

Government 1001  
Fall 2017  
Professor Janet M. Martin  
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**Drop by Office Hours** (no appointments; first-come first-served): **Monday 2:45 - 3:45 p.m.**

Appointments for other times can be scheduled via email. To facilitate scheduling, suggest a range of times over 1 or 2 days. Some appointments may be able to be arranged in the evening before 8:30 p.m., or on Sundays, between 1 and 4 p.m.

## **REPRESENTATION, PARTICIPATION, AND POWER IN AMERICAN POLITICS**

This seminar provides a broad introduction to American politics, and to the discipline of Political Science. Readings, papers, and discussion will all explore the changing nature of power and participation in the American polity. This course will focus on some of the most important core political values of American political culture as well as on the interaction between individuals (non-voters, voters, party leaders, members of Congress, the President), and political institutions (parties, Congress, the executive branch and the judiciary). Papers, presentations, and assignments will focus on developing critical analytical skills in reading, writing, and in discussion, and on developing research skills particularly useful in courses in the social sciences and related disciplines.

In most weeks, lecture and discussion on Monday will include an introduction to and overview of the week's topic and the assigned readings in *Principles and Practice of American Politics: Classic and Contemporary Readings*, 6<sup>th</sup> edition. I encourage daily reading of *The New York Times*, and/or other newspapers and broadcasts, especially as material relates to the week's topic. Wednesdays (and an occasional Monday) will include student presentations on the readings.

The course will have several different types of writing assignments, including short (1-3 page) papers, an essay (5-7 pages), research paper (7-10 pages), and other assignments. In addition students will be responsible for several presentations of assigned material.

Attendance is expected at every class.

### **Required Reading:**

Samuel Kernell and Steven S. Smith (editors), *Principles and Practice of American Politics: Classic and Contemporary Readings* (6<sup>th</sup> edition)

*U.S. Constitution*

Additional readings may be placed on reserve, and will be announced in class.

**Course Requirements** (and approximate weight in calculation of final grade):

|  |     |
|--|-----|
| Long essay (5-7 pages)   | 20% |
| Research Project and Paper (7-10 pages)  | 25% |
| Short essays and writing assignments;<br>Presentations; class participation and discussion | 55% |

**Readings and Discussion (approximate dates)**

**I. An Introduction to Political Culture, Tradition, and Core Political Values**

**Aug. 30 – Sept. 13**

**Representative Government; the U. S. Constitution; Designing Institutions**

**Aug. 30 – Sept. 6:**

Readings: In *Principles and Practice of American Politics: Classic and Contemporary Readings*: Brutus; Madison *Federalist No. 51*; Hamilton *Federalist No. 78* (Ch. 9)

*U.S. Constitution* (available in Kernell and Smith; the College Store; and on-line)

**Sept. 11 – 13:**

Readings: In *Principles and Practice of American Politics: Classic and Contemporary Readings*: Madison *Federalist No. 10*; Olson; Hardin

**Sept. 18 – 20**

**Federalism**

Readings: In *Principles and Practice of American Politics: Classic and Contemporary Readings*: Kettl; Rauch; Kousser

**Saturday, September 23, 4 p.m., Kresge:** Guest Speaker: **Jane Mayer**, staff writer at *The New Yorker*; author of:

- *Dark Money: The Hidden History of the Billionaires Behind the Rise of the Radical Right*;

- *The Dark Side: The Inside Story of How the War on Terror Turned into a War on American Ideals*;
- *Strange Justice: The Selling of Clarence Thomas*;
- *Landslide: The Unmaking of the President, 1984-1988*

**Tickets required. A limited number of tickets are available at the Smith Union Info Desk, beginning September 5.**

## II. The Machinery of Government: American National Institutions and the Making and Implementation of Public Policy – Congress and the Presidency

**Sept. 25 – Oct. 4**

**Congress: The concept of representation, Members, the Legislative Process**

Readings: *In Principles and Practice of American Politics: Classic and Contemporary Readings*: Smith; Binder; Aldrich and Rohde

**Oct. 11 – 18**

**The Presidency, the President and the Press**

Readings: *In Principles and Practice of American Politics: Classic and Contemporary Readings*: Neustadt; Kernell

***October 16<sup>th</sup>: LIBRARY WORKSHOP***

## III. Political Participation: The American Voter, Campaigns and Elections, Political Parties, Interest Groups

**Oct. 23 – 25**

**Public Opinion and Scientific Polling**

Readings: *In Principles and Practice of American Politics: Classic and Contemporary Readings*: Asher; Zaller and Feldman

**Oct. 30 – Nov. 1**

**Voters and Elections**

Readings: *In Principles and Practice of American Politics: Classic and Contemporary Readings*: Schudson; Popkin; Jacobson; Vavreck

**Nov. 6 – 15**

**Political Parties and Organized Interests**

Readings: In *Principles and Practice of American Politics: Classic and Contemporary Readings*: Aldrich; Fiorina (Ch. 12); Bartels; Abramowitz; Schattschneider; Hall and Anderson

IV. The “fourth branch”—News Media: News, Editorials and Op-Eds, Photos, Imagery, the Internet

**Nov. 20**

**News Media**

Readings: In *Principles and Practice of American Politics: Classic and Contemporary Readings*: Hamilton (Ch. 14); Iyengar and Hahn

V. The Federal Judiciary; Another Look at Core Political Values: Civil Liberties and Civil Rights

**Nov. 27 – Dec. 6**

**The Federal Judiciary**

Readings: In *Principles and Practice of American Politics: Classic and Contemporary Readings*: a return to Hamilton’s *Federalist No. 78*; Carp and Manning; Breyer; Scalia

**Civil Rights**

Readings: In *Principles and Practice of American Politics: Classic and Contemporary Readings*: *Schuetz v. Bamn*; Levitt

**Civil Liberties**

Readings: In *Principles and Practice of American Politics: Classic and Contemporary Readings*: Sunstein; Rosenberg

**Writing Assignments and Due Dates (there may be short exercises assigned throughout the semester and these will be announced in class)**

Short Essays:

Essay 1 assigned September 11; Due **September 13**

Essay 2 assigned September 18; Due **September 20**

Long Essay (5-7 pages):

Assignment will involve several short writing assignments which will be used to help in writing and editing your final essay.

First part will be assigned **September 20**; Due **September 25**

Final Essay will be due **October 4<sup>th</sup>**

Short Essay:

Essay 3 assigned October 11; Due **October 16**

Research Paper (7-10 pages):

Paper topic will be assigned **October 30<sup>th</sup>**, identifying the stages of the project and due dates. The assignment will involve several segments, including the use of scholarly sources, primary data collection and analysis, in-class peer review, and at least one draft before the final paper is due. **A polished draft is due at the start of class on Dec. 4<sup>th</sup>. I will read revised drafts received no later than noon on December 8<sup>th</sup>. The final paper must be turned in no later than 9 am on Dec. 16<sup>th</sup>.**

There will be additional short projects and exercises assigned later in the semester in conjunction with assigned readings and/or your research project. Your presentation assignments will be discussed in class on September 4<sup>th</sup>.