



THE OHIO STATE UNIVERSITY

Department of Political Science

POLITSC 1100: Introduction to American Politics

Fall 2015 (Cunz Hall 140: MWF 10:20AM - 11:15AM)

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Instructor

Office Hours: W 11:30AM - 1:00PM

2081 Derby Hall

Or by appointment.

Overview

Welcome to American Politics!

For a nation founded on the idea of rule by the people, most of the American people know very little about the government they live under. The goal of this course is provide an introduction to the American political system. At the end of this course, you will all understand the basic moving parts of American politics: where the Constitution came from, how a bill becomes a law, the powers of the president, and so on.

This course is not merely going to cover the basics, however. That isn't even our main focus. Political science is neither law nor history nor opinion. We won't be reciting vast lists of rules and regulations, or memorizing names and dates. Instead, we're going to take a scientific look at how the machine built in that sweltering hall in Philadelphia functions today. Why do we all hate Congress? How come we'll only ever have two main political parties? What made Hitler raise your hospital bill?

Politics can often seem frustrating or confusing - but when we're done, you'll know how America *works*.

Readings

There are two required books for this course:

- [Dahl] = Dahl, Robert A. *How Democratic is the American Constitution?* 2nd ed. Yale University Press, 2003. ISBN: 9780300095241.
- [Mayhew] = Mayhew, David R. *Partisan Balance: Why Political Parties Don't Kill the U.S. Constitutional System*. Princeton University Press, 2013. ISBN: 9780691157986.

All books are available for purchase online (which I would recommend, to save money) and at the campus bookstore. All other readings will be made available on Carmen. Readings are subject to change. Readings not listed below are optional. It is recommended that they be completed, but not required.

This is a reading-intensive course: Unlike many courses, in this class it is imperative that you come to each class meeting having carefully read all the assigned texts. Students will be expected to be familiar with the

material assigned, and will be frequently called upon to summarize and discuss what they have read. Students should also be familiar with current events, as these will sometimes be brought in during the course. Skimming any major news outlet is sufficient.

This is not a binding document. All material within subject to change at any time.

Grading And Course Requirements

Grades in this course will be based on four components: Reading quizzes, four short papers, and class participation.

- Class participation is both expected and required. This is 10% of your grade. I'll give a breakdown of why I have participation as a part of your grade, as well as how participation will be scored in our first meeting.
- Reading quizzes account for 40% of your final grade. These quizzes are short, pop, closed-book quizzes, given at the beginning of class. Since these are meant to measure both your command of the material and how you are keeping pace with the class, no makeup quizzes will be allowed for *any* reason. In order to account for circumstance, the four lowest quiz grades will be dropped for each student.
- There are four short papers for this course, each roughly 800 words in length. Together, these papers are worth 50% of your final grade. Each paper is worth an increasing percentage of your final grade: so 5, 10, 15, and 20, respectively. Writing prompts for these papers will be distributed in class, and each paper must be submitted to Carmen by the date and time given on said prompt. Late work will be penalized one full grade, and work overdue by the end of the week will not be accepted for *any* reason.

Participation	10
Reading Quizzes	40
Papers	50

Course Policies

Incompletes will not be granted for *any* reason with the exception of an official request from the university. Accommodations for special circumstances will be made whenever possible and practical, but is the responsibility of the student to communicate these promptly. Extra credit may or not be offered: This course has been registered as part of the Political Science Department Undergraduate Research Pool. This does not guarantee that this class will be called upon to participate.

Academic Misconduct

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.

Disability Services

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. *If you have or anticipate having any concerns of this nature, please contact either the instructor of this course or the ODS immediately.* 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/>.

Course Schedule

Session:	Date:	Topic:	Readings:
Part I: Introductions			
1	8/26/2015	Introductions	Noel, Hans. " Ten Things Political Scientists Know that you Don't. " <i>The Forum</i> 8, no. 3 (2010): 1–19. <i>Skim the following.</i> <i>You'll refer to it throughout the course:</i> Booth et al. Section III from <i>The Craft of Research</i> , 3rd ed. Chicago Press, 2008
2	8/28/2015	Foundations	Olson, Jr., Mancur. Excerpt from "The Logic of Collective Action: Public Goods and the Theory of Groups." Hardin, Garrett. "The Tragedy of the Commons."
3	8/31/2015	Foundations	Putnam, Robert D. "The Prosperous Community: Social Capital and Public Life." Pierson, Paul. " Increasing Returns, Path Dependence, and the Study of Politics. " <i>American Political Science Review</i> 94, no. 2 (2000): 251–67.
4	9/2/2015	American Tradition	Chapters 6-8 in <i>American Social and Political Thought: A Reader</i> . Edited by Andreas Hess. New York University Press, 2003.
5	9/4/2015	American Tradition	"The American Republic, 1776–1787." Chapter 2 in <i>The Enduring Debate: Classic and Contemporary Readings in American Politics</i> . 7th ed. Edited by David T. Canon, John J. Coleman, and Kenneth R. Mayer. W. W. Norton and Company, 2013. Democracy in America, Chapter 15. Alexis de Tocqueville.
6	9/9/2015	The Constitution	[Dahl] Chapters 1, and 2. The Constitution
7	9/11/2015	The Constitution	"Federalist No. 10."
8	9/14/2015	The Constitution	"Federalist No. 51."
9	9/16/2015	The Constitution	[Dahl] Chapters 3–7.
Part II: Institutions			
10	9/18/2015	Congress	Mayhew, David R. "The Electoral Incentive." Chapter 1 in <i>Congress: The Electoral Connection</i> . 2nd ed. Yale University Press, 2004. ASSIGNMENT: First Paper Due
11	9/21/2015	Congress	Aldrich, John H., and David W. Rohde. "Congressional Committees in a Continuing Partisan Era."
12	9/23/2015	Congress	Krehbiel, Keith. "A Theory." Chapter 2 in <i>Pivotal Politics: A Theory of U.S. Lawmaking</i> . University of Chicago Press, 1998.
13	9/25/2015	The Presidency	Jeffrey E. Cohen. "If the News is so Bad, Why are Polls so High?" <i>Presidential Studies Quarterly</i> Vol. 34, No. 3, The Public Presidency (Sep., 2004), pp. 493-515
14	9/28/2015	The Presidency	Moe, Terry M., and William G. Howell. " Unilateral Action and Presidential Power: A Theory. " <i>Presidential Studies Quarterly</i> 29, no. 4 (1999): 850–73.
15	9/30/2015	The Bureaucracy	Moe, Terry M.: "The Politics of Bureaucratic Structure." 267-289.
16	10/2/2015	The Bureaucracy	Lewis, David E. Transcript of talk given at the Brookings Institution. Pages 1-26.
17	10/5/2015	The Judiciary	Martin, Andrew D., Kevin M. Quinn, Theodore W. Ruger, et al. " Competing Approaches to Predicting Supreme Court Decision Making. " <i>Perspectives on Politics</i> 2, no. 4 (2004): 761–7.
18	10/7/2015	The Judiciary	Graber, Mark A. " The Nonmajoritarian Difficulty: Legislative Deference to the Judiciary. " <i>Studies in American Political Development</i> 7, no. 1 (1993): 35–73.

19	10/9/2015	The Judiciary	Wheeler, Darren. "Checking Presidential Detention Power in the War on Terror." <i>Presidential Studies Quarterly</i> 39, no. 4 (December)
20	10/12/2015	Federalism	Buchanan, James M. "Federalism as an Ideal Political Order and an Objective for Constitutional Reform."
21	10/14/2015	Federalism	Kettl, Donald F. "Federalism: Battles on the Front Lines of Public Policy." ASSIGNMENT: Second Paper Due
Part III: Mass Behavior			
22	10/19/2015	Citizen Knowledge	Schudson, Michael. "America's Ignorant Voters." <i>The Wilson Quarterly</i> (1976-) Vol. 24, No. 2 (Spring, 2000), pp. 16-22
23	10/21/2015	Public Opinion	Berinsky, Adam J. " Assuming the Costs of War: Events, Elites, and American Public Support for Military Conflict. " <i>The Journal of Politics</i> 69, no. 4 (2007).
24	10/23/2015	Political Parties	Aldrich, John H. Excerpt from "Why Parties? The Origin and Transformation of Political Parties in America."
25	10/26/2015	Political Parties	Bawn, Kathleen, et al. "A theory of political parties: Groups, policy demands and nominations in American politics." <i>Perspectives on Politics</i> 10.03 (2012): 571-597.
26	10/28/2015	Political Choice	Quattrone, George A., and Amos Tversky. " Contrasting Rational and Psychological Analyses of Political Choice. " <i>American Political Science Review</i> 82, no. 3 (1988): 719-36.
27	10/30/2015	Voting Behavior	Jacoby, William G. "The American Voter." Chapter 15 in <i>The Oxford Handbook of American Elections and Political Behavior</i> . Edited by Jan E. Leighley. Oxford University Press, 2010.
28	11/2/2015	Campaigns	Sides, John, and Jake Haselswerdt. "Campaigns and Elections." Chapter 11 in <i>New Directions in Public Opinion (New Directions in American Politics)</i> . Edited by Adam J. Berinsky. Routledge, 2011.
Part IV: American Political Systems			
29	11/4/2015	Political Participation	Citrin, Jack, Eric Schickler, and John Sides. " What if Everyone Voted? Simulating the Impact of Increased Turnout in Senate Elections. " (PDF) <i>American Journal of Political Science</i> 47, no. 1 (2003): 75-90.
30	11/6/2015	Politics and Policy	Campbell, Andrea Louise. " Policy Feedbacks and the Impact of Policy Designs on Public Opinion. " <i>Journal of Health Politics, Policy and Law</i> 36.
31	11/9/2015	Politics and Policy	Wlezien, Christopher. " The Public as Thermostat: Dynamics of Preferences for Spending. " <i>American Journal of Political Science</i> 39, no. 4 (1995): 981-1000.
32	11/13/2015	Political Geography	[Mayhew] "Introduction." [Mayhew] Chapter 1: "The Electoral Bases." ASSIGNMENT: Third Paper Due
33	11/16/2015	Political Geography	[Mayhew] Chapter 2: "President and Congress."
34	11/18/2015	Parties and US System	[Mayhew] Chapter 3: "House and Senate I."
35	11/20/2015	Parties and US System	[Mayhew] Chapter 4: "House and Senate II."
Part V: The Great Debates			
36	11/23/2015	Polarization And Extremism	Fiorina, Morris P. Excerpt from "Culture War? The Myth of a Polarized America." Jacobson, Gary C.: "Party Polarization in National Politics: The Electoral Connection." Groseclose, Tim, and Jeffrey Milyo. " A Measure of Media Bias. " <i>The Quarterly Journal of Economics</i> 120, no. 4 (2005): 1191-237. Mann, Thomas E., and Norman J. Ornstein. " Let's Just Say It: The Republicans are the Problem. " <i>Washington Post</i> , April 27, 2012.
37	11/30/2015	Money and Organized Interests	Wright, John R. "The One Thing You Need To Know about Interest Groups." <i>University of Rochester</i> (2007).

			<p>Hall, Richard L., and Frank W. Wayman.: "Buying Time: Moneyed Interests and the Mobilization of Bias in Congressional Committees." <i>The American Political Science Review</i> Vol. 84, No. 3 (Sep., 1990), pp. 797-820</p> <p>Ansolabehere, Stephen, John M. de Figueiredo, and James M. Snyder, Jr. "Why is There so Little Money in U.S. Politics?" <i>Journal of Economic Perspectives</i> 17, no. 1 (2003): 105-30.</p> <p>Lindblom, Charles E. "The Market As Prison." <i>Journal of Politics</i> 44, no. 2 (1982): 324-36.</p>
38	12/2/2015	Economic Inequality	<p>Bartels, Larry M. "Economic Inequality and Political Representation." Chapter 7 in <i>The Unsustainable American State</i>. Edited by Lawrence Jacobs and Desmond King. Oxford University Press, 2009.</p> <p>Soroka, Stuart N., and Christopher Wlezien. "On the Limits to Inequality in Representation." <i>PS: Political Science & Politics</i> 41, no. 2 (2008): 319-27.</p> <p>Stimson, James A. "Perspectives on Unequal Democracy: The Political Economy of the New Gilded Age." <i>Perspectives on Politics</i> 7, no. 1 (2009): 151-3.</p> <p>Hacker, Jacob S., and Paul Pierson. "Winner-Take-All Politics: Public Policy, Political Organization, and the Precipitous Rise of Top Incomes in the United States." <i>Politics & Society</i> 38, no. 2 (2010): 152-204.</p>
39	12/4/2015	Race and Racism	<p>Key, Jr., V. O. "Of The South." Chapter 1 in <i>Southern Politics in State and Nation</i>. New ed. University of Tennessee Press, 1984.</p> <p>Valentino, Nicholas A., and David O. Sears. "Old Times There Are Not Forgotten: Race and Partisan Realignment in the Contemporary South." <i>American Journal of Political Science</i> 49, no. 3 (2005): 672-88.</p> <p>Kuklinski, James H., Paul M. Sniderman, Kathleen Knight, et al. "Racial Prejudice and Attitudes Toward Affirmative Action." <i>American Journal of Political Science</i> 41, no. 2 (1997): 402-19.</p> <p>Tesler, Michael. "The Spillover of Racialization into Health Care: How President Obama Polarized Public Opinion by Racial Attitudes and Race." <i>American Journal of Political Science</i> 56, no. 3 (2012): 690-704.</p> <p>Friedman, Milton. "Capitalism and Discrimination." Chapter 7 in <i>Capitalism and Freedom</i>. 40th anniv. ed. University of Chicago Press, 2002.</p>
40	12/7/2015	Review Session	Optional Review Session
41	12/9/2015	Final Paper Due	ASSIGNMENT: Final Paper Due