

POLS 1101: Introduction to American Government

Class Time: MW 10:20 – 11:10am

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

Breakout Session Schedule: Fridays

CRN	Time	Classroom	Teaching Assistant
10918	8:00am	Journalism 402	Elizabeth Stark
10919	9:10am	Journalism 402	Elizabeth Stark
10920	9:10am	Leconte Hall 341	Madina Bekisheva
10922	10:20am	Baldwin Hall 202	Jeffrey Milliman
10923	10:20am	Journalism 402	Madina Bekisheva
10924	10:20am	Psychology 243	Quinn Phillips
10925	11:30am	Baldwin Hall G41	Kounghun Nam
10926	12:40pm	Park Hall 139	Kounghun Nam
10927	12:40pm	Journalism 516	Quinn Phillips
10928	12:40pm	Park Hall 114	Alex King
10937	1:50pm	Psychology 243	Alex King

TA Contact Information

Teaching Assistant	Email
Madina Bekisheva	mb21694@uga.edu
Alex King	cak31187@uga.edu
Jeffrey Milliman	jeffrey.milliman@uga.edu
Kounghun Nam	kounghun95@uga.edu
Quinn Phillips	quinn.phillips1@uga.edu
Elizabeth Stark	ecs75782@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 on eLC and you will be able to work on most of 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%	September 16 th
Exam 2	25%	October 14 th
Exam 3	25%	December 6 th
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 the teaching assistant assigned to your CRN as soon as possible.

(3.8) Policy on Disruptive Behavior

- 1) Silence notifications on your devices or turn them off entirely.
- 2) Be excellent to each other!

(3.9) Withdraw Policy

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

IV. Course Schedule

Week 1 – August 14th & 16th – Perspectives on Politics and Government

Syllabus

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

Josep Colomer’s “The Public Good”

Drop/Add Begins – Wednesday, August 14th

Week 2 – August 19th, 21st, & 23rd – Early American Government and the U.S. Constitution

Chapter 2 of *The Logic*

Vincent Parillo’s “Diversity in Colonial Times.”

Federalist #51

Drop/Add Ends – Tuesday, August 20th

Week 3 – August 26th, 28th, & 30th – Federalism

Chapter 3 of *The Logic*

Chapter 4 of *Georgia Politics*

Madison’s “Vices of the Political System of the United States”

Week 4 – September 4th & 6th – Civil Rights

Chapter 4 of *The Logic*

Chapter 9 of *Georgia Politics*

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

Labor Day – Monday, September 2nd – No Classes

Week 5 – September 9th, 11th, & 13th – Civil Liberties

Chapter 5 of *The Logic*

Chapter 9 of *Georgia Politics*

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

Week 6 – September 16th – Exam 1

Constitution Day Event – UGA Chapel – Friday, September 20th @ 2pm

Week 7 – September 23rd, 25th, & 27th – Legislative Politics

Chapter 6 of *The Logic*

Chapters 5 & 10 of *Georgia Politics*

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

Week 8 – September 30th, October 2nd, & 3rd – 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 – October 7th, 9th, & 11th – Judicial Politics

Chapter 9 of *The Logic*

Chapter 7 of *Georgia Politics*

Federalist #78

Semester Midpoint – Monday, October 7th

Week 10 – October 14th – Exam 2

Week 11 – October 21st, 22nd, & 25th – Public Opinion

Chapter 10 of *The Logic*

Withdrawal Deadline – Monday, October 21st

Week 12 – October 28th & 30th – Voting, Elections, and Campaigns

Chapter 11 of *The Logic*

Chapters 9 & 13 of *Georgia Politics*

Fall Break – Friday, November 1st

Week 13 – November 4th, 6th, & 8th – Political Parties

Chapter 12 of *The Logic*

Chapter 11 of *Georgia Politics*

George Washington’s Farewell Address

Election Day – Tuesday, November 5th

Week 14 – November 11th, 13th, & 15th – Interest Groups

Chapter 13 of *The Logic*

Chapter 12 of *Georgia Politics*

Federalist #10

Week 15 – November 18th, 20th, & 22nd – The American Media

Chapter 14 of *The Logic*

Plato's "Republic" (Selection from)

Week 16 – November 25th – Exam Review & Thanksgiving Break

Exam Review

Thanksgiving Holiday – Wednesday, November 27th – Friday, November 29th – No Classes

Week 17 – December 2nd, 3rd, & 6th – Is There a Logic of American Politics & Exam 3

Chapter 15 of *The Logic*

Final Exam - Friday, December 6th @ 8am

Last Day of Classes – Tuesday, December 3rd – Friday Schedule in Effect

Reading Day – Wednesday, December 4th