

**COLUMBIA UNIVERSITY**  
**POLS W1201y American Government and Politics**  
**Prof. Judith Russell**

Spring 2005 MW 9:10–10:25am

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Office hours:

MW 10:30 to 11:30 am 742 IAB

Tu. 11 to 12:00 noon 416A Lehman Hall

Teaching Assistants: James Kim, Olivier Sylvain, Joost van Dreunen

This course is a critical introduction to American political institutions and behavior. Attention is given to constitutional theory and principles, the constitutional system, political culture, political institutions (the presidency, congress, the judiciary, the bureaucracy), public policy (civil rights and civil liberties, economic policy, employment policy, social welfare policy and Homeland Security), consent and political participation (public opinion, mass media, elections and voting, parties, groups and interests).

**REQUIREMENTS** Attendance at all lectures and discussion sections, informed participation in class, one take-home midterm to be distributed on **February 28** and returned by **March 7**, and one final examination during exam week. In addition an 8-10 page paper is required. Topics will be discussed in class and discussion sections. A two-page overview of your paper is to be submitted containing a clear thesis statement, an outline of your argument as well as your proposed bibliography. Your bibliography should be drawn *primarily* from *scholarly books, journals, articles and chapters*, not journalistic resources. Late papers will receive a grade penalty. Your course grade is determined as follows: 20% for the midterm exam, 40% for the final exam, and 30 % for the paper. Your participation in discussion sessions and class account for 10%. Readings should be read *prior to* the class for which they are assigned. Attendance is part of your grade in this class and an attendance sheet circulates; responsibility for signing it is yours.

**Students must register for and attend a discussion section. You cannot take this course unless you are registered in a section**

**READINGS** All readings are required and on reserve at the Butler Library Reserve Room. The following books are available for purchase at the Columbia University Bookstore:

Theodore J. Lowi, Benjamin Ginsberg, and Kenneth A. Shepsle, *American Government: Power and Purpose 8th Edition* (New York: Norton, 2005)

*The 9/11 Commission Report*. This book is packaged with your primary text, Lowi, Ginsberg and Shepsle.

David T. Canon, John J. Coleman and Kenneth R. Mayer, Eds., *The Enduring Debate: Classic and Contemporary Readings in American Politics* Third Ed. (New York: Norton, 2003)

Robert Goldwin and William Schambra, Eds. *How Democratic is the Constitution?* (Washington, DC: American Enterprise Institute for Public Policy Research. 1980)

Samuel Huntington, *American Politics: The Promise of Disharmony* (Cambridge: Harvard University Press, 1980)

Alexander Hamilton, James Madison and John Jay, *The Federalist Papers* (any edition)

Judith Russell, *Economics, Bureaucracy and Race: How Keynesians Misguided the War on Poverty* (New York: Columbia University Press, 2003)

Alexis de Tocqueville. *Democracy in America* (Vintage edition only)

## Topics and Readings

January 19      **Introduction to the course**

### I. Theory and General Principles of American Government

January 24      **The Constitution, the Articles of Confederation, and the Declaration of Independence**

Lowi, Ginsberg & Shepsle *American Government Power and Purpose* A3-A34, Ch. 2

Cannon, Coleman and Mayer *The Enduring Debate* (CCM henceforth) Ch. 1:1

January 26      **The Federalist Papers**

Madison, Hamilton and Jay *The Federalist Papers* Nos.10, 51, 47, 49, 58

January 31      **Elitism and Populism**

CCM Ch. 1: 4,5

February 2      **How Democratic is the Constitution?**

Goldwin and Shambra *How Democratic is the Constitution* Chs 1,3,4,6

February 7      **Federalism**

Lowi, Ginsberg and Shepsle Ch. 3

CCM Ch. 2: 6,7,9,10,11

### III. Political Culture in America

February 9,14    **Alexis de Tocqueville on American Democracy,**

Tocqueville, *Democracy in America* Vols. I and II (Vintage Edition ONLY)

VOL I Author's Intro, Ch.. III, IV, VIII (pp 165 -179), Chs XIV, XV,XVII.

VOL II Second Book: Chs I-IX. Third Book: Chs V, III,XIII,XVIII, XXI.

Fourth Book: ChsI-III.

### IV .The Tensions: Liberty/Equality, Democracy/Governance, Freedom/Power

February 16      **Ideas and Institutions**

Samuel Huntington *American Politics The Promise of Disharmony* Chs TBA

### V. Rights and Citizenship

February 21      **Civil Rights and Civil Liberties**

Lowi, Ginsberg and Shepsle Ch. 4

CCM Ch. 3: 12—17 (six brief essays)

## **VI. National Political Institutions and Political Influence**

February 23      **Congress**

Lowi, Ginsberg and Shepsle Ch.. 5

CCM Ch. 4: 18, 19, 21,22,23

February 28      **Congress & Campaign Finance**

**Take home midterms are distributed.  
Due in class March 7 or sooner if you like**

CCM Ch. 12: 68, 69

March 2,7        **The Presidency**

**Midterms due in class March 7**

Lowi, Ginsberg, and Shepsle Ch. 6

CCM Ch.5: 24,25, 27,28,29

March 9         **The Executive Branch The Budget and the OMB**

Lowi, Ginsberg and Shepsle Ch. 7

CCM Ch. 6: 31—35 Ch. 12: 67

**March. 14 & 16 Spring Break—Have Fun**

March. 21,23    **The Judiciary**

Lowi, Ginsberg and Shepsle Ch. 8

CCM Ch. 7: 36—40 (five brief essays)

## **VII. Consent and Participation**

March. 28        **Public Opinion and Media**

Lowi, Ginsberg and Shepsle Chs 9,13

CCM Ch. 8: 44, 45

Mar.30, Apr.4   **Elections, Political Parties, Voting, Bosses and Machines**

Lowi, Ginsberg and Shepsle Chs 10, 11

CCM Ch. 9: 47,48,49

CCM Ch. 10: 53, 54, 55

April 6          **Groups, Interests and Influence**

Lowi, Ginsberg, and Shepsle Ch.. 12

CCM Ch.11: 59, 60, 61,64 (62 is *Federalist Paper No. 10*, take another look)

April 11

**The Public Interest**

The Uninsured: Guest Speaker Dickie Scruggs on Not-For-Profit Hospital Litigation

CCM Ch. 14: 76

**VII. The National Agenda: Public Policy**

April 13,18

**Government and the Economy**

CCM Ch. 12: 65 (Charles Lindblom, "The Science of Muddling Through")

Lowi, Ginsberg and Shepsle Ch. 14

CCM Ch.13: 72

Recommended:

Charles Lindblom, "Still Muddling, Not Yet Through," *Public Administration Review*, Vol. 39, (1979) 517-526 (on reserve)

John Kingdon, *Agendas, Alternatives and Public Policies 2<sup>nd</sup> Ed.* (New York: Longman 1995)(on reserve)

April 20

**Social Welfare Policy**

Lowi, Ginsberg and Shepsle Ch. 15

CCM Ch. 14:75,77

Recommended:

CCM: pages 561-570 on Social Security

April 25

**Jobs and Antipoverty Policy**

JRussell, *Economics, Bureaucracy and Race: How Keynesians Misguided the War on Poverty*

April 27

**How We Live Now: Terrorism and Public Policy**

*The 9/11 Commission Report* TBA

Recommended:

Donald Kettl, *System Under Stress: Homeland Security and American Politics* (CQ Press)

Steve Coll, *Ghost Wars* (Penguin Press)

Richard Clarke, *Against All Enemies* (Free Press)

Seymour M. Hersh, *Chain of Command* (Harper Collins)

May 2

**Concluding Class**