

POLS 1101: American Government Fall 2022

Instructor

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Office Hours: Wednesdays
1:00 PM-3:00 PM and by appointment

Class Schedule

Mondays, Wednesdays, and Fridays
9:10AM – 10:00AM
Baldwin Hall 302

Course Description

This course is an introduction to American politics and government. We will explore the origins, development, and functions of the executive, legislative, and judicial branches of government. An introduction to Georgia politics will also be provided. Whenever possible, we will use historical or current political issues and events to better explain the functions of government. Using a combination in-person lectures, in-person breakout sessions, and adaptive learning software, the course seeks to give students a better understanding and appreciation of the American political process.

Required Book

The following books are required and should be available at the campus bookstore:

Bianco, William T. and David T. Canon. 2021. *American Politics Today*, 7th Essentials Edition, W.W. Norton and Company.

An Ebook version of this text is available at: <https://digital.wwnorton.com/amerpoltoday7ess>. Links to the Ebook and supporting materials are also available on the course's eLC page: <https://uga.view.usg.edu/d21/home/2633363>.

We will also make use of *American Politics Today's* InQuizitive software as a graded part of the course. InQuizitive is an adaptive quizzing tool that will help students work through the concepts presented in each chapter of the textbook. You will need access to InQuizitive. You can purchase an Ebook from the publisher that includes access to InQuizitive. New copies of the textbook will be available from the campus bookstore and new copies will include an access code that allows students to access InQuizitive. If you purchase a used textbook, you will need to purchase access to InQuizitive separately.

In addition to the book and InQuizitive software, reading the news on a daily basis will be important for this course. The [New York Times](#) and the [Washington Post](#) are two excellent sources of news on politics and government. There are many other great sources of political news.

There will be additional readings assigned for some of the weeks of the course. Some

of these appear on the course syllabus now, and some will be assigned as the semester progresses. All of these readings will be provided to students via eLC.

Course Grading

Your grade in this class will be assigned according to the following:

1. **Quizzes** (15% of final grade): Students are required to complete online quizzes as part of their course grade. There will be a quiz to complete for each of the assigned textbook chapters using the InQuizitive system. These quizzes are adaptive and should help students both understand the course materials and prepare for exams. Additional information about InQuizitive can be found on the course's eLC page, which can be accessed at <https://uga.view.usg.edu/d21/home/2463904>.
2. **Attendance and Participation** (10% of final grade): Students are required to attend all class meetings during the semester. Additionally, you are expected to participate, not just attend, during class meetings. This means that you need to be ready to discuss the readings or participate in class activities.
3. **Midterm Exams** (50% of final grade) Three midterm examinations (worth 16.66% each) will be given throughout the course. The dates are listed on the syllabus as Sept. 14, Oct. 14, and Nov. 18. These exams will consist of multiple choice and short answer questions. Exams will cover material from both the course readings and lectures. The midterm examinations will be non-cumulative.
4. **Final Exam** (25% of final grade): The final exam will be administered in person and is scheduled for 12/14. It will feature a mix of multiple choice and short answer questions. The final exam will be cumulative, covering materials from all book chapters, lectures, and readings.

If a student is unable to take one of the exams on the scheduled date, they should contact me beforehand. Missed exams will only be excused in the most extraordinary circumstances. If you receive permission to take an exam at a time other than that listed on the syllabus, I reserve the right to alter the format and substance of any makeup exam (e.g. you may not get the same exam as everyone else).

Course grades will be assigned as follows: 93–100% = A, 90–93% = A-, 87–90% = B+, 83–87% = B, 80–83% = B-, 77–80% = C+, 73–77% = C, 70–73% = C-, 60–70% = D, 0–60% = F.

Other Issues (in no particular order)

1. **Disabilities:** Students with disabilities of any kind are strongly encouraged to tell me at the beginning of the semester, so appropriate accommodations can be made. If you plan to request accommodations for a disability, please register with the Disability Resource Center. They can be reached by visiting Clark Howell Hall, calling 706-542-8719 (voice) or 706-542-8778 (TTY), or by visiting <http://drc.uga.edu>.
2. **Instructor Availability:** I am available to meet with students by appointment if anyone cannot attend my posted office hours. Please email me to schedule a meeting.
3. **Classroom Behavior:** Students should behave professionally throughout the course. Disruptive behavior in discussion sections will not be tolerated. Laptops and other electronic may be used to take notes in class, but not in a way that is disruptive to other students.

UGA is committed to creating a dynamic, diverse, and welcoming learning environment for all students and has a [non-discrimination policy](#) that reflects this philosophy. Our class will respect all students regardless of race, color, sex (including sexual harassment and pregnancy), sexual orientation, gender identity, ethnicity or national origin, religion, age, genetic information, disability, or veteran status.

4. **Cheating and Plagiarism:** All course work must meet the standards put forth in the University of Georgia's [Student Honor Code](#). See the [Academic Honesty Policy](#) for details on what is expected of you.
5. **FERPA Notice:** The Federal Family Educational Rights and Privacy Act (FERPA) grants students certain information privacy rights. See the registrar's explanation at reg.uga.edu/general-information/ferpa/.
6. **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](#) 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.

Tentative Course Schedule

Week 1 (8/17 and 8/19 – Intro/Why Government?)

Bianco and Canon, Chapter 1

[“The Democrats Have a Lot of Cutting to Do.”](#) *New York Times*. Oct. 20, 2021.

[“A Detailed Picture of What’s in the Democrats’ Climate and Health Bill.”](#) *New York Times*. Aug. 13, 2022.

Week 2 (8/22 and 8/24– Why Government?, and 8/26 – Constitution and Founding)

Bianco and Canon, Chapter 2

Hardin, Garrett. 1968. [“The Tragedy of the Commons.”](#) *Science*. 162:1243-1248.

Week 3 (8/29 – Constitution and Founding, and 8/31 and 9/2 – Federalism)

Bianco and Canon, Chapters 2 and 3

[U.S. Constitution.](#)

[Georgia Constitution.](#)

Week 4 (9/5 – Labor Day/NO CLASS, and 9/7 and 9/9 – Civil Liberties)

Bianco and Canon, Chapters 4

Wehle, Kim. 2019. *How to Read the Constitution and Why*, Chapter 6.

Week 5 (9/12 –Civil Liberties, and 9/14 – **MIDTERM #1**, 9/16 – Civil Rights)

Bianco and Canon, Chapter 4 and 5

Week 6 (9/19 – Civil Rights, and 9/21 and 9/23 – Public Opinion)

Bianco and Canon, Chapters 5 and 6

Reading TBA.

Week 7 (9/26, 9/28, and 9/30 – Political Parties)

Bianco and Canon, Chapters 7

Reading TBA.

Week 8 (10/3, 10/5, and 10/7 – Federal and State Elections)

Bianco and Canon, Chapters 8

Abramowitz, Alan I. 2008. [“Forecasting the 2008 Presidential Election.”](#) *PS: Political Science and Politics*. 41(4):691-695

Abramowitz, Alan I. 2016. [“Will Time for Change Mean Time for Trump”](#) *PS:Political Science and Politics* 49(4):659-660.

Additional reading TBA.

Week 9 (10/10 and 10/12 – Interest Groups, 10/14 – **MIDTERM #2**)

Bianco and Canon, Chapter 9

Reading TBA.

Week 10 (10/17, 10/19, and 10/21 – U.S. Congress and Georgia Legislature)
Bianco and Canon, Chapters 10
Reading TBA.

Week 11 (10/24 and 10/26 – U.S. President and Georgia Governor, 10/28 – Fall Break/NO CLASS)
Bianco and Canon, Chapters 11

Week 12 (10/31 – U.S. President and Georgia Governor, and 11/2 and 11/4 – Federal and State Bureaucracies)
Bianco and Canon, Chapters 11 and 12
Wehle, Kim. 2019. *How to Read the Constitution and Why*, Chapter 6.

Week 13 (11/7 – Federal and State Bureaucracies, 11/9, and 11/11 – U.S. and Georgia Courts)
Bianco and Canon, Chapter 12 and 13
Reading TBA.

Week 14 (11/14 and 11/16 – U.S. and Georgia Courts, and 11/18 – **MIDTERM #3**)
Bianco and Canon, Chapter 13
Reading TBA.

Week 15 (11/21 – Economic and Social Policy, and 11/23 and 11/25 – Thanksgiving Break/NO CLASS)
Bianco and Canon, Chapter 14

Week 16 (11/28 and 11/30 – Economic and Social Policy, and 12/1 – Foreign Policy)
Bianco and Canon, Chapter 14 and 15
Reading TBA.

Week 17 (12/5 – Foreign Policy, and 12/6 – Final Exam Review)
Bianco and Canon, Chapter 15

Week 18 (12/14 – Final Exam, 8:00AM – 11:00AM)