This seminar provides an overview of several subfields in American Politics. We will discuss and critique seminal research in the field as well as recent publications. This seminar is also designed to develop your ability to conduct and analyze original research. To this end, we will discuss general approaches to political inquiry, basic methodological issues, the review process, and other related topics.

Students are required to purchase the following books:

* Anthony Downs, An Economic Theory of Democracy (1957)
* Mancur Olson, The Logic of Collective Action (1965)
* David Mayhew, Congress: The Electoral Connection (2004 edition)

Student performance evaluations are based on (1) course participation (30%), (2) a 12-15 page literature review on a relevant topic (30%), and (3) a final examination (40%). This is not a lecture course; participation is required. You must complete and think critically about the reading before you come to seminar. You will be evaluated on the quality of your analysis, which is comparable to serving as a discussant at an academic conference.

**Literature Review.** The literature review summarizes major findings, explains the underlying theory (or competing theories), discusses research methods, and addresses problems or gaps in the literature. In an empirical project, the review “sets up” the hypotheses and research design that are the foundation for analyzing the data.

Your literature review should address several general questions: What do we know about this? What are the various theories, perspectives, approaches or “schools of thought” in this area? What are the gaps in or problems with our existing knowledge base? What questions still need to be answered; what issues need to be addressed?

You should follow a format used by the major journals in the discipline (APSR, JOP, AJPS, PRQ, etc.). If you are unfamiliar with these formats, refer to any recent edition of a major Political Science journal or a recent edition of The Chicago Manual of Style.

**Academic Integrity.** Neither plagiarism nor cheating will be tolerated. Appropriate citations are expected and encouraged. All students are expected to behave in accordance with the guidelines of the UGA Honor Code. If you are unsure whether certain actions are acceptable, consult your instructor.
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.

Coronavirus Information for Students

What do I do if I have Covid-19 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.

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.

Classroom COVID-19 Information (per Baldwin Hall personnel)

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 in to 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. Bathrooms will be cleaned frequently during the day. On occasions that bathrooms are closed for cleaning, you may need to use those on other floors or in other buildings. Please be conscious of the density of traffic in bathrooms and practice social distancing.
Staying in touch

Office hours and academic advising are encouraged, but should be done by appointment. To ensure safe distancing, faculty and staff are more likely to meet with you online or by phone.

Your health

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

Updates

Check your email regularly so you do not 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.
Course Schedule

**August 19: Democratic Theory**
1. Publius. 1787. The Federalist Papers [No. 10-11, 47-51]
2. The Constitution of the United States

**August 26: Public Opinion: Opinion Formation**

**September 2: Public Opinion: Political Sophistication**

**September 9: Political Parties**

**September 16: Partisanship**
September 23: Participation and Civic Engagement

September 30: Voting

October 7: Interest Groups
1. Truman, David. 1951. The Governmental Process [chapters 2-3]
2. Olson, Mancur, Jr. 1965. The Logic of Collective Action. [chapters 1-2 and 5-6]

October 14: Congressional Elections

October 21: Institutional Change and American Political Development

October 28: Representation
22: 511-35.

**November 4: The Executive Branch**


**November 11: Bureaucratic Politics**


**November 18: Courts**

November 25: No class – Thanksgiving break

December 2: The Media and American Politics
   American Political Science Review 87: 267-85.
   Supreme Court Decisions.” Social Science Quarterly 91: 704-23.
   World Wide Web and the U.S. Political News Market.” American Journal of Political Science 54:
   428-439.

Final Exam: Take-home examination, due date TBA
* Final exam will be placed in graduate student mailboxes to be completed within 24 hours of
  opening envelope. Send response via email to Dr. Vining.