

POLS 1101 – Introduction to American Government
Class Times – MWF 12 – 12:55pm
Classroom – Instructional Plaza N106
Instructor – Jeffrey M. Glas, PhD

Contact Information

Office Hours – Tuesdays 9 – 11am

Office Location – Baldwin Hall, Suite 380

Email – jeffrey.glas@uga.edu

Course Prerequisites – None

Breakout Session Schedule – Fridays

Coming Soon...

TA Contact Information

Coming Soon...

I. 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 political system.

Learning 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.

II. Course Requirements and Graded Evaluation

(2.1) Required Texts

Kernell et al. [The Logic of American Politics](#) (12th edition)

ISBN: 9781071929537 (paperback) or ISBN: 9781071929568 (e-book)

Engstrom et al. [Georgia's Constitution and Government](#) (9th edition)

ISBN: 9780820347189

We are using two textbooks this semester. [The Logic of American Politics](#) is an excellent text covering US national politics and government and can be purchased from the University Bookstore or from your preferred online retailer. [Georgia's Constitution and Government](#) is a University of Georgia Press publication freely available through the University Library.

(2.2) Attendance and Participation in the Lecture Hall

On Tuesdays and Thursdays, we meet in the Instructional Plaza (N106) for our lecture sessions. My lectures are thematically consistent with the weekly reading assignments but involve a more applied political science approach to understand the empirical realities of American politics over time.

Attendance and participation in the lecture hall on Tuesdays and Thursdays is directly assessed via Top Hat. We will regularly use Top Hat for in class polls, quizzes, and demonstrations. These tactics

work best when attendance and participation are high. Recorded attendance across lecture sessions is equally weighted and collectively accounts for 10% of your final grade in the class.

Side note – the lecture hall is my only regular point of contact with you. And I greatly value this time. Keep an open mind. Even if you think politics and government aren't your thing, this course is going to spark your curiosity. Repeatedly. I bring a multi-disciplinary approach to the classroom to ensure you can relate to, and connect with, the course material.

(2.3) Attendance and Assignments in Break Out Sessions

On Mondays you will meet in smaller groups with one of my teaching assistants. Please reference your schedule (and the first page of this syllabus) for the times and locations of your breakout sessions.

Your teaching assistant is a very important person. They are responsible for leading your breakout sessions and they are also responsible for grading your assignments and exams. You should know them...I promise they will know you.

Attendance at each breakout session is directly assessed, equally weighted, and collectively accounts for 10% of your final grade in the class.

Politics is a social phenomenon...so I designed a series of group assignments for you to complete in your breakout sessions with two or three of your classmates. This group-work opportunity is only available to students in attendance. If you are absent you must complete the assignment individually. Ten of your breakout sessions feature assignments (the remaining breakout sessions are exam review sessions). These assignments are posted to Assignment Folders on our class eLC page (under the Tools menu) and go live when your breakout session begins. These assignments are equally weighted and collectively account for 20% of your final grade in the class.

(2.4) Exams

This is an introductory course, so a fair amount of attention will be given to terminology, fundamental concepts, and causal relationships political scientists have discovered. To assess this knowledge base we are using three exams. These exams contain multiple choice and short, written response items. And these exams are not cumulative. As you will see in the Course Schedule section of this syllabus, the course is organized into three units; each exam covers its respective unit.

Each exam is worth 20% of your final grade in the class.

(2.5) Exam Schedule and Grade Distribution

Exam 1	20%	February 16 th
Exam 2	20%	March 23 rd
Exam 3	20%	May 4 th @ 12pm
Assignments	20%	Weekly
Attendance/Participation	20%	Daily
<i>Lecture Sessions</i>	<i>10%</i>	
<i>Breakout Sessions</i>	<i>10%</i>	

(2.6) 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) UGA Student Honor Code

"I will be academically honest in all of my academic work and will not tolerate academic dishonesty of others."

A culture of honesty, the University's policy and procedures for handling cases of suspected dishonesty, can be found at honesty.uga.edu.

(3.2) Class AI Policy

This is an introductory course. The use of artificial intelligence tools at any stage in your coursework is strictly prohibited.

(3.3) 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 information about accommodations please contact the Accessibility & Testing (A&T) Office as soon as possible. For more information, please visit the A&T website (<https://accessibility.uga.edu/>). The A&T Office is located at 825 Lumpkin Street (Clark-Howell Hall) and can be contacted by phone (706.542.8719).

(3.4) 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.

(3.5) 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 (<https://healthcenter.uga.edu/>) is located at 55 Carlton Street (across the street from Ramsey).

(3.6) Makeup Exams

If you miss an exam, you will receive a zero (which means passing the class will be unlikely). If you are late for 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.

(3.7) 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.

(3.8) 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 automatically failing is Thursday, April 9th. All students who withdraw after this date will receive a “WF”.

IV. UGA Well-being Resources

UGA Well-being 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: <https://well-being.uga.edu>

Student Care and Outreach: <https://sco.uga.edu>

University Health Center: <https://healthcenter.uga.edu/>

Counseling and Psychiatric Services: <https://caps.uga.edu>

or CAPS 24/7 crisis support at 706-542-2273

Health Promotion/ Fontaine Center: <https://healthpromotion.uga.edu>

Accessibility & Testing Office: <https://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>

V. Course Schedule¹

Week 1 – January 12th & 14th – Perspectives on Politics and Government

Reading Assignments:

Syllabus

Chapter 1 of *The Logic of American Politics*

Josep Colomer's "The Public Good"

End of Drop/Add – Friday, January 16th

Week 2 – January 21st – Early American Government and the U.S. Constitution

Reading Assignments:

The Declaration of Independence

Articles of Confederation and Perpetual Union

Constitution of the United States

Chapter 2 of *The Logic of American Politics*

Vincent Parillo's "Diversity in Colonial Times."

Federalist #51

MLK Day – Monday, January 19th – No Classes

Week 3 – January 26th & 28th – Federalism

Reading Assignments:

Chapter 3 of *The Logic of American Politics*

Chapters 1 and 2 of *Georgia's Constitution and Government*

Madison's "Vices of the Political System of the United States"

Week 4 – February 2nd & 4th – Civil Rights

Reading Assignments:

Chapter 4 of *The Logic of American Politics*

Chapter 3 of *Georgia's Constitution and Government*

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

Lincoln's "Gettysburg Address"

¹ The course syllabus is a general plan for the course; deviations may be necessary.

Dr. King's "Letter from a Birmingham Jail"

Week 5 – February 9th & 11th – Civil Liberties

Reading Assignments:

Chapter 5 of *The Logic of American Politics*

Chapter 6 of *Georgia's Constitution and Government*

The Bill of Rights

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

Week 6 – Exam 1

Monday, February 16th – Exam 1 (Bring a writing utensil)

Week 7 – February 23rd & 25th – Legislative Politics

Reading Assignments:

Chapter 6 of *The Logic of American Politics*

Mayhew's "Congress: The First Branch"

Fenno's "U.S. House Members in Their Constituencies: An Exploration"

Week 8 – March 2nd & 4th – Executive & Bureaucratic Politics

Reading Assignments:

Chapters 7 & 8 of *The Logic of American Politics*

The Emancipation Proclamation

Neustadt's "The Power to Persuade" (Selection from)

Semester Midpoint – Monday, March 2nd

Week 9 – Spring Break

Spring Break – Monday, March 9th – Friday, March 13 – No Classes

Week 10 – March 16th & 18th – Judicial Politics

Reading Assignments:

Chapter 9 of *The Logic of American Politics*

Chapter 4 of *Georgia's Constitution and Government*

Federalist #78

Week 11 – Exam 2

Monday, March 23rd – Exam 2 (Bring a writing utensil)

Week 12 – March 30th & April 1st – Public Opinion & American Democracy

Reading Assignments:

Chapter 10 of *The Logic of American Politics*

Week 13 – April 6th & 8th – Voting, Elections, and Campaigns

Reading Assignments:

Chapter 11 of *The Logic of American Politics*

Chapter 5 of *Georgia's Constitution and Government*

Week 14 – April 13th & 15th – Party Politics and the American S[e]lectorate

Reading Assignments:

Chapter 12 of *The Logic of American Politics*

Madison's "A Candid State of Parties"

Withdrawal Deadline – Thursday, April 9th

Week 15 – April 20th & 22nd – The Politics of Pressure

Reading Assignments:

Chapter 13 of *The Logic of American Politics*

Federalist #10

Schlozman et al – Organizations and the Democratic Representation of Interests

An American Media

Reading Assignments:

Chapter 14 of *The Logic of American Politics*

Plato's "Republic" (Selection from)

Bennett – Four Media Biases That Matter

Week 16 – April 27th & 29th –

MW & M Classes Only – Monday, April 27th – No Class

Reading Day – Tuesday, April 28th

Week 17 – Exam 3

Monday, May 4th @ 12pm – Exam 3 (Bring a writing utensil)

Breakout Session Schedule

January 16th – Introducing Yourself

January 23rd – Public Goods & Collective Action in Athens, GA

January 30th – Policy Diffusion to Georgia

February 6th – Protest Song Assignment

February 13th – Exam 1 Review

February 20th – Post-Exam Review

February 27th – Better Know a District

March 6th – Exploring the Federal Register

March 20th – Exam 2 Review

March 27th – Post-Exam Review

April 3rd – Survey Says!

April 10th – Policy Diffusion to Georgia: Elections Edition

April 17th – Amending the Constitution

April 24th – Exam Review