

POLS 1101S: American Government through Service-Learning
University of Georgia
Spring 2026

Instructor:

Dr. Brittany Bramlett¹
bbram@uga.edu

Class meets:

Tuesday & Thursday at 8:15am, Baldwin 0101D

Course description

Fundamentals of the American government, including the philosophical and constitutional foundations, political institutions and main actors, such as Congress and the presidency, democratic practices such as voting, political participation, and civil rights and liberties. Includes a closer look at the State of Georgia, its constitution, and the political system-all practiced through service learning.

Course objectives

- Students will apply theoretical frameworks, such as federalism, separation of powers, and pluralism, to analyze the organization and functioning of American government, its political institutions and processes.
- Students will learn the philosophical and constitutional foundations of the U.S. political system, including the state of Georgia, and examine primary sources over time, including the Declaration of Independence, Federalist Papers, the U.S. and Georgia Constitutions, among others.
- Students will critically assess the effects of media and public opinion on political processes using analytical tools to interpret data related to the American political system, including public opinion surveys, election results, and demographic trends, and communicate their findings in written, verbal, and graphical formats.
- Students will learn to articulate competing positions on political topics in assignments.
- Students will demonstrate an ability to engage in respectful discussion and civil debate on American politics that are associated with multiple points of view.

¹ Instructor reserves the right to modify the syllabus as needed.

Topical outline for the course

- Civic Engagement
- Service-Learning
- The U.S. Constitution
- The Georgia Constitution
- Federalism
- Civil Rights
- Civil Liberties
- Congress
- The Presidency
- The Bureaucracy
- The Legal System
- Public Opinion
- Voting, Campaigns, and Elections
- Political Parties
- Interest Groups
- The News Media
- Domestic Policy
- Foreign Policy

The course syllabus is a general plan for the course; deviations announced to the class by the instructor may be necessary.

Administrative Items

UGA culture of honesty policy

UGA Student Honor Code: "I will be academically honest in all of my academic work and will not tolerate academic dishonestly of others." A Culture of Honesty, the University's policy and procedures for handling cases of suspected dishonestly, can be found at honesty.uga.edu.

The policy is in place to encourage academic honesty among students, faculty and other members of the university community. Students and faculty are responsible for knowing and complying with the policy and procedures. Academic dishonesty includes plagiarism, cheating and much more. Unauthorized use of artificial intelligence software or word mixing software to write your paper or disguise plagiarized work is considered unauthorized assistance in this course.

Use of artificial intelligence or word mixing software to write your paper or disguise plagiarized work is considered unauthorized assistance in this course. Suspected unauthorized assistance, or other violations of UGA's "A Culture of Honesty," will be reported to the Office of Academic Honesty.

It's in the student's best interest to understand what constitutes dishonest work, as defined by the University. Students caught cheating or plagiarizing will receive an F for the course, and their names will be forwarded to the University. Please carefully review prohibited conduct here: <https://honesty.uga.edu/academic-honesty-policy/prohibited-conduct/>

UGA Well-being Resources

These resources promote student success by cultivating a culture that supports a more active, healthy, and engaged student community.

Anyone needing assistance is encouraged to contact Student Care & Outreach (SCO) in the Division of Student Affairs at 706-542-8479 or visit sco.uga.edu. Student Care & Outreach helps students navigate difficult circumstances by connecting them with the most appropriate resources or services. They also administer the Embark@UGA program which supports students experiencing, or who have experienced, homelessness, foster care, or housing insecurity.

UGA provides both clinical and non-clinical options to support student well-being and mental health, any time, any place. Whether on campus, or studying from home or abroad, UGA Well-being Resources are here to help.

- Well-being Resources: well-being.uga.edu
- Student Care and Outreach: sco.uga.edu
- University Health Center: healthcenter.uga.edu
- Counseling and Psychiatric Services: caps.uga.edu or CAPS 24/7 crisis support at 706-542-2273
- Health Promotion/ Fontaine Center: healthpromotion.uga.edu
- Accessibility and Testing: accessibility.uga.edu

Additional information, including free digital well-being resources, can be accessed through the UGA app or by visiting <https://well-being.uga.edu>.