**POLS 2200 Love Thy Political Enemies**    Professor W. Heath Garrett

Spring 2024       307 Baldwin Hall

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POLS 2200 Hot Topics in Political Science: Love Thy Political Enemies considers the present, deeply polarized condition of the American electorate and lays out concrete measures for mending the breach. This is a 1-credit hour course which meets once per week beginning in the second half of the spring 2024 semester. The course takes a deep dive into social scientist and *New York Times* best-selling author Arthur Brooks’ *Love Your Enemies: How Decent People Can Save America from the Culture of Contempt*. Brooks covers tough questions like “How can I love my enemies if they are immoral?” and he presents novel solutions, including inviting others to disagree, even disagree passionately. The course is taught by Heath Garrett, political strategist and former Chief of Staff to former U.S. Senator Johnny Isakson (R-Ga). Professor Garrett’s course builds on themes presented in the recent [Isakson Symposium on Political Civility](https://spia.uga.edu/news-events/signature-events/isakson/) at UGA and is likely to feature guest lecturers, including Georgia Attorney General Chris Carr and SPIA Dean Matt Auer.

TEXTBOOKS

Arthur C. Brooks, *Love Your Enemies: How Decent People Can Save America from the Culture of Contempt*

Readings and videos posted to ELC

SCHEDULE

March 12 Class introduction and overview. Discuss: Are You Sick of Fighting Yet? Brooks, Introduction

March 19 The Culture of Contempt; Can you afford to be nice? Brooks, Ch. 1-2, **QUIZ;** **DUE** Week 2 Assignment; Special Guest TBA

March 26 Love Lessons for Leaders; How Can I Love My Enemies If They Are Immoral? Brooks Ch. 3-4, **QUIZ; DUE** Week 3 Assignment; Special Guest TBA

April 2 The Power and Peril of Identity; Brooks Ch. 5, **QUIZ; DUE** Week 4 Assignment; Special Guest TBA

April 9 Tell Me a Story; Is Competition Our Problem? Brooks, Ch. 6-7, **QUIZ; DUE** Week 5 Assignment; Special Guest Dean Auer

April 16 Please Disagree With Me; Brooks Ch. 8, **QUIZ; DUE** Research Paper and Week 6 assignment; Special Guest TBA

April 23 Five Rules to Subvert the Culture of Contempt; Brooks, Conclusion, **QUIZ**

GRADING

Grades will be based on short, easy reading quizzes, weekly research assignments, a short research paper, and class participation. Be ready quizzes (BRQs) will be 2-3 questions that (if you have read the assigned readings) should be easy. These will be given at the beginning of class and no makeup quiz will be allowed as deep command of the reading and participating on the actual day of class are central to the class. Participation in class (and therefore attendance) will be 20% of your overall grade, so to do well you should come to class prepared with thoughtful insights, questions, and real-world examples to add to the discussion. The heart of this class will be discussion surrounding the book, and the class format will be almost like a book club.

**Weekly assignments will be due each week before class begins**. There will be a topic or question where you must find a real-world example that applies to the prompt and submit a document with a link to it as well as a short, 1-paragraph summary of what you found. Each student will present during two separate, scheduled sessions over the semester, but every student will turn in their assignment before each class on eLC (even if you are not presenting that day).

The final part of your grade will be a 3-5 page research paper. Your paper should be clear and concise, the shorter the better. Is America broken? Since the book was written, the culture of contempt appears to have grown. Is America’s culture of contempt permanent and irreversible? If so, why do you think so and what are the consequences? If you do not think it is permanent and irreversible, who and what are the mechanisms for change? Can current political leaders be successful without using contempt? Note to students: Beware of using ChatGPT or other generative AI platforms to generate content for your paper. It’s okay to get ideas and to critique the content produced by Generative AI. It’s a really bad idea to turn in a paper composed by Generative AI – even if it’s a modification of what Generative AI serves up. The same advice/warning goes for the Weekly Assignments!

Daily Reading Quizzes                 20%     \_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_

Weekly Assignments                    20%     \_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_

Class Participation                       20%     \_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_

Research Paper                 40%     \_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_

Grade scale:

A 93.00 and above

A- 90.00 to 92.99

B+ 87.00 to 89.99

B 83.00 to 86.99

B- 80.00 to 82.99

C+ 77.00 to 79.99

C 70 to 76.99

D 65.00 to 69.99

F 64.99 and below

There is no rounding or curving of assignments or of final grades in this course.

WEEKLY ASSIGNMENTS

Week 2 - Provide one example of political incivility by a GOP member of Congress and a Democrat member of Congress on social media or in the news recently. Use any concepts from Brooks, ch. 1-2 to briefly explain why the behavior is uncivil.

Week 3 - Provide one example of a GOP and one of a Democrat elected official state or congressional level who has exhibited political civility recently. Drawing on any of Brooks’ ideas and arguments in ch. 1-4, briefly: how is civility being manifested?

Week 4 - Example of political incivility on left and right on college campuses in the last 15 years. Briefly, draw on principles or lessons from Brooks ch. 1-5 to shape your answer.

Week 5 - Provide examples of historical figures who discussed political civility: quotes, papers, etc.

Week 6 - Provide a historical example of political incivility. Use any concepts from Brooks’ book to support your answer.

Week 7 – Assume you are running for President of the United States. You need to write a speech to deliver to a potentially unfriendly crowd and you decide to use concepts from Brooks’ concluding chapter to shape your speech. Which concept(s) would you use?

**Deadlines:** All assignments are to be submitted at time specified in this syllabus or on the assignment posted to eLC. If an assignment is turned in after the due date, 20% deducted will be applied to your assignment grade. An additional 20% will be deducted for each day the assignment is late. Assignments turned in more than 3 days late will receive a failing grade for that assignment.

**Academic honesty:** The University of Georgia has an academic honesty policy. Academic integrity is required for a positive learning environment. All students enrolled in University courses are expected to complete coursework responsibilities with fairness and honesty. Failure to do so by seeking unfair advantage over others or misrepresenting someone else’s work as your own, can result in disciplinary action. Students caught cheating or plagiarizing will receive a failing grade in the course and your name will be forwarded to the University. This course follows all policies related to Academic Honesty and Student Code of Conduct as outlined by the University of Georgia.

* <https://honesty.uga.edu/Academic-Honesty-Policy/>
* <http://www.conduct.uga.edu/code_of_conduct/codeofconduct.pdf>

**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.

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

**Well-being, mental health, and student support**

If you or someone you know needs assistance, you are encouraged to contact Student Care & 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 to support your well-being and mental health: <https://well-being.uga.edu/>

Counseling and Psychiatric Services (CAPS) is your go-to, on-campus resource for emotional, social and behavioral-health support: <https://caps.uga.edu/>, TAO Online Support (<https://caps.uga.edu/tao/>), 24/7 support at 706-542-2273. For crisis support: <https://healthcenter.uga.edu/emergencies/>.

The University Health Center offers FREE workshops, classes, mentoring and health coaching led by licensed clinicians or health educators: <https://healthcenter.uga.edu/bewelluga/>