

**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

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**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**

Kernell, Samuel, et al. The Logic of American Politics (9<sup>th</sup> edition)

ISBN: 9781544322995

Bullock, Charles and Ronald Gaddie. Georgia Politics in a State of Change (2<sup>nd</sup> 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%	September 20 <sup>th</sup>
Exam 2	25%	October 18 <sup>th</sup>
Exam 3	25%	December 15 <sup>th</sup>
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 Monday, October 25<sup>th</sup>. All students who withdraw after this date will receive a “WF”.

## IV. Course Schedule<sup>1</sup>

### Week 1 – August 18<sup>th</sup> and 20<sup>th</sup> – 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 23<sup>rd</sup>, 25<sup>th</sup>, and 27<sup>th</sup> – 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 24<sup>th</sup>\*\*\***

### Week 3 – August 30<sup>th</sup>, September 1<sup>st</sup> and 3<sup>rd</sup> – 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 8<sup>th</sup> and 10<sup>th</sup> – Civil Rights

Chapter 4 of *The Logic*

Chapter 9 of *Georgia Politics*

[https://www.law.cornell.edu/wex/equal\\_protection](https://www.law.cornell.edu/wex/equal_protection)

Protest Song Analysis – Assignment

**\*\*\*Labor Day – September 6<sup>th</sup> – No Classes\*\*\***

### Week 5 – September 13<sup>th</sup>, 15<sup>th</sup>, and 17<sup>th</sup> – Civil Liberties

Chapter 5 of *The Logic*

Chapter 9 of *Georgia Politics*

[https://www.law.cornell.edu/wex/dues\\_process](https://www.law.cornell.edu/wex/dues_process)

Randy Barnett’s “Two Conceptions of the 9<sup>th</sup> Amendment”

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

**Week 6 – September 20<sup>th</sup> – Exam 1**

**Week 7 – September 27<sup>th</sup>, 29<sup>th</sup>, and October 1<sup>st</sup> – 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 4<sup>th</sup>, 6<sup>th</sup>, and 8<sup>th</sup> – 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 11<sup>th</sup>, 13<sup>th</sup>, and 15<sup>th</sup> – Judicial Politics**

Chapter 9 of *The Logic*

Chapter 7 of *Georgia Politics*

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**\*\*\*Semester Midpoint – October 11<sup>th</sup>\*\*\***

**Week 10 – October 18<sup>th</sup> – Exam 2**

**Week 11 – October 25<sup>th</sup> and 27<sup>th</sup> – Public Opinion**

Chapter 10 of *The Logic*

Survey Interpretation: Public Opinion in Georgia – Assignment

**\*\*\*Withdrawal Deadline – October 25<sup>th</sup>\*\*\***

**\*\*\*Fall Break – October 29<sup>th</sup> – No Classes\*\*\***

**Week 12 – November 1<sup>st</sup>, 3<sup>rd</sup>, and 5<sup>th</sup> – Voting, Elections, and Campaigns**

Chapter 11 of *The Logic*

Chapters 9 & 13 of *Georgia Politics*

Policy Diffusion: Elections Edition – Assignment

**Week 13 – November 8<sup>th</sup>, 10<sup>th</sup>, and 12<sup>th</sup> – Political Parties**

Chapter 12 of *The Logic*

Chapter 11 of *Georgia Politics*

George Washington's Farewell Address

Gerrymandering in Georgia – Assignment

**Week 14 – November 15<sup>th</sup>, 17<sup>th</sup>, and 19<sup>th</sup> – Interest Groups**

Chapter 13 of *The Logic*

Chapter 12 of *Georgia Politics*

Federalist #10

Better Know an Interest Group – Assignment

**Week 15 November 22<sup>nd</sup> – Thanksgiving Break**

**\*\*\*Thanksgiving Break – November 24<sup>th</sup> – 26<sup>th</sup> – No Classes\*\*\***

**Week 16 – November 29<sup>th</sup>, December 1<sup>st</sup> and 3<sup>rd</sup> – The American Media**

Chapter 14 of *The Logic*

Plato's "Republic" (Selection from)

**Week 17 – December 6<sup>th</sup> and 7<sup>th</sup> – Is there a Logic to American Politics?**

Chapter 15 of *The Logic*

**\*\*\*Last Day of Classes – December 7<sup>th</sup>\*\*\***

**\*\*\*Reading Day – December 8<sup>th</sup>\*\*\***

**Week 18 – December 15<sup>th</sup> – Exam 3**

**\*\*\*Exam 3 is Wednesday, December 15<sup>th</sup> @ 12noon\*\*\***