I. Course Description

Collective action is the central subject of political science. The questions of political science, of politics, concern the who, what, when, why, and how of collective action. The collective under consideration varies within and across subfields of political science. A national polity is a collective. As are local polities, legislative bodies, bureaucracies, courts, political parties, interest groups, trade associations, neighborhoods, even corporations. Within each of these collectives lies the potential for political conflict.

This course offers students an interdisciplinary perspective to questions about how and why individuals come together to solve the social/economic/political problems faced by their communities understanding why these efforts either succeed or fail, and strategies for overcoming collective action problems. Upon successful completion of this course, you should:

(1.1) Learn to think in a more nuanced and scientific way about politics and government.

(1.2) Understand the fundamental collective action problems faced by political groups.

(1.3) Articulate common strategies groups employ to manage or overcome the collective action problems they face.

(1.4) Explain the conditions under which individuals are more or less likely to cooperate in social dilemmas.

(1.5) Apply these lessons groups commonly found in political, economic, and social spheres.

II. Course Requirements and Graded Evaluation

(2.1) Required Text

As a “no-cost” class you are not required to purchase a textbook or any other reading material for this class. That said, we do have a robust reading list for the semester. Beginning on page four of this syllabus you will find a detailed reading and assignment schedule for the course.
(2.2) Course Assignments
Learning is an active exercise. Students at all levels of learning and accomplishment benefit when they are actively engaged with course material. Your grade in this class will be assessed through a series of five writing assignments, each building upon the last. In the first of these, you will identify and explain the details of a collective action problem of your choosing. In your second paper, you will identify and outline public policies that sought to address the problem you have chosen. The third writing assignment involves identifying groups with a common interest in resolving your collective action problem followed by a fourth paper that involves detailing strategies for pooling these groups together and advocating for policy reform. Your final paper will stitch together the preceding four and finish with a discussion of the challenges your strategy will likely face in the American political environment.

Here are some important dates for these assignments and the rubric I will follow for your final grade:

<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th>Item</th>
<th>Weight</th>
<th>Date</th>
</tr>
</thead>
<tbody>
<tr>
<td>Issue Interest Paper</td>
<td>10%</td>
<td>January 26th</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Policy/Literature Review</td>
<td>20%</td>
<td>February 16th</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Clientele Group Paper</td>
<td>20%</td>
<td>March 15th</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Group Strategy Paper</td>
<td>20%</td>
<td>April 5th</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Final Paper</td>
<td>20%</td>
<td>April 29th</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Attendance</td>
<td>10%</td>
<td>Daily</td>
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</tbody>
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(2.4) Grading
All grades (including final grades) will be assigned following the system depicted below:

- A = 94-100
- A- = 90
- B+ = 88
- B = 84
- B- = 80
- C+ = 78
- C = 74
- C- = 70
- D = 60 – 69
- 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 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](http://www.uhs.uga.edu)) is located at 55 Carlton Street (across the street from Ramsey).

(3.4) **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.

(3.5) **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.

(3.6) **Problems and Emergencies**
If a problem or emergency arises that prevents you from attending an exam or coming to class, you should contact me (Dr. Glas) as soon as possible.

(3.7) **Policy on Disruptive Behavior**
1) Turn communication devices to silent…or turn them off entirely.
2) Be polite during class discussion.

(3.8) **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 Schedule

Unit I: Why Collective Action?

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

***Friday, January 12th – SPSA – No Class***

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

Week 2 – January 17th and 19th – The State of Nature?
Selection from Hobbes, Leviathan Chapter 13
Selection from Locke, Second Treatise of Government Chapter 2
Selection from Montesquieu, The Spirit of the Law Chapters 1 & 2
Selection from Rousseau, A Discourse on Inequality Intro and First Part
Selection from Hume, A Treatise of Human Nature Book III Sec 1, Section 2.1 & 2.2
Selection from Engels, The Origin of the Family, Private Property, and the State Part I
Selection from Rawls, A Theory of Justice Chapter 1, Section 4
Selection from Nozick, Anarchy, State, and Utopia Chapters 1 & 2

***Monday, January 15th – MLK Day – No Classes***

Week 3 – January 22nd, 24th, and 26th – Political Animals
Selection from Aristotle, Politics
Selection from Wrangham and Peterson, Demonic Males: Apes and the Origins of Human Violence Chapter 1
Selection from de Waal, Chimpanzee Politics Chapter 2
Interest Issue Paper Due

Week 4 – January 29th and 31st – Oh, the Humanity?!

***Friday, February 2nd – No Class***
**Week 5 – February 5th, 7th, and 9th – Collective Action and Public Goods**


Colomer, J. 2011. “The Public Good” (see eLC)


**Week 6 – February 12th, 14th, and 16th The Logic of Collective Action**

Olson (1965), “A Theory of Groups and Organization” (see eLC)

“Group Size and Group Behavior” (see eLC)

Policy/Literature Review Paper Due

**Unit II: Who Cooperates?**

**Week 7 – February 19th, 21st, and 23rd – Group Bias**


**Week 8 – February 26th, 28th, and March 1st – Trust and Reciprocity**


**Week 9 – Spring Break**

***Monday, March 4th – Friday, March 8th – Spring Break – No Classes***
Week 10 – March 11th, 13th, and 15th – Prosociality & Altruism


Clientele Group Paper Due

Week 11 – March 18th, 20th, and 22nd – Social Capital


***Thursday, March 21st – Withdrawal Deadline***

Unit III: The Politics of Collective Action

Week 12 – March 25th, 27th, and 29th – The Environment


Week 13 – April 1st and 3rd – Labor Unions


Group Strategy Paper Due

***Friday, January 12th – MPSA – No Class***
Week 14 – April 8th, 10th, and 12th – Voter Turnout


Week 15 – April 15th, 17th, and 19th – Political Parties

Selection from Cox and McCubbins (2005) (see eLC)


Week 16 – April 22nd, 24th, and 26th – So…Where Are We?


Week 17 – April 29th

***Tuesday, April 30th – Reading Day***