

POLS 1101: Introduction to American Government
Class Time: MW 11:30am – 12:20pm
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	Start Time	Classroom	Teaching Assistant
21575	8:00	Baldwin 301	Elizabeth Stark
21577	8:00	Baldwin G41	Kathleen Abernethy
21581	9:10	Baldwin 322	Kathleen Abernethy
21583	9:10	Journalism 402	Quinn Phillips
21585	10:20	Candler 214	Rebekah Lankford
21587	11:30	Baldwin 202	Elizabeth Stark
21588	11:30	Joe Brown 213	Michael Morgado
21589	11:30	Journalism 513	Quinn Phillips
21591	12:40	Journalism 513	Michael Morgado
21592	12:40	Baldwin G41	Joshua Baldwin
21594	1:50	Baldwin 202	Joshua Baldwin

TA Contact Information

Teaching Assistant	Email
Joshua Baldwin	jdbaldwin@uga.edu
Elizabeth Stark	ecs75782@uga.edu
Quinn Phillips	Quinn.Phillips1@uga.edu
Rebekah Lankford	krb03149@uga.edu
Michael Morgado	Michael.Morgado@uga.edu
Kathleen Abernethy	Kathleen.Abernethy@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) Top Hat

We will be using Top Hat (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), 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 th
Exam 2	20%	March 17 th
Exam 3	20%	May 2 nd
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

Able-bodiedness 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) 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 3rd. All students who withdraw after this date will receive a “WF”.

IV. Course Schedule

Week 1 – January 6th, 8th, and 10th – Perspectives on Politics and Government

Syllabus

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

Josep Colomer’s “The Public Good”

Drop/Add Period – January 6th – 10th

Week 2 – January 13th, 15th, and 17th – 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 22nd, and 24th – 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 20th – No Classes

Week 4 – January 27th, 29th, and 31st – Civil Rights

Chapter 4 of *The Logic*

Chapter 9 of *Georgia Politics*

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

Week 5 – February 3rd, 5th, and 7th – Civil Liberties

Chapter 5 of *The Logic*

Chapter 9 of *Georgia Politics*

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

Week 6 – February 10th – Exam 1

Week 7 – February 17th, 19th, and 21st – 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 24th, 26th, and 28th – 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 27th

Week 9 – March 3rd through 7th – Spring Break

*** No Classes***

Week 10 – March 10th, 12th, and 14th – Judicial Politics

Chapter 9 of *The Logic*

Chapter 7 of *Georgia Politics*

Federalist #78

Week 11 – March 17th – Exam 2

Week 12 – March 24th, 26th, and 28th – Public Opinion

Chapter 10 of *The Logic*

Week 13 – March 31st, April 2nd and 4th – Voting, Elections, and Campaigns

Chapter 11 of *The Logic*

Chapters 9 & 13 of *Georgia Politics*

Withdrawal Deadline – Thursday, April 3rd

Week 14 – April 7th, 9th, and 11th – Political Parties

Chapter 12 of *The Logic*

Chapter 11 of *Georgia Politics*

George Washington’s Farewell Address

Week 15 – April 14th, 16th, and 18th – Interest Groups

Chapter 13 of *The Logic*

Chapter 12 of *Georgia Politics*

Federalist #10

Week 16 – April 21st, 23rd, and 25th – The American Media

Chapter 14 of *The Logic*

Plato's "Republic" (Selection from)

Week 17 – April 28th – Exam 3