

American Political Development

Political Science 4105

Spring 2020

Leconte 101

TR 9:30-10:45am

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Course Description:

The primary goal of this course is to familiarize the student with American political history and development. The class will focus on the development of American political issues and institutions from the late 18th century through the 19th century. Throughout the semester, we will focus on topics including: the failure of the Articles of Confederation, the Constitutional Convention, the creation of American political parties, slavery, the Civil War and the development of House and Senate rules. Particular attention will be given to how these events influence policy-making in contemporary American politics.

Books and Readings:

The following books are required and can be purchased from amazon.com and at the Campus Bookstore:

Ellis, Joseph. 2001. *Founding Brothers: The Revolutionary Generation*. New York, NY: Alfred A. Knopf.

Ellis, Joseph. 2007. *American Creation: Triumphs and Tragedies at the Founding of the Republic*. New York, NY: Alfred A. Knopf.

Holt, Michael F. 2004. *The Fate of Their Country*. New York, NY: Hill and Wang.

Students will not only be expected to have done the reading assignments, but should also be aware of relevant news stories. As such, I recommend reading a daily newspaper – such as the New York Times and/or the Washington Post – or at least checking cnn.com. Other political blogs that students may find useful include FiveThirtyEight, Political Wire, The Monkey Cage, The Upshot, Vox and the Drudge Report.

Some optional books you might want to consider purchasing can be found on amazon.com:

Aldrich, John H. 2011. *Why Parties? A Second Look*. Chicago, IL: University of Chicago Press.

Mann, Robert. 1996. *The Walls of Jericho: Lyndon Johnson, Hubert Humphrey, Richard Russell, and the Struggle for Civil Rights*. New York, NY: Harcourt, Brace and World, Inc.

Potter, David M. 1976. *The Impending Crisis: 1848-1861*. New York, NY: Harper and Row Publishers, Inc.

Schickler, Eric. 2001. *Disjointed Pluralism: Institutional Innovation and the Development of the U.S. Congress*. Princeton, NJ: Princeton University Press.

Additional readings will be posted on the course website. Many of these readings will be highly technical in nature. As such, students are not expected to understand all aspects of each paper. However, they will be held accountable for a basic understanding of the paper's theory and applications.

Course Grading:

Your grade in this class will be assigned according to the following:

1. **Class Attendance/Participation (10% of final grade):** One of the goals for this class is for students to become comfortable discussing congressional institutions, issues, events and research. Hence, class periods will be part lecture and part discussion. Students should be prepared to discuss the reading for the day with their classmates. Students will be given one point for attending the class, and an additional point for adequate participation. The lowest attendance/participation grade will be dropped. A student's participation grade may also include several small quizzes or assignments.
2. **Midterm Exams (40% of final grade):** Two midterm exams will be given on Tuesday, *February 18th* and Tuesday, *March 31st*. These exams will consist of multiple choice and short essay questions. The midterm examinations will be non-cumulative. If a student is unable to take the exam on the scheduled date, they should contact the course instructor beforehand. A missed exam will only be excused for a documented illness (documentation must be provided by a physician) or a death in the family. If you are excused from an exam, your final exam will be weighted accordingly.
3. **Research Paper (30% of final grade):** Students will be expected to complete a research design proposal. The paper should be a maximum of 15 pages in length (typed, double-spaced, one inch margins, Times New Roman, 12 point font, Chicago style citations). Students will be allowed to choose the topic of their paper, provided it is related to American Political Development. The instructor will be available for consultation. The paper should feature a review of the relevant scholarly literature, a well developed theory, and a detailed discussion of a potential test of that theory. The paper is due Tuesday, *April 28th* at 5:00 pm. Papers will be docked a full letter grade for each day they are late.
4. **Final Exam (20% of final grade):** The final exam is scheduled for Thursday, *April 30th* from 8:00 to 11:00 am and will be held in Leconte 101. Like the midterms, it will feature a mix of multiple choice and short essay questions. The final exam will be non-cumulative.

Final course grades will be assigned as follows: 100-93 = A, 90-92 = A-, 87-89 = B+, 83-86 = B, 80-82 = B-, 77-79 = C+, 73-76 = C, 70-72 = C-, 60-69 = D, and 60-0. Extra credit will not be given in this course.

Disabilities:

Students with disabilities of any kind are strongly encouraged to notify the instructor and the Office for Disability Services at the beginning of the semester, so appropriate accommodations can be made.

Instructor Availability:

Students seeking to contact the instructor are encouraged to stop by during scheduled office hours. Students who are unable to attend office hours should e-mail ahead of time to ensure instructor availability.

Classroom Behavior:

Students should behave professionally throughout the course and disruptive behavior of any kind will not be tolerated. This includes cell phone usage, excessive talking and derogatory or offensive comments made during discussion. Students will be held responsible for all material discussed or assigned.

Cheating and Plagiarism:

Cheating and plagiarism will not be tolerated in this course. Students caught cheating or plagiarizing will have their names forwarded to the University. It is each student's responsibility to know what constitutes plagiarism. Further information regarding academic honesty can be found at <http://www.uga.edu/honesty/>.

Tentative Lecture Outline/Readings Schedule:

Date	Topic	Reading
7-Jan	Introduction/Syllabus	
9-Jan	What is American Political Development? Institutions Review	
14-Jan	Why Rules? Scaling	Cox 2000
16-Jan	Path Dependency	Pierson 2000
21-Jan	The Founding	American Creation, p. 3-57
23-Jan	John Adams, Episode 2	
28-Jan	Pivotal Voters	Dougherty and Heckelman (2006) Robertson (2006)
30-Jan	The Dinner Strategic Voting	Founding Brothers, Ch. 2 Clinton and Meirowitz (2004)
4-Feb	The Silence The First Parties	Founding Brothers, Ch. 3 Aldrich and Grant (1993)
6-Feb	Marbury v. Madison	Clinton (1994)
11-Feb	Legislative Development	Binder 1995 Jillson and Wilson 1987
13-Feb	Legislative Development (cont) Review	Gamm and Smith (1989)
18-Feb	<i>Midterm 1</i>	
20-Feb	The Vice President in the Senate How to Write a Research Paper, Part 1	Lynch and Madonna (2010)
25-Feb	The Compromise of 1824	Jenkins and Sala (1998) Carson and Engstrom (2005)
27-Feb	Pandora's Box The Wilmot Proviso	Holt, Ch. 1 Holt, Ch. 2

Tentative Lecture Outline/Readings Schedule (*cont*):

Date	Topic	Reading
3-Mar	The Compromise of 1850	Holt, Ch. 3
5-Mar	The Kansas-Nebraska Act The Election of 1860	Holt, Ch. 4 Jenkins and Morris (2006)
10-Mar	<i>No class–Spring Break</i>	
12-Mar	<i>No class–Spring Break</i>	
17-Mar	Parties in Congress	Finocchiaro and Rohde (2008) Jenkins (1999)
19-Mar	Parties in Congress (cont)	Roberts (2010)
24-Mar	House Rules	Schickler and Rich (1997) Cox and McCubbins (1997)
26-Mar	Senate Rules	Wawro and Schickler (2004) Madonna (2011)
31-Mar	<i>Midterm 2</i>	
2-Apr	Lincoln	Binder (2012)
7-Apr	Institutionalizing the Presidency	Ragsdale and Theis (1997) Klinghard (2005)
9-Apr	The Supreme Court	Vining, Zorn and Smelcer (2006) Walker, Epstein and Dixon (1988)
14-Apr	Civil Rights	Schickler, Pearson and Feinstein (2010) Jenkins, Peck and Weaver (2010)
16-Apr	Writing a Research Paper, Part 2	
21-Apr	Congressional Leadership	Cooper and Brady (1981)
23-Apr	Voting in Congress	Roberts (2007) Lynch and Madonna (2020)
28-Apr	<i>Paper Due</i> Review	
30-Apr	<i>Final Exam</i>	