

Government 1001
Fall 2019; M, W 8:30 - 9:55
Professor Janet M. Martin
Hubbard Hall 24
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 several days. Evening and weekend appointments may be available.

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)

Elaine Weiss, *The Woman's Hour: The Great Fight to Win the Vote* [Random House; Penguin edition]. Also available as "*The Woman's Hour: The Last Furious Fight to Win the Vote*" [Viking]

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

Sept. 4 - 11

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

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

Weiss, Introduction [Chapters from Weiss will be available as Reserve Reading until your books arrive]

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

Sept. 16 – 18

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

Weiss, Ch.1

Sept. 23 – 25

Federalism

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

Weiss, Ch. 2, 3, 4, 5

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

Sept. 30 – Oct. 9

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

Weiss, Ch. 6, 7, 8

Oct. 16 – 23

The Presidency, the President and the Press

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

Weiss, Ch. 9, 10, 11

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

Oct. 23. Amending the Constitution: The Case of Suffrage

Weiss, Ch. 12, 13, 14

October 29th: Talk by Elaine Weiss [tentatively scheduled for Kresge, 7:30 p.m.]

Oct. 28 – 30 Public Opinion and Scientific Polling

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

Weiss, Ch. 15

Nov. 4 – Nov. 11

Voters and Elections

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

Weiss, Ch. 16, 17

Nov. 11 – 13 Political Parties

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

Weiss, Ch. 18, 19

November 13th: LIBRARY WORKSHOP

Nov. 18 – 20

Organized Interests

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

Weiss, Ch. 20, 21

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

Nov. 25

News Media

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

Weiss, Ch. 22

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

Dec. 2 – Dec. 11

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

Weiss, Ch. 23, Epilogue

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 will also be short exercises assigned throughout the semester and these will be announced in class)

Short Essays:

Essay 1 assigned September 16; Due **September 18**

Essay 2 assigned September 25; Due **September 30**

Essay 3 assigned October 16; Due **October 21**

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 23**; Due **October 30**

Final Essay will be due **November 4th**

Research Paper (7-10 pages):

Paper topic will be assigned **November 6th**, 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. 9th. I will read revised drafts submitted no later than noon on December 13th. The final paper must be turned in no later than 8:30 am on Dec. 18th.**

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 9th.

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.