Gun Politics
Political Science 4139
Course No. 23176
Spring, 2015

“A well-regulated Militia, being necessary to the security of a free State, the right of the people to keep and bear Arms, shall not be infringed.”

--The Second Amendment

Instructor: Charles Smith
Office: 2140B Derby Hall
Office Hours: 10 A.M. to 11 A.M. Mon. & Wed. and by appointment
Phone: (614) 292-1484 (office & voice mail)
Email: smith.3280@osu.edu (subject: 4139)

Email Etiquette: When you email me, keep in mind these four expectations:
1) You need to use your OSU email address (my spam filters may not accept other email communications);
2) Identify yourself at the beginning of the message;
3) You need to identify the class (e.g. "This is Jane Doe, from your PS 4139 class.");
4) Make certain that you write in a clear, direct manner: This should be written as a professional communication, not as an informal message. I will do my best to respond to your email within 24 hours.

Teaching Assistant: Ms. Megan Keenan
keenan.69@osu.edu
Office Hours for Spring—email for an appointment

Introduction

I have never believed in the general practice of carrying weapons....I do not believe in the general promiscuous toting of guns. I think it should be sharply restricted and only under licenses.

--Karl T. Frederick, President, National Rifle Association (NRA) Testimony given before Congress, April 16, 1934

The cornerstone of our freedom is the Second Amendment. Neither the United Nations, nor any other foreign influence, has the authority to meddle with the freedoms guaranteed by our Bill of Rights, endowed by our Creator, and due to all humankind.”

--Wayne LaPierre, Executive Vice President, NRA Testimony given before United Nations, July 15, 2011

The phrase “gun politics” refers to the views of different people within a particular country as to what degree of control (increased gun rights vs. greater gun control) should be enforced upon the private ownership and use of firearms, to what extent firearms ownership influences crime, and how best to achieve a balance of power between the individual and the state.

In America today there are some 300+ million firearms in private hands, amounting to one weapon for every American. Two in five American homes house guns. On the one hand, most gun owners are law-abiding citizens who believe they have a constitutional right to bear
arms. On the other, a great many people believe gun control to be our best chance at reducing violent crime.

This course will examine gun control through historical, legal, and sociological lenses. Upon completion of the course students will have a better understanding of how truly multi-faceted and complex the issue is and, thus, why consensus is so difficult to achieve.

Course Readings

Required Books:
The following books are available at Amazon.com, half.com, or the bookstore.


The following book is *out of print*. Selected excerpts will be posted to Carmen. **YOU DO NOT HAVE TO ORDER THIS BOOK unless you really want a copy.**


Required Articles:
The following articles are available via Carmen or the internet at the specified addresses:

For your information:

**Required Cases:**
The following cases are available on Carmen:

- *Moore et al. and Shepard et al. v. Madigan* (7th Cir. Nos. 12-1269, 12-1788)

**Required Videos:**
The following videos will be shown in class:

- *Mythbusters: “Bulletproof Water”*
- *30 Days: “Gun Nation”* (original airdate 7-1-08; season 3, ep. #5)
- *20/20: “If I only had a gun…”* (original airdate 4-10-09)
- http://www.fixgunchecks.org/tour
  available via HULU at http://www.hulu.com/watch/195819/cnbc-originales-remington-under-fire-a-cnbc-investigation
  Remington’s response http://www.youtube.com/watch?v=B_KVS1h1bQg

**Method of Evaluation**

*Quizzes* – 6 quizzes – 90 pts
Each quiz will cover material assigned UP TO AND FOR THAT DAY! Consult the course schedule to determine what material will be covered by each quiz.

All quizzes will be given via the course website on Carmen. You will be able to take the quiz between 8 A.M. and 8 P.M. on the day that the quiz is assigned. As you have 12 hours to take the quiz is it unlikely that you will NOT be able to complete the assignment. If, on the off-chance that you contract some malady that prevents you from logging on to a computer to take the quiz, please provide the instructor with medical documentation of said affliction. If the documentation is satisfactory, you will be allowed to take a make-up quiz in the instructor’s office at his convenience. Yes, the quizzes are open-book/open-note. Yes, there is a time limit for each quiz, so you should go in to the quiz organized and prepared. That the quizzes are open book/notes should in no way replace actively studying!!
NOTE: Be certain that you have a “stable” computer/internet connection when you sit down to take the quiz. The instructor is not responsible for computer irregularities that prevent you from completing the quiz. If, while taking the quiz, you experience difficulties with CARMEN (and CARMEN only!), please contact CARMEN support immediately (614-688-4357 or 688-8743 for TDD). While on the phone with CARMEN support, document 1) the day/time of calamity; 2) the name of the technician with whom you spoke; 3) the technician’s recommended fix; and 4) the ticket/complaint number. This information MUST be provided to and verified by the instructor before any make-up quizzes will be scheduled.

Quiz 1—Jan. 22; Quiz 2—Feb. 3; Quiz 3—Feb. 24; Quiz 4—Mar. 12; Quiz 5—Mar. 31; Quiz 6—April 21

Reaction Papers [See below] – 40 pts
4 papers @ 10 points each
- 2 papers are due no later than Feb 26; final 2 are due no later than April 23 [NOTE: papers can be turned in at any time prior to the due date]
- NO NAMES CAN APPEAR ON THE PAPERS. USE YOUR OSU ID NUMBER.

Three Writing Assignments [See below] – 90 pts
3 papers @ 30 points each
- NO NAMES CAN APPEAR ON THE WRITING ASSIGNMENTS. USE YOUR OSU ID NUMBER.
Grading Scale—below is the ONLY faculty senate-approved grading scale in existence at OSU

<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th>University Marks (Rule 3335-7-21)</th>
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<tbody>
<tr>
<td><strong>A, A-</strong> The instructor judged the student to have satisfied the stated objectives of the course in an excellent manner. The student’s performance was judged to be in this range of high quality based upon a comparison with other students in the course, and/or with students who have taken the course previously, and/or the instructor’s personal expectations relative to the stated objectives of the course, based on the instructor’s experience and expertise.</td>
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<tr>
<td><strong>B+, B, B-</strong> The instructor judged the student to have satisfied the stated objectives of the course in an above-average manner. The student’s performance was judged to be in this range of above-average quality based upon a comparison with other students in the course, and/or with students who have taken the course previously, and/or the instructor’s personal expectations relative to the stated objectives of the course, based on the instructor’s experience and expertise.</td>
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<td><strong>C+, C, C-</strong> The instructor judged the student to have satisfied the stated objectives of the course in an average manner. The student’s performance was judged to be in this range of average quality based upon a comparison with other students in the course, and/or with students who have taken the course previously, and/or the instructor’s personal expectations relative to the stated objectives of the course, based on the instructor’s experience and expertise.</td>
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<td><strong>D+, D</strong> The instructor judged the student to have satisfied the stated objectives of the course in a low but acceptable manner. The student’s performance was judged to be in this range of below average but acceptable quality based upon a comparison with other students in the course, and/or with students who have taken the course previously, and/or the instructor’s personal expectations relative to the stated objectives of the course, based on the instructor’s experience and expertise.</td>
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<tr>
<td><strong>E</strong> The instructor judged the student not to have satisfied the stated objectives of the course. Credit for a course in which the mark of “E” has been received can be obtained only by repeating and passing the course in class. (See rules 3335-7-23 to 3335-7-28 of the Administrative Code.)</td>
</tr>
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**Student Conduct**

I am embarrassed to have to include a statement concerning student conduct but, given the often emotionally-charged issues relevant to this course, I must stress that incivility toward ANYONE in class WILL NOT BE TOLERATED.

**Out of respect for others, students must turn off cellular phones prior to class.**

**Policy on attendance**

It is expected that students will attend each class session. Attendance will be taken daily and will be utilized when determining final grades. **Following university Rule 3335-7-33, students will be disenrolled from the course if they are absent the first week of classes and do not notify the instructor of their intention to remain enrolled.**
NOTE: If you are forced to miss class on the day an assignment is due, you MUST telephone the instructor (292-1484) PRIOR to class time and make him aware of your pending absence. The assignment, then, MUST be turned in TO THE INSTRUCTOR by noon of the following day. Points will automatically be deducted for lateness. **Assignments submitted electronically WILL NOT be accepted.**

**Academic Integrity**
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://studentlife.osu.edu/csc/](http://studentlife.osu.edu/csc/).

**Students with Disabilities**
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/](http://www.ods.ohio-state.edu/).
**Course Schedule**
Established due dates are changeable only by me. Individual exceptions are granted ONLY in cases of medical or family emergency *documented to my satisfaction*. Unexcused late assignments or papers will result in a score of zero.

**Week 1**
1-13 Introduction to course  
*Read:* “Battleground America” (Carmen)

1-15 “Politics” of gun control  
*Read:* Henigan Ch 1 & 2  
*Read:* Spitzer Intro and Ch 3

**Week 2**
1-20 Guns in America  
“Gunned Down: The Power of the NRA” (PBS, *Frontline*; orig. air date 1-6-15)  
*http://www.pbs.org/wgbh/pages/frontline/gunned-down/*

*Read:* Winkler, part I  
*Read:* Gibson, *Warrior Dreams* Ch 1 (Carmen)

1-22 Guns in America, cont’d  
*Video:* *30 Days: Gun Nation*; discussion  
*Read:* Carlson. “From Gun Politics to Self-Defense Politics” (Carmen)  
*Read:* Winkler part II  
*Quiz #1*

**Week 3**
1-27 Guns in America, cont’d  
*Video:* *Remington Under Fire*  
*Read:* Keefe, “CNBC’s ‘Remington Under Fire’” (Carmen)

1-29 Gibson, Chs 2 & 3 (Carmen)  
*Guest Speaker:* Dr. Randy Roth, Dept. of History  
*Read:* Roth, Maltz & Eckberg, “Homicide Rates in the Old West” (Carmen)  
*Read:* Winkler, part III

**Week 4**
2-3 Guns and Ammo  
*Read:* Spitzer Ch 1  
*Firearms Tutorial #1* (Carmen)  
*Quiz #2*

2-5 Guns and Ammo, cont’d;  
*Video:* *Mythbusters*, “Bulletproof Water”  
*First writing assignment due in class*

**Week 5**
2-10 Range days; participation this week is **totally voluntary**. Assemble in 020 Converse Hall. Guest lecturer is Dr. James Sweeney, Head Coach, Varsity Pistol
Week 6  2-17  The Second Amendment  
Read: Henigan, ch 7; Spitzer, Ch 2  
Skim: *D.C. v. Heller; McDonald v. City of Chicago* (Carmen)  
Skim: Posner, “In Defense of Looseness” (Carmen)  

2-19  Guns and the law—federal, state and local  
Read: Henigan, chapt. 5 & 6  
Skim: *Cleveland v. State* (Carmen)  
Skim: ORC 2923, selections (Carmen)  
Skim: Columbus Muni Code, (Carmen)  

Week 7  2-24  “More guns, less crime?”  
Read: Lott, Chapt. 1 – 5; Gibson, Ch. 11 (Carmen)  
Read: McDowall, “Lott’s defensive gun estimates” (Carmen)  
Skim: Cook and Ludwig, “The Social Costs of Gun Ownership” (Carmen)  
Quiz #3  

2-26  “More guns, less crime?” cont’d  
Read: Lott, remainder  
Read: Duggan, “More Guns, More Crime” (Carmen)  
Read: Ayers and Donohue, “Shooting Down the More Guns, Less Crime Hypothesis” (Carmen)  
First two reaction papers due today!  

Week 8  3-3  Media and guns/violence  

3-5  Kids and guns  
Read: Langman, *Why Kids Kill* (Carmen)  
Read: Klebold, “I will never know why.”(Carmen)  
Read: Henigan pp. 30-36  

Week 9  3-10  Armed self-defense—Guest speaker R. Ken Hanson, Esq.  
Read: Grossman, “On Sheep, Wolves and Sheepdogs” (Carmen)  

3-12  “Castle laws”, George Zimmerman; discussion  
Second writing assignment due in class  
Quiz #4  

3/17-3/19  SPRING BREAK  

Week 10  3-24  Guns on Campus: Guest Speaker is Chief Paul Denton, University Police  

3-26  Video: 20/20: “If I only had a gun”  
Guest speaker: Representative from the Ohio Coalition Against Gun Violence
| Week 11 | 3-31 | The limits of dissent; doomsday preppers  
**Read:** Gibson, Ch. 10 (esp. pp 212-230) (Carmen)  
**Read:** King, Letter from a Birmingham Jail (Carmen)  
**Read:** Malcolm X: The Ballot or the Bullet (Carmen)  
**Skim:** Horwitz and Anderson, *Guns, Democracy and the Insurrectionist Idea* (Carmen)  
**Skim:** Henigan, “Arms, Anarchy and the Second Amendment” (Carmen)  
**Quiz #5**  
| 4-2 | Armed resistance; Ruby Ridge, Waco & Oklahoma City  
**Video:** “The Legend of Ruby Ridge” (Carmen)  
**Video:** “Waco, the Survivors’ Story” (Carmen)  
**Video:** “Terror From Within” (Carmen)  |
| Week 12 | 4-7 | Discussion  
| 4-9 | Gun control in Britain and Canada  
See Links on Carmen to Library of Congress information  |
| Week 13 | 4-14 | Gun control in Japan  
See Link on Carmen to Library of Congress information  
| 4-16 | Mexico and Project Gun Runner  
See Link on Carmen to Library of Congress information  
**Third writing assignment due in class**  |
| Week 14 | 4-21 | Global Issues; what can we learn from others?  
**Quiz #6**  
| 4-23 | Course wrap-up  
**Last two reaction papers due today!**  |

**Reaction Papers**

[Note: I will not accept any papers sent electronically.]

You are required to submit four (4) reaction papers during the term. These papers are intended to allow you to voice your thoughts and feelings regarding certain readings, videos, guest speakers, or out-of-class activities.

The reaction papers can be submitted at any time until the due date, but I must institute deadlines or else all of the reaction papers will be turned in the final week of the term.

Two reaction papers are due no later than Feb. 26. Papers must be turned in IN CLASS.
The final two reaction papers are due no later than April 23. **Papers must be turned in IN CLASS.**

**What to write:**
Reaction papers are just that, a reaction to something. Did it provide you with any new information? Did it confirm/disprove previously held ideas? Was anything missing (i.e., could the author/director/speaker have gone into more detail regarding certain topics?). What questions do you have as a result?

As it is your reaction, you may write in the first person; do not be afraid to use “I,” “me,” or “my.”

**Format:**
Reaction papers must be typed and double-spaced using a standard font and black ink. Please use one-inch margins. Pages must be secured with a staple. Papers should run no longer than three (3) pages. See “Tips for Writing Papers,” below.

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**Writing Assignments**
The writing assignments provide an opportunity for you to organize your thoughts and clarify your position on a particular issue relevant to this course. The prompts for each writing assignment will be passed out in class and posted to Carmen.

The assignments are worth 30 points each.

Papers should be approximately six (6) pages at a minimum, but no longer than ten (10) pages. I will accept papers that are a bit shorter than the page minimum provided that they are well-executed. I would rather have five pages of good writing than 10 pages of crap.

See below for “Tips for Writing Papers.”

**The papers must have proper source citations (if applicable).**

**NOTE:** Generally, the ONLY online sources that are acceptable are for material/information that at one time appeared in print (newspapers, magazines, scholarly articles, scholarly journals, government-based publications, and certain websites that provide data). Please consult me if you have questions.

**Format:** Papers must be typed and double-spaced using a standard font and black ink. Please use one-inch margins. Pages must be secured with a staple. Cover pages waste paper and serve no purpose. Please place your name and the course number in the upper left hand corner of page one. Remember to number all pages except the first one.
Comments on Source Citations

Much of your college education involves learning what others have written and then integrating those ideas into your own thinking. In academic writing, any ideas or words not credited to another are presumed to be those of the author. The problem of plagiarism comes in when you fail to give credit for those ideas that are not original to you. The word plagiarism (from the Latin for “kidnapping”) refers to the unacknowledged use of another’s words, ideas, or information.

The following is a guide to help you avoid plagiarism.

What need not be acknowledged?

- Common knowledge. If most readers would likely know something, you need not cite it.

- Facts available from a wide variety of sources. If a number of textbooks, encyclopedias, or almanacs include the information, you need not cite it.
  
  Example 1: “Ronald Reagan was the 40th President of the United States.” This is not only common knowledge but is a fact that can be located in every encyclopedia and text on the presidency, so it need not be cited.
  
  Example 2: “Ronald Reagan once wore a Nazi uniform.” This is a lesser known fact about President Reagan that would be surprising to most people; thus it MUST be cited.

- Your own ideas and discoveries.

What must be acknowledged?

- Any direct quotation. The exact words quoted must be placed in quotation marks and you must provide a page number if the quote was taken from a printed source.

- Paraphrases and summaries of others’ ideas and/or words that provide background information, present facts not commonly known, and explain various positions on your topic.

- Arguable assertions. If an author presents an assertion that may or may not be true, cite the source.

- Statistics, charts, tables, and graphs from any source. Credit all graphic material even if you create the graph.

The Ohio State University considers the purchase of research papers or the employment of a person or agency to prepare such papers to be academic misconduct. In addition, though you may get help in writing your paper, there are limits to the amount of help you can honestly receive. For instance, others may read over your paper and point out weaknesses, but they must not rewrite the paper for you.

A problem can also occur if you want to submit a paper for one class that you have already submitted to another instructor for another class. To avoid this problem, discuss the paper with your current instructor before handing it in.

NOTE: When in doubt, CITE IT!!!
Here are some tips for writing papers (whether using MLA or APA format):

1. With few exceptions, punctuation marks ALWAYS go INSIDE quotation marks. The exceptions are: colons; semicolons; dashes; and sometimes question marks and exclamation points, depending on their use.
2. Source citations ALWAYS go OUTSIDE the quotation marks, as they are NOT part of the cited text.
3. Do not split infinitives: Correct: To go happily. Incorrect: To happily go.
4. Capitalize political party names, Congress, Senate, and House.
5. Avoid ending verbs with “ing.” Avoid the verb “to be.” Never use “being.”
6. Do not use “a lot.” Use “much” or “many.”
7. Avoid run on sentences.
8. Avoid one-sentence paragraphs.
9. Do not use the phrase “kind of.”
10. Do not use the word “basically.”
11. Learn how to use the apostrophe to indicate possession, especially in regard to plural possessive (put apostrophe after the “s”).
12. “It’s” is a contraction for “it is” or “it has”; “its” is possessive.
13. 1960s is plural; 1960’s is possessive and refers only to the year 1960. [e.g., “Politics in the 1960s was very divisive.” “1960’s election was a turning point for the Democrats.”]
14. Do not end sentences with prepositions.
15. Never use contractions in formal writing.
17. Do not use the word “feel” when you mean “think” or “believe.”
18. Do not write “people that.” It is “people who.”
19. For the numbers zero to nine, write out their name. For 10 or more, write the number.
20. Never begin a sentence with a number. Always write out the number.
21. Italicize or underline the names of publications, television programs, movies and CDs.
22. Learn to differentiate among: there, their, and they’re; then and than; further and farther; principle and principal; capital and capitol; who and whom; lose and loose; lead and led; affect and effect; fewer and lesser; weary and wary.
23. “Media” and “data” are plural nouns.
24. Avoid using et cetera (“etc.”). If you cannot list all of the examples then do not try.
25. When using material from other authors, you should paraphrase as much as possible; direct quotations should be used ONLY when you are incapable of improving upon the author’s own words or if the quotation is famous or noteworthy.
26. Quotations that run longer than four typed lines should be single-spaced and indented; you can then omit the quotation marks as they are redundant.
27. Page numbers should appear on all pages except the first one.
28. The paper should have one-inch margins on the top, bottom and sides and appear in 12-point size font.
29. For parenthetical (in-text) citations: cite sources by putting the last name of the author of the work and the year it was published in parentheses in the actual text of the paper [add page number(s) if using a direct quote], then put a list of the sources alphabetically (by last name of the author) at the end of your paper. Citations at the end of a sentence always go inside the period.

Examples: Research suggests that this is not the case (Jackson 2002). “There is absolutely no scientific evidence that this correlation exists” (Jackson 2002, 23). [For a direct quote taken from page 23 of the original.]
30. When using Microsoft Word’s “insert reference” feature to add footnotes, remember that you need only provide full bibliographic information the first time that the author is cited; for each subsequent reference, use only the author’s last name and page number.

31. When constructing a bibliography, sources are alphabetized by author (or title if no author), then by date (if multiple sources by same author). DO NOT NUMBER sources in the bibliography.

32. **PROOFREAD!!** Have a friend/roommate/significant other read over your written work BEFORE you hand it in. There will always be mistakes that you will not catch but others might.
Statement of Student Responsibility*

Political Science 4139
Spring, 2015

➢ I state that I have read and understand the procedures and requirements as outlined in the syllabus for this course. I understand that upper division college courses are taught at a pace that requires considerable work and I am prepared to complete the assignments as required and take responsibility should I fail to comply with the guidelines for the course. I agree to abide by the Code of Student Conduct and understand that failure to do so will result in university academic misconduct proceedings.

➢ I agree to respect others and conduct myself in a manner befitting a student at The Ohio State University.

➢ I understand that if I need assistance with materials throughout the term the instructor is available to guide me, but that ultimately I am responsible for my own work and for notifying the instructor if I do have problems.

➢ I agree that, by taking this course, all required papers may be subject to submission for textual similarity review to Turnitin.com for the detection of plagiarism. All submitted papers will be included as source documents in the Turnitin.com reference database solely for the purpose of detecting plagiarism of such papers. Use of the Turnitin.com service is subject to the Terms and Conditions of Use posted on the Turnitin.com site.

_________________________  _______________________
Signature Date

Print Name: ____________________________ Hometown: ____________________________

Year in School: ________________ Major/Minor: ____________________________

Prior Political Science Course(s): ____________________________

Reason(s) for Taking Course: ____________________________

Course Expectations: ____________________________

Special Considerations (i.e., disability, graduating student): ____________________________

Interesting Tidbit About Myself: ____________________________

______________________________________________

* Due in class on Thursday, Jan. 15, 2015