

Course Syllabus

Political Science 2000: Introduction to Political Science (CRN 50204)

Fall 2026

Pre-requisites: POLS 1101

Co-Requisites: None

Course Meeting Times

Class Meeting Time: Wednesday, Friday (in person from 1:15-2:35 PM)

Class Meeting Location: LeConte 323

Instructor & TA Information

Instructor: Jeffrey Milliman

Email: Jeffrey.Milliman@uga.edu

Office Hours: Thursdays, 12:00 pm to 2:00 pm in Baldwin 305e.

The best way to contact me is through email. Email responses from me can be expected within 24 hours of the time the email was sent on weekdays and within 48 hours on the weekends.

Course Description & Details

This course provides a basic introduction to the scientific study of politics. While the primary goal of this class is to introduce students to the basics of the research process in political science, students will also be exposed to substantive areas of political science. Course topics will include the basics of research design, causality, conducting an academic literature review, and an overview of different approaches to social science research. Students are also expected to have a basic knowledge of high school math.

Student Learning Outcomes

- 1): Understand how political scientists ask and answer research questions.
- 2): Be able to identify and summarize academic research in political science.
- 3): Critically evaluate causal claims about politics.
- 4): Become familiar with different methods and processes for conducting research.

Required Course materials

TEXTBOOK

Required Textbook: Van Belle, Douglas. 2020. A Novel Approach to Politics. 6th Ed. Washington, D.C.: CQ Press. ISBN: 978-1544374734.

This textbook is available at the UGA bookstore or for purchase on [Amazon](#).

ADDITIONAL MATERIALS

Additional readings will be provided as PDFs on eLC or as links to articles on the syllabus. You are expected to read the course readings and come to class prepared to discuss the assigned articles and readings. Students may be questioned about the assigned articles or supplemental readings, in addition to the textbook, on the Midterm and Final Exam.

Many of the assigned readings may contain challenging technical material. As such, students will be expected to understand and summarize the basic arguments and findings of the assigned readings, without delving too deeply into the technical details.

Assessment and Grading

Course Assignments & Requirements	Due Date	Portion of Final Grade
Classroom Attendance and Participation		10%
Short Assignments (4)	See syllabus for dates	10%
Midterm		25%
Final		30%
Literature Review		25%

Exams: Exams will consist of a mixture of multiple choice and short answer questions. Exams will be closed book and will be administered in person during the designated class period.

Short Assignments: The course will have 4 short assignments, and each short assignment will be worth 2.5% of the overall grade. Descriptions and resources for each assignment will be made available on eLC. Course assignments will primarily be used to help students prepare to write their literature review.

See eLC for more information about each course requirement.

Late Assignments, Missed Exams & Re-grading Requests

Late Assignments: Missed assignments are awarded a grade of zero. Late assignments will receive a 10% penalty for every calendar day the assignment is late.

Missed Exams: Missed exams will be awarded a zero in the gradebook. Makeup exams will be allowed for legitimate excuses (e.g., religious holidays, medical emergencies, approved UGA athletic events, or illness). Students should notify the instructor as soon as possible if they might miss an exam.

Re-Grading Requests: Students may request that assignments (including short assignments and exams) be re-graded. However, following a regrade request, all assignment grades are final, and regrading requests do not guarantee that a student will be awarded points back on that assignment.

Final Grades

100-94 = A 93-90 = A- 89-87 = B+ 86-84 = B
83-80 = B- 79-77 = C+ 76-74 = C 73-70 = C-
69-60 = D 59-0 = F

UGA 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.

Plagiarism and cheating are serious academic offenses with serious consequences. Plagiarism and cheating will result in an automatic grade of an "F" in the course and may result in expulsion from the University. If you are discovered engaging in either behavior in this course, I will follow the procedures laid out in UGA's Academic Honesty Policy (see above). There you can also find more information about what counts as prohibited conduct.

Accommodation for disabilities

If you plan to request accommodations for a disability, please register with the *Accessibility & Testing*. They can be reached by visiting Clark Howell Hall, calling 706-542-8719 (voice) or 706-542-8778 (TTY), or by visiting <https://accessibility.uga.edu/>.

Attendance & Participation Policy

Class attendance and participation will make up 10% of your final grade. If you regularly attend lectures, sign the attendance sheet, and participate in class discussions and activities when applicable, you will receive a high or perfect score.

Assignments that count towards attendance may include answering questions in class or via Top Hat, and through in class assignments and activities. Every student will have *three* days for which non-attendance *will not* count towards your overall attendance grade. After that, non-attendance will count against your overall participation grade. Students will be provided with more information about using Top Hat to respond to questions and discussions in class. A guide to accessing Top Hat for students is available [here](#).

Consistent late arrivals to class, along with engaging in disruptive or distracting behavior – i.e. talking repeatedly during lecture or the use of a phone or laptop for non-class related activities during class time - will impact your overall attendance and participation grade. Students should sign the attendance sheet only for themselves and should not sign the attendance sheet for other students not in attendance.

Use of AI in this Course

UGA's policy is that the use of AI for coursework is not permitted unless explicitly authorized by me (your course instructor) ahead of time. In this class, the use of Generative AI is not permitted. If you have any questions about whether you can use a Generative AI tool on a specific assignment, please consult with me before using it.

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: 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 & Testing: <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>.

Disclaimer

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

Course Schedule & Activities

Date	Topic	Before Class Action Items	After Class Action Items	Notes
Week 1 (8/17 – 8/21)	- Syllabus - What is Politics/Political Science?	Van Belle. Ch 1. Article: Reiter 2015		Friday, 8/21 Drop Add Deadline
Week 2 (8/24 - 8/28)	Hypothesis testing /Introduction Political Science Research	Kellstedt and Whitten. Ch 1.		
Week 3 (8/31– 9/4)	Theory and Hypotheses	Kellstedt and Whitten. Ch 2.	Friday, 9/4 Short Assignment 1 Due (11:59 pm)	

Week 4 (9/7 – 9/11)	Descriptive Research/Basic Statistics	Agriesti Ch.3 Article: Furnas et al. 2020		Monday, 9/7 No Class (Labor Day)
Week 5 (9/14 – 9/18)	What is a literature review/ Bivariate Relationships	Kellstedt and Whitten. Ch 3.		
Week 6 (9/21 – 9/25)	Why government/Governing Society and the Economy	Van Belle Ch.2 Van Belle Ch.3	Friday, 9/25 Short Assignment 2 Due (11:59 pm)	
Week 7 (9/28 – 10/2)	Governing Society and the Economy continued	Van Belle Ch.3 Van Belle Ch.4		
Week 8 (10/5 – 10/9)	Midterm/Institutions	Van Belle Ch. 5	Wednesday, 10/7 Midterm	
Week 9 (10/12– 10/16)	Institutions: Executive	Van Belle Ch.6		
Week 10 (10/19 – 10/23)	Institutions: Legislatures	Van Belle Ch.7 Article: Miller and Stokes 1963	Wednesday, 10/21 Short Assignment 3 Due (11:59 pm)	
Week 11 (10/26 – 10/30)	Institutions: Bureaucracy	Van Belle Ch.8		
Week 12 (11/2 – 11/6)	Institutions: The Courts	Van Belle Ch.9		
Week 13 (11/9 – 11/13)	Voting and Democracy	Van Belle Ch. 10 Article: Gillen and Page 2014	Friday, 11/13 Short Assignment 4 Due (11:59 pm)	Wednesday, 11/11 Withdrawal Deadline
Week 14 (11/16 – 11/20)	International Relations	Van Belle Ch. 12 Reading: Donnelly Ch1. pages 1-13		

Week 15 (11/17 – 11/21)	Comparative Politics/Lobbying	TBD		
Week 16 (11/23 – 11/27)			Tuesday 11/24, Literature Review Due (11:59 pm)	No Class Thanksgiving Break
Week 17 (12/1-12/5)	Final Exam Review			Last class Tuesday, December 1st
Week 18 (12/7: 12/9)	Final Exam			Final: Wednesday December 9, 12:00 – 3:00 PM in Leconte 323.