

1. Introduction & Ice breakers

Breakout Sessions

POLS 1101

8:40am-9:35am Baldwin 322

& 9:55am-10:50am Journalism 509

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<https://siyuanzhao-pa.github.io/>

About me

- Siyuan (Siri) Zhao, first-year PhD
- Major: Public Administration & Policy
- Research Interests: Citizen-state interactions, Public Personnel Administration, Organizational Behavior
- Got BA & MA at Peking University (PKU), China
- Learn with you, Learn from you

Course Overview

This course is designed to introduce students to the institutions and processes of American national government and Georgia.

Part 1: Ideas and Values as the Foundation of Politics

- Political Values
- Democracy
- Constitutional Foundations
- Federalism & Georgia politics
- Civil Liberties, Civil Rights

Part 2: Political Actors & Processes

- Congress
- Presidency
- Bureaucracy
- Courts
- Interest Groups and Pluralism
- Political Parties
- Mass Media

Part 3: Political Behavior

- Public Opinion
- Participation & Voting
- Campaigns & Elections

Today's Goals

- Get to know each other
- Form our discussion / presentation groups
- Build a sense of classroom community
- Prepare for future classes: classroom policies

Activity: Speed Interview

- **Talk to a partner for 2 minutes.**
- Suggested questions
 - What is your preferred name, major, year?
 - Have you taken any related courses before?
 - What political/social issue do you care about?
 - What do you hope to learn in this course?
 - Are there any particular topics you're looking forward to discussing?
- **3 rounds × 2 minutes each**
 - You will know several classmates quickly!

Activity: Self Introduction

- **30-45 seconds each.**
- You may share 2–3 of the following:
 - Your preferred name, major, and year
 - One of your fun facts, hobbies, interests, ...
 - Why you decided to take this course
 - One thing that usually helps you learn better in a discussion-based class (for example: “I like to write my ideas first” or “I speak up more if someone invites me”)
- **As you listen,**
 - Notice who shares similar interests or experiences with you
 - Feel free to make a note of classmates you might want to work with later

Structure of Future Classes

- **PART 1** Presentation given by group discussion leaders – **Why presentations?**
 - **8-10 minutes for presentation, 3-5 minutes (or more, if you like) for group discussion**
 - **3 students in a group. 9 Weeks in total. ($3 \times 9 = 27$, starting from next week)**
 - **Requirements:** 1) Summarize, comment on, and critique the assigned readings;
2) Propose 1–3 question(s) worth discussing with the whole class
 - For your discussion question, please make sure it:
 - Refers to a **specific idea** from your presentation
 - **Gives a clear goal for discussion:** e.g. asking classmates to **take a position or compare two ideas**
 - ✓ Do you agree that ...? Why or why not?
 - ✓ Which is more important for ..., A or B? Why?
 - Can be discussed in **1-2 minutes** (for each question) in small groups
- **Stable groups for responsibility (presentation), flexible (sometimes random) groups for discussion.**

More Details about Group Presentation

- Each group **should prepare slides** for their presentation (PowerPoint, Keynote, LaTeX... in any form you like).
- The presentation **should cover one of the following aspects**,
 - **1) supplemental reading material** assigned that week;
 - **2) further discussion of contents in the textbook (not covered in the lecture)**;
 - Do not spend all your time repeating the textbook; balance summary & commentary.
 - Focus on what you think is interesting, confusing, important, or worth debating.
 - **3) other materials you believe related to the topic in your presentation week.**
- If we have more than 1 topic for your presenting week, you can choose **one of them** as the focus of your presentation.
- Questions you prepare for in-class discussion should be put on your slides.

Clear, discussion-ready questions

- Must connect to your presentation
 - Should allow classmates to take different positions
- Show group coordination (e.g. contributions of each member; different roles)

Structure of Future Classes (cont`d)

- **PART 2** TA-led Discussion
 - Covering some contents that are important in textbooks while not being covered in lectures – proved to be helpful in preparing for exams
 - Covering the supplemental reading material each week – if our presenters for that week haven't done that
 - Providing some extra interesting materials that I believe deserve discussing with you
 - **Potential tools:** Tophat multiple choice questions & open-ended questions
- **PART 3** Take-aways Sharing (if we have some time left)
 - Asking students to summarize ONE key take-away for that class
 - Exam review class: Group study (in your presentation groups?)
 - **Potential tools:** Tophat questions

Activity: Forming Presentation Groups

<https://docs.google.com/spreadsheets/d/1jNyZPKxdrrE9JtFataEnL2pQvV3BymPsqHpjOBvMbKm/edit?usp=sharing>

8:40 Baldwin Hall

Due:
**Sunday (Jan 18th),
12:00 pm (noon)**

https://docs.google.com/spreadsheets/d/1zggOm8c_W-oD1X23nAuuE4lg-OPLwIGH2TSHRWdqxW8/edit?usp=sharing

9:55 Journalism

- In accordance with FERPA, it is your right to decide whether to use a real name in a shared file. You may use an alias or request to remain anonymous, as long as I can know when you're going to present.
- **REMEMBER:** Put something into the e-form!

Classroom Policies

- Attendance is **REQUIRED**
 - **2 Unexcused absences**
 - After that, you should contact me via email in advance (at least 1 hour before class), showing me an **official document**, such as a doctor's note, a letter from the department...
 - In case of an emergency, documentation may be submitted afterwards.
 - Attendance will be recorded starting **NEXT WEEK!**

Breakout sessions account for **10%** of your overall grade in the class.

Your grade for breakout sessions will depend on you **showing up and participating** in discussions and activities.

Classroom Policies (cont`d)

- **Class Participation Expectations**

- **Be Prepared** – Complete all assigned readings or materials before class.
- **Contribute Actively** – Share your thoughts, ask questions, and respond to others in a respectful and constructive manner
- **Listen Carefully** – Give full attention to the speaker.
 - I am open to interruptions, while you should consider whether the group discussion leader (seen later) welcomes it.
- **Express freely** – This is a time where we will be openly discussing sometimes controversial topics, but **our class is always a safe zone**.
 - **You're always welcomed to freely express your opinions and thoughts.**
 - **There are no perfect answers; for most of the time, even no right answers** – just show us your idea, as the experience of any individual matters.
 - Remember that there are always people who have another kind of lifestyle and hold a different viewpoint from you! (So please **challenge ideas, NOT INDIVIDUALS!**)

Classroom Policies (cont`d)

- **Use of Electronic Devices**
 - Laptops, tablets, and mobile phones are permitted in class only for purposes directly related to the course, such as taking notes, accessing course materials, or participating in class activities.
- **Academic Integrity**
 - Completing your own / group work independently, properly citing all sources, and avoiding any kind of plagiarism, cheating, ...
- **Communication & Feedback**
 - Contact: Siri.Zhao@uga.edu
 - Students are encouraged to communicate with me regarding course contents, assignments, attendance, or any other concerns.
 - Constructive feedback on the course is always welcome!

Next week...

- We'll have our first group of discussion leaders! (bonus points)
- Read materials on **Political Values and Democracy** before class.
- If anyone wants to change your group, please find someone who agrees to swap groups with you, and both of you should contact me.
- ENJOY YOUR WEEKEND!