

Government 1001
Fall 2018; M, W 8:30 - 9:55
Professor Janet M. Martin
Hubbard Hall 16
207-725-3618
Email: jmartin@bowdoin.edu

Drop by Office Hours (no appointments; first-come first-served): **Wednesday 2:30 - 3:45 p.m.**
Appointments for other times can be scheduled via email. To facilitate scheduling, suggest a range of times over 1 to 3 days

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*, 7th 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* (7th edition)

U.S. Constitution

Additional readings may be placed on reserve, and 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; Presentations; class participation and discussion	55%

Readings and Discussion (approximate dates)

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

Aug. 29 – Sept. 12

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

Aug. 29 – Sept. 5:

Readings: In *Principles and Practice of American Politics: Classic and Contemporary Readings*: 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. 10 – 12:

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

Sept. 17 – 19

Federalism

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

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

Sept. 24 – Oct. 3

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. 10 – 17

The Presidency, the President and the Press

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

October 22nd: LIBRARY WORKSHOP

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

Oct. 22 - 24

Public Opinion and Scientific Polling

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

Oct. 29 – Nov. 5

Voters and Elections

Readings: In *Principles and Practice of American Politics: Classic and Contemporary Readings*: Schudson; Popkin; Sinclair *et al.*

Nov. 5 – 7

Political Parties

Readings: In *Principles and Practice of American Politics: Classic and Contemporary Readings*: Aldrich; Drutman

Nov. 12 – 14

Organized Interests

Readings: In *Principles and Practice of American Politics: Classic and Contemporary Readings*: Victor

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

Nov. 19

News Media

Readings: In *Principles and Practice of American Politics: Classic and Contemporary Readings*: Allcott and Gentzkow; Madrigal

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

Nov. 26 – Dec. 5

The Federal Judiciary

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

Civil Rights

Readings: In *Principles and Practice of American Politics: Classic and Contemporary Readings*: Levitt; Herrick

Civil Liberties

Readings: In *Principles and Practice of American Politics: Classic and Contemporary Readings*: Rauch; Rosenberg; *Roe v. Wade*

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 10; Due **September 12**

Essay 2 assigned September 19; Due **September 24**

Essay 3 assigned October 10; Due **October 15**

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 **October 17**; Due **October 24**

Final Essay will be due **October 29th**

Research Paper (7-10 pages):

Paper topic will be assigned **November 5th**, 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. 3rd. I will read revised drafts received no later than noon on December 7th. The final paper must be turned in no later than 8:30 am on Dec. 12th.**

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 3rd.

All papers and assignments must be submitted in print form; no electronic submissions will be accepted. Allow enough time to print your paper and submit it on time.