

Political Science W1201: Introduction to American Politics

Fall 2014

Monday and Wednesday, 11:40-12:55 pm

IAB 417

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Course Requirements:

Students must complete the assigned readings and attend class and discussion sections. Additionally, students are required to write three exams, 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 exam 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, 6th Edition (LOGIC)

Principles and Practices of American Politics: Classic and Contemporary Readings, 5th Edition (P&P)

American Government: Readings and Cases, 19th Edition (W)

Course Outline

1. Foundations

September 3rd: Introduction & Overview of Course

- No assigned reading

September 8th & 10th: 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)
- Bruce Ackerman, *The Citizenship Agenda* (P&P)

September 15th: The Founding & the Constitution (part I)

- 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 17th: No lecture

September 22nd: The Founding & the Constitution (part II)

September 24th & 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: Sorting Out Who Does What* (P&P)
- Jonathan Roth, *A Separate Peace* (P&P)

October 1st: Civil Rights

- Chapter 4 (LOGIC)
- Anti-Federalist 84 (W)
- Plessy v. Ferguson (W)
- Brown v. Board of Education, 1954 & 1955 (W)

October 6th: Civil Liberties

- Chapter 5 (LOGIC)
- Griswold v. Connecticut (W)
- Roe v. Wade (P&P)
- Gerald N. Rosenberg, *The Real World of Constitutional Rights: The Supreme Court and Implementation of the Abortion Decisions* (P&P)
- University of California Board of Regents v. Bakke (W)
- District of Columbia v. Heller (W)

October 8th: Exam #1

2. Institutions

October 13th & 15th: The Legislative Branch

- Chapter 6 (LOGIC)
- Federalist 53, 56, 57, 58, 62, 63 (W)
- Steven S. Smith, *The Troubled Institution* (P&P)
- John Aldrich and David W. Rhode, *Congressional Committees in a Continuing Partisan Era* (P&P)
- Sarah Binder, *The Politics of Legislative Stalemate* (P&P)

October 20th & 22nd: The Presidency

- Chapter 7 (LOGIC)
- Federalist 70 (W)
- Richard E. Neustadt, *Presidential Power and the Modern Presidents: The Politics of Leadership from Roosevelt to Reagan* (P&P)
- Samuel Kernell, *Going Public: New Strategies in Presidential Leadership* (P&P)

October 27th: The Bureaucracy

- Chapter 8 (LOGIC)
- Terry Moe, *The Politics of Bureaucratic Structure* (P&P)
- David E. Lewis, *The Politics of Presidential Appointments* (P&P)
- Mathew McCubbins, Roger Noll, and Barry Weingast, *Administrative Procedures as Instruments of Political Control* (P&P)

October 29th: The Judiciary

- Chapter 9 (LOGIC)
- Federalist 78 (P&P)
- Marbury v. Madison (W)
- Robert A. Carp, Ronald Stidham, and Kenneth L. Manning, *The Voting Behavior of Barack Obama's Judges* (P&P)
- Antonin Scalia, *A Matter of Interpretation, Federal Courts and the Law* (P&P)
- Stephen Breyer, *Active Liberty: Interpreting Our Democratic Constitution* (P&P)

November 3rd: University Holiday

November 5th: The Judiciary (continued)

November 10th: Exam #2

3. Political Behavior

November 12th & 17th: Public Opinion

- Chapter 10 (LOGIC)
- Herbert Asher, *Analyzing and Interpreting Polls* (P&P)
- Robert Putnam and David Campbell, *Religion in American Politics* (P&P)
- James Stimson, Michael MacKuen, and Robert Erikson, *Dynamic Representation* (P&P)
- James Wilson, *How Divided Are We?* (P&P)

November 19th & 24th Voting, Campaigns, and Elections

- Chapter 11 (LOGIC)
- Samuel Popkin from *The Reasoning Voter* (P&P)
- Gary Jacobson, *No Compromise: The Electoral Origins of Legislative Gridlock* (P&P)
- Michael Schudson, *America's Ignorant Voters* (P&P)
- Paul Blumenthal, *Super PACs and Secret Money* (P&P)

November 26th: No Lecture

December 1st: Political Parties

- Chapter 12 (LOGIC)
- John Aldrich from *Why Parties? The Origins and Transformation of Political Parties in America* (P&P)
- Larry Bartels, *Partisanship and Voting Behavior, 1952-1996* (P&P)
- Morris P. Fiorina, *Parties as Problem Solvers* (P&P)

December 3rd: 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)
- John Wright, *The Evolution of Interest Groups* (P&P)
- Citizens United v. Federal Election Commission (W)

December 8th: Exam #3