

**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](mailto: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 (10<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 13 <sup>th</sup>
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

Abled-ness 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](http://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](http://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 24<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> – Perspectives on Politics and Government**

Syllabus

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

Josep Colomer’s “The Public Good”

##### **Week 2 – August 23<sup>rd</sup> and 25<sup>th</sup> – Early American Government and the U.S. Constitution**

Chapter 2 of *The Logic*

Vincent Parillo’s “Diversity in Colonial Times.”

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##### **Week 3 – August 30<sup>th</sup> and September 1<sup>st</sup> – 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 5<sup>th</sup> – No Breakout Sessions\*\*\*

##### **Week 4 – September 6<sup>th</sup> and 8<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)

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

Chapter 5 of *The Logic*

Chapter 9 of *Georgia Politics*

[https://www.law.cornell.edu/wex/due\\_process](https://www.law.cornell.edu/wex/due_process)

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

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

##### **Week 7 – September 27<sup>th</sup> and 29<sup>th</sup> – Legislative Politics**

Chapter 6 of *The Logic*

Chapters 5 & 10 of *Georgia Politics*

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<sup>1</sup> 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 4<sup>th</sup> and 6<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)

**Week 9 – October 11<sup>th</sup> and 13<sup>th</sup> – Judicial Politics**

Chapter 9 of *The Logic*

Chapter 7 of *Georgia Politics*

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**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*

\*\*\* Monday, October 24<sup>th</sup> – Withdraw Deadline\*\*\*

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

Chapter 11 of *The Logic*

Chapters 9 & 13 of *Georgia Politics*

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

Chapter 12 of *The Logic*

Chapter 11 of *Georgia Politics*

George Washington's Farewell Address

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

Chapter 13 of *The Logic*

Chapter 12 of *Georgia Politics*

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

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

Chapter 14 of *The Logic*

Plato's "Republic" (Selection from)

**Week 17 – No Class**

**Week 18 – Exam 3**