

**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](mailto:jeffrey.glas@uga.edu)

**Course Prerequisites:** None

**Breakout Session Schedule: Fridays**

CRN	Start Time	Classroom	Teaching Assistant
21537	8:00	Baldwin 202	Peter Griffith
21544	9:10	Baldwin 202	Peter Griffith
21545	9:10	Journalism 513	Kounghun Nam
21548	10:20	Journalism 513	Kounghun Nam
21550	10:20	Journalism 512	Nicole Anderson
21552	10:20	Geog/Geol 216	Michela Monteiro
21555	11:30	MLC 268	Michela Monteiro
21558	11:30	Psychology 120	Nicolas Roulier
21563	12:40	Baldwin 202	Nicole Anderson
21566	12:40	Psychology 309	Nicolas Roulier
21568	1:50	Baldwin 264	Sidney Shank

**TA Contact Information**

Teaching Assistant	Email
Sidney Shank	<a href="mailto:seshank@uga.edu">seshank@uga.edu</a>
Peter Griffith	<a href="mailto:Peter.Griffith@uga.edu">Peter.Griffith@uga.edu</a>
Kounghun Nam	<a href="mailto:kounghun95@uga.edu">kounghun95@uga.edu</a>
Michela Monteiro	<a href="mailto:Michela.Monteiro@uga.edu">Michela.Monteiro@uga.edu</a>
Nicolas Roulier	<a href="mailto:Nicolas.Roulier@uga.edu">Nicolas.Roulier@uga.edu</a>
Nicole Anderson	<a href="mailto:Nicole.Anderson@uga.edu">Nicole.Anderson@uga.edu</a>

## 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 of the United States, 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 and its many local governments.
- 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 national level and in The State of Georgia.
- 5) Evaluate the performance 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 (11<sup>th</sup> edition).

ISBN: 9781071861257

Bullock, Charles and Ronald Gaddie. Georgia Politics in a State of Change (2<sup>nd</sup> edition).

ISBN: 9780205864676

### (2.2) Top Hat

We will be using Top Hat ([www.tophat.com](http://www.tophat.com)) for lecture participation. You will be able to submit answers to questions using Apple or Android smartphones, tablets or laptops. For instructions on how to download the Top Hat app, please refer to the [Top Hat's Getting Started Guide](#). \*\*\*\*\*Please note you cannot create an account through mobile applications and will want to create this on a web browser (Chrome or Firefox).

Whether or not you have a Top Hat account, go to our ELC course and click on the Top Hat link. It is important that you click this link at least once to access the course, otherwise your enrollment is not considered complete.

Should you require assistance with Top Hat at any time please contact their Support Team directly by way of email ([support@tophat.com](mailto:support@tophat.com)), the in-app support button, or by calling 1-888-663-5491. Specific user information may be required by their technical support team when troubleshooting issues.

**(2.3) Attendance and Participation in Lectures**

Attendance in the lecture hall on Mondays and Wednesdays is not directly assessed, but your participation is (via Top Hat). We will regularly use Top Hat for in class polls, quizzes, and demonstrations and this work best when attendance is high.

My lectures do not simply repeat the assigned readings. These lectures are thematically consistent with the weekly reading assignments, but generally involve a more applied political science approach to understand the empirical realities of American politics over time and today. Moreover, the exams feature lecture content not otherwise covered in the course readings.

**(2.4) Attendance and Participation in Break Out Sessions**

Attendance in the breakout sessions each Friday is directly assessed. Ten of the breakout sessions also feature an assignment that will be used to assess your participation (the other three breakout sessions are exam review). 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.

**(2.5) 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.

**(2.6) Exam Schedule and Grade Distribution**

Exam 1	20%	February 10 <sup>th</sup>
Exam 2	20%	March 17 <sup>th</sup>
Exam 3	20%	May 2 <sup>nd</sup>
Assignments	20%	Weekly
Participation/Attendance	20%	Daily
<i>Lecture Participation</i>	10%	
<i>Breakout Attendance</i>	10%	

**(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**

Ableness 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 Accessibility & Testing (A&T) office as soon as possible. For more information, please check out A&T's website (<https://accessibility.uga.edu/>). The A&T office 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) 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 Thursday, April 3<sup>rd</sup>. All students who withdraw after this date will receive a “WF”.

**IV. Course Schedule**

**Week 1 – January 6<sup>th</sup>, 8<sup>th</sup>, and 10<sup>th</sup> – Perspectives on Politics and Government**

Syllabus

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

Josep Colomer’s “The Public Good”

\*\*\*Drop/Add Period – January 6<sup>th</sup> – 10<sup>th</sup>\*\*\*

**Week 2 – January 13<sup>th</sup>, 15<sup>th</sup>, and 17<sup>th</sup> – Early American Government and the U.S. Constitution**

Chapter 2 of *The Logic*

Vincent Parillo’s “Diversity in Colonial Times.”

Federalist #51

**Week 3 – January 22<sup>nd</sup>, and 24<sup>th</sup> – Federalism**

Chapter 3 of *The Logic*

Chapter 4 of *Georgia Politics*

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

\*\*\*MLK Day – January 20<sup>th</sup> – No Classes\*\*\*

**Week 4 – January 27<sup>th</sup>, 29<sup>th</sup>, and 31<sup>st</sup> – Civil Rights**

Chapter 4 of *The Logic*

Chapter 9 of *Georgia Politics*

[https://www.law.cornell.edu/wex/equal\\_protection](https://www.law.cornell.edu/wex/equal_protection)

**Week 5 – February 3<sup>rd</sup>, 5<sup>th</sup>, and 7<sup>th</sup> – Civil Liberties**

Chapter 5 of *The Logic*

Chapter 9 of *Georgia Politics*

[https://www.law.cornell.edu/wex/due\\_process](https://www.law.cornell.edu/wex/due_process)

**Week 6 – February 10<sup>th</sup> – Exam 1**

**Week 7 – February 17<sup>th</sup>, 19<sup>th</sup>, and 21<sup>st</sup> – 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 24<sup>th</sup>, 26<sup>th</sup>, and 28<sup>th</sup> – Executive & Bureaucratic Politics**

Chapters 7 & 8 of *The Logic*

Chapter 6 of *Georgia Politics*

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

\*\*\*Semester Midpoint – February 27<sup>th</sup>\*\*\*

**Week 9 – March 3<sup>rd</sup> through 7<sup>th</sup> – Spring Break**

\*\*\* No Classes\*\*\*

**Week 10 – March 10<sup>th</sup>, 12<sup>th</sup>, and 14<sup>th</sup> – Judicial Politics**

Chapter 9 of *The Logic*

Chapter 7 of *Georgia Politics*

Federalist #78

**Week 11 – March 17<sup>th</sup> – Exam 2**

**Week 12 – March 24<sup>th</sup>, 26<sup>th</sup>, and 28<sup>th</sup> – Public Opinion**

Chapter 10 of *The Logic*

**Week 13 – March 31<sup>st</sup>, April 2<sup>nd</sup> and 4<sup>th</sup> – Voting, Elections, and Campaigns**

Chapter 11 of *The Logic*

Chapters 9 & 13 of *Georgia Politics*

\*\*\*Withdrawal Deadline – Thursday, April 3<sup>rd</sup>\*\*\*

**Week 14 – April 7<sup>th</sup>, 9<sup>th</sup>, and 11<sup>th</sup> – Political Parties**

Chapter 12 of *The Logic*

Chapter 11 of *Georgia Politics*

George Washington’s Farewell Address

**Week 15 – April 14<sup>th</sup>, 16<sup>th</sup>, and 18<sup>th</sup> – Interest Groups**

Chapter 13 of *The Logic*

Chapter 12 of *Georgia Politics*

Federalist #10

**Week 16 – April 21<sup>st</sup>, 23<sup>rd</sup>, and 25<sup>th</sup> – The American Media**

Chapter 14 of *The Logic*

Plato's "Republic" (Selection from)

**Week 17 – April 28<sup>th</sup> – Exam 3**