

POLS 1101: Introduction to American Government
University of Georgia
Spring 2022

Instructor:

Dr. Brittany Bramlett¹
bbram@uga.edu

Office meeting times:

Before/after class
Or by appointment

Class meets:

Tuesdays & Thursdays, 8:00am to 8:50am, MLC 0102 (lecture with Dr. Bramlett)

Mondays, check your time/place in Athena (discussion breakouts with TA)

Course description

This course aims to introduce students to the foundations and organization of American government.

Course objectives

- Study the origins and workings of American government
- Analyze American government, considering democratic ideals
- Develop a working knowledge of current events in American politics
- Learn the course material by working individually and as a team
- Improve critical thinking and communication skills by considering various political perspectives, reflecting on the development of personal views, and communicating those views effectively

Course texts

Required:

American Government: Roots and Reform (2018 Elections and Updates Edition, 13th Edition), Karen O'Connor & Larry J. Sabato (**older versions are fine!**)

Recommended but not required:

Georgia Politics in a State of Change (2nd Edition), Charles S. Bullock and Ronald Gaddie.

Other assigned readings will be made available to you via E-Learning Commons

(<https://uga.view.usg.edu/>)

¹ Dates and assignments are subject to change by the professor.

Assignments and grading

Discussion section & assignments (20%)

Discussion sections occur every Monday, and attendance is counted and expected if you are well. More than one unexcused absence will result in reduction of the student's discussion section grade. More than four unexcused absences will result in a failing grade for this portion of the course. These sections are small and benefit from student attendance and participation. The discussion section grade may also include reading quizzes and short assignments.

Discussion section instructors:

| | |
|----------------|-------------------------|
| Austin Petrie | austin.petrie@uga.edu |
| Kaitlyn Mills | kaitlyn.mills@uga.edu |
| Jake Eastridge | jacob.eastridge@uga.edu |
| Ju Won Park | jwpark@uga.edu |
| Mary Hunt | mary.hunt25@uga.edu |
| Alec Zimmerman | aleczimmerman@uga.edu |

Short online quizzes (6 quizzes, 10% each, lowest grade dropped, 50% total)

There will be 6 quizzes with the lowest quiz score dropped. The final quiz grade includes 5 quizzes, each counting 10%.

Students will complete the quizzes individually via eLC and outside of class. However, students will take the quiz during our normal class time, anytime between 8:00am and 9:15am. Once beginning the quiz, students will have 20 minutes to complete it. Anything from the eLC modules is considered fair game to show up on the quizzes, and students may use their books and notes. Each quiz is non-cumulative, only covering recent material.

There are no make-up quizzes. Only 5 of the 6 quizzes count toward your grade, so if you miss one for any reason, it is dropped.

Civic engagement work (2 public meeting reports, 15% each, 30% total)

Students have the chance to practice being civically engaged in an intentional way and to document their experiences.

Each student will choose a municipality/county for which to virtually attend two local public meetings (council and/or commission meetings are usually pretty informative, but there are all kinds of public recorded meetings on city/county websites). Students will complete a report for each meeting, detailing what happened in the meeting, providing some analysis, and reflecting on their own engagement.

Administrative Items

E-Learning

Students must become acquainted with eLearning Commons for this class (<https://uga.view.usg.edu/>). Sign into eLC using your UGA MyId and password. If registered for the class, the course link should show up on the student's eLC homepage. Most content will be available via eLC, and most assignments should be submitted via eLC.

Disability resource center

If the student anticipates needing classroom or exam accommodations due to the impact of a disability or medical condition, they must register for services with the Disability Resource Center. Additional information can be found here: <http://drc.uga.edu/>

Withdrawal policy

Undergraduate students can only withdraw from four courses and receive a withdrawal-passing (WP) grade while enrolled at the University. Students can drop any class without penalty during the drop/add period at the beginning of every semester. Dropped courses during the drop/add period do not qualify as withdrawals. Instructors have the ability to withdraw a student from the class due to excessive absences. Please carefully review the policy in its entirety here:

<http://www.reg.uga.edu/policies/withdrawals>

UGA culture of honesty policy

The policy is in place to encourage academic honesty among students, faculty and other members of the university community. Students and faculty are responsible for knowing and complying with the policy and procedures. Academic dishonesty includes plagiarism, cheating and much more. It's in the student's best interest to understand what constitutes dishonest work, as defined by the University. Students caught cheating or plagiarizing will receive an F for the course, and their names will be forwarded to the University. Please carefully review the policy in its entirety here:

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

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.

Prohibition on Recording Lectures

In the absence of written authorization from the UGA Disability Resource Center, students may not make a visual or audio recording of any aspect of this course. Students who have a recording accommodation agree in writing that they:

- Will use the records only for personal academic use during the specific course.
- Understand that faculty members have copyright interest in their class lectures and that they agree not to infringe on this right in any way.
- Understand that the faculty member and students in the class have privacy rights and agree not to violate those rights by using recordings for any reason other than their own personal study.
- Will not release, digitally upload, broadcast, transcribe, or otherwise share all or any part of the recordings. They also agree that they will not profit financially and will not allow others to benefit personally or financially from lecture recordings or other course materials.
- Will erase/delete all recordings at the end of the semester.
- Understand that violation of these terms may subject them to discipline under the Student Code of Conduct or subject them to liability under copyright laws.

Peer tutoring availability

The Division of Academic Enhancement (DAE) offers free peer tutoring in over 200 of UGA's most rigorous courses including writing tutoring. To engage with a Peer Tutor, download the Penji app, available on iOS and Android, and sign in through SSO using your MyID. Need help? Visit [our website](#) for more information on how to engage with a Peer Tutor or email us at tutor@uga.edu. In addition to peer tutoring, the DAE also provides Academic Coaching, Student Success Workshops and more. The DAE is committed to the success of all students at the University of Georgia. For more on these and other resources, please visit dae.uga.edu

Covid-safety reminders

Wear a mask to protect yourself and others to reduce the spread of COVID-19. Following guidance from the University System of Georgia, face coverings are recommended for all individuals while inside campus facilities.

Tentative Course Outline

Week 1. January 10 - 14

Monday, January 10

- No breakouts yet!

Tuesday, January 11

- Course syllabus
- Student survey

Thursday, January 13

- *Roots & Reform 1* (Introduction)

Week 2. January 17 - 21 (MLK Day, holiday: Monday, January 17)

Monday, January 10

- No breakouts, MLK Day, holiday

Tuesday, January 11

- *Roots & Reform 2* (The Constitution), *Georgia Politics 4*

Thursday, January 13

- *Roots & Reform 2* (The Constitution), *Georgia Politics 4*
- Civic engagement projects introduction

Week 3. January 24 - 28

Monday, January 24

- Practice quiz
- Class discussion (engagement & knowledge)

Tuesday, January 25

- *Roots & Reform 12* (Voting & participation)

Thursday, January 27

- Quiz 1 via eLC at 8am
- Civic engagement workshop

Week 4. January 31 - February 4

Monday, January 31

- Class discussion (federalism & voting)

Tuesday, February 1

- *Roots & Reform 3* (Federalism)

Thursday, February 3

- *Roots & Reform 4* (Liberties)

Week 5. February 7 - 11

Monday, February 7

- Class discussion & reflection – Rights & voting

Tuesday, February 8

- *Roots & Reform 5* (Civil rights)
- Class discussion & reflection – Rights & voting

Thursday, February 10

- Quiz 2 via eLC at 8am
- Public meeting report 1 due by midnight

Week 6. February 14 – 18

Monday, February 14

- Public meeting class reflection

Tuesday, February 15

- *Roots & Reform 6* (Congress)

Thursday, February 17

- *Roots & Reform 6* (Congress), *Georgia Politics 5*

Week 7. February 21 – 25

Monday, February 21

- Class discussion & reflection – Congress & voting

Tuesday, February 22

- Quiz 3 via eLC at 8am

Thursday, February 24

- *Roots & Reform 7* (Presidency)

Week 8. February 28 – March 4 (Midterm: March 3)

Monday, February 28

- Class discussion & reflection – Presidency & voting

Tuesday, March 1

- *Roots & Reform 7* (Presidency), *Georgia Politics 6*

Thursday, March 3

- Civic engagement workshop

Spring break (March 7 – 11)

Week 9. March 14 – 18

Monday, March 14

- Class discussion & reflection – bureaucracy & voting

Tuesday, March 15

- *Roots & Reform* 8 (Bureaucracy)

Thursday, March 17

- *Roots & Reform* 9 (Judiciary)

Week 10. March 21 – 25 (Withdrawal deadline: March 24)

Monday, March 21

- Class discussion & reflection – judiciary & voting

Tuesday, March 22

- *Roots & Reform* 9 (Judiciary), *Georgia Politics* 7
- Class discussion & reflection – Courts & voting

Thursday, March 24

- Quiz 4 via eLC at 8am
- Public meeting report 2 due by midnight

Week 11. March 28 – April 1

Monday, March 28

- Public meeting class reflection
- Class discussion & reflection – parties & voting

Tuesday, March 29

- *Roots & Reform* 11 (Parties)

Thursday, March 31

- *Roots & Reform* 15 (Interest groups)

Week 12. April 4 – 8

Tuesday, April 5

- Quiz 5 via elc at 8am

Thursday, April 7

- *Roots & Reform* 14 (Media)

Week 13. April 11 - 15

Monday, April 11

- Class discussion & reflection - Media literacy & voting

Tuesday, April 12

- *Roots & Reform* 10 (Public opinion)

Thursday, April 14

- *Roots & Reform* 12 & 13 (Campaigns & elections)

Week 14. April 18 - 22

Monday, April 18

- Class discussion & reflection - Campaigns & elections & voting

Tuesday, April 19

- *Roots & Reform* 12 & 13 (Campaigns & elections)

Thursday, April 21

- *Roots & Reform* 10 (Political socialization)

Week 15. April 25 - 29

Monday, April 25

- Class discussion & reflection - political socialization

Tuesday, April 26

- Quiz 6 via eLC at 8am

Thursday, April 28

- Complete course evaluation

Week 16. May 2 - 6

Monday, May 2

- Final break out - wrap up

Finals period, Thursday, May 5 - Wednesday, May 11

List of Due Dates

Quiz 1 - Thursday, January 27

Quiz 2 - Thursday, February 10

Quiz 3 - Tuesday, February 22

Quiz 4 - Thursday, March 24

Quiz 5 - Tuesday, April 5

Quiz 6 - Tuesday, April 26

Public meeting report 1 - Thursday, February 10

Public meeting report 2 - Thursday, March 24