**POLS 1101: Introduction to American Government**

University of Georgia

Spring 2023

Instructor: Office meeting times:

Dr. Brittany Bramlett[[1]](#footnote-1) Before/after class

bbram@uga.edu Or by appointment

Class meets:

Tuesdays & Thursdays, 12:45pm to 1:35pm, Inst Plaza S306 (lecture with Dr. Bramlett)

Mondays, check your time/place in Athena (discussion breakouts with TA)

Course description

This course aims to introduce students to the foundations and organization of American government.

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
* 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

Recommended by not required:

*American Government: Roots and Reform* (2018 Elections and Updates Edition, 13th 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/>)

Assignments and grading

**Discussion section & assignments (20%)**

Discussion sections occur every Friday, and attendance is counted and expected if you are well. More than one unexcused absence will result in reduction of the student’s discussion section grade. More than four unexcused absences will result in a failing grade for this portion of the course. These sections are small and benefit from student attendance and participation. The discussion section grade may also include reading quizzes and short assignments.

Discussion section instructors:

Madeline Morris mm31003@uga.edu

Kyoung-Cheol Kim kyoungcheol.kim@uga.edu

Mackenzie Vaughn mackenzie.vaughn@uga.edu

Kaci Sharpe kaci.sharpe25@uga.edu

Jakob Allen jba60290@uga.edu

Riley Grube rmg94173@uga.edu

**Short online quizzes (6 quizzes, 10% each, lowest grade dropped, 50% total)**

There will be 6 quizzes with the lowest quiz score dropped. The final quiz grade includes 5 quizzes, each counting 10%.

Students will complete the quizzes individually via eLC and outside of class. However, students will take the quiz during our normal class time, anytime between 8:00am and 9:15am. Once beginning the quiz, students will have 30 minutes to complete it. Anything from the eLC modules 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.

There are no make-up quizzes. Only 5 of the 6 quizzes count toward your grade, so if you miss one for any reason, it is dropped.

**Civic engagement work (2 public meeting reports, 15% each, 30% total)**

Students have the chance to practice being civically engaged in an intentional way and to document their experiences.

Each student will choose a municipality/county for which to virtually attend two local public meetings (council and/or commission meetings are usually pretty informative, but there are all kinds of public recorded meetings on city/county websites). Students will complete a report for each meeting, detailing what happened in the meeting, providing some analysis, and reflecting on their own engagement.

Administrative Items

**E-Learning**

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. Most content will be available via eLC, and most assignments should be submitted via eLC.

**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](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.

**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.

**Peer tutoring availability**The Division of Academic Enhancement (DAE) offers free peer tutoring in over 200 of UGA's most rigorous courses including writing tutoring. To engage with a Peer Tutor, download the Penji app, available on iOS and Android, and sign in through SSO using your MyID.Need help? Visit [*our website*](https://proxy.qualtrics.com/proxy/?url=http%3A%2F%2Fdae.uga.edu%2Fservices%2Ftutoring%2F&token=xDlOlpHDRBA5S7WIR1h3J2wZDFpc4Oj5oReZHWxCoUc%3D) for more information on how to engage with a Peer Tutor or email us at tutor@uga.edu. In addition to peer tutoring, the DAE also provides Academic Coaching, Student Success Workshops and more. The DAE is committed to the success of all students at the University of Georgia. For more on these and other resources, please visit dae.uga.edu

Tentative Course Outline

**Week 1. January 9 – 13**

Monday, January 9

* No breakout this week

Tuesday, January 10

* Recover from cheering on the Dawgs!

Thursday, January 12

* Course syllabus review

**Week 2. January 16 – 20 (MLK Day, holiday: Monday, January 16)**

Monday, January 16

* No breakout this week for the MLK holiday

Tuesday, January 17

* *Roots & Reform* 1 (Introduction)

Thursday, January 19

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

**Week 3. January 23 – 27**

Monday, January 23

* Welcome breakout (look up your meeting space/time in Athena)
* Practice quiz
* Breakout discussion (engagement & knowledge)

Tuesday, January 24

* *Roots & Reform* 2 (The Constitution), *Georgia Politics* 4
* Civic engagement projects introduction

Thursday, January 26

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

**Week 4. January 30 – February 3**

Monday, January 30

* Breakout discussion (voting)

Tuesday, January 31

* Quiz 1 via eLC at 8am
* Civic engagement workshop

Thursday, February 2

* *Roots & Reform* 3 (Federalism)

**Week 5. February 6 – 10**

Monday, February 6

* Breakout discussion (federalism & voting)

Tuesday, February 7

* *Roots & Reform* 4 (Liberties)

Thursday, February 9

* *Roots & Reform* 5 (Civil rights)

**Week 6. February 13 – 17**

Monday, February 13

* Breakout discussion (rights & voting)

Tuesday, February 14

* Quiz 2 via eLC at 8am
* Public meeting report 1 due by midnight

Thursday, February 16

* *Roots & Reform* 6 (Congress)

**Week 7. February 20 – 24**

Monday, February 20

* Breakout discussion (public meeting reflection)

Tuesday, February 21

* *Roots & Reform* 6 (Congress), *Georgia Politics* 5

Thursday, February 23

* *Roots & Reform* 7 (Presidency)

**Week 8. February 27 – March 3 (Midterm: March 2)**

Monday, February 27

* Breakout discussion (Congress & voting)

Tuesday, February 28

* *Roots & Reform* 7 (Presidency), *Georgia Politics* 6

Thursday, March 2

* Quiz 3 via eLC at 8am

**Spring break (March 6 – 10)**

**Week 9. March 13 – 17**

Monday, March 13

* Breakout discussion (Presidency & voting)

Tuesday, March 14

* *Roots & Reform* 8 (Bureaucracy)

Thursday, March 16

* *Roots & Reform* 9 (Judiciary)

**Week 10. March 20 – 24 (Withdrawal deadline: March 23)**

Monday, March 20

* Breakout discussion (Bureaucracy & voting)

Tuesday, March 21

* *Roots & Reform* 9 (Judiciary), *Georgia Politics* 7

Thursday, March 23

* Quiz 4 via eLC at 8am

**Week 11. March 27 – March 31**

Monday, March 27

* Breakout discussion (Courts & voting)

Tuesday, March 28

* *Roots & Reform* 11 (Parties)

Thursday, March 30

* *Roots & Reform* 15 (Interest groups)

**Week 12. April 3 – 7**

Monday, April 3

* Breakout discussion (parties & voting)

Tuesday, April 4

* *Roots & Reform* 14 (Media)

Thursday, April 6

* Quiz 5 via elc at 8am

**Week 13. April 10 – 14**

Monday, April 10

* Breakout discussion (Media literacy & voting)

Tuesday, April 11

* *Roots & Reform* 10 (Public opinion)

Thursday, April 13

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

**Week 14. April 17 – 21**

Monday, April 17

* Breakout discussion (Campaigns & elections & voting)

Tuesday, April 18

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

Thursday, April 20

* *Roots & Reform* 10 (Political socialization)

**Week 15. April 24 – 28**

Monday, April 24

* Breakout discussion (political socialization)

Tuesday, April 25

* Quiz 6 via eLC at 8am

Thursday, April 27

* Complete course evaluation
* Public meeting workday
* Public meeting report 2 due by midnight

**Week 16. May 1 – 5**

Monday, May 1

* Class discussion & reflection – Final break out – wrap up

**List of Due Dates**

Quiz 1 – Tuesday, January 31

Quiz 2 – Tuesday, February 14

Quiz 3 – Thursday, March 2

Quiz 4 – Thursday, March 23

Quiz 5 – Thursday, April 6

Quiz 6 – Tuesday, April 25

Public meeting report 1 – Tuesday, February 14

Public meeting report 2 – Thursday, April 27

1. Dates and assignments are subject to change by the professor. [↑](#footnote-ref-1)