

POLS 1101: Introduction to American Government

Class Time: MW 11:30am – 12:20pm

Classroom: Instructional Plaza N106

Instructor: Jeffrey M. Glas, PhD

Contact Information:

Office Hours: By Appointment

Office Location: Baldwin 380

Email: jeffrey.glas@uga.edu

Course Prerequisites: None

Friday Breakout Session Schedule

CRN	Time	Classroom	Teaching Asst.
21537	8:00-8:50 AM	Baldwin 301	Elizabeth Stark
21544	9:10-10:00 AM	Psychology 111	Elizabeth Stark
21545	9:10-10:00 AM	Baldwin 202	Zarif Khan
21548	10:20-11:10 AM	Journalism 502	Michael Todd Perry
21550	10:20-11:10 AM	Journalism 505	Zarif Khan
21552	11:30-12:20 PM	Journalism 502	Michael Todd Perry
21555	11:30-12:20 PM	Journalism 505	Mackenzie Vaughn
21558	11:30-12:20 PM	MLC 250	Jackson Tilley
21563	12:40-1:30 PM	Psychology 309	Mackenzie Vaughn
21566	12:40-1:30 PM	Baldwin 311	Yuge Wang
21568	1:50-2:40 PM	Baldwin 202	Yuge Wang

TA Contact Information

Teaching Asst.	Email
Zarif Khan	zarif.khan@uga.edu
Michael Todd Perry	michael.perry@uga.edu
Elizabeth Stark	ecs75782@uga.edu
Jackson Tilley	jackson.tilley@uga.edu
Mackenzie Vaughn	mackenzie.vaughn@uga.edu
Yuge Wang	yuge.wang@uga.edu

I. Course Description:

This course is a college level introduction to government and politics. The primary goal of this course is to introduce students to the scientific study of politics using the United States and Georgia as the primary examples. To this end the course is designed to provide students with an historical and conceptual background of government and politics as well as a scientific perspective for understanding the relationships between different levels and branches of government, the operation of these political institutions, and how citizens interact with government in the United States and the state of Georgia. While much of this course focuses on governing and political institutions at the federal level and the State of Georgia perhaps the most important lessons will cover the role you, as a citizen or resident, play in the shaping of these institutions and the outcomes we observe in American politics.

By the end of this course you should:

- 1) Understand the constitutional foundations of United States (U.S.) government as well as the and how the Constitution sets the stage for political activity in the U.S and Georgia.
- 2) Identify the different government institutions in the U.S., explain how they interact with each other and *The People* and how these interactions have changed over time.
- 3) Understand the institutional arrangements and powers of the government of The State of Georgia.
- 4) Reconcile the opinions of the public and conduct of our elections with the governing actions taken by our representatives in government at both the federal level and in The State of Georgia.
- 5) Evaluate the performance of one of your representatives in government and offer a strategic policy recommendation.
- 6) Understand how our humanity influences democratic politics in the U.S., Georgia, and around the world.

II. Course Requirements and Graded Evaluation

(2.1) Required Texts

Kernell et al. The Logic of American Politics (11th edition).
ISBN: 9781071861257

Bullock, Charles and Ronald Gaddie. Georgia Politics in a State of Change (2nd edition).
ISBN: 9780205864676

(2.2) Exams

There are three exams in this class. Each exam is worth 25% of your grade. These exams contain multiple choice and short answer items. As you will see further down, the course is organized into three units. The exams are not cumulative; each exam only covers its respective unit.

(2.3) Assignments, Discussion, and Attendance

Learning is an active exercise. Students at all levels of learning and accomplishment benefit when they are actively engaged with the course material. For most weeks of this class, you will have a short assignment to complete. These assignments will be posted to Assignment Folders in eLC and you will be able to work on these assignments in small groups during your breakout sessions, but you must make individual submissions to eLC to receive a grade.

(2.4) Exam Schedule and Grade Distribution

Exam 1	25%	February 12 th
Exam 2	25%	March 18 th
Exam 3	25%	May 3 rd
Assignments	25%	Weekly

(2.5) Grading

All grades (including final grades) will be assigned following the system depicted below:

A	=	94-100	C+	=	77
A-	=	90	C	=	74
B+	=	87	C-	=	70
B	=	84	D	=	60 – 69
B-	=	80	F	≤	59

III. Class Policies

(3.1) Disability Disclosure Statement

Abled-ness should not impede your intellectual development. Please get in touch with me (Dr. Glas) about any accommodations you need in the classroom, your breakout sessions, and for exams. We have some amazing resources for you here at UGA. For testing accommodations please contact the Disability Resource Center (DRC) as soon as possible. For more information please check out the DRC's website (www.uga.drc.edu). The DRC is located at 825 Lumpkin Street (Clark-Howell Hall) and can be contacted by phone at 706.542.8719.

(3.2) Student Athletes

Representing our university in athletics places some unusual scheduling obligations on you. Please get in touch with me (Dr. Glas) about your schedule so we can make sure you are able to achieve in the classroom as well as on the field or in the arena.

(3.3) Absences

John Lennon once said, "Life happens while you're busy making other plans." Attending class is critical for your success in this class. Participation is a significant portion of your grade and there is a significant amount of course content that we will cover in our class meetings and breakout sessions. Absences will be excused for legitimate reasons (and I am reasonable).

Please do not come to class if you are ill. The UGA Health Center (www.uhs.uga.edu) is located at 55 Carlton Street (across the street from Ramsey).

(3.4) Makeup Exams

If you miss an exam, you will receive a zero (which means passing the class will be unlikely). If you are late to an exam, you must take it in the time that remains when you arrive. Make-up exams are only given to students with legitimate excuses. All make-up exams are administered by the Department of Political Science, but require my permission.

(3.5) Missed/Late Assignments

Missed assignments are awarded a grade of zero. Late assignments will be accepted with a penalty of ten (10) points for each calendar day late.

(3.6) Cheating and Academic Misconduct

Violations of the academic dishonesty rules are grounds for receiving an “F” in the course as well as possible expulsion from the university. If you have any questions about what constitutes cheating, academic misconduct, or plagiarism, please examine the university policy and /or ask the instructor.

(3.7) Problems and Emergencies

If a problem or emergency arises that prevents you from attending an exam or coming to class, you should contact your breakout leader as soon as possible.

(3.8) Policy on Disruptive Behavior

- 1) Turn communication devices to silent...or turn them off entirely.
- 2) Be polite during class discussion.

(3.9) Withdraw Policy

Be advised that the last day to withdraw from a course without failing is Thursday, March 21st. All students who withdraw after this date will receive a “WF”.

IV. Course Schedule¹

Week 1 – January 8th, 10th, and 12th – Perspectives on Politics and Government

Syllabus

Chapter 1 of *The Logic [of American Politics]*

Josep Colomer's "The Public Good"

Friday, January 12th – Last Day of Drop/Add

Week 2 – January 17th and 19th – Early American Government and the U.S. Constitution

Chapter 2 of *The Logic*

Vincent Parillo's "Diversity in Colonial Times."

Federalist #51

Monday, January 15th – MLK Day – No Classes

Week 3 – January 22nd, 24th, and 26th – Federalism

Chapter 3 of *The Logic*

Chapter 4 of *Georgia Politics*

Madison's "Vices of the Political System of the United States"

Week 4 – January 29th, 31st, and February 2nd – Civil Rights

Chapter 4 of *The Logic*

Chapter 9 of *Georgia Politics*

https://www.law.cornell.edu/wex/equal_protection

*** Monday, September 4th – Labor Day – No Breakout Sessions***

Week 5 – February 5th, 7th, and 9th – Civil Liberties

Chapter 5 of *The Logic*

Chapter 9 of *Georgia Politics*

https://www.law.cornell.edu/wex/due_process

Week 6 – February 12th – Exam 1

¹ The course syllabus provides a general plan for the course; deviations may be necessary.

Week 7 – February 19th, 21st, and 23rd – Legislative Politics

Chapter 6 of *The Logic*

Chapters 5 & 10 of *Georgia Politics*

Selections from Mayhew’s “Congress” and Fenno’s “Homestyle”

Week 8 – February 26th, 28th, and March 1st – Executive & Bureaucratic Politics

Chapters 7 & 8 of *The Logic*

Chapter 6 of *Georgia Politics*

Richard Neustadt’s “The Power to Persuade” (Selection from)

Week 9 – Spring Break

Monday, March 4th – Friday, March 8th – Spring Break – No Classes

Week 10 – March 11th, 13th, and 15th – Judicial Politics

Chapter 9 of *The Logic*

Chapter 7 of *Georgia Politics*

Federalist #78

Week 11 – March 18th – Exam 2

Thursday, March 21st – Withdrawal Deadline

Week 12 – March 25th, 27th, and 29th – Public Opinion

Chapter 10 of *The Logic*

Week 13 – April 1st, 3rd, and 5th – Voting, Elections, and Campaigns

Chapter 11 of *The Logic*

Chapters 9 & 13 of *Georgia Politics*

Week 14 – April 8th, 10th, and 12th – Political Parties

Chapter 12 of *The Logic*

Chapter 11 of *Georgia Politics*

George Washington’s Farewell Address

Week 15 – April 15th, 17th, and 19th – Interest Groups

Chapter 13 of *The Logic*

Chapter 12 of *Georgia Politics*

Federalist #10

Week 16 – April 22nd, 24th, and 26th – The American Media

Chapter 14 of *The Logic*

Plato's "Republic" (Selection from)

Week 17 – April 29th and May 3rd – Last Day of Class & Exam 3

Chapter 15 of *The Logic*

Exam 3 is scheduled for 12noon on Friday, May 3rd

Tuesday, April 30th – Reading Day