

POLS 1101: Introduction to American Government

Class Time: T/TH

Classroom:

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

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

ISBN: 9781544322995

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 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 th
Exam 2	25%	October 18 th
Exam 3	25%	December 13 th
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) Disability Disclosure Statement

Ableness should not impede your intellectual development. Please get in touch with me (Dr. Glas) about any accommodations you need in the classroom, your breakout sessions, and for exams. We have some amazing resources for you here at UGA. For testing accommodations please contact the Disability Resource Center (DRC) as soon as possible. For more information please check out the DRC's website (www.uga.drc.edu). The DRC is located at 825 Lumpkin Street (Clark-Howell Hall) and can be contacted by phone at 706.542.8719.

(3.2) Student Athletes

Representing our university in athletics places some unusual scheduling obligations on you. Please get in touch with me (Dr. Glas) about your schedule so we can make sure you are able to achieve in the classroom as well as on the field or in the arena.

(3.3) Absences

John Lennon once said, "Life happens while you're busy making other plans." Attending class is critical for your success in this class. Participation is a significant portion of your grade and there is a significant amount of course content that we will cover in our class meetings and breakout sessions. Absences will be excused for legitimate reasons (and I am reasonable).

Please do not come to class if you are ill. The UGA Health Center (www.uhs.uga.edu) is located at 55 Carlton Street (across the street from Ramsey).

(3.4) Makeup Exams

If you miss an exam, you will receive a zero (which means passing the class will be unlikely). If you are late to an exam, you must take it in the time that remains when you arrive. Make-up exams are only given to students with legitimate excuses. All make-up exams are administered by the Department of Political Science, but require my permission.

(3.5) Missed/Late Assignments

Missed assignments are awarded a grade of zero. Late assignments will be accepted with a penalty of five points for each calendar day late.

(3.6) 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, please examine the university policy and /or ask the instructor.

(3.7) Problems and Emergencies

If a problem or emergency arises that prevents you from attending an exam or coming to class, you should contact me (Dr. Glas) as soon as possible.

(3.8) Policy on Disruptive Behavior

- 1) Turn communication devices to silent...or turn them off entirely.
- 2) Be polite during class discussion.

(3.9) Withdraw Policy

Be advised that the last day to withdraw from a course without failing is Monday, October 24th. All students who withdraw after this date will receive a “WF”.

IV. Course Schedule¹

Week 1 – August 18th – Perspectives on Politics and Government

Syllabus

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

Josep Colomer's "The Public Good"

Week 2 – August 23rd and 25th – Early American Government and the U.S. Constitution

Chapter 2 of *The Logic*

Vincent Parillo's "Diversity in Colonial Times."

Federalist #51

Week 3 – August 30th and September 1st – Federalism

Chapter 3 of *The Logic*

Chapter 4 of *Georgia Politics*

Madison's "Vices of the Political System of the United States"

Labor Day – Monday, September 5th – No Breakout Sessions

Week 4 – September 6th and 8th – Civil Rights

Chapter 4 of *The Logic*

Chapter 9 of *Georgia Politics*

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

Week 5 – September 13th and 15th – 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"

Week 6 – September 20th – Exam 1

Week 7 – September 27th and 29th – Legislative Politics

Chapter 6 of *The Logic*

Chapters 5 & 10 of *Georgia Politics*

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

David Mayhew's "Congress: The Electoral Connection" (Selection from)

Richard Fenno's "U.S. House Members in Their Constituencies: An Exploration"

Week 8 – October 4th and 6th – 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 – October 11th and 13th – Judicial Politics

Chapter 9 of *The Logic*

Chapter 7 of *Georgia Politics*

Federalist #78

Week 10 – October 18th – Exam 2

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

Chapter 10 of *The Logic*

*** Monday, October 24th – Withdraw Deadline***

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

Chapter 11 of *The Logic*

Chapters 9 & 13 of *Georgia Politics*

Week 13 – November 8th and 10th – Political Parties

Chapter 12 of *The Logic*

Chapter 11 of *Georgia Politics*

George Washington's Farewell Address

Week 14 – November 15th and 17th – Interest Groups

Chapter 13 of *The Logic*

Chapter 12 of *Georgia Politics*

Federalist #10

Week 15 – November 22nd – Thanksgiving Break

Week 16 – November 29th and December 1st – The American Media

Chapter 14 of *The Logic*

Plato's "Republic" (Selection from)

Week 17 – No Class

Week 18 – Exam 3