

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

Political Science 300: American Politics and Policymaking

Winter 2003
MW 1:30-3:18 (PM)
OR 110

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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 when initiation to enforcement.

This class will meet twice a week in lecture, and 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 (that are not in the Lanahan Reader) via the Internet at: <http://www.constitution.org/afp.htm>. All texts should be available at the bookstore (or so I've been led to believe), and students are expected to complete all readings prior to attending the class when they are scheduled to be 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 (i.e., close to death), 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 class and assigned readings, major current American political events (as covered in national print media) are fair game for quizzes. In calculating the class participation grade, the lowest quiz/class participation grade will be removed from consideration (hence, you get one freebie).

Texts:

Required:

Fiorina, Morris P., and Paul E. Peterson. *The New American Democracy*, 3rd Ed. Longman.

Serow, Ann G., and Everett C. Ladd. *The Lanahan Readings in the American Polity, 2nd Ed.*
Lanahan Publishers Inc.

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

Jan. 6: Organizational Meeting

Jan. 8: Introduction: Elections and American Democracy

Fiorina and Peterson, chapter 1

Jan. 13: The Constitution

Fiorina and Peterson, chapter 2

Serow and Ladd, reading 9

Federalist 10, 51

Jan. 15: Federalism

Fiorina and Peterson, chapter 3

Serow and Ladd, readings 21, 23

Federalist 39, 45, 46

Jan 20: Martin Luther King, Jr. Day---no class

Jan. 22: American Political Culture

Fiorina and Peterson, chapter 4

Serow and Ladd, readings 1-7

Jan 27: The Role of Public Opinion in American Politics

Fiorina and Peterson, chapter 5

Serow and Ladd, readings 47-49

Jan 29: Political Participation in American Politics

Fiorina and Peterson, chapter 6

Serow and Ladd, readings 63 and 64

Feb. 3: Civil Liberties

Fiorina and Peterson, chapter 16

Serow and Ladd, readings 75-76

Feb. 5: Civil Rights

Fiorina and Peterson, chapter 17
Serow and Ladd, readings 77-80

Feb. 10: Interest Groups and American Politics

Fiorina and Peterson, chapter 7
Serow and Ladd, readings 52-58

Feb. 12: Midterm Examination

Feb. 17: Political Parties and the Media

Fiorina and Peterson, chapter 8, 9
Serow and Ladd, readings 65-67, 71-74

Feb. 19: American Electoral System I: Electing the President

Fiorina and Peterson, chapter 10
Serow and Ladd, readings 61, 68-70

Feb. 24: The Office of the Presidency

Fiorina and Peterson, chapter 13
Serow and Ladd, readings 33, 34

Feb. 26: American Electoral System II: Electing the Congress

Fiorina and Peterson, chapter 11
Serow and Ladd, readings 29, 30, 59, 60
Redman, forward to new edition (pp. 7-10), chapters 1-3

March 3: Congress

Fiorina and Peterson, chapter 12
Serow and Ladd, readings 25-28, 31
Redman, Chapters 4-6

March 5: The Bureaucracy

Fiorina and Peterson, chapter 14
Serow and Ladd, readings 38, 40
Redman, Chapters 7-8

March 10: The Courts

Fiorina and Peterson, chapter 15
Serow and Ladd, readings 43-45
Federalist 78
Redman, Chapters 9-12, epilogue

March 12: Domestic and Economic Policy and Conclusion

Fiorina and Peterson, chapter 18, 19

Good luck on finals and have a great spring break!