

# Political Science 1101

## American Government

### Fall 2022

**Professor:** Stephen Nicholson  
**E-mail:** snicholson@uga.edu

**Office Hours:** T & TR 4:00 - 5:00 pm  
**Office:** 309D Baldwin

**Lead Teaching Assistant:** Madeline Morris  
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#### Course Description:

This course is designed to introduce students to the institutions and processes of American national government. Over the course of the semester, we will examine explanations of how our political system operates and how well it meets its democratic aspirations. The purpose of the course is to promote learning and critical thinking about U.S. politics that goes beyond much of what we hear and read in the news, social media, and everyday conversation. One of my goals then is to have you reevaluate commonly held assumptions and criticisms of the American political system. In some instances, what you learn will run counter to commonly held views about American government (regardless of your political beliefs). In addition, we will focus on many basics of U.S. government that are not well known or understood (e.g., the Electoral College). Throughout the semester, we will also cover the Georgia constitution and political system.

#### Course Readings:

Janda, Kenneth, Jeffrey M. Berry, Jerry Goldman, and Deborah Schildkraut. 2022. *The Challenge of Democracy: American Government in Global Politics 15<sup>th</sup> Edition*. Boston. Houghton Mifflin.

*You must purchase a version of the textbook with access to Infuse.*

#### Course Requirements:

To complete the course successfully, students are required to take weekly quizzes, two exams, a research paper, and regularly participate in discussion section. The purpose of the quizzes and exams is to assess student factual understanding of the structure and operation of the American political system and demonstrate knowledge of the central theories, approaches, and findings to understanding American politics. The purpose of the research paper is to assess whether students can conduct basic but rigorous social science research on a topic in American politics.

Students should attend class regularly and have read the material before class. Given the large amount of material we will cover, it is important to not get behind or miss class. If you anticipate missing more than a few classes or are unable to keep up with the reading, *please drop the class*.

Students are also expected be courteous. Please do not eat, sleep, read, arrive late to, or leave during, class time (if you must leave early, please sit in the back row and exit discretely).

### Discussion Sections:

You are expected to attend a breakout session in addition to lectures. Attendance is mandatory. All breakout sessions are on Monday.

Section	Time	Place	Instructor	Email
10918	9:10-10:00	LeConte 321	Lamberth	tabitha.lamberth25@uga.edu
10919	10:20-11:10	Psychology 243	Kuznetcov	aleksandrkouz@uga.edu
10920	11:30-12:20	LeConte 323	Kuznetcov	aleksandrkouz@uga.edu
10922	12:40-1:30	LeConte 321	Rodas-Gaiter	alejandra.rodas@uga.edu
10923	1:50-2:40	Psychology 309	Morris	mm31003@uga.edu
10924	9:10-10:00	Peabody 105	Dragna	gld59586@uga.edu
10925	1:50-2:40	Sanford 112	Rodas-Gaiter	alejandra.rodas@uga.edu
10926	11:30-12:20	Journalism 502	Kiwanuka	sophia.kiwanuka@uga.edu
10927	10:20-11:10	Journalism 502	Dragna	gld59586@uga.edu
10928	12:40-1:30	Journalism 501	Kiwanuka	sophia.kiwanuka@uga.edu
10937	8:00-8:50	Baldwin G41	Lamberth	tabitha.lamberth25@uga.edu

### Class Website:

The class will be administered through the eLC website and you will use it to submit assignments and to receive class announcements. My primary means of communication with you will be through announcements posted in eLC so make sure to check *frequently*. To ensure you receive eLC updates for our class automatically via email you will need to do the following: eLC > Click on your profile > Notifications > Instant Notifications). Please note that you cannot reply to an email I send out via eLC (ending in @uga.view.usg.edu emails).

### Grading:

There are four parts to your final grade: weekly chapter quizzes (open book/note), two exams, a short research paper, and discussion section. The weekly chapter quizzes are worth 25%, the midterm is worth 20%, and the final is worth 30%. The research paper is worth 15% (the paper assignment will be distributed in the first two weeks of class) and attendance and participation in discussion section are worth 10%. *Weekly quizzes need to be completed no later than midnight on Sunday, the night before discussion section.*

I will assign grades according to the following scale:

A = 94 and above

A- = 90-93

B+ = 87-89

B = 84-86

B- = 80-83

C+ = 77-79

C = 74-76

C- = 70-73

D+ = 67-69

D = 64-66

D- = 60-63

F < Below 60

Questions regarding grades should be directed to your teaching assistant. If you are unable to resolve the matter with your TA, you may appeal the grade to me. If you do so, you are required to write up a short (roughly 1 paragraph) justification for your appeal. If I regrade an assignment or test, your grade may go up or down. Any grade appeals must be made at least 48 hours after I hand back the assignment or test.

### **Late Work and Makeups**

Make up exams will only be given in cases of an excused absence in accordance with university policies. Examples of excused absences are jury duty, military duty, religious observances, illness, and bereavement for an immediate family member. Excuses should be coordinated with your teaching assistant and should be provided **prior** to date of the exam or assignment. If you turn in work late and do not have an excused absence, your final score will be deducted 10% for each day it is late. Unless contacted in advance (apart from emergencies), make-ups will not be granted.

### **Academic Honesty:**

You are expected to adhere to the 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 [www.uga.edu/ovpi](http://www.uga.edu/ovpi). If you are unclear what constitutes plagiarism, please consult the instructor.

### **Prohibition on Recording Classes:**

In the absence of written authorization from the UGA Disability Resource Center, students may not make a visual or audio recording of any aspect of this course including lectures and discussion sections. I require that you seek my permission if you want to make audio and/or video recordings of any portion of our class. If you do not have permission (or an accommodation from DRC), do not take photographs, audio recordings, or video recordings of any person in this class without their express permission. Further, do not take or share audio or video recordings of course lectures or discussions. Violation of this policy will result in you receiving 0% for class participation, and, depending on the severity of the violation, may result in you receiving a grade of "F" in the class.

### **Preferred Names and Pronouns:**

Professional courtesy and sensitivity are especially important with respect to individuals and topics dealing with differences of race, culture, religion, politics, sexual orientation, gender, gender variance, and nationalities. Class rosters are provided to the instructor with the student's legal name. We are eager to address you by your preferred name and/or gender pronoun. Please advise me and your TA of this preference early in the semester so that we can make appropriate changes to records.

### **Mental Health and Wellness Resources:**

- If you or someone you know needs assistance, you are encouraged to contact Student Care and Outreach in the Division of Student Affairs at 706-542-7774 or visit <https://sco.uga.edu/>. They will help you navigate any difficult circumstances you may be facing by connecting you with the appropriate resources or services.

- UGA has several resources for a student seeking mental health services (<https://www.uhs.uga.edu/bewelluga/bewelluga>) or crisis support (<https://www.uhs.uga.edu/info/emergencies>).
- If you need help managing stress anxiety, relationships, etc., please visit BeWellUGA (<https://www.uhs.uga.edu/bewelluga/bewelluga>) for a list of FREE workshops, classes, mentoring, and health coaching led by licensed clinicians and health educators in the University Health Center.
- Additional resources can be accessed through the UGA App.

### **Semester Schedule:**

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|---------------|---|
| 8/18          | Introduction  |
| 8/22          | Discussion section introductions  |
| 8/23 &<br>25  | Political Values<br>Janda, Chapter 1<br>Ideology quiz at <a href="http://www.idealogy.org">http://www.idealogy.org</a> (Choose <i>self-test</i> ). The quiz is not graded.<br><i>Weekly Online Assignment:</i> Ch. 1<br><a href="#">Does college turn people into liberals?</a>               |
| 8/29          | Discussion section on Political Values  |
| 8/30 &<br>9/1 | Models of Democracy<br>Janda, Chapter 2<br><i>Weekly Online Assignment:</i> Ch. 2<br><a href="#">-The 'sore loser effect': Rejecting election results can destabilize democracy and drive terrorism</a><br><a href="#">-What those mourning the fragility of American democracy get wrong</a> |
| 9/5           | Labor Day Holiday   |
| 9/6 & 8       | Constitutional Foundations<br>Janda, Chapter 3 & Appendix A1-A16<br><i>Weekly Online Assignment:</i> Ch. 3<br><a href="#">The Georgia Constitution</a><br><a href="#">-A revolutionary ruling – and not just for abortion': A Supreme Court scholar explains the impact of Dobbs</a>          |
| 9/12          | Discussion section on Constitutional Foundations  |
| 9/13 &<br>15  | Federalism and Georgia politics<br>Janda, Chapter 4<br><i>Weekly Online Assignment:</i> Ch. 4<br><a href="#">-A brief history of Georgia's runoff voting – and its racist roots</a>   |
| 9/19          | Discussion section on Federalism and Georgia politics   |
| 9/20 &<br>22  | Congress<br>Janda, Chapter 11<br><i>Weekly Online Assignment:</i> Ch. 11<br><a href="#">-Masket, Why Political Science Doesn't Like Term Limits</a><br><a href="#">-Mayor of Crazytown</a>  |
| 9/26          | Discussion section on Congress  |
| 9/27 &<br>29  | Presidency<br>Janda, Chapter 12<br><i>Weekly Online Assignment:</i> Ch. 12  |

[-From border Security to climate change, national emergency declarations raise hard questions about presidential power](#)

- 10/3 Discussion section on the Presidency  
10/4 & 6 Bureaucracy  
Janda, Chapter 13  
*Weekly Online Assignment:* Ch. 13  
[-The Hatch Act...requires gov employees to work for the public interest, not partisan campaigns](#)
- 10/10 Discussion section on the bureaucracy and midterm review  
10/11 Courts  
Janda, Chapter 14  
*Weekly Online Assignment:* Ch. 14  
[-After Roe's overturning, Americans are demanding Supreme Court term limits](#)  
[-Does Oral Argument Matter?](#)
- 10/13 **Midterm Exam**  
10/17 Discussion section is a workshop on the paper assignment  
10/18 Political Parties & Interest Groups  
& 20 Janda, Chapters 8 & 10  
*Weekly Online Assignment:* Ch. 10  
[-Who Fled the Center?](#)  
[-What are political parties' platforms – and do they matter?](#)
- 10/24 Discussion section on Political Parties & Interest Groups  
10/25 Mass Media  
& 27 Janda, Chapter 6  
*Weekly Online Assignment:* Ch. 6  
[-Don't be too quick to blame social media for America's polarization—cable news has a bigger effect, study finds](#)  
[-Claims of ideological bias among the media may be overblown](#)
- 10/31 Discussion section on mass media  
11/1 & 3 Public Opinion  
Janda, Chapter 5  
*Weekly Online Assignment:* Ch. 5  
[-Explainer: How abortion became a divisive issue in U.S. politics](#)  
[-Congress is considering making same-sex marriage federal law-a political scientist explains how this issue became less polarized over time](#)
- 11/7 Discussion section on Public Opinion  
11/8 & 10 Participation & Voting  
Janda, Chapter 7  
*Weekly Online Assignment:* Ch. 7  
[-Did shark attacks eat into Woodrow Wilson's votes in 1916?](#)
- 11/14 Discussion section on Participation & Voting  
11/15 Campaigns & Elections  
& 17 Janda, Chapter 9  
*Weekly Online Assignment:* Ch. 9  
[-Will This Be An Asterisk Election?](#)  
[-How Joe Biden did so well in Georgia](#)

- 11/21 Discussion Section on Campaigns & Elections  
\*\*\***Paper Due**\*\*\*
- 11/22 Civil Rights  
Janda, Chapter 16  
*Weekly Online Assignment:* Ch. 16  
[-Segregation policies in federal government in early 20<sup>th</sup> century harmed Blacks for decades](#)
- 11/24 Thanksgiving Break
- 11/28 Discussion section on Civil Rights
- 11/29 Civil Liberties  
& 12/1 Janda, Chapter 15  
*Weekly Online Assignment:* Ch. 15  
[-Supreme Court overturns constitutional right to abortion](#)  
[-Privacy isn't in the Constitution – but it's everywhere in constitutional law](#)
- 12/5 Discussion section on Civil Liberties and exam review
- 12/8 Final Exam 12-3**

**This syllabus provides a general plan for the course, deviations may be necessary.**