of no excuse absences. See details in your teaching assistant’s syllabus.

Writing Assignment (20% of grade)

You are required to complete **one** writing assignment during the semester. There are two options for paper topics, and you will select which one you want to write at the start of the semester. You will find guidelines for each assignment on eLC. You will sign up for a deadline with your teaching assistant.

Online Research Study (5%)

You are required to participate in an online research study. The study will take approximately 15-20 minutes and is supposed to provide you with an understanding of political science research.

Grades and other Course Policies

Grades directly pertain to your achievement in the course. University policy defines the meaning of grades and to what level of achievement grades reported on your transcript pertain. I use the following grading scale:

Grade	Percent
A	94-100
A-	90-93
B+	87-89
B	84-86
B-	80-83
C+	77-79
C	74-76
C-	70-73
D+	67-69
D	64-66
D-	60-63
F	<60

Grade Change

Any questions you have regarding grades should be directed to your teaching assistant. If you are unable to resolve the matter with your TA, you may appeal the grade to me. If you decide to appeal your grade to me, you are required to write up a short (roughly 1

paragraph) justification for your appeal. If I regrade one of your assignments (like a paper) your grade may go up or down. Any appeals of a grade must be made at least **24-hours after** I hand back the assignment or test.

Late Work & Make-up Exams

Make up exams will only be given in cases of an extended excused absence in accordance with the university's policy on excused absences. Some examples of excused absences are jury duty, military duty, religious observances, illness, illness of a dependent, and bereavement for an immediate family member. These excuses should be coordinated with your teaching assistant and should be provided prior to date of the exam or assignment. If you turn in work late and do not have an excused absence, your final score will be deducted 10% for each day it is late.

Academic Honesty

The University of Georgia has an academic honesty policy. Academic integrity is required for a positive learning environment. All students enrolled in University courses are expected to complete coursework responsibilities with fairness and honesty. Failure to do so by seeking unfair advantage over others or misrepresenting someone else's work as your own, can result in disciplinary action. Students caught cheating or plagiarizing will receive an F in the course. Additionally, I will forward your name to the University. You can read the policies in their entirety here: <https://honesty.uga.edu/Academic-Honesty-Policy/>

Disability resource center

If you anticipate needing classroom or exam accommodations due to the impact of a disability or medical condition, you must register for services with the Disability Resource Center. Additional information can be found here: <http://drc.uga.edu/>

Class Recordings

I require that you seek my permission if you want to make audio and/or video recordings of any portion of our class (including of my lectures and discussion sections). If you do not have this permission (or an accommodation from DRC), do not take photographs, audio recordings, or video recordings of any person in this class without their express permission. Further, do not take or share audio or video recordings of course lectures or discussions. Violation of this policy will result in you receiving 0% for class participation, and, depending on the severity of the violation, may result in you receiving a grade of "F" in the class.

Withdrawal policy

Undergraduate students can only withdraw from four courses and receive a withdrawal-passing (WP) grade while enrolled at the University. Students can drop any class without penalty during the drop/add period at the beginning of every semester. Dropped courses

during the drop/add period do not qualify as withdrawals. Instructors have the ability to withdraw a student from the class due to excessive absences. Please carefully review the policy in its entirety here: <http://www.reg.uga.edu/policies/withdrawals>

COVID-19 Safety Procedures

Face coverings. Face coverings in public spaces, including classrooms, are mandatory for all. Wearing a face covering is in addition to and not a substitute for also maintaining six feet social distancing. Anyone not using a face covering when required will be asked to wear one or must leave the area.

Keeping a safe distance. Please maintain six feet between you and others. The seating capacity in your classroom has been modified to allow for social distancing. Please sit in designated, marked seats. In all public spaces, including classrooms, you should not remove signage or re-arrange furniture, even if it appears that furniture is not being used. To help maintain distance, please keep right, where possible.

Don't congregate. If you want to spend some time chatting with someone, please take it outside or online. We are also requesting that you enter and exit any building without delay, staying outside of the building as long as practicable before your class begins and then leaving once your class is finished.

Keeping it clean. Cleaning and disinfecting of public spaces are important to reduce the risk of exposure to COVID-19. Classrooms are only being cleaned once-per-day. There are sanitation wipes/buckets and stands in proximity to your classroom. Prior to heading into class, you should take a wipe from the station and wipe down all high-touch surfaces associated with your seat. You should help further slow the spread of the virus by frequently washing your hands.

Your health. You have been provided with a digital thermometer and are required to self-monitor for signs or symptoms of COVID-19. By coming to campus, you are acknowledging that you have checked, and do not have, symptoms of COVID-19. UGA is using a notification application to remind you daily to check for symptoms prior to coming to campus and self-report in the event you display COVID-19 symptoms. If you report symptoms, the University follows a confidential process for securely notifying health officials who can begin contact tracing and provide appropriate support services. If you have an underlying medical condition or, for any reason, believe that you are at a high risk of developing a serious case of COVID-19, you may request an accommodation through the Disability Resource Center (DRC) at drc@uga.edu or 706-542-8719. More information can be found at - https://drc.uga.edu/content_page/student-accommodation-guidelines

Check your email regularly so you don't miss important information, and also check the University COVID-19 website for updates and resources, this web site includes links from student affairs with helpful, up-to-date messages for students and parents.

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.

Class Schedule

Below you will find an outline of our class schedule. This is a tentative schedule and I reserve the right to modify it during the semester. If I do so, I will make an announcement in class and post a revised schedule on eLC. Readings labeled “We the People” refer to pages/chapters from your textbook. Other readings (e.g., Federalist 10 for Week 3) are assigned for your discussion section, are available on eLC, and should be read before discussion section that week.

Week 1 (Starting Jan. 13)

Topic: Introductions & Syllabus Review

Lecture Readings: None

Section Readings: None

Weekly Online Assignment: None

Note – No TA discussion section meeting this week

Week 2 (Starting Jan. 19)

Topic: Government & the Founding

Lecture Readings: “We the People” – Ch. 1 (pgs. 2-8); Ch. 2 (pgs. 30-40)

Section Readings: None; review your TA’s syllabus and come with course questions

Weekly Online Assignment: None

Week 3 (Starting Jan. 25)

Topic: The Constitution

Lecture Readings: “We the People” – Ch. 2 (pgs. 40-60); The Constitution of the United States of America, pp. A11-A23.

Section Readings: Federalist #10; Federalist #51

Weekly Online Assignment: Ch. 2 on InQuizitive

Week 4 (Starting Feb. 1)

Topic: Federalism

Lecture Readings: “We the People” – Ch. 3

Section Readings: Federalist #39; Watch the movie “The Pot Republic”

Weekly Online Assignment: Ch. 3 on InQuizitive

Week 5 (Starting Feb. 8)

Topic: Civil Liberties and Civil Rights

Lecture Readings: “We the People” – Ch. 4

Section Readings: “Letter from a Birmingham Jail”

Weekly Online Assignment: Ch. 4 on InQuizitive

Week 6 (Starting Feb. 15)

Topic: The Federal Courts

Lecture Readings: “We the People” - Ch. 12

Section Readings: Federalist #78; Watch the NYTimes movie on McDonalds lawsuit.

Weekly Online Assignment: Ch. 12 on InQuizitive

Week 7 (Starting Feb. 22)

Topic: Congress

Lecture Readings: “We the People” – Ch. 9

Section Readings: “Congress, The Troubled Institution”

Weekly Online Assignment: Ch. 9 on InQuizitive

Week 8 (Mar. 1)

Topic: The Presidency

Lecture Readings: “We the People” – Ch. 10

Section Readings: None

- Exam review in TA discussion section

Weekly Online Assignment: Ch. 10 on InQuizitive

Week 9 (Starting Mar. 8)

Topic: Midterm Exam

- Logistics provided closer to exam date.

Note – No TA discussion section meeting this week

Interlude (Starting Mar. 15) – A break from class in early spring

- No new material and no discussion sessions

Week 11 (Starting Mar. 22)

Topic: The Bureaucracy

Lecture Readings: “We the People” – Ch. 11

Section Readings: TBD

Weekly Online Assignment: Ch. 11 on InQuizitive

Week 12 (Starting Mar. 29)

Topic: Interest Groups

Lecture Readings: “We the People” – Ch. 8

Section Readings: Watch Frontline documentary “Obama’s Deal”

Weekly Online Assignment: Ch. 8 on InQuizitive

Week 13 (Starting Apr. 5)

Topic: Public Opinion

Lecture Readings: “We the People” – Ch. 5

Section Readings: Polling and the 2020 election

Weekly Online Assignment: Ch. 5 on InQuizitive

Week 14 (Starting Apr. 12)

Topic: The Mass Media

Lecture Readings: “We the People” – Ch. 6

Section Readings: Assorted readings

Weekly Online Assignment: Ch. 6 on InQuizitive

Week 15 (Starting Apr. 19)

Topic: Participation & Political Campaigns

Lecture Readings: “We the People” – Ch. 7 (220-240)

Section Readings: Watch Frontline documentary “Big Sky, Big Money”

Weekly Online Assignment: Ch. 7 on InQuizitive

Week 16 (Starting Apr. 26)

Topic: Political Parties & Polarization

Lecture Readings: “We the People” – Ch. 7 (207-220)

Section Readings: None

- Exam review in TA discussion section

Weekly Online Assignment: None

Week 17 (May 3)

- No class material and no discussion section

Final Exam

- Timing & logistics discussed closer to final exam time