

COLUMBIA UNIVERSITY
POLS W1201 AMERICAN GOVERNMENT AND POLITICS
Prof. Judith Russell

Spring 2007 MW 9:10–10:25am
 614 Schermerhorn Hall

jr323@columbia.edu
 Office hours: MW 10:30 am to 12 noon 722 IAB

Teaching Assistants: Zachary White (zrw2101), Xiaohong Yu (xy2007) and Mike Woodsworth (mw2424)

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) consent and political participation (public opinion, mass media, elections and voting, parties, groups and interests) and political corruption. This course does not fulfill political science major credits at Barnard College.

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 analytical research paper is required**. Topics will be discussed in class and discussion sections. By **February 26**, submit a **two-page overview of your paper** containing a clear thesis statement, your argument in brief as well as your proposed bibliography. Your bibliography should be drawn *primarily* from *scholarly books, journals, articles and chapters*, not journalistic or online resources. No Wikipedia sources. Late papers will receive a grade penalty. Your course grade is determined as follows: 30% for the midterm exam, 30% 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 and through E-Reserves.

The books below are available for purchase at the Columbia University Bookstore:

Samuel Kernell and Gary C. Jacobson *The Logic of American Politics Third Edition* (Washington DC: CQ Press, 2006)

Samuel Kernell and Steven S. Smith Eds. *Principles and Practice of American Politics: Classic and Contemporary Readings Third Edition* (Washington DC: CQ Press, 2007)

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

The articles and chapters below are on reserve:

James Fallows "He was Slick, Thank God "in *The Atlantic Monthly* February, 2001

James Fallows "Why We Hate the Media," in *Breaking the News/How the Media Undermine American Democracy*, by James Fallows

Charles Lindblom, "The Science of Muddling Through" *Public Administration Review*, Vol. 19 (1959), 79-88

Richard M. Pious, *The American Presidency*: Ch. 1 "The Creation of the Presidency" and Ch. 2 "Prerogative Powers"

Nelson W. Polsby, Ed., "2006 Midterms: Post-Election Appraisal" *The Forum* Vol. 4, Issue 3 (2006) (<http://www.bepress.com/forum>) This E-journal is on E-Reserves :

Steven E. Schier "Frustrated Ambitions: The George W. Bush Presidency and the 2006 Elections".

<http://www.bepress.com/forum/vol4/iss3/art1>

John J. Pitney Jr. "The Midterm: What Political Science Should Ask Now".

<http://www.bepress.com/forum/vol4/iss3/art2>

William F. Connelly Jr. "Wall vs. Wave?".

<http://www.bepress.com/forum/vol4/iss3/art3>

Michael P. McDonald "Rocking the House: Competition and Turnout in the 2006 Midterm Election".

<http://www.bepress.com/forum/vol4/iss3/art4>

Elaine C. Kamarck "Assessing Howard Dean's Fifty State Strategy and the 2006 Midterm Elections".

<http://www.bepress.com/forum/vol4/iss3/art5>

David Menefee-Libey "Big Deal: The 2006 Midterm Elections, the Progressive Project, and the Reagan-Bush Revolution". <http://www.bepress.com/forum/vol4/iss3/art7>

Jonathan Bernstein, Rebecca E. Bromley, and Krystle T. Meyer "Republicans and Golf, Democrats and Outkast: Or, Party Political Culture from the Top Down".

<http://www.bepress.com/forum/vol4/iss3/art8>

Philip A. Klinkner and Thomas F. Schaller "A Regional Analysis of the 2006 Midterms".

<http://www.bepress.com/forum/vol4/iss3/art9>

Topics and Readings

January 17 **Introduction to the course**

I. Constitutional Theory and General Principles of American Government

January 22 **The Constitution, the Articles of Confederation, and the Declaration of Independence**

Kernell and Jacobson *The Logic of American Politics* Ch. 2

Kernell and Smith *Principles and Practice of American Politics* (K&S *Principles*)

Ch. 1: Olson (1-1) Hardin (1-2)

January 24 **The Federalist Papers**

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

January 29 **How Democratic is the Constitution?**

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

January 31 **Federalism**

Kernell and Jacobson *Logic* Ch. 3

K&S Principles Ch. 2: Roche (2-1), Burns (2-4)

K&S Principles Ch. 3 Kettl (3-2)

II. American Political Culture

February 5 **Political Culture in America**

Tocqueville, *Democracy in America* Vols. I and II (Vintage Edition ONLY)
VOL I Author's Intro, Chs. 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: Chs I-III.

February 7 **Democratic Tensions: Liberty/Equality**

Cont. Tocqueville readings

February 12, 14 **Civil Rights and Civil Liberties**

Kernell and Jacobson *Logic* Ch. 4

K&S Principles Ch.4: Glazer (4-2)

Kernell and Jacobson *Logic* Ch. 5

K&S Principles Ch.5:Rosenberg (5-1) Lee (5-2) *Miranda v. Arizona* (5-3) *Roe v. Wade* (5-4)

III. Political Institutions

February 19, 21 **Congress**

Kernell and Jacobson *Logic* Ch. 6

K&S Principles Ch. 6: Fenno (6-1) Mayhew (6-2) Smith (6-3)

February 26, 28 **The Presidency**

Take Home Midterm distributed in class (due march 7 in class)

Kernell and Jacobson *Logic* Ch. 7

K& S *Principles* Ch. 7: Neustadt (7-1)

Richard M. Pious, *The American Presidency*, Chs. 1 & 2.

March 5 **The Bureaucracy**

Kernell and Jacobson *Logic* Ch. 8

K&S *Principles* Ch. 8: Wilson (8-1) Moe (8-2) Singer (8-3)

March 7 **The Judiciary**

Take Home Midterm due in class

Kernell and Jacobson *Logic* Ch.9

K&S *Principles* Ch. 9: Scalia (9-1) Breyer (9-2), Hamilton (9-3) Binder (9-4)

March 12- March 16 is Spring Break

March 19 **The Judiciary Continued**

IV. Politics and Political Influence

March 21, 26 **Elections, Political Parties, Voting, Finance**

“2006 Midterms: Post-Election Appraisal” 8 articles in *The Forum, ed.*, Nelson W. Polsby, Vol. 4, Issue 3 (2006) E-Reserves

Kernell and Jacobson *Logic* Chs 11, 12

K&S *Principles* Ch. 11: Popkin (11-1) Jacobson (11-2)

K&S *Principles* Ch. 12: Aldrich (12-1) Bartels (12-2) Valelly (11-3)

March 28 **Communications and Media**

Kernell and Jacobson *Logic* Ch, 14

K&S *Principles* Ch. 14: Schudson (14-1) Edsall (14-2)

K&S *Principles* Ch. 11 West (11-3)

“Why We Hate the Media,” in *Breaking the News/How the Media Undermine American Democracy*, by James Fallows

April 2, 4 **Groups, Interests and Influence**

Kernell and Jacobson *Logic* Ch. 13

K&S *Principles* Ch. 13: Schattschneider (13-1) Vaida (13-3)

Take another look at Federalist No 10

V. The National Agenda: Public Policy in the US

Please note: Your texts do not have sections on public policy. The substantial information in this segment on public policy will be drawn from class lectures and additional readings on topics which will be assigned where necessary as we approach this section. You will be responsible for this material.

April 9

Incrementalism

Charles Lindblom, "The Science of Muddling Through" *Public Administration Review*, Vol. 19 (1959), 79-88

April 11, 16

The Welfare State and Social Policy

April 18

Employment Policy

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

April 23, 25

Economic Policy

James Fallows "He was Slick, Thank God" in *The Atlantic Monthly* February, 2001

April 30

The Crisis of American Democracy and the Madisonian Model