

POLS 1101E – Introduction to American Government
Class Day/Time: Online Monday - Friday
Instructor: Jeffrey M. Glas, PhD

Contact Information:

Office Hours: Tuesdays and Thursdays 2pm – 3pm (online only)
Instructor Email: jeffrey.glas@uga.edu

I. Course Description:

Government and politics impact our lives in many ways. Some are obvious, others almost invisible. The primary goal of this course is to introduce you to the scientific study of politics using the United States as the primary example. To this end the course is designed to provide you with an historical and conceptual background of politics in the United States 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.

By the end of this course you should be able to:

- 1) Understand the constitutional foundations of United States (U.S.) government and how the Constitution sets the stage for political activity in the U.S.
- 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) Reconcile the opinions of the public and conduct of our elections with the governing actions taken by our representatives in government.
- 4) Evaluate the performance of one of your representatives in government and offer a strategic policy recommendation.
- 5) Understand how our humanity influences democratic politics in the U.S. and abroad.

II. Course Requirements and Graded Evaluation

(2.1) Textbooks

We are using one textbook in our class. As an online class I wanted to use an online platform, and I really like Harrison et al's [American Democracy Now](#). The “Connect” package we are using in the class has several learning enhancement features we will be using as part of our learning assessments (your grade). There are print versions of the text available for purchase from the publisher and from your preferred online marketplaces, but the online version is going to be a “must-have” for this class.

Harrison, Harris, & Deardorff's [American Democracy Now – Connect](#)
ISBN: 9781265637262

(2.2) Exams

There are three exams in this class. Each exam is worth 20% of your grade. Exams will be administered through the Quiz tool in eLC.

(2.3) Course Participation

Learning is an active exercise. Students at all levels of learning and accomplishment benefit when they are actively engaged with the course material. This is no different with an online class. In fact, the web-text we are using, McGraw-Hill's American Democracy Now - Connect, was specifically designed to provide regular, adaptive assessment to ensure that you are mastering the content in the readings and lectures. Each module of the web-text contains a few assessment assignments and we also have four outside assignments (in eLC content folders) to help engage you with this course. Collectively these web-text assessment and assignments are worth 20% of your final grade in the course.

(2.4) Exam Schedule and Grade Distribution

First Exam	20%	May 20 th
Second Exam	20%	May 27 th
Third Exam	20%	June 4 th
Connect Assignments/Assessments	20%	Daily
Class Assignments	20%	Weekly-ish

(2.5) Grading

All grades (including final grades) will be assigned following the system depicted below. You must earn a C or higher to pass this class. Grades will not be curved.

A	=	94-100	C+	=	78
A-	=	90	C	=	74
B+	=	88	C-	=	70
B	=	84	D	=	60 – 69
B-	=	80	F	≤	59

III. Class Policies

(3.1) Disability Disclosure Statement

Able-bodiedness 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) Makeup Exams

If you miss an exam, you will receive a zero (and 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.

(3.3) 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.

(3.4) 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.

As for using generative AI, we are following the University’s policy: do not use generative AI to complete any coursework.

(3.6) Problems and Emergencies

If a problem or emergency arises that prevents you from completing coursework, please contact me as soon as possible.

(3.7) Withdraw Policy

Be advised that the last day to withdraw from a course without failing is Tuesday, May 27th. All students who withdraw after this date will receive a “WF”.

IV. Course Schedule¹

Tuesday, May 13th – Introduction to American Government

Read Chapter 1 of *American Democracy Now* (ADN)

Wednesday, May 14th – Early American Government and the U.S. Constitution

Read Chapter 2 of ADN

Thursday, May 15th – Federalism

Read Chapter 3 of ADN

Chapters 4 and 8 of *Georgia Politics [in a State of Change]*

Shipan, C.R. and Volden, C., “Policy diffusion: Seven lessons for scholars and practitioners.” (see content folder in eLC)

Importing Public Policy Assignment Due

Friday, May 16th – Civil Rights

Read Chapter 5 of ADN

Chapter 9 of *Georgia Politics*

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

Monday, May 19th – Civil Liberties

Read Chapter 4 of ADN

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

Protest Song Assignment Due

Tuesday, May 20th – Exam 1

Exam 1 can be accessed on eLC between 6am and 11:59pm.

Time Limit: 60 minutes

¹ This is a general course outline, some deviations may be necessary.

Wednesday, May 21st – Legislative Politics

Read Chapter 12 of *ADN*

Chapters 5 and 10 of *Georgia Politics*

David Mayhew's "Congress: The Electoral Connection" (see content folder in eLC)

Richard Fenno's "U.S. House Members in Their Constituencies: An Exploration" (see content folder in eLC)

Thursday, May 22nd – Executive and Bureaucratic Politics

Read Chapters 13 & 14 of *ADN*

Chapter 6 of *Georgia Politics*

Richard Neustadt's "The Power to Persuade" (see content folder in eLC)

Withdraw Deadline

Friday, May 23rd – Judicial Politics

Read Chapter 15 of *ADN*

Chapter 7 of *Georgia Politics*

Federalist #78 (see content folder in eLC)

Better Know a District Assignment Due

Monday, May 26th – Memorial Day

No Class

Tuesday, May 27th – Exam 2

Exam 2 can be accessed on eLC between 6am and 11:59pm

Time Limit: 60 minutes

Wednesday, May 28th – Public Opinion

Read Chapter 6 of *ADN*

Thursday, May 29th – Voting, Elections, and Campaigns

Read Chapter 9 of *ADN*

Chapters 13 of *Georgia Politics*

Louis Menand's "The Unpolitical Animal: How Political Science Understands Voters" (see content folder in eLC)

Friday, May 30th – Political Parties

Read Chapter 8 of *ADN*

Chapter 11 of *Georgia Politics*

George Washington's Farewell Address (see content folder in eLC)

Monday, June 2nd – Interest Groups

Read Chapter 7 of *ADN*

Chapter 12 of *Georgia Politics*

Federalist #10 (see content folder in eLC)

Better Know an Interest Group Due

Tuesday, June 3rd – The American Media

Read Chapter 10 of *ADN*

W. Lance Bennett's "Four Information Biases that Matter" (see content folder in eLC)

Plato's "Republic" (Book VII, 514a – 520a) (see content folder in eLC)

Wednesday, June 4th – Exam 3

Exam 3 can be accessed on eLC between 6am and 11:59pm.

Time Limit: 60 minutes