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| **Course:** POLS 1101H |
| **Title:** Introduction to American Government |
| **In-person Class Meetings:** MWF, 1:50pm - 2:40pm |
| **Location:** Baldwin Hall 302 |
| **Term:** Fall 2022 |
| **Professor:** David Cottrell |
| **Email:** [david.cottrell@uga.edu](mailto:david.cottrell@uga.edu) |
| **Office Hours:** MW from 4:00pm-5:00pm or by appointment @ Baldwin Hall 380D. |

**COURSE DESCRIPTION:**

This course introduces students to the study of American government. The course will cover a wide range of topics exploring the history and processes that define the American political system. Students will learn about the government’s constitutional foundation, its protection of civil rights and liberties, its federal structure, its three branches of government, its political parties, its electoral system and more. Moreover, we will engage with these topics as they apply to Georgia government and the state’s constitution. The ultimate goal is for students to gain a useful analytical framework for making sense of the complex world of U.S. politics.

**REQUIRED TEXTS:**

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| TEXTBOOK: | Lowi T, Ginsberg B, Shepsle KA, Ansolabehere S. *American Government: Power and Purpose, Sixteenth Edition*. New York: W. W. Norton and Company; 2021. |
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To purchase online access to the textbook for 180 days, click on the following [link](https://ncia.wwnorton.com/ebook-amgov16). It is $59.95.

**ORGANIZATION OF THE COURSE:**

The course is organized by weekly modules covering a single topic each week. In the typical week students will do the following:

1. Read the assigned chapter in the textbook (see course agenda below).
2. Complete the InQuisitive quiz for the assigned chapter.
3. Read the assigned supplementary reading.
4. Answer an online response question regarding the supplementary reading.

**EVALUATION:**

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| **(20%)** | **InQuizitive Assignments** – Every week you will read a chapter in the textbook and complete an InQuizitive assignment associated with that chapter. These assignments will require you to answer a number of questions related to the concepts covered in the textbook. For each question, you will wager some number of points based on the confidence you have in your answer. You gain the wagered points if your answer is correct and lose the wagered points if your answer is incorrect. You must answer at least 20 questions to complete the assignment and get a grade. You’ll receive full credit for achieving 1500 points. You can refer to the textbook to answer the questions. InQuizitive assignments will be due before the last class of each week’s module. |
| **(20%)** | **Response question** – Every week you will complete a reading (or podcast of documentary) that is supplementary to the reading in the textbook and asked to answer a critical response question on the reading in ELC. The question will prompt you to think critically about the concepts covered in the supplementary readings. Responses should be multiple paragraphs and should display a solid grasp of the material covered in the text. |
| **(10%)** | **Attendance/Participation –** You are expected to attend every class having read the assigned readings and to participate in classroom discussions. Your participation is not only beneficial to you individually, but it also improves the classroom learning environment. Your participation will be graded based on the frequency and quality of your contributions. |
| **(20%)** | **Midterm (10/26) –** The midterm will consist of multiple choice and short answer questions on the material covered in lecture and the readings throughout weeks 1-7. The midterm will be available online in ELC. This is an open-note exam. You may use your books, notes, and lectures as reference, but you may not collaborate with others. |
| **(30%)** | **Final (12/12) –** The final will consist of multiple choice and short answer questions on the material covered throughout the course. The midterm will be available online in ELC. Like the midterm, this is an open-note exam. You may use your books, notes, and lectures as reference, but you may not collaborate with others. |

Grade scale:

A 93.0000 and above

A- 92.9999 to 90.0000

B+ 87.0000 to 89.9999

B 86.9999 to 83.0000

B- 82.9999 to 80.0000

C+ 77.0000 to 79.9999

C 76.9999 to 70.0000

D 65.0000 to 69.9999

F 64.9999 and below

**UGA STUDENT HONOR CODE:**

Please adhere to the university’s standards for academic honesty and integrity. Procedures for handling cases of suspected dishonesty, can be found at [www.uga.edu/ovpi](http://www.uga.edu/ovpi).

**PREFERRED NAMES/PRONOUNS**

Professional courtesy and sensitivity are especially important with respect to individuals and topics dealing with differences of race, culture, religion, politics, sexual orientation, gender, gender variance, and nationalities. Class rosters are provided to the instructor with the student’s legal name. I am eager to address you by your preferred name and/or gender pronoun. Please advise me of this preference early in the semester so that I may make appropriate changes to my records.

**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.

**COURSE AGENDA:**

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| WK | DAY | DATE | READINGS |
| 0 | W  F | 08/17  08/19 | Syllabus  Introduction |
| 1 | M  W  F | 08/22  08/24  08/26 | CH 1: Five Principles of Politics  CH 1: Five Principles of Politics (Cont.)  Hardin, “Tragedy of the Commons.” |
| 2 | M  W  F | 08/29  08/31  09/02 | CH 2: The Founding and the Constitution  CH 2: The Founding and the Constitution (Cont.)  Dahl, “How Democratic Is the American Constitution?” |
|  | M | 09/05 | LABOR DAY |
| 3 | W  F | 09/07  09/09 | CH 3: Federalism and Separations of Powers  Madison, “The Federalist, No. 39” |
| 4 | M  W  F | 09/12  09/14  09/16 | CH 4: Civil Liberties  CH 4: Civil Liberties (Cont.)  *Roe v Wade* |
| 5 | M  W  F | 09/19  09/21  09/23 | CH 5: Civil Rights  CH 5: Civil Rights (Cont.)  *Obergefell v. Hodges* |
| 6 | M  W  F | 09/26  09/28  09/30 | CH 6: Congress  CH 6: Congress (Cont.)  *Cox and McCubbins, “Setting the Agenda.”* |
| 7 | M  W  F | 10/03  10/05  10/07 | CH 7: The presidency  CH 7: The presidency (Cont.)  Cameron, “Bargaining and Presidential Power.” |
|  | M  W  F | 10/10  10/12  10/14 | CH 8: The Executive Branch  CH 8: The Executive Branch (Cont.)  Bazion & Wines, “[How the Census Bureau Stood Up to Donald Trump’s Meddling.](https://www.nytimes.com/2021/08/12/sunday-review/census-redistricting-trump-immigrants.html) |
| 8 | M  W  F | 10/17  10/19  10/21 | CH 9: Federal Courts  CH 9: Federal Courts (Cont.)  Radiolab, [The Political Thicket](https://www.wnycstudios.org/podcasts/radiolabmoreperfect/episodes/the-political-thicket) |
| 9 | M  W | 10/24  10/26 | Midterm Review  Midterm |
|  | F | 10/28 | BREAK |
| 10 | M  W  F | 10/31  11/02  11/04 | CH 10: Public Opinion  CH 10: Public Opinion (Cont.)  Lupia and McCubbins, “The Democratic Dilemma.” |
| 11 | M  W  F | 11/07  11/09  11/11 | CH 11: Elections  CH 11: Elections (Cont.)  Frontline, “[Plot to overturn the election](https://www.pbs.org/wgbh/frontline/documentary/plot-to-overturn-the-election/)” |
| 12 | M  W  F | 11/14  11/16  11/18 | CH 12: Political Parties  CH 12: Political Parties (Cont.)  Aldrich. “Why Parties?” |
|  | M  W  F | 11/21  11/23  11/25 | THANKSGIVING  THANKSGIVING  THANKSGIVING |
| 13 | M  W  F | 11/28  11/30  12/ 2 | GA Constitution  GA Constitution (Cont.)  Political Rewind, ["The right to be 'let alone': Could Georgia's privacy law be used vs. abortion ban?"](https://www.gpb.org/news/2022/08/11/political-rewind-the-right-be-let-alone-could-georgias-privacy-law-be-used-vs) |
|  | M  T | 12/5  12/6 | Final Review  Final Review |
|  | M | 12/12 | Final |