

POLS 1101: Introduction to American Government
Class Time: T/TR 2:20 – 3:10PM
Classroom: Instructional Plaza S306
Breakout Sessions: Mondays
Instructor: Jeffrey M. Glas, PhD

Contact Information:

Office Hours: By Appointment, Online Only

Email: jeffrey.glas@uga.edu

Course Prerequisites: None

Breakout Session Schedule:

CRN	Time	Classroom	TA
61322	9:10am-10:00am	LeConte 341	Solbi Kim
61324	10:20am-11:10am	LeConte 341	Solbi Kim
61327	11:30am-12:20pm	LeConte 230	Madeliene Morris
61331	12:40pm-1:30pm	LeConte 341	Casey Kim
61333	1:50pm-2:40pm	LeConte 135	Jackson Tilley
61336	9:10am-10:00am	LeConte 230	Sadat Dardovski
61338	1:50pm-2:40pm	LeConte 230	Madeliene Morris
61342	11:30am-12:20pm	LeConte 341	Casey Kim
61343	10:20am-11:10am	LeConte 230	Jason Lian
61344	12:pm-1:30pm	LeConte 230	Jason Lian
61346	8:00am-8:50am	LeConte 230	Sadat Dardovski

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 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 Text

Kernell, Samuel, et al. The Logic of American Politics (10th edition)
ISBN: 9781071815977

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

(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. You will have a short assignment to complete in your breakout sessions for most weeks of this class. Some of these will be individual assignments, others will be group assignments. Combined these assignments will account for 25% of your final grade.

(2.4) Exam Schedule and Grade Distribution

Exam 1	25%	February 15 th
Exam 2	25%	March 22 nd
Exam 3	25%	May 10 th
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 ten (10) points for each calendar day late.

(3.2) Exams

If you miss an exam, you will receive a zero. Exams will be administered in the Instructional Plaza lecture hall. You will have from the beginning to the end of the class period to complete your exam.

(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 Thursday, March 24th. All students who withdraw after this date will receive a “WF”.

IV. Course Reading and Lecture Schedule¹

Week 1 – January 11th and 13th – Perspectives on Politics and Government

Chapter 1 of *The Logic [of American Politics]*

Josep Colomer’s “The Public Good”

Week 2 – January 18th and 20th – Early American Government and the U.S. Constitution

Chapter 2 of *The Logic*

Federalist #51

*****January 17th – MLK Day – No Classes*****

Week 3 – January 25th and 27th – Federalism

Chapter 3 of *The Logic*

Chapter 4 of *Georgia Politics*

Madison’s “Vices of the Political System of the United States”

Week 4 – February 1st and 3rd – Civil Rights

Chapter 4 of *The Logic*

Chapter 9 of *Georgia Politics*

https://www.law.cornell.edu/wex/equal_protection

Week 5 – February 8th and 10th – Civil Liberties

Chapter 5 of *The Logic*

Chapter 9 of *Georgia Politics*

https://www.law.cornell.edu/wex/duo_process

Week 6 – February 15th – Exam 1

Week 7 – February 22nd and 24th – 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”

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

Week 8 – March 1st and 3rd – Executive & Bureaucratic Politics

Chapters 7 & 8 of *The Logic*

Chapter 6 of *Georgia Politics*

Richard Neustadt’s “The Power to Persuade” (Selection from)

Week 9 – March 7th – 11th – Spring Break

*****No Classes*****

Week 10 – March 15th and 17th – Judicial Politics

Chapter 9 of *The Logic*

Chapter 7 of *Georgia Politics*

Federalist #78

Week 11 – March 22nd – Exam 2

*****March 24th – Withdrawal Deadline*****

Week 12 – March 29th and 31st – Public Opinion

Chapter 10 of *The Logic*

Week 13 – April 5th and 7th – Voting, Elections, and Campaigns

Chapter 11 of *The Logic*

Chapters 9 & 13 of *Georgia Politics*

Week 14 – April 12th and 14th – Political Parties

Chapter 12 of *The Logic*

Chapter 11 of *Georgia Politics*

George Washington’s Farewell Address

Week 15 – April 19th and 21st – Interest Groups

Chapter 13 of *The Logic*

Chapter 12 of *Georgia Politics*

Federalist #10

Week 16 – April 26th and 28th – The American Media

Chapter 14 of *The Logic*

Plato’s “Republic” (Selection from)

Week 17 – May 3rd – Last Day of Classes

*****May 4th – Star Wars Day/Reading Day*****

Week 18 – May 10th – Exam 3

*****May 10th @ 3:30pm – Exam 3*****

V. Breakout Session Schedule

Week 1 – January 10th – Introductions

Introductions Card - Assignment

Week 2 – January 17th – MLK Day – No Classes

Week 3 – January 24th – Public Goods, Collective Action, and Federalism

Public Goods and Collective Action in Athens, GA – Assignment

Week 4 – January 31st – Civil Rights

Policy Diffusion to Georgia – Assignment

Week 5 – February 7th – Civil Liberties

Protest Song Analysis – Assignment

Week 6 – February 14th – Exam 1 Review

Week 7 – February 21st – Legislative Politics

Reviewing Exam 1 Performance

Week 8 – February 28th – Executive and Bureaucratic Politics

Better Know a Georgia House District – Assignment

Week 9 – March 7th – Spring Break – No Classes

Week 10 – March 14th – Judicial Politics

Exploring the Federal Register – Assignment

Week 11 – March 21st – Exam 2 Review

Week 12 – March 28th – Public Opinion

Reviewing Exam 2 Performance

Week 13 – April 4th – Voting, Elections, and Campaigns

Survey Interpretation: Public Opinion in Georgia – Assignment

Week 14 – April 11th – Political Parties

Policy Diffusion: Elections Edition – Assignment

Week 15 – April 18th – Interest Groups

Better Know an Interest Group – Assignment

Week 16 – April 25th – The American Media

Week 17 – May 2nd – Exam 3 Review

CORONAVIRUS INFORMATION FOR STUDENTS

UGA adheres to guidance from the University System of Georgia and the recommendations from Georgia Department of Public Health (DPH) related to quarantine and isolation. Since this may be updated periodically, we encourage you to review the latest guidance [here](#). The following information is based on guidance last updated on December 29, 2021.

Face coverings:

Following guidance from the University System of Georgia, face coverings are recommended for all individuals while inside campus facilities.

How can I obtain the COVID-19 vaccine?

University Health Center is scheduling appointments for students through the UHC Patient Portal (https://patientportal.uhs.uga.edu/login_dualauthentication.aspx). Learn more here – <https://www.uhs.uga.edu/healthtopics/covid-vaccine>.

The Georgia Department of Health, pharmacy chains and local providers also offer the COVID-19 vaccine at no cost to you. To find a COVID-19 vaccination location near you, please go to: <https://georgia.gov/covid-vaccine>.

In addition, the University System of Georgia has made COVID-19 vaccines available at 15 campuses statewide and you can locate one here: <https://www.usg.edu/vaccination>

What do I do if I have COVID-19 symptoms?

Students showing COVID-19 symptoms should self-isolate and get tested. You can schedule an appointment with the University Health Center by calling 706-542-1162 (Monday-Friday, 8 a.m.-5p.m.). Please DO NOT walk-in. For emergencies and after-hours care, see <https://www.uhs.uga.edu/info/emergencies>.

What do I do if I test positive for COVID-19? (Isolation guidance)

If you test positive for COVID-19 at any time, either through a PCR test, an Antigen test, or a home test kit, you are **required to report it** through the [DawgCheck Test Reporting Survey](#). Follow the instructions provided to you when you report your positive test result in DawgCheck.

As of December 29, 2021, when an individual receives a positive COVID-19 test: Everyone, **regardless of vaccination status**, should:

- Stay home for 5 days.
- If you have symptoms or your symptoms are resolving after 5 days, you can leave your house and return to class.
- Continue to wear a mask around others for 5 additional days.

What do I do if I have been exposed to COVID-19? (Quarantine guidance)

If you have been exposed (within 6 feet for a cumulative total of 15 minutes or more over a 24-hour period – unmasked**) to someone with COVID-19 or to someone with a positive COVID-19 test and you are:

- Boosted, or have become fully vaccinated within the last 6 months (Moderna or Pfizer vaccine) or within the last 2 months (J&J vaccine)
 - You do not need to quarantine at home and may come to class.
 - You should wear a mask around others for 10 days.
 - If possible, get tested on day 5.
 - If you develop symptoms, get tested and isolate at home until test results are received, then proceed in accordance with the test results.
- Unvaccinated, or became fully vaccinated more than 6 months ago (Moderna or Pfizer vaccine) or more than 2 months ago (J&J vaccine) and have not received a booster:
 - You must quarantine at home for 5 days. After that you may return to class but continue to wear a mask around others for 5 additional days.
 - If possible, get tested on day 5.
 - If you develop symptoms, get tested and isolate at home until test results are received, then proceed in accordance with the test results.

** “Masked-to-masked” encounters are not currently considered an exposure; this type of interaction would not warrant quarantine.

You should report the need to quarantine on [DawgCheck](https://dawgcheck.uga.edu/) (<https://dawgcheck.uga.edu/>), and communicate directly with your faculty to coordinate your coursework while in quarantine. If you need additional help, reach out to Student Care and Outreach (sco@uga.edu) for assistance.

Well-being, mental health, and student support

If you or someone you know needs assistance, you are encouraged to contact Student Care & 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 to support your well-being and mental health: <https://well-being.uga.edu/>

Counseling and Psychiatric Services (CAPS) is your go-to, on-campus resource for emotional, social and behavioral-health support: <https://caps.uga.edu/>, TAO Online Support (<https://caps.uga.edu/tao/>), 24/7 support at 706-542-2273. For crisis support: <https://healthcenter.uga.edu/emergencies/>.

The University Health Center offers FREE workshops, classes, mentoring and health coaching led by licensed clinicians or health educators: <https://healthcenter.uga.edu/bewelluga/>

Monitoring conditions:

Note that the guidance referenced in this syllabus is subject to change based on recommendations from the Georgia Department of Public Health, the University System of Georgia, or the Governor's Office. For the latest on UGA policy, you can visit coronavirus.uga.edu.