

POLSCI 1101E: Introduction to American Government Syllabus

Summer 2021

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Virtual Office Hours: 11 am to 12 pm on W and by appointment; I will be available to you via our course online chat room, eLC message pager if I am on eLC, Zoom, and Skype via appointment, and by phone during work hours. The BEST way to reach me quickly is through my email: polaah@uga.edu. I generally will respond within a few hours but no later than 24 hours. If you do not hear from me, email me again. Why? There is likely a problem with the email. If you receive an email from the eLC class list (to all) you cannot reply back to it. You must start a new email either to my direct email address or within eLC.

Course Description: This course is concerned with government and politics in the United States, primarily at the national level, but attention will be given to state and local government, particularly the nature of Georgia's Constitution. We will examine the institutional rules and human behaviors that shape government, the operation of elections, the development of parties and interest groups, public opinion, and the functioning of Congress, the presidency, and the courts. An historic overview of the topics will shed light on how the current system has evolved. This is important since the foundation of our system and the rules and norms established early have a great impact on how the government performs what policies it produces and how its citizens relate to it.

We will also focus our attention on current political, social and economic events and discuss how they relate to the governmental concepts we will be studying. During this time we will also discuss a variety of theories of, and perspectives on government. At times, I will post news articles or bits of information on the Announcement board or the Discussion board, and your thoughts are welcome and expected.

Specific topics and the time at which they will be covered, as well as your assigned reading can be found on the calendar on this course's eLC portal.

Prerequisites of the Course: None

Technical requirements of the course: If you are able to access the Internet on a regular basis, you meet the technical requirements for the course. It is important that you have reliable Internet service, particularly as the tests are time sensitive. You also need a reliable laptop or desktop computer. I would not suggest taking tests or quizzes on your phone. It is not reliable, particularly for the short answers questions. If that is all you have, then let me and your TA know.

Course objectives: At the start of each of our content modules, you will see a list of course objectives. They range from general understanding of a process to very specific skills (such as being able to determine what type of collective action problem is being

described or predicting the outcome of a political situation. Please make sure to read through these objectives. They will correspond to the learning outcomes/assessments. At the end of the semester look back and them and let me know if you feel that you have not achieved competency in those objectives. We will make sure you do.

Course textbook: Logic of American Politics 8th edition. You may purchase the electronic version or the paper text, whichever text you feel more comfortable working with for your course reading. There is a 9th edition, BUT do not purchase it. We are keeping costs low this semester and using the 8th edition. You are welcome.

You may purchase the hard copy of the textbook through whatever online bookstore you prefer, order it through UGA's bookstore, but it must be this book:



The Logic of American Politics (8th edition)
Samuel Kernell, Gary C. Jacobson, Thad Kousser, and Lynn Vavreck
CQ Press
Paperback or e-version
Published: March 21, 2017

ISBN: 1506358667 (print) 1506385184 (ebook)

You may purchase or rent the textbook. But do not trust any site that is not a confirmed business such as Amazon, Barnes and Noble, Chegg.com, Textbooks.com, etc. If you see a higher price, it is likely you are purchasing the 9th edition. Some specific questions on my tests will not be in the 9th edition as there are some changes. Not a tremendous number, but enough.

This is a screenshot of an Amazon product page for 'The Logic of American Politics (Eighth Edition) 2nd Edition'. The page shows the book cover on the left, which matches the image above. To the right, there are pricing options: 'Paperback' for \$19.71 - \$100.70 and 'Other Sellers' for \$19.44. The 'Rent' option is selected, showing a due date of Dec 15, 2019, and a rental price of \$19.71, which is a savings of \$86.29 (81%) from the list price of \$106.00. There are also options to 'Buy used' for \$44.47 or 'Buy new' for \$100.70. At the bottom, it says 'More Buying Choices' with '141 offers from \$19.44'. The page also includes a 'Look inside' button and a 'Deliver to Athens 30606' button.

And if you use your Google skills, you may find better bargains. I can guarantee that the UGA Bookstore and Amazon will deliver the product, but other sources may be more or

less dependable. I do not know. So order early. You may also find a full pdf on line if you look very carefully. If any website seems sketchy, stay away from it. But some are scams- particularly some pdf downloads. I do have pdfs for chapters 1 and 2 uploaded, so you are covered if getting your book takes a bit more time.

See logic of American politics 8th edition Sponsored ⓘ

				
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Online Learning Environment: This course is hosted on UGA eLC. If you have any issues at any point, make sure to contact:

EITS Help Desk: helpdesk@uga.edu or 706.542.3106.

Business hours are 8am - 10pm (Mon-Thurs), 8am-6pm (Fri), and 1pm-7pm (Sat-Sun)

Go the University System of Georgia Desire2Learn Online Help Center at <http://D2Lhelp.view.usg.edu>. From this site, you can search the Knowledge Base, browse popular articles, or click the link for live support (24x7x365) in the scrolling news area.

Grading and Assignments:

Your grade for this course will be determined by your scores on your practice tests, tests, quizzes and essays, your final project, and your participation via the discussion board. Each counts toward a percentage of your grade. To see the distribution of weight for each assessment, simply go to the Grades link on the course page and review the list of assessments and their individual and group weights.

Note that you will basically have a concept or video quiz, practice quiz and test every week during the course of the semester. We will work in tandem. There will also be weeks where you have a discussion exercise. There is a final project as well, rather than a final exam. The tests are open book, but they are timed. You must do your reading and studying ahead of time.

Grades:

Practice quizzes	15%
Concept, video, other quizzes	25%
Discussion assignments	15%
Exams	30%
Course project	15%
Total:	100%

Grade scale:

A	93.0000 and above
A-	92.9999 to 90.0000
B+	87.0000 to 89.9999
B	86.9999 to 83.0000
B-	82.9999 to 80.0000
C+	77.0000 to 79.9999
C	76.9999 to 70.0000
D	65.0000 to 69.9999
F	64.9999 and below

THERE IS NO ROUNDING OR CURVING AT THE END OF THE SEMESTER. Note this now so that you are properly motivated to achieve your grade goal. It is open book and open note. Some of the test questions may be challenging, but that is required when we have an open book and open note course.

Learning Activities: In this course your learning activities consist of the following: reading your text, viewing/listening to course lectures, playing games, taking practice quizzes, discussing relevant topics on the discussion board with your professor, TAs and your peers, completing your tests and discussion essays, working on your final project, and viewing relevant videos. Almost all activities are graded.

Course outline and schedule: The course is outlined extensively on its eLC course site. The schedule is located on the calendar. If you have any questions at all about the schedule, please contact Dr. Haynes immediately. (See an example of a module below: always has a checklist, formative material, study tools, summative assessments, and extra stuff for you.)

Module 1: Why Government? Logic CH 1 Begins June 4	23
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For the student who wants to know more....	2
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are institutions created? How do institutional rules (institutional design) make a difference to the nature of political action and political outcomes? What types of rules are found in representative government?

Module 1 Learning Objectives:

By completing this module, students will:

- Describe how conflict emerges among individuals with different preferences and how politics can resolve this conflict.
- Explain how bargaining and compromise are critical components of politics.
- List and describe the primary collective action problems that emerge and how they are solved by institutional rules.
- Define the terms transaction costs and conformity costs and explain why they are inversely related.
- Detail the constitutional arrangements that were used to solve some of the problems and costs associated with collective action during the Constitutional Convention in 1787. Name their institutional design principles and describe how were each used.
- Clarify the difference between direct and indirect democracy.

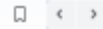
Thought for the module:

Why does the public think this is a bad word?

pol·i·tics
 ˈpɑːləˌtɪks/

This is an example of what a Module Checklist might look like. Each checklist provides directions and links to the materials and assessments you will be working with.

Module 1 Checklist



Module 1 Check List



- ✓ Read Chapter 1 in Logic of American Government



Due Aug 18, 2017 11:30 PM

Read Chapter One of the latest edition of Logic of American Government. This is a great book, with the general theme that it is not easy to govern oneself as a nation. Indeed, there are many obstacles to the pursuance of collective action. Only by understanding these problems can we overcome them.

[Kernell Be Ch 1 .pdf](#) chapter for your convenience

- ✓ Complete the Study Guide for Chapter 1



Due Aug 21, 2017 11:30 PM

[Chapter 1 Study Guide Logic](#)

The study guide is designed to help you figure out what in the text is important and deserving of your more focused attention. You can use the study guide as a pretest - read the chapter, study the material, then see which questions you can answer. Go back and study the ones you miss. You may also simply complete the guide and use it to study the materials and use it as an informational source when you take your Module Exam, which is open note and open book. Remember that you only have 60 minutes for the exam. In order to do well you must be prepared. When the 60 minutes is over, so is your opportunity to take the exam. It will CLOSE! So make sure you prepare. **Note that the study guide is for your use and we do not grade it.**

- ✓ Listen and review the powerpoint lectures



Due Aug 22, 2017 11:30 PM

If you are an auditory learner, listening to the lectures and watching the powerpoints may help you digest the material. As with the study guide, the powerpoints and the YouTube lectures that accompany them, are designed to help you reach the general learning objectives. There are abundant pieces of fact that are components of those learning objectives. Think about each component as part of a story or a small piece of a large puzzle. Once you master all the components, you will see the big picture and all of its parts.

[MODULE 1 Lecture Part 1: What is politics?](#)

[MODULE 1 Lecture Part 2: The necessity of governments](#)

[MODULE 1 Lecture 1 Part 3: Collective Action Costs](#)

[MODULE 1 Lecture Part 4: Institutions and Collective Action](#)

[Module 1 Collective Action-Coordination Issues](#)

[Module 1 Lecture slides](#)

NOTE: I am not a trained entertainer or digital media producer. These took time and effort but are self-made and clearly done without spending your tax money wildly. They are here to help. I would suggest that after reading, you listen to these while you walk, bike, clean your kitchen. Like you listen to NPR. Relax and allow it to sink into your brain. You can pull these up on your smart phone. Go to eLC and scroll down to use the desktop version and you can pull up everything we have on the course page.

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- ✓ Review the concepts of Prisoner's Dilemma, Free Rider and Tragedy of the Commons through the posted videos x

Due Aug 23, 2017 11:30 PM

[The Problem of Free Riders](#)

[Tragedy of the Commons Explained and Expanded](#)

These are not optional. Please review so you will fully understand the concepts.

[Prisoner's Dilemma Explained](#)

- ✓ Complete Module 1 short quizzes after concept videos and the Practice Quiz when you are ready x

Due Aug 23, 2017 11:30 PM

In order to truly understand and be able to apply a number of the core concepts, you should watch these concept videos and then take the quizzes that follow to see if you can apply what you have learned correctly. These quizzes are all graded. **GET FEEDBACK IF YOU DO NOT UNDERSTAND THE CONCEPT, CONTACT YOUR TA OR DR. HAYNES FOR HELP.**

QUIZ: What is free riding?

QUIZ: The Prisoner's Dilemma

QUIZ: Tragedy of the Commons

- ✓ Complete the Module 1 Practice Quiz x

Due Aug 24, 2017 11:30 PM

[Graded Practice Quiz: Chapter 01: The Logic of American Politics](#)

Take this practice quiz. You have two attempts. I would take the first attempt and when you submit, you will see which questions you missed. Go back and read the material related to the question and then make sure you are on the right track. Then you make take it again. **The two grades are AVERAGED.** So you should have have read and reviewed prior to taking this practice quiz. Practice quizzes are graded and thus required.

NOTE: eLC auto grading can only recognize one right answer. If your question has anything that YOU type in, unless you match the "right" answer perfectly - even capitalization - it may make it as incorrect. But that doesn't mean it is. We will go in and correct those manually so **DO NOT PANIC.** If days and days go by and it doesn't change then send us a reminder. We do not want you to lose points!

- ✓ Complete the Module 1 Test and then fill out or feedback survey x

Due Aug 26, 2017 10:00 PM

[Module 1 Exam \(Foundations of Government\)](#)

For each module, there is an exam. Each one is open book and open note, however they are timed. You have 60 minutes to complete the 50+ question online exam. Once you begin, YOU MUST FINISH. So study ahead of time as you would for any exam. There is only ONE Attempt for Module tests.

When you are done, pat yourself on the back. You did it. And give us some feedback. How did the course perform? How could we make the material clearer or more accessible? The survey is anonymous so feel to be honest, but constructive and kind.

[Post Module 1 Feedback from Students](#)

- ✓ Remember to review the Georgia Politics Module: You may complete it any time but must be done by July 27th. x

Due Nov 13, 2017 11:30 PM

The GA Politics Module is a stand alone, self-serve module on GA Government. There are not due dates set for each reading and quiz. Rather, they are all due on NOVEMBER 13TH. Make sure you find the time to get them done as you go. They are relatively short, informative readings (a couple are a little longer) followed by quizzes. You are allowed to utilize your notes for these quizzes. So make sure to take good notes as you read as they will be useful. If you have any questions about the GA material, please email Dr. Haynes. She is glad to help you get clarity on the concepts and how the processes work.

NOTE: The GA Legislative materials should be done AFTER we have completed Module 4 on the US Congress as there is a comparative component to the quiz.

Here is the checklist with links if you want to get a sense of how much work you will have. They can also be accessed by clicking on Content in the Navigation Bar at the top right of this page, going to the content page, scrolling down to Module 11. There they all are.

[Module 11: Ga Government Checklist](#)

- ✓ Don't forget your media project x

Add Due Date

[Checklist for Final Course Project](#)

- ✓ Don't forget to complete the post Module 1 Survey x

Due Aug 28, 2017 12:01 PM

General Schedule

Example schedule for Introduction to American Government POLS1101e (Dates are when the module opens - these dates will be altered to reflect your semester.)

Start Module	June 11 I will open the course early
GA Politics Module	June 11 (open always but must be completed by end of course)
Module 1: Why Government?	June 11
Module 2: Constitutional Foundations	June 21
Module 3: Federalism	June 28 (midpoint survey)
Module 4: Legislative Branch	July 5
Module 5: Executive Branch	July 12
Module 6: Judicial Branch	July 19 all remaining modules open as you will now be very familiar with your responsibilities and may work ahead.
Module 7: Voting	
Module 8: Political Parties	
Module 9: Interest Groups	
Module 10: Wrap up	

Final project due by end of course.

Classes End August 4

Final Exams are August 5-6

We do not have a final exam, but your final project is due as well as all module work by August 4th at NOON.

Grades are due on August 3.

Policies: This course follows all policies related to Academic Honesty and Student Code of Conduct as outlined by the University of Georgia.

http://www.conduct.uga.edu/code_of_conduct/codeofconduct.pdf

<http://ovpi.uga.edu/academic-honesty/academic-honesty-policy>

Agreement: By enrolling in this course, you agree to adhere to these policies linked above and to do your best to be a good, productive, and **honest** student. You also agree to work with Dr. Haynes to make sure that you have a positive learning experience and a rewarding course outcome and that you will not neglect to stay on top of your work. Nor will you interact with your peers to collaborate on any exams, essays or projects unless they are clearly designated as group projects or work.

Given this is an online course that moves quickly, if you have any issues regarding test dates (such as a conflict, or you become ill during a portion of the course) it is imperative that you communicate with me (Dr. Haynes) and/or your assigned Teaching Assistant, and work out any issues. Your instructor (me) will try to be flexible given the online nature of this course, which may be new to some of you. **So it is very important that you**

keep communication lines open. It is very important that you stay on top of your reading and your test deadlines. I have designed this course so that while we move quickly, we are testing **only one module at a time**. Even though they are open book, given that they are time limited (and they will remain so – only those students with accommodations may seek extended time), you need to be prepared and knowledgeable or you will not be able to complete the test in the time allowed.

Thank you. We appreciate all of our students and are here to provide a supportive yet challenging learning environment.

A full schedule for the course is available on our eLC course page.