

POLS 1101E: American Government

University of Georgia, Summer Thru Term 2024

Barry C. Edwards, JD, PhD

Course Description

POLS 1101E: American Government introduces students to American national government. We will explore the origins, development, and functions of the executive, legislative, and judicial branches of government. Whenever possible, we will use historical or current political issues and events to better explain the functions of government. It is organized in a series of numbered modules.

Technical Requirements

If you are able to access the Internet on a regular basis, you meet the technical requirements for the course. It is important that you have reliable Internet service, particularly as the tests are time sensitive. You also need a reliable laptop or desktop computer. I would not suggest taking tests or quizzes on your phone.

Instructor Contact

Online office hours via Zoom:
Tuesdays during term, 10am - noon EST. Email: bce@uga.edu.

If you have general questions about course, please use class discussion so entire class sees the Q & A.

Please read syllabus, assignment instructions, and FAQ. You'll find answers to most questions.

Course Objectives:

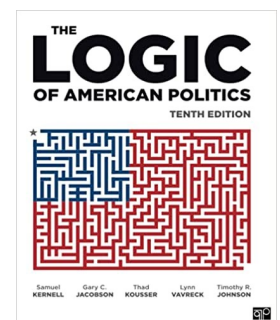
- Understand key terms and concepts related to American government.
- Identify historically significant American political events.
- Understand key elements of Georgia political history and state government.
- Discuss political issues in constructive manner.
- Improve writing and critical thinking skills.
- Build communication skills and practice professional work habits.

Required Course Textbook

Samuel Kernell, Gary Jacobson, Thad Kousser, Lynn Vavreck, and Timothy Johnson. *The Logic of American Politics, Eleventh Edition*. (Thousand Oaks, CA: CQ Press, an Imprint of Sage Publications, Inc. 2021). ISBN-13: 978-1071815977 , ISBN-10: 1071815970.

Make sure you buy the right textbook (see cover image) not similarly titled textbooks for other classes by the same authors or prior editions of this textbook. [See on Amazon.](#)

Note: There is now an Eleventh Edition of this textbook. You are welcome to use the Tenth Edition.



Online Learning Environment:

This course is hosted on UGA eLC. If you have any issues at any point, make sure to contact:

- EITS Help Desk: helpdesk@uga.edu or 706.542.3106. Business hours are 8am - 10pm (Mon-Thurs), 8am-6pm (Fri), and 1pm-7pm (Sat-Sun)
- Go the [University System of Georgia Desire2Learn Online Help Center](#). From this site, you can search the Knowledge Base, browse popular articles, or click the link for live support (24x7x365) in the scrolling news area.

Grading and Assignments

Your grade for this course will be determined by your scores on module quizzes (50% of overall grade), activities and small group discussions (25% of overall grade), and the final exam (25% of overall grade). Your lowest module quiz grade is automatically dropped from your final course grade calculation.

There are no extra credit assignments in this class. Note this now so that you are properly motivated to achieve your grade goal.

You can use your textbook and notes during module quizzes and the final exam. Even though they are open book, given that they are time limited (and they will remain so – only those students with accommodations may seek extended time), you need to be prepared and knowledgeable or you will not be able to complete the test in the time allowed.

| Grade | From % | To % |
|-------|--------|------|
| F | 0 | 59.4 |
| D | 59.5 | 69.4 |
| C- | 69.5 | 72.4 |
| C | 72.5 | 77.4 |
| C+ | 77.5 | 79.4 |
| B- | 79.5 | 82.4 |
| B | 82.5 | 87.4 |
| B+ | 87.5 | 89.4 |
| A- | 89.5 | 92.4 |
| A | 92.5 | 100 |

Learning Activities

This course uses a variety of types of content to help you learn the material. In addition to the textbook, you'll have the opportunity to discuss course material with classmates and take practice quizzes. You'll watch videos and explore some different web sites.

Course Outline and Assignment Schedule

There are 15 numbered course modules. We will cover two modules per week during Summer 2023.

| Module | Dates (open - due) | Textbook Reading |
|--------------------------------------|--------------------|------------------|
| 01. The Logic of American Politics | June 6 - 9 | Chapter 1 |
| 02. The U.S. Constitution | June 10 - 13 | Chapter 2 |
| 03. Federalism | June 10 - 16 | Chapter 3 |
| 04. Civil Rights | June 17 - 20 | Chapter 4 |
| 05. Civil Liberties | June 17 - 23 | Chapter 5 |
| 06. Congress | June 24 - 27 | Chapter 6 |
| 07. Presidency | June 24 - 30 | Chapter 7 |
| 08. Federal Bureaucracy | July 1 - 4 | Chapter 8 |
| 09. Federal Judiciary | July 1 - 7 | Chapter 9 |
| 10. Public Opinion | July 8 - 11 | Chapter 10 |
| 11. Voting, Campaigns, and Elections | July 8 - 24 | Chapter 11 |
| 12. Political Parties | July 15 - 18 | Chapter 12 |
| 13. Interest Groups | July 15 - 21 | Chapter 13 |
| 14. Media and Politics | July 22 - 25 | Chapter 14 |
| 15. Public Policy | July 22 - 28 | Chapter 15 |
| Final Exam Module/Week | July 29 - Aug. 1 | |

Course assignments are outlined in more detail on the ELC course site. Be sure to check modules for supplemental

course material, like streaming videos, assigned in addition to textbook readings.

Academic Honesty and Student Conduct

This course follows all policies related to [Academic Honesty](#) and [Student Code of Conduct](#) as outlined by the University of Georgia. All students are responsible for maintaining the highest standards of honesty and integrity in every phase of their academic careers. For related information on University policy, see A Culture of Honesty at the University of Georgia issued by the Office of the Vice President for Instruction.

I encourage you to study course material with other students and learn together. Your discussion posts, module quizzes, and final exam must, however, be your own work. Telling other students answers to quiz or exam questions is cheating. Copying someone else's writing and posting it as if you wrote it is academic dishonesty. If you're not sure if what you're doing is learning or cheating, please ask for clarification.

Late Work Policy

Late work will be penalized 10% of the assignment value per day late. For example, if you receive a score of 9 out of 10 on a quiz two days after it was due (i.e. you took a quiz due Sunday on Tuesday instead), your score will be reduced by 2 points (20% of 10 points), so you will receive a 7 out of 10 on that quiz. You will receive no credit for work complete ten or more days after its due date.

I will waive lateness deductions if you submit an assignment late due to one of the following reasons:

- The eLC is not available (major server outages)
- Unforeseeable medical (e.g. COVID), personal, or family emergency
- Active duty military responsibilities
- Travel for University events (like UGA sports and tournaments)
- Religious observances

I may ask for documentation. I know things don't always go as planned and try to be reasonable and fair to all students.

Incomplete grades are given only in situations where unexpected emergencies prevent a student from completing the course and the remaining work can be completed the next semester. Your instructor is the final authority on whether you qualify for an incomplete.

Disability Statement

The University of Georgia is committed to providing reasonable accommodations for all persons with disabilities. Students with disabilities who need accommodations in this course must notify the professor at the beginning of the semester regarding needed accommodations. Students who need accommodations must be registered with University student support services.

Professionalism Policy

Follow university policy and basic rules of etiquette in all your course interactions. When you participate in small group discussions, please refrain from using offensive language or making personal attacks. You are encouraged to make constructive criticisms and present opposing viewpoints in a respectful and professional manner.

Third-Party Software and FERPA

During this course you might have the opportunity to use public online services and/or software applications sometimes called third-party software such as a blog or wiki. While some of these could be required assignments, you need **not** make any personally identifying information on a public site. Do not post or provide any private information about yourself or your classmates. Where appropriate you may use a pseudonym or nickname. Some written assignments posted publicly may require personal reflection/comments, but the assignments will not require you to disclose any personally identity-sensitive information. If you have any concerns about this, please contact your instructor.

Copyright

This course may contain copyright protected materials such as audio or video clips, images, text materials, etc. These items are being used with regard to the Fair Use doctrine in order to enhance the learning environment. Please do not copy, duplicate, download or distribute these items. The use of these materials is strictly reserved for this online

classroom environment and your use only.

Agreement

By taking the course online, you also enjoy the opportunity to fit this course into your own schedule and adapt the course to your learning style. However, the freedom of an online class requires more personal responsibility on your part.

By enrolling in this course, you agree to adhere to these policies linked above and to do your best to be a good, productive, and honest student. You also agree to work with Dr. Edwards to make sure that you have a positive learning experience and a rewarding course outcome and that you will not neglect to stay on top of your work. Nor will you interact with your peers to collaborate on any exams, essays or projects unless they are clearly designated as group projects or work.