POLS 1105H: Introduction to American Government (Honors)
Class Time: MWF 11:30am – 12:20pm
Classroom: Baldwin 104
Instructor: Jeffrey M. Glas, PhD

Contact Information:
Office Hours: By Appointment
Office Location: Baldwin 380
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.

II. Course Requirements and Graded Evaluation

(2.1) Required Texts
ISBN: 9781544322995

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

<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th>Exam</th>
<th>Percentage</th>
<th>Date</th>
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</thead>
<tbody>
<tr>
<td>Exam 1</td>
<td>25%</td>
<td>September 20th</td>
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<tr>
<td>Exam 2</td>
<td>25%</td>
<td>October 18th</td>
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<tr>
<td>Exam 3</td>
<td>25%</td>
<td>December 15th</td>
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<tr>
<td>Weekly Assignments</td>
<td>25%</td>
<td>Weekly</td>
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</tbody>
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(2.5) Grading
All grades (including final grades) will be assigned following the system depicted below:

<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th>Grade</th>
<th>Percentage</th>
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<tbody>
<tr>
<td>A</td>
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<tr>
<td>A-</td>
<td>90</td>
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<tr>
<td>B+</td>
<td>87</td>
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<tr>
<td>B</td>
<td>84</td>
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<tr>
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<td>74</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>C-</td>
<td>70</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>D</td>
<td>60-69</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>F</td>
<td>≤59</td>
</tr>
</tbody>
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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 Monday, October 25th. All students who withdraw after this date will receive a “WF”.
IV. Course Schedule

Week 1 – August 18th and 20th – Perspectives on Politics and Government
Syllabus
Chapter 1 of The Logic [of American Politics]
Josep Colomer’s “The Public Good”
Public Goods and Collective Action in Athens, GA – Assignment

Week 2 – August 23rd, 25th, and 27th – Early American Government and the U.S. Constitution
Chapter 2 of The Logic
Vincent Parillo’s “Diversity in Colonial Times.”
Federalist #51
***Drop/Add Ends – August 24th***

Week 3 – August 30th, September 1st and 3rd – 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 4 – September 8th and 10th – Civil Rights
Chapter 4 of The Logic
Chapter 9 of Georgia Politics
https://www.law.cornell.edu/wex/equal_protection
Protest Song Analysis – Assignment
***Labor Day – September 6th – No Classes***

Week 5 – September 13th, 15th, and 17th – Civil Liberties
Chapter 5 of The Logic
Chapter 9 of Georgia Politics
https://www.law.cornell.edu/wex/due_process
Randy Barnett’s “Two Conceptions of the 9th Amendment”

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1 The course syllabus provides a general plan for the course; deviations may be necessary.
Week 6 – September 20th – Exam 1
Week 7 – September 27th, 29th, and October 1st – 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 8 – October 4th, 6th, and 8th – 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

Week 9 – October 11th, 13th, and 15th – Judicial Politics

Chapter 9 of *The Logic*

Chapter 7 of *Georgia Politics*

Federalist #78

***Semester Midpoint – October 11th***

Week 10 – October 18th – Exam 2

Week 11 – October 25th and 27th – Public Opinion

Chapter 10 of *The Logic*

Survey Interpretation: Public Opinion in Georgia – Assignment

***Withdrawal Deadline – October 25th***

***Fall Break – October 29th – No Classes***

Week 12 – November 1st, 3rd, and 5th – Voting, Elections, and Campaigns

Chapter 11 of *The Logic*

Chapters 9 & 13 of *Georgia Politics*

Policy Diffusion: Elections Edition – Assignment
Week 13 – November 8th, 10th, and 12th – Political Parties
Chapter 12 of The Logic
Chapter 11 of Georgia Politics
George Washington’s Farewell Address
Gerrymandering in Georgia – Assignment

Week 14 – November 15th, 17th, and 19th – Interest Groups
Chapter 13 of The Logic
Chapter 12 of Georgia Politics
Federalist #10
Better Know an Interest Group – Assignment

Week 15 November 22nd – Thanksgiving Break
***Thanksgiving Break – November 24th – 26th – No Classes***

Week 16 – November 29th, December 1st and 3rd – The American Media
Chapter 14 of The Logic
Plato’s “Republic” (Selection from)

Week 17 – December 6th and 7th – Is there a Logic to American Politics?
Chapter 15 of The Logic

***Last Day of Classes – December 7th***
***Reading Day – December 8th***

Week 18 – December 15th – Exam 3
***Exam 3 is Wednesday, December 15th @ 12noon***