**AMERICAN GOVERNMENT**

**POLS 1101**

**Spring 2024**

**Instructor:** Dr. Katelyn Stauffer  **Course Time:** 2:20 – 3:10pm T TH;

**Office:** Baldwin Hall 380D **Discussion** **sections:** M at various times

**Email:** [kstauffer@uga.edu](mailto:kstauffer@uga.edu) **Office Hours:** 1:00-2:00pm T and appointment

TA: Mallory Hoffman TA: Peter Griffith

Email: [Mallory.Hoffman@uga.edu](mailto:Mallory.Hoffman@uga.edu) Email: Peter.Griffith@uga.edu

Office Hours: W 1:00-2:00pm Office Hours: T 12:00pm – 1:00pm

Office: Baldwin 106D Office: Baldwin 106D

Sections: 22494 Sections: 22485/22487

TA: Minjin Choi TA: Caleb Bagley

Email: [minjinchoi@uga.edu](mailto:minjinchoi@uga.edu) Email: Cbagley1@uga.edu

Office Hours: T 1:00-2:00pm Office Hours: W 3:00-4:00pm

Office: Baldwin 106D Office: Baldwin 106D

Sections: 22492/22493 Sections: 22484/22486

TA: Grace Dragna TA: Jeffrey Milliman

Email: [Grace.Dragna@uga.edu](mailto:Grace.Dragna@uga.edu) Email: Jeffrey.Milliman@uga.edu

Office Hours: TR 12:00-1:00pm Office Hours: TR 12:00-1:00pm

Office: Baldwin 106D Office: Baldwin 106D

Sections: 22490/22491 Sections: 22488/22489

**COURSE DESCRIPTION**

Understanding politics is an important part of being an American citizen. As we prepare to elect our next President, understanding politics is particularly important. No matter your future career path, politics will shape your life; indeed, politics have already shaped all of our lives! The goal of this class is to provide students with an introduction to the central topics of American politics. After completing this course students should be able to engage in questions about the government such as: How can citizens interact with political actors? How do we convey our interests to elected officials? Whose interests are represented? Whose are not? How do political institutions function?

**LEARNING OBJECTIVES**

Following completion of this course students should be able to do the following:

* Understand the basic structures and features of American political institutions
* Understand how these features have changed overtime
* Synthesize arguments and produce evidence to support (or refute) empirical claims
* Understand the basic features of American public opinion and political behavior
* Understand how institutional features structure the nature of public opinion/behavior

**REQUIRED READINGS**

The required text for this course is :

Barbour, Christine, and Gerald C. Wright. *Keeping the Republic: Power and Citizenship in American Politics (Brief): 10th edition.* ISBN: 9781544393896

Additionally, you will be required to read the following texts (hyperlinked below):

1. [The Declaration of Independence](https://www.uscis.gov/sites/default/files/document/guides/M-654.pdf)
2. [The U.S. Constitution](https://www.uscis.gov/sites/default/files/document/guides/M-654.pdf)
3. [Federalist Papers 10, 14, 21, 22, and 51](https://guides.loc.gov/federalist-papers/full-text)
4. [The Emancipation Proclamation](https://www.archives.gov/exhibits/featured-documents/emancipation-proclamation/transcript.html)
5. [The Civil Rights Act of 1964](https://www.ourdocuments.gov/print_friendly.php?flash=false&page=transcript&doc=97&title=Transcript+of+Civil+Rights+Act+%281964%29)
6. [The Georgia State Constitution](https://sos.ga.gov/sites/default/files/2022-02/state_constitution.pdf)

**The course will also draw upon current events related to politics; as such, it is to your benefit to follow the news and to read a newspaper regularly.**

**OTHER REQUIRED MATERIALS**

Exams will require scantron. Please make sure that you have 4 Scantron 882-e Test Forms for exams. You will also need #2 pencils to complete these forms. Both can be purchased at the book store for a small fee.

**GRADING**

**Participation (10%):** Students will have two opportunities to assess their participation (worth 5% each). **Students will assign their own participation grade (as a percentage**) along with a 1 page reflection on the quality of their participation. Students self-assigned score will comprise 50% of their score for the assignment.

The remaining 50% will come from your TAs assessment of your participation during discussion section. Discussion sections are an important part of this course and you are expected to be a regular and active participant. Good participation requires that you complete the readings and are clearly ready to engage with content and questions posed during these sessions. A few notes: good participation does not simply mean talking a lot. If you don’t do the readings and simply talk for the sake of talking – or sideline discussion – you will not receive a good participation score. I’d rather have you make few but meaningful contributions than many surface level ones. Please note there is no formal attendance policy in this class; that said it is impossible to receive a good participation score if you are never in discussion section.

**The first reflection paper will be due at 11:59pm on February 29; the second at 11:59pm on April 29**

**Exams (65%):** Students will take four exams during the course. Exams will be evenly spaced out over the semester. The first 3 exams will each be worth 15% of your final grade. Exams will consist of 25 multiple choice questions, and 5 written identification questions. These exams will cover the material presented following the previous exam (i.e. these exams are not cumulative). The 4th exam will be worth 20% of student’s final grade and **will include a cumulative component**. This exam will follow the normal format, but will include an additional 5 multiple choice and 3 identification questions from any point in the course.

*Makeup Policy:* If you miss an exam, a make-up must be scheduled to take place **before** the next scheduled exam. Makeup exams will contain *only* identification questions. Students are only allowed to make up one exam and advance notice MUST be given to the instructor. Students who fail to show up for an exam without advance notice will not be given a makeup exam.

**Please note: Multiple choice questions will be administered via scantron. It is your responsibility to bring a Scantron 882-e Test Form and #2 pencil to class on exam days. These items can be purchased in the bookstore**

**Reading Responses (15%):** Students will be asked to write three one-page response papers about a textbook chapter during the semester. Responses should be no more than one page and should address the following: key questions/concepts of the chapter, something that you learned from reading the chapter, questions that you have about the chapter. These could be things that are unclear about the chapter’s content, or questions that extend on the material presented in the chapter. It is not acceptable to say “I have no questions.” You are free to write about any three chapters covered in class.  **Please note however, that responses are due no later than 12:00pm (NOON) on the first day that chapter will be covered in class**. In other words, if you choose to write a response about Congress your response is due at 12:00pm on February 20. Reading responses should be uploaded to eLC; documents should be labeled following the following format: LASTNAME\_chapterXX.

**Founding Documents and Current Events Paper (10%):** As part of this courses required readings, students will read a series of “Founding Documents” (listed under the required readings). As part of this course you will be required to write a 3-4 page paper discussing a current event related to politics. As part of this assignment, you will pick an event and relate it to one of the founding documents in some way. Students are expected to briefly outline the current event, discuss the significance of the event to American politics, and relate the event to one of the required documents. Students should be sure to cite *multiple* news sources and articles in their discussion of the event. Papers will be due by the end of the day on April 29.

**COURSE POLICIES**

**Grading Scale**: The following scale will be used to determine final grades in the course.

* A 93 and above
* A- 90 – 92.9
* B+ 87 – 89.9
* B 83 – 86.9
* B- 80 – 82.9
* C+ 77 – 79.9
* C 73 – 76.9
* C- 70 – 72.9
* D+ 67 – 69.9
* D 63 – 66.9
* D- 60 – 62.9
* F 59.9 and below

Please note that at the end of the semester grades will not be rounded. However, there will be several opportunities for extra credit for students looking for opportunities to boost grades.

**Emails**: When emailing the instructor and/or TAs, please include POLS 1101 in the subject line. Due to the high volume of emails associated with a class this size, this helps us to keep track of course related emails. **Emails that fail to include POLS 1101 in the subject line may not receive a response.**

**TAs:** We will have 6 TAs serving in this class (contact information above and below). You will be assigned a TA based on the discussion section that you are enrolled in. Your TA will run discussion section and is **your first point of contact** for all things related to the course. Additionally, your TA will be responsible for grading your assignments, answering questions, and helping you navigate the course. You can find your TA (along with their office hours, email, etc.) below.

|  |  |  |  |  |
| --- | --- | --- | --- | --- |
| **Section** | **TA** | **Email** | **Office Hours** | **Location** |
| 22484 | Caleb Bagley | Cbagley1@uga.edu | W 3:00-4:00pm | Baldwin 106D |
| 22485 | Peter Griffith | Peter.Griffith@uga.edu | T12:00-1:00pm | Baldwin 106D |
| 22486 | Caleb Bagley | Cbagley1@uga.edu | W 3:00-4:00pm | Baldwin 106D |
| 22487 | Peter Griffith | Peter.Griffith@uga.edu | T12:00-1:00pm | Baldwin 106D |
| 22488 | Jeffrey Milliman | Jeffrey.Milliman@uga.edu | TR12:00-1:00pm | Baldwin 106D |
| 22489 | Jeffrey Milliman | Jeffrey.Milliman@uga.edu | TR12:00-1:00pm | Baldwin 106D |
| 22490 | Grace | Grace.Dragna@uga.edu | TR12:00-1:00pm | Baldwin 106D |
| 22491 | Grace | Grace.Dragna@uga.edu | TR12:00-1:00pm | Baldwin 106D |
| 22492 | Minjin Choi | minjinchoi@uga.edu | T 1:00-2:00pm | Baldwin 106D |
| 22493 | Minjin Choi | minjinchoi@uga.edu | T 1:00-2:00pm | Baldwin 106D |
| 22494 | Mallory Hoffman | Mallory.Hoffman@uga.edu | W 1:00-2:00pm | Baldwin 106D |

**Electronic Devices:** Prior to class, please ensure that all electronic devices (phones, tablets, MP3 players, etc.) are turned off or silenced. Students are permitted to use laptops in class, however the instructor reserves the right to change this policy if computers become a distraction/become disruptive. Please remember that using a laptop for purposes other than note taking not only prevents you from fully engaging in the course, but may also distract those around you. Also note that it is difficult to receive a high participation grade if you are browsing the internet rather than engaging with the material.

**Tardiness:** Please arrive to class on time. Failure to do so is disruptive to your fellow classmates. Consistent tardiness could result in a poor participation grade.

**Grade Disputes:** If you disagree with a grade you received on an assignment (or have questions about why you received the grade that you did), **your first step should be to talk with your TA.** We will not have an extended discussion regarding grades via email. Students wishing to dispute a grade, must write a half page response explaining why they believe they deserve a different grade. This response should be emailed to the TA prior to meeting, and students should also bring a hard copy to the meeting. After this meeting if students are still dissatisfied with their grade they should contact the instructor (following the same procedure). Please note however, **that I reserve the right to adjust students grades up OR down** if I disagree with the assigned score.

**Class Discussion/Discussion Session Conduct:** Student discussion should be respectful at all times. Since this is a class about politics, there will be many topics on which not everyone in the class will agree. It is important that we engage with each other constructively and that we are open to hearing each other’s opinions. Disrespectful behavior (interrupting speakers, personal attacks, aggressive language, etc.) will not be tolerated under any circumstances. You are responsible for going to the discussion session that you enrolled in. You are not permitted to attend other discussion sessions that you are not enrolled in (and no participation will be accounted for if you just show up). Section locations are listed below.

|  |  |  |  |
| --- | --- | --- | --- |
| **Section** | **TA** | **Section Room** | **Section Day/Time** |
| 22484 | Caleb Bagley | Baldwin 202 | M 8:00AM |
| 22485 | Peter Griffith | Park 259 | M 9:10AM |
| 22486 | Caleb Bagley | Jour 512 | M 9:10AM |
| 22487 | Peter Griffith | Psych 111 | M 10:20AM |
| 22488 | Jeffrey Milliman | Baldwin G41 | M 10:20AM |
| 22489 | Jeffrey Milliman | Park 139 | M 11:30AM |
| 22490 | Grace | Peabody 220 | M 11:30AM |
| 22491 | Grace | Leconte 135 | M 12:40PM |
| 22492 | Minjin Choi | Baldwin 202 | M 12:40PM |
| 22493 | Minjin Choi | Leconte 135 | M 1:50PM |
| 22494 | Mallory Hoffman | Jour 512 | M 1:50PM |

**Office Hours:** I will hold office hours Tuesdays from 1:00pm to 2:00pm. If you have questions about the class you should come see us during these times. If you are unable to make office hours, please email us and we can arrange an alternate time. I am also available on email and am happy to answer any questions electronically, **but remember your TA is your first point of contact.** I will make every effort to respond to emails before the beginning of the next class period. Please note that discussions about grades must be held in person.

**Late Assignments:** Late assignments will NOT be accepted. Students who do not submit assignments on time will receive an automatic score of 0. In extenuating circumstances (death in the family, hospitalization, etc.) students may receive a short extension. In order to receive an extension, students must email the instructor (with their TA cc’d) **in advance.** While your TA is normally your first point of contact **any extension must be granted by the instructor.**

**STATEMENT ON ACADEMIC INTEGRITY**

The University of Georgia defines plagiarism as: “Using another’s work as your own without correct citations.” Examples include, but are not limited to:

1. Directly quoting another’s written or spoken words without quotation marks.
2. Paraphrasing without attribution.
3. Presenting someone else’s original idea or theory as your own original work without attribution.
4. Using statistics, images, or data without recognizing who compiled them.
5. Turning in work that another wrote as your own work.
6. Self-Plagiarism: Submitting an assignment for credit that has already been submitted, unless the current instructor authorizes its use prior to submission.

Plagiarism will not be tolerated, and any work that is plagiarized will receive an automatic 0. If you are unsure about what constitutes plagiarism or how to cite a particular source please contact me prior to turning in the assignment.

Cheating on exams will not be tolerated. Cheating includes, but is not limited to, looking at notes during the exam, copying or paraphrasing the answer of a fellow classmate, or relying on any materials/readings during the exam period. If students are caught cheating during any exam they will automatically receive a 0 for that exam.

You are also responsible for being aware of the other obligations/restriction outlined by the University of Georgia’s Academic Honesty Policy. Additional information about the policy can be found here: <https://honesty.uga.edu/Academic-Honesty-Policy/Prohibited_Conduct/>.

**STATEMENT FOR STUDENTS WITH DISABILITIES**

Any student requesting academic accommodations based on a disability is required to establish eligibility through the Disability Resource Center. A memo of verification should be obtained from DRC. More information can be found here: https://drc.uga.edu/

If you have a disability that requires special arrangements please **register with DRC and inform me within the first week of class**.

**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/.
* 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.

**TENTATIVE COURSE SCHEDULE**

The instructor reserves the right to alter the course schedule at any time.

**Jan. 9 – Introduction to the Course**

* Syllabus

**Jan. 11 – NO CLASS (Dr. Stauffer at a conference)**

**Jan. 15 – MLK Day NO DISCUSSION SECTION**

**Jan. 16 – Politics: Who Gets What, and How?**

* Barbour and Wright, Chapter 1

**Jan. 18 – American Citizens and Political Culture**

* Barbour and Wright, Chapter 1

**Jan. 22 – Discussion Section**

**Jan. 23 – The Politics of the American Founding**

* Barbour and Wright, Chapter 2
* Declaration of Independence

**Jan. 25 – The Politics of the American Founding**

* Barbour and Wright, Chapter 2
* The Constitution
* Skim the Georgia Constitution

**Jan. 29 – Discussion Section**

**Jan. 30 – Federalism**

* Barbour and Wright, Chapter 3

**Feb. 1 – Federalism**

* Barbour and Wright, Chapter 3

**Feb. 5 Discussion Section**

**Feb. 6 – EXAM 1**

**Feb. 8 – Civil Liberties**

* Barbour and Wright Chapter 4

**Feb. 12 – Discussion Section**

**Feb. 13 – Civil Liberties/Civil Rights**

* Barbour and Wright, Chapters 4 & 5

**Feb. 15– Civil Rights and the Struggle for Equality**

* Barbour and Wright, Chapter 5

**Feb. 19 – Discussion Section**

**Feb. 20 – Congress**

* Barbour and Wright, Chapter 6

**Feb. 22 – Congress**

* Barbour and Wright, Chapter 6

**Feb. 26 – Discussion Section**

**Feb. 27 – The Presidency**

* Barbour and Wright, Chapter 7

**Feb. 29 – Exam 2**

* Participation Reflection 1 due

**March 4 – NO DISCUSSION SECTION (Spring Break)**

**March 5 – NO CLASS (Spring Break)**

**March 7 – NO CLASS (Spring Break)**

**March 11 – Optional Discussion Section (Review Exams 1 and 2)**

**March 19 – The Bureaucracy**

* Barbour and Wright, Chapter 8

**March 21 – The Bureaucracy/The Courts**

* Barbour and Wright, Chapters 8 & 9

**March 25 – Discussion Section**

**March 26 – The Courts**

* Barbour and Wright, Chapter 9

**March 28 – Public Opinion**

* Barbour and Wright, Chapter 10

**March 30 – Public Opinion**

* Barbour and Wright, Chapter 10

**April 1 – Discussion Section**

**April 2 – Exam 3**

**April 4 – NO CLASS (Dr. Stauffer at a conference)**

**April 8 – Optional Discussion Section (Review Exam 3/Workshop Current Events Papers)**

**April 9 – Political Parties**

* Barbour and Wright, Chapter 11

**April 11 –Interest Groups**

* Barbour and Wright, Chapters 11

**April 16 – Discussion Section**

**April 18 – Voting, Campaigns, and Elections**

* Barbour and Wright, Chapter 12

**April 22 – Discussion Section**

**April 23 – Voting Campaigns and Elections**

* Barbour and Wright, Chapter 12

**April 25 – The Media**

* Barbour and Wright, Chapter 13

**April 29 – Optional Discussion Session (Review for the final)**

* News Response paper due
* Participation Reflection 2 due

**May 7 3:30 – 6:30pm Exam 4**