

Political Science 300

American Government

Mr. Kessel

Spring Quarter, 2001

This course will combine coverage of subject matter with a concern for the methods used by political scientists for analysis. We shall cover the major elements of our national politics in some detail. In sequence, we shall look at our constitutional origins, citizen participation, the presidency, Congress, and the Supreme Court. Each time we undertake a new subject, however, we shall introduce a new mode of analysis. We shall interpret the constitutional convention by means of action analysis, see what survey analysis tells us about citizen participation, and so forth. The assumption here is that while the substantive details are going to change in the future, the modes of analysis will retain their utility. Whatever political role you play in the future, whether as a political activist, a student of politics, or simply as a concerned citizen, you will need to understand political events. The modes of analysis you master should give you that understanding.

The reading will come from five books. The first is *The New American Democracy*, alternate second edition, by Morris P. Fiorina and Paul E. Peterson (New York: Longman, 2001, ISBN 0-321-07059-3). We shall use this throughout the quarter. The second is *Are We To Be a Nation?: The Making of the Constitution* by Richard B. Bernstein with Kym S. Rice (Cambridge: Harvard Univ. Press, 1987). (Copies of this book will be on reserve in Room 110 in the EHS Library in Sullivant Hall. See Unit I in the weekly reading assignments for details.) The third is *The Presidential Difference: Leadership Style from FDR to Clinton*, by Fred I. Greenstein (New York: The Free Press, 2000, ISBN 0-684-82733-6). The fourth book is *The Contemporary Congress*, 3rd edition, by Burdett A. Loomis (Boston: Bedford/St. Martin's, 2000, ISBN 0-312-20861-8). Finally, there is Lawrence Baum's *The Supreme Court*, 7th edition, (Washington: CQ Press, 2001, ISBN 1-56082-523-8).

We shall also make occasional use of web sites. There will be a web site for this course that will have links to this syllabus, a web site for the Fiorina text, and some practice questions. To reach it, go first to the University Home Page. (This comes up automatically on some computers using ResNet or HomeNet. If it doesn't, the URL is <http://www.osu.edu>) From the University Home Page, click on Academic Departments; then click on Political Science (listed under Social and Behavioral Sciences); then click on Faculty; then click on John H. Kessel (listed under Emeritus Faculty at the bottom of the screen); and finally click on Classes. Alternatively, you can go directly to the class web site by using this URL:

<http://psweb.sbs.ohio-state.edu/faculty/jkessel/classes.htm>

There is also a web site for the Fiorina-Peterson text book. It contains some practice quizzes, links to other sites, and updates on events that took place after the book was finished. You can reach it by clicking on Fiorina Text Web Site on the class web site, or by using this URL:

<http://www.ablongman.com/fiorina>

The Fiorina-Peterson text lists sites in "On the Web" sections at the ends of each chapter, but the sites listed are the same as those for which links are provided from the Fiorina Text Web Site. Lawrence Baum gives some sites related to the Supreme Court and Constitution on pp. 280-281 of his book, *The Supreme Court*.

The suggested reading is literally that. It contains suggestions for those who want more information on some topic. In many cases, the books are available in inexpensive paperback editions.

There will be two mid-terms and a final examination. Each mid-term will count for one quarter of the course grade, and the final examination will count for half. Questions on the examinations will come from both the reading and the class lectures. Both are essential parts of the course.

My office is in Derby Hall, Room 2042. This is located in the middle of the corridor on the second floor facing the Oval. My normal office hours will be Monday and Wednesday, 11:00 to 11:30, and by appointment. The easiest way to reach me is by e-mail. My address is kessel.1@osu.edu

You cannot receive credit for both Political Science 101 and Political Science 300. If you have already taken Political Science 101, you should enroll in another course.

Academic Honesty. All of the work you do in this course is expected to be your own. Absolutely no cheating or plagiarism (using someone else's words or ideas without proper citation) will be tolerated. Any cases of cheating or plagiarism will be reported to the university committee on academic misconduct and handled according to university policy.

Disability. Students with disabilities are responsible for making their needs known to the instructor, and seeking available assistance, in the first week of the quarter. Course materials are available in alternative formats upon request. For such materials please contact Mr. Wayne DeYoung, 2140 Derby Hall, 154 North Oval Mall, 292-2880.

Unit I. Week 1

Subject Matter: **Our Constitutional Origins**

Mode of Analysis: **Action Analysis**

Required Reading:

Richard B. Bernstein, *Are We To Be a Nation?*, ch. 4; pp. 149-187. (Copies of this book are on reserve in the EHS Library in Sullivant Hall. There are also copies of a spiral-bound booklet, "Materials provided for the convenience of students in Political Science 300." These contain all the assigned pages from the Bernstein book.)
Fiorina and Peterson, *New American Democracy*, ch. 2.

Suggested Reading:

The Federalist.
Max Ferrand, *The Framing of the Constitution* (New Haven: Yale Paperbacks, 1953).
Jack N. Rakove, *Original Meanings: Politics and Ideas in the Making of the Constitution* (New York: Knopf, 1997).
Joseph Ellis, *Founding Brothers* (New York: Knopf, 2000).

Unit II. Weeks 2 and 3.

Subject Matter: **Citizen's Attitudes and Political Participation**
Mode of Analysis: **Survey Analysis**

Required Reading:

Fiorina and Peterson, *New American Democracy*, chs. 5, 6, 10
(including update on Y2K Election from Fiorina Web
Site), 8, 9.

Suggested Reading:

Herbert B. Asher, *Presidential Elections and American
Politics*, 5th ed., (Pacific Grove, Calif.: Brooks/Cole,
1992).
Raymond E. Wolfinger and Steven J. Rosenstone, *Who Votes?*
(New Haven: Yale Univ. Press, 1980).
Richard G. Niemi and Herbert F. Weisberg, eds. *Classics in
Voting Behavior*, (Washington: CQ Press, 1993).
Richard G. Niemi and Herbert F. Weisberg, eds. *Controversies
in American Voting Behavior*, 3rd ed., (Washington: CQ
Press, 1993).
John F. Bibby, *Politics, Parties and Elections in America*,
4th ed., (Chicago: Nelson-Hall, 1999).
John H. Aldrich, *Why Parties? The Origin and Transformation
of Party Politics in America* (Chicago: University of
Chicago Press, 1995).

MID-TERM EXAMINATION

Unit III. Weeks 4, 5, and 6.

Subject Matter: **The Presidency**
Mode of Analysis: **Role Theory**

Required Reading:

Fred I. Greenstein, *The Presidential Difference*.
Fiorina and Peterson, *New American Democracy*, chs. 13, 14.

Suggested Reading:

Richard E. Neustadt, *Presidential Power and the Modern
Presidents: The Politics of Leadership from Roosevelt to
Reagan* (New York: The Free Press, 1990).
Paul C. Light, *The President's Agenda: Domestic Policy
Choice from Kennedy to Clinton*, 3rd ed., (Baltimore:
Johns Hopkins University Press, 1999).
James David Barber, *The Presidential Character*, 4th ed.
(Englewood Cliffs, N.J.: Prentice-Hall, 1992).

- George C. Edwards III and Stephen J. Wayne, *Presidential Leadership: Politics and Policy Making*, 4th ed., (New York: St. Martin's, 1997).
- Fred I. Greenstein, ed. *Leadership in the Modern Presidency* (Cambridge, Mass.: Harvard Univ. Press, 1988).
- Charles O. Jones, *The Presidency in a Separated System* (Washington: Brookings Institution, 1994).

MID-TERM EXAMINATION

Unit IV. Weeks 7 and 8.

Subject Matter: **The Congress**
Mode of Analysis: **Group Theory**

Required Reading:

- Burdette A. Loomis, *The Contemporary Congress*.
Fiorina and Peterson, *New American Democracy*, chs. 12, 11
(including update on 2000 Congressional Elections from
Fiorina Web Site), 7.

Suggested Reading:

- Barbara Sinclair, *Unorthodox Lawmaking: New Legislative Processes in the U.S. Congress*, 2nd ed. (Washington: CQ Press, 2000).
- Steven Smith, *The American Congress*, 2nd ed. (Boston: Houghton Mifflin, 1999).
- Richard F. Fenno, Jr., *Learning to Govern: An Institutional View of the 104th Congress* (Washington: Brookings Institution, 1997).
- Richard F. Fenno, Jr., *Home Style: House Members in their Districts* (Boston: Little Brown, 1978).
- Richard F. Fenno, Jr., *Congressmen in Committees* (Boston: Little Brown, 1973).
- John W. Kingdon, *Congressmen's Voting Decisions*, 3rd ed., (Ann Arbor: University of Michigan Press, 1988).

Unit V. Weeks 9 and 10.

Subject Matter: **The Supreme Court**

Mode of Analysis: **Legal Reasoning**

Required Reading:

Lawrence Baum, *The Supreme Court*

Fiorina and Peterson, *New American Democracy*, chs. 15, 16,
17.

Suggested Reading:

Anthony Lewis, *Gideon's Trumpet* (New York: Vintage, 1964).

Walter F. Murphy, *Elements of Judicial Strategy* (Chicago:
University of Chicago Press, 1964).

David M. O'Brien, *Storm Center: The Supreme Court in
American Politics*, 5th ed., (New York: Norton, 1999).

Frank J. Sorauf, *The Wall of Separation: The
Constitutional Politics of Church and State*
(Princeton, Princeton University Press, 1976).

C. Herman Pritchett, *Constitutional Law of the Federal
System and Constitutional Civil Liberties* (Englewood
Cliffs, N.J.: Prentice Hall, 1984).

FINAL EXAMINATION -- Wednesday, June 6 -- 9:30 a.m.