

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

Political Science 300: American Politics and Policymaking

Fall 2007
T, Th 3:30-5:18 (PM)
Evans Lab 2004

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Office Hours: W 2:00-4:00

This course is aimed at providing students 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. The course will have six 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/fed/federa00.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 class as defined by class discussion, and various quizzes that will be administered across the course of the quarter. In addition to content covered in assigned readings, major current American political events (as covered in national print media) are fair game for quizzes and class discussions. In calculating the class participation grade, the lowest quiz/class discussion performance 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. It is the responsibility of the Committee on Academic Misconduct to investigate or establish procedures for the investigation of all reported cases of student academic misconduct. The term "academic misconduct" includes all forms of student academic misconduct wherever committed; illustrated by, but not limited to, cases of plagiarism and dishonest practices in connection with

examinations. Instructors shall report all instances of alleged academic misconduct to the committee (Faculty Rule 3335-5-487). For additional information, see the Code of Student Conduct (http://studentaffairs.osu.edu/info_for_students/csc.asp).

Disability: Students with disabilities that have been certified by the Office for Disability Services will be appropriately accommodated, and should inform the instructor as soon as possible of their needs. The Office for Disability Services is located in 150 Pomerene Hall, 1760 Neil Avenue; telephone 292-3307, TDD 292-0901; <http://www.ods.ohio-state.edu/>.

Texts:

Required:

Ellis, Joseph J. *Founding Brothers: The Revolutionary Generation*. Vintage.

Fiorina, Morris P., Paul E. Peterson, Bertram Johnson, D. Stephen Voss and William G. Mayer. *America's New Democracy*, 4th Ed. Penguin Academics. (AND)

Fiorina, Morris P. *Culture War? The Myth of a Polarized America*, 2nd Edition. Longman Press.

Hilts, Philip J. *Protecting America's Health: The FDA, Business and One Hundred Years of Regulation*. University of North Carolina Press.

Kernell, Samuel, and Steven S. Smith. *Principles and Practice of American Politics: Classic and Contemporary Readings* 3rd 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 20: Organizational Meeting

September 25: Introduction: Elections and American Democracy

AND, chapter 1

Fiorina, *Culture War*, preface and chapters 1-2

September 27: The Constitution

AND, chapter 2

KS, reading 2-1

Federalist 10, 51

Ellis, preface, chapter 1

October 2: Federalism

AND, chapter 3
KS, readings 3-2
Federalist 39, 45, 46
Ellis, chapter 2

October 4: American Political Culture

AND, chapter 4
KS, reading 4-2
Fiorina, *Culture War*, chapters 3-4

October 9: The Role of Public Opinion in American Politics

AND, chapter 5, pp. 99-120
KS, readings 10-1, 10-2
Fiorina, *Culture War*, chapters 5-7

October 11: Political Participation in American Politics

AND, chapter 6
Fiorina, *Culture War*, chapters 8-10

October 16: Civil Liberties

AND, chapter 13
KS, readings 5-2, 5-3, 5-4
Ellis, chapter 3

October 18: Civil Rights

AND, chapter 14

October 23: Interest Groups and American Politics

AND, chapter 8, pp. 218-232
KS, readings 1-1, 13-1, 13-2

October 25: Midterm Examination

October 30: Political Parties

AND, chapter 8, pp. 201-217
KS, readings 12-1, 12-2

November 1: The Media and American Politics

AND, chapter 5, pp. 120-139
KS, readings 14-1, 14-2

November 6: American Electoral System I: Electing the Congress

AND, chapter 7

KS, reading 11-2
Redman, forward to new edition (pp. 7-10), chapters 1-6

November 8: Congress

AND, chapter 9
KS, 6-1, 6-2
Redman, chapters 7-12, epilogue

November 13: American Electoral System II: Electing the President

AND, review chapter 7
KS, readings 11-1
Ellis, chapter 5
Hilts, prologue and chapters 1-5

November 15: The Office of the Presidency

AND, chapter 10
KS, readings 7-1, 7-2
Ellis, chapter 4
Hilts, chapters 6-11

November 20: Bureaucracy

AND, chapter 11
KS, readings 8-1, 8-2
Hilts, chapters 12-17

November 22: No Class—Happy Thanksgiving!

November 27: Courts

AND, chapter 12
KS, readings 9-1, 9-2
Federalist 78
Hilts, chapters 18-21, epilogue

November 29: Conclusion

Tuesday, December 4: 3:30-5:18: Final Examination

Good luck on finals, happy holidays, and have a great winter break!