

**The Ohio State University
Department of Political Science**

Political Science 101: Introduction to American Politics

Fall 2004
T, Th 1:30-2:48 (PM)
Old Union 224

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Office Hours: W 2:00-4:00

This course is aimed at providing student with a solid base of knowledge in the American political system. Over the course of the quarter we will investigate the theoretical and philosophical underpinnings of the United States' national government, consider how the institutions conduct their daily business, and analyze how public policy is implemented from initiation to enforcement.

This class will meet twice a week in lecture, and once a week in various recitation sections. The course will have three required books and one optional text (The Federalist). If students do not want to purchase the Federalist, they can access the required readings via the Internet at: <http://www.constitution.org/afp.htm>. All texts should be available at the bookstore and students are expected to complete all readings prior to attending the class for which they are being discussed. Students are also expected to keep up to date with current political events by reading a major national newspaper (e.g., The New York Times, The Washington Post, etc.). Additional readings may be assigned across the course of the quarter and will be made available to all students promptly.

There will be one midterm and a final exam in this course that will account for 30 and 50 percent of your grade, respectively. With the exception of grave illness, death in the family, or some other extremely rare extenuating circumstance (which must be cleared by me in advance), failure to take the midterm and/or final examinations on the scheduled days will result in a 20% deduction from your grade for the relevant examination(s). The remaining 20 percent of your grade will be based on your participation in recitation section and grades on various quizzes that will be administered in your section across the course of the quarter. In addition to content covered in class and assigned readings, major current American political events (as covered in national print media) are fair game for quizzes. In calculating the recitation section grade, the lowest quiz will be removed from consideration (hence, you get one freebie).

Academic Honesty: I expect all of the work you do in this course to be your own. I will tolerate absolutely no cheating or plagiarism (using someone else's words or ideas without proper citation). I will report any cases of cheating or plagiarism to the university committee on academic misconduct, and they will be handled according to university policy.

Disability: If you need an accommodation based on the impact of a disability, you should contact me to arrange an appointment as soon as possible. At the appointment we can discuss the course format, anticipate your needs, and explore potential accommodations. I rely on the

Office for Disability Services for assistance in verifying the need for accommodations and developing accommodation strategies. If you have not previously contacted the Office for Disability Services, I encourage you to do so.

Texts:

Required:

Fiorina, Morris P., Paul E. Peterson, and D. Stephen Voss. *America's New Democracy*, 2nd Ed. Penguin Academics. (FPV)

Kernell, Samuel, and Steven S. Smith. *Principles and Practice of American Politics: Classic and Contemporary Readings* 2nd Edition. CQ Press. (KS)

Redman, Eric. *The Dance of Legislation*. University of Washington Press

Optional:

Hamilton, Alexander, John Jay, and James Madison. *The Federalist*. (numerous editions available).

Course Schedule and Topics

September 23: Organizational Meeting

September 28: Introduction: Elections and American Democracy

FPV, chapter 1

September 30: The Constitution

FPV, chapter 2

KS, reading 2-1

Federalist 10, 51

October 5: Federalism

FPV, chapter 3

KS, readings 3-2, 3-3

Federalist 39, 45, 46

October 7: American Political Culture

FPV, chapter 4

KS, reading 4-2

October 12: The Role of Public Opinion in American Politics

FPV, chapter 5, pp. 121-146

KS, readings 10-1, 10-2

October 14: Political Participation in American Politics

FPV, chapter 6

October 19: Civil Liberties

FPV, chapter 13

KS, readings 5-2, 5-3, 5-4

October 21: Civil Rights

FPV, chapter 14

KS, reading 4-1, 4-3

October 26: Interest Groups and American Politics

FP, chapter 8, pp. 257-276

KS, readings 1-1, 13-1, 13-2

October 28: Midterm Examination

November 2: Political Parties (Election Day)

FPV, chapter 8, pp. 237-257

KS, readings 12-1, 12-2, 12-3

November 4: The Media and American Politics

FPV, chapter 5, pp. 146-169

KS, readings 14-1, 14-2, 14-3

November 9: American Electoral System I: Electing the President

FP, chapter 7

KS, readings 11-1

November 11: Veterans Day—No Class

November 16: The Office of the Presidency

FPV, chapter 10

KS, readings 7-1, 7-2, 7-3

November 18: American Electoral System II: Electing the Congress

FPV, review chapter 7

KS, reading 11-3

Redman, forward to new edition (pp. 7-10), chapters 1-3

November 23: Congress

FPV, chapter 9

KS, 6-1, 6-2

Redman, Chapters 4-6

November 25: Happy Thanksgiving—No Class

November 30: The Bureaucracy

FPV, chapter 11

KS, readings 8-1, 8-3

Redman, Chapters 7-8

December 2: The Courts and Conclusion

FPV, chapter 12

KS, readings 9-2, 9-4

Federalist 78

Redman, Chapters 9-12, epilogue

Wednesday December 8, 1:30-3:18: Final Examination

Good luck on finals and happy holidays!