

**POLS 1101S: Introduction to American Government with Service-Learning**  
University of Georgia  
Fall 2022

Instructor:

Dr. Brittany Bramlett<sup>1</sup>  
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Class meets:

Monday, Wednesday, & Friday at 12:40, Baldwin 0302

Course description

This course aims to introduce students to the foundations and organization of American government through service-learning.

Course objectives

- Study the origins and workings of American government
- Analyze American government, considering democratic ideals
- Develop a working knowledge of current events in American politics
- Learn the course material by working individually and as a team through service-learning
- Improve critical thinking and communication skills by considering various political perspectives, reflecting on the development of personal views, and communicating those views effectively

Course texts

Required:

*American Government: Roots and Reform* (2018 Elections and Updates Edition, 13<sup>th</sup> Edition), Karen O'Connor & Larry J. Sabato (**older versions are fine!**)

Referenced but not required:

*Georgia Politics in a State of Change* (2nd Edition), Charles S. Bullock and Ronald Gaddie.

Other assigned readings will be made available to you via E-Learning Commons

(<https://uga.view.usg.edu/>)

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<sup>1</sup> Instructor reserves the right to modify the syllabus as needed.

## Assignments and grading

### **Attendance and participation (25%)**

I take attendance every class mostly so I learn students names but also to have a record of absences. It's important to attend class for your own benefit. Additionally, your peers and instructor value your presence as well. You are allowed two unexcused absences, no questions asked. However, after two absences, I begin to deduct points from your attendance and participation grade. If you are not present, you cannot participate. If you have doctor's notes, you can send them my way for excused absences.

### **Short online quizzes (5% each, 25% total, lowest grade dropped)**

There will be 6 quizzes with the lowest quiz score dropped. The final quiz grade includes 5 quizzes, each counting 5%. Students will complete the quizzes individually via eLC and outside of class. However, students will take the quiz during our normal class time, beginning at 9:10am and lasting 20 minutes on the assigned day. Anything from the class material is considered fair game to show up on the quizzes, and students may use their books and notes. Each quiz is non-cumulative, only covering recent material.

### **Service-learning reflection (2 short, 5% each; final, 10%; 20% total)**

Reflection is a critical component of service-learning. Students will be asked to do this individually, by responding to a written prompt, and collectively, through class discussion. Each individual will complete 3 short written reflections, and one longer final written reflection. The three shorter written reflections will be due the week after service-learning projects are due.

### **Service-learning assignments (10% each, 30% total)**

Students have the option of working in small groups (2 or 3) or alone for these assignments. These service-learning activities will take place during the course of the semester. There will be time set aside for group work in-class and sometimes out of class. The targeted audience for our service-learning includes University of Georgia students. Our focus is voter education. MANY MORE DETAILS TO COME!!!

## Administrative Items

### **ELearning**

Students must become acquainted with eLearning Commons for this class (<https://uga.view.usg.edu/>). Sign into eLC using your UGA MyId and password. If registered for the class, the course link should show up on the student's eLC homepage. Significant content will be available via eLC. Students must check in to eLC multiple times a week. Students will submit all assignments via eLC.

### **Missed deadlines**

A student who has a conflict with a due date should let the professor know ASAP. Communication is very important for getting back on track in the course.

### **Disability resource center**

If the student anticipates needing classroom or exam accommodations due to the impact of a disability or medical condition, they must register for services with the Disability Resource Center. Additional information can be found here: <http://drc.uga.edu/>

**Withdrawal policy**

Undergraduate students can only withdraw from four courses and receive a withdrawal-passing (WP) grade while enrolled at the University. Students can drop any class without penalty during the drop/add period at the beginning of every semester. Dropped courses during the drop/add period do not qualify as withdrawals. Instructors have the ability to withdraw a student from the class due to excessive absences. Please carefully review the policy in its entirety here:

<http://www.reg.uga.edu/policies/withdrawals>

**UGA culture of honesty policy**

The policy is in place to encourage academic honesty among students, faculty and other members of the university community. Students and faculty are responsible for knowing and complying with the policy and procedures. Academic dishonesty includes plagiarism, cheating and much more. It's in the student's best interest to understand what constitutes dishonest work, as defined by the University. Students caught cheating or plagiarizing will receive an F for the course, and their names will be forwarded to the University. Please carefully review the policy in its entirety here:

<https://ovpi.uga.edu/academic-honesty/academic-honesty-policy>

**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 (<https://www.uhs.uga.edu/bewelluga/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 Outline

### **Week 1. August 17 – 26 (Wednesday, August 17 – Friday, August 26)**

Wednesday, August 17

- Course syllabus

Friday, August 19

- *Roots & Reform 1* (Introduction)

Monday, August 22

- *Roots & Reform 2* (The Constitution)

Wednesday, August 24

- *Roots & Reform 2* (The Constitution), *Georgia Politics 4*

Friday, August 26

- Service-learning projects introduction
- Practice quiz

### **Week 2. August 29 – September 2**

Monday, August 29

- *Roots & Reform 12* (Voting & participation)

Wednesday, August 31

- Class discussion & reflection (engagement & knowledge)

Friday, September 2

- Quiz 1 via eLC at 9:10am
- Service-learning project workshop

### **Week 3. September 6 – 9 (Labor Day, holiday: Monday, September 5)**

Wednesday, September 7

- *Roots & Reform 3* (Federalism)

Friday, September 9

- *Roots & Reform 4* (Liberties)

#### **Week 4. September 12 – 16**

Monday, September 12

- *Roots & Reform* 5 (Civil rights)

Wednesday, September 14

- Class discussion & reflection – Rights & voting

Friday, September 16

- Quiz 2 via eLC at 9:10am
- Service-learning project 1 due by midnight

#### **Week 5. September 19 – 23**

Monday, September 19

- *Roots & Reform* 6 (Congress)

Wednesday, September 21

- *Roots & Reform* 6 (Congress)

Friday, September 23

- Service-learning project workshop
- Written reflection 1 due by midnight

#### **Week 6. September 26 – 30**

Monday, September 26

- Class discussion & reflection – Congress & voting

Wednesday, September 27

- *Roots & Reform* 7 (Presidency)

Friday, September 30

- *Roots & Reform* 7 (Presidency), *Georgia Politics* 6
- Class discussion & reflection – Presidency & voting

#### **Week 7. October 3 – 7**

Monday, October 3

- Quiz 3 via eLC at 9:10am

Wednesday, October 5

- Service-learning project workshop
- Service-learning project 2 due by midnight

Friday, October 7

- Political news engagement assignment

**Week 8. October 10 – 14 (Middle of the term: October 10)**

Monday, October 10

- *Roots & Reform* 8 (Bureaucracy)

Wednesday, October 12

- *Roots & Reform* 9 (Judiciary)

Friday, October 14

- *Roots & Reform* 9 (Judiciary), *Georgia Politics* 7
- Class discussion & reflection – Courts & voting

**Week 9. October 17 – 21**

Monday, October 17

- Quiz 4 via eLC at 11:30am
- Written reflection 2 due by midnight

Wednesday, October 19

- *Roots & Reform* 15 (Interest groups)

Friday, October 21

- *Roots & Reform* 11 (Parties)

**Week 10. October 24 – 27 (Withdrawal deadline: October 24; Fall break, holiday: Friday, October 28)**

Monday, October 24

- *Roots & Reform* 12 & 13 (Campaigns & elections)

Wednesday, October 26

- *Roots & Reform* 12 & 13 (Campaigns & elections)

**Week 11. October 31 – November 4**

Monday, October 31

- Class discussion & reflection – Campaigns & elections & voting

Wednesday, November 2

- Quiz 5 via elc at 9:10am
- Service-learning project workshop

Friday, November 4

- Political news engagement assignment

**Week 12. November 7 – 11**

Monday, November 7

- *Roots & Reform* 14 (Media)

Wednesday, November 9

- Class discussion & reflection – Media literacy & voting

Friday, November 11

- *Roots & Reform* 10 (Public opinion)

**Week 13. November 14 – 18**

Monday, November 14

- *Roots & Reform* 10 (Political socialization)

Wednesday, November 16

- Service-learning project workshop
- Service-learning project 3 due by midnight

Friday, November 18

- Political news engagement assignment

**Week 14. November 21 - 22 (Thanksgiving break, holiday: November 23 – 25)**

Monday, November 21

- Class discussion & reflection – political socialization

**Week 15. November 28 – December 2**

Monday, November 28

- Quiz 6 via eLC at at 9:10am

Wednesday, November 30

- Writing workshop

Friday, December 2

- Final written reflection due by midnight

**Week 16. December 5 – 6**

Monday, December 6 – office hours

## **List of Important Dates**

Quiz 1 – Friday, September 2

Quiz 2 – Friday, September 16

Quiz 3 – Monday, October 3

Quiz 4 – Monday, October 17

Quiz 5 – Wednesday, November 2

Quiz 6 – Monday, November 28

Service-learning project 1 – Friday, September 16

Service-learning project 2 – Wednesday, October 5

Service-learning project 3 – Wednesday, November 16

Written reflection 1 – Friday, September 23

Written reflection 2 – Monday, October 17

Final written reflection – Friday, December 2