

POLS 1105H: Introduction to American Government (Honors)

Class Time: MWF 9:10 – 10:00am

Classroom: Baldwin 104

Instructor: Jeffrey M. Glas, PhD

Contact Information:

Office Hours: By Appointment, Online Only

Email: jeffrey.glas@uga.edu

Course Prerequisites: None

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 Georgia as the primary examples. To this end the course is designed to provide students with an historical and conceptual background of government and politics 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. While much of this course focuses on governing and political institutions at the federal level and the State of Georgia perhaps the most important lessons will cover the role you, as a citizen or resident, play in the shaping of these institutions and the outcomes we observe in American politics.

By the end of this course you should:

- 1) Understand the constitutional foundations of United States (U.S.) government as well as the and how the Constitution sets the stage for political activity in the U.S and Georgia.
- 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) Understand the institutional arrangements and powers of the government of The State of Georgia.
- 4) Reconcile the opinions of the public and conduct of our elections with the governing actions taken by our representatives in government at both the federal level and in The State of Georgia.
- 5) Evaluate the performance of one of your representatives in government and offer a strategic policy recommendation.
- 6) Understand how our humanity influences democratic politics in the U.S., Georgia, and around the world.

Important Note:

Due to the ongoing Covid19 pandemic this class will be administered using an asynchronous hybrid pedagogical model. Of the approaches the university is permitting this Spring, the asynchronous hybrid approach is the most flexible for students (...but probably the most demanding for faculty).

You will be able to attend classes in person if you like, but I am not going to coerce any of you into risking your health by requiring attendance. We will make use of Zoom during the class periods to allow those of you who are not attending in person to tune in for the lectures. Lecture content will

also be recorded and posted to eLC for asynchronous viewing. To be perfectly clear: you will be able to successfully complete this course without ever stepping foot in the classroom.

Please refer to pages 7 and 8 for more information about coronavirus and your responsibilities as part of our University community.

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. These exams contain multiple choice and short answer item as well as one essay item (the essay prompt will be released a week in advance).

(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 posted to Assignment Folders in eLC.

(2.4) Exam Schedule and Grade Distribution

Exam 1	25%	February 22 nd
Exam 2	25%	March 22 nd
Exam 3	25%	May 3 rd
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

For most weeks of the class 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, coming to class, or completing class assignments on time you should contact Dr. 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 Tuesday, March 23rd. All students who withdraw after this date will receive a “WF”.

IV. Course Schedule¹

Week 1 – January 13th and 15th – Introduction to the Course

Syllabus

Introductions

Week 2 – January 20th and 22nd – Perspectives on Politics and Government

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

Josep Colomer’s “The Public Good”

Public Goods and Collective Action in Athens, GA – Assignment

*****January 18th – MLK Day – No Classes*****

Week 3 – January 25th, 27th, and 29th – Early American Government and the U.S. Constitution

Chapter 2 of *The Logic*

Federalist #51

Week 4 – February 1st, 3rd, and 5th – Federalism

Chapter 3 of *The Logic*

Chapter 4 of *Georgia Politics*

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

Policy Diffusion to Georgia – Assignment

Week 5 – February 8th, 10th, and 12th – Civil Rights

Chapter 4 of *The Logic*

Chapter 9 of *Georgia Politics*

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

Protest Song Analysis – Assignment

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

Week 6 – February 15th and 19th –Civil Liberties

Chapter 5 of *The Logic*

Chapter 9 of *Georgia Politics*

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

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

*****February 17th – Instructional Break #1*****

Week 7 – February 22nd – Exam 1

Week 8 – March 1st, 3rd, and 5th – Legislative Politics

Chapter 6 of *The Logic*

Chapters 5 & 10 of *Georgia Politics*

David Mayhew’s “Congress: The Electoral Connection” (Selection from)

Richard Fenno’s “U.S. House Members in Their Constituencies: An Exploration”

Better Know a Georgia House District – Assignment

Week 9 – March 8th and 10th – Executive & Bureaucratic Politics

Chapters 7 & 8 of *The Logic*

Chapter 6 of *Georgia Politics*

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

Exploring the Federal Register – Assignment

*****March 12th – Instructional Break #2*****

Week 10 – March 15th, 17th, and 19th – Judicial Politics

Chapter 9 of *The Logic*

Chapter 7 of *Georgia Politics*

Federalist #78

Week 11 – March 22nd – Exam 2

*****March 23rd – Withdrawal Deadline*****

Week 12 – March 29th, 31st, and April 2nd – Public Opinion

Chapter 10 of *The Logic*

Survey Interpretation: Public Opinion in Georgia – Assignment

Week 13 – April 5th, 7th, and 9th – Voting, Elections, and Campaigns

Chapter 11 of *The Logic*

Chapters 9 & 13 of *Georgia Politics*

Policy Diffusion: Elections Edition – Assignment

*****April 8th – Instructional Break #3*****

Week 14 – April 12th, 14th, and 16th – Political Parties

Chapter 12 of *The Logic*

Chapter 11 of *Georgia Politics*

George Washington’s Farewell Address

Gerrymandering in Georgia – Assignment

Week 15 – April 19th, 21st, and 23rd – Interest Groups

Chapter 13 of *The Logic*

Chapter 12 of *Georgia Politics*

Federalist #10

Better Know an Interest Group – Assignment

Week 16 – April 26th, 28th, and 30th – The American Media

Chapter 14 of *The Logic*

Plato’s “Republic” (Selection from)

Week 17 – May 3rd – Exam 3

*****May 4th – Star Wars Day/Reading Day*****

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.