Political Science W1201: Introduction to American Politics

Fall 2010
Monday and Wednesday, 9:10-10:25 am
International Affairs 417

Professor Justin Phillips
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Office Hours: Mondays 2-4 pm
& by appointment

TAs & Section Times:
Kevin Elliott  kje2106@columbia.edu
Monday      12:00-12:50  International Affairs 501
Monday      1:00-1:50   International Affairs 501

Stephen Thompson  sjt2115@columbia.edu
Wednesday  12:00-12:50  Hamilton 317
Wednesday  1:00-1:50   Hamilton 316

Steven White sml2150@columbia.edu
Thursday     1:10-2:00  Hamilton 607
Friday       2:40-3:30  International Affairs 902

Course Requirements:
Students must complete the assigned readings and attend class and discussion sections. Additionally, students are required to write two midterms and one final exam, each of which will consist of several short answer questions and one longer essay. Exams will cover material from both the lectures and assigned readings. Each midterm as well as the final will count for 30% of the course grade; participation in discussion section will count for the remaining 10%. All students must sit for their exams on the assigned day and at the assigned time. Only university-approved absences are allowed.

Note: All students must register for and attend a discussion section. You cannot take this course unless you are registered for a section.

Books to be purchased: (available from Book Culture)

The Logic of American Politics, 4th Edition (LOGIC)

Course Outline

1. Foundations

September 8th: Introduction & Overview of Course
- No assigned reading

September 13th & 15th: The Logic of Politics
- Chapter 1 (LOGIC)
- Mancur Olson, The Logic of Collective Action (P&P)
- Garrett Hardin, The Tragedy of the Commons (P&P)

September 20th & 22nd: The Founding & the Constitution
- Chapter 2 (LOGIC)
- Articles of Confederation (LOGIC; Appendix 1)
- The Constitution (LOGIC; Appendix 3)
- Roche, The Founding Fathers: A Reform Caucus in Action (P&P)
- Federalist 10, 51 (P&P)
- Anti-Federalist 3 (P&P)

September 27th & 29th: Federalism
- Chapter 3 (Logic)
- Federalist 16, 17, 39, 45 (W)
- United States v. Morrison (W)
- United States v. Raich (W)
- Donald F. Kettl, Federalism: Battles on the Front Lines of Public Policy (P&P)
- Jonathan Roth, A Separate Peace (P&P)

October 4th: Civil Rights
- Chapter 4 (LOGIC)
- Anti-Federalist 84 (W)
- Plessy v. Ferguson (W)

October 6th: Civil Liberties
- Chapter 5 (LOGIC)
- Griswold v. Connecticut (W)
• Roe v. Wade (P&P)
• University of California Board of Regents v. Bakke (W)

**October 11th: Midterm Exam #1**

2. Institutions

**October 13th & 18th: The Legislative Branch**
• Chapter 6 (LOGIC)
• Federalist 53, 56, 57, 58, 62, 63 (W)
• Steven S. Smith, *The Troubled Institution* (P&P)
• Kathryn Pearson, *The Transition toDemocratic Leadership in a Polarized House* (P&P)
• John Aldrich and David W. Rhode, *Congressional Committees in a Continuing Partisan Era* (P&P)

**October 20th & 28th: The Presidency**
• Chapter 7 (LOGIC)
• Federalist 70 (W)
• Samuel Kernell, *Going Public: New Strategies in Presidential Leadership* (P&P)

**October 25th: Midterm Elections**
• 2010 Midterm Elections Supplement package (GUIDE)

**November 1st: University Holiday**

**November 3rd: The Bureaucracy**
• Chapter 8 (LOGIC)
• Terry Moe, *The Politics of Bureaucratic Structure* (P&P)
• Peter Woll, *Constitutional Democracy and Bureaucratic Power* (W)

**November 8th & 10th: The Judiciary**
• Chapter 9 (LOGIC)
• Federalist 78 (P&P)
• Marbury v. Madison (W)
• Sarah A. Binder and Forrest Maltzman, *Congress and the Politics of Judicial Appointments* (P&P)
• Stephen Breyer, *Active Liberty: Interpreting Our Democratic Constitution* (P&P)

**November 15th**: Midterm Exam #2

3. Political Behavior

**November 17th**: Public Opinion
• Chapter 10 (LOGIC)
• Herbert Asher, *Analyzing and Interpreting Polls* (P&P)
• Stimpson et al., *Dynamic Representation* (P&P)
• Michael Schudson, *America’s Ignorant Voters* (P&P)

**November 22nd**: Voting, Campaigns, and Elections
• Chapter 11 (LOGIC)
• Samuel Popkin from *The Reasoning Voter* (P&P)
• Alan Abramowitz, *The Triumph of Diversity: Obama, Race, and the 2008 Presidential Election* (P&P)

**November 24th**: No Lecture

**November 29th**: Voting, Campaigns, and Elections Continued

**December 1st & 6th**: Political Parties
• Chapter 12 (LOGIC)
• John Aldrich from *Why Parties?: The Origins and Transformation of Political Parties in America* (P&P)
• Morris P. Fiorina, *Parties as Problem Solvers* (P&P)

**December 8th**: Interest Groups
• Chapter 13 (LOGIC)
• Jeffrey M. Berry, *Madison’s Dilemma* (W)
• E.E. Schattschneider, *The Scope and Bias of the Pressure System* (P&P)
• Richard C. Hall and Frank W. Wayman, *Buying Time: Moneyed Interests and the Mobilization of Bias in Congressional Committees* (P&P)

**December 13th**: The News Media
• Chapter 14 (LOGIC)

**TBA: Midterm #3 (final exam)**