

American Democracy in a Changing World: Honors

Fall 2003

Political Science 1001, Honors
T/Th 9:45am-11:00am
Blegen 335
Course code: 22887

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Course web page:

<http://www.polisci.umn.edu/courses/fall2003/1001H/001/>

I. Introduction

This course is intended to introduce students to the expressed hopes of the American people for their government and to the institutions and processes that have been created and recreated to achieve these hopes. What do we mean by good government? Have we achieved it? How do we build it?

By the end of the semester students should have a basic understanding of the structure and function of American government as well as an increased ability to critically reflect on the degree to which our institutions, processes, and citizens live up to the expectations placed on them.

II. Required Texts

The following texts are required and have been ordered at the West Bank Bookstore:

- Grover, William F., and Joseph G. Peschek, Eds. 2004. *Voices of Dissent: Critical Readings in American Politics*, 5th Edition. New York: Addison Wesley Longman, Inc.
- Nivola, Pietro S., and David H. Rosenbloom, Eds. 1999. *Classic Readings in American Politics*, 3rd Edition. New York: St. Martin's/Worth.
- Woll, Peter, Ed. 2004. *American Government: Readings and Cases*, 15th Edition. New York: Pearson/Longman.

III. Course structure and requirements

Format. The course will consist of a mixture of lecture and class discussion. The honors section is purposefully small, in order to allow for greater participation and discussion than the larger regular section.

Grades. Your final course grade will be based on three non-cumulative, in-class examinations and 10 written response assignments. Each of these components will weigh in the final grade as follows:

First exam	20%
Second exam	20%
Third exam	20%
Written assignments	40%

Each exam will be graded on a point scale, from 0-20. The short written responses will each be graded on a 4 point scale. The written portion of the grade will be the sum of the points received on all 10 assignments. To calculate your final grade, simply add up your points and convert to a letter grade using the following scale:

- A: Achievement outstanding relative to the basic course requirements
 - A 93 points or more
 - A- 90-92 points
- B: Achievement significantly above the basic course requirements
 - B+ 87-89 points
 - B 84-86
 - B- 80-83
- C: Achievement meeting the basic course requirements
 - C+ 77-79 points
 - C 74-76
 - C- 70-73
- D: Achievement worthy of credit but below the basic course requirements
 - D+ 66-69 points
 - D 61-65
- F: Below 60 points

Class participation. Please come to class having completed the assigned readings. Regular class attendance is expected, as it will contribute to our discussions and investigations over the course of the semester. Although attendance will not count directly towards your grade, lecture and class discussion material will be on the exams.

Assigned readings. Because our class activities depend on the readings, please come to class having read and prepared to discuss them. All of the readings in the syllabus are required. Lectures and readings will not always overlap, and material from the assigned readings may be included in the exams, whether or not I have discussed it in class.

Examinations. Each of the three exams will cover roughly 1/3rd of the course material. They are not cumulative. Each exam will consist of short answer and essay questions. The exams will test your comprehension of the material covered in the readings and lectures as well as understanding of the underlying concepts.

Written assignments. In addition to the exams there will be 10 short written responses to the assigned readings. The response pieces will consist of 1) your own reactions to the day's readings and 2) questions for the rest of the class concerning the readings. They need to be only, and no more than, 1 single-spaced page. *Each response piece is due at the start of class on the day the readings are assigned.* Late response pieces will not be accepted, just choose another day. Paper copies only, please. Do not worry about presentation, as long as it is readable text. You must complete three response pieces in each of the three 5-week sections of the course (Sections are divided by the exams). The 10th is your choice. Be prepared to answer questions about your response pieces on the day you hand them in.

IV. Course Policies

Academic Freedom and Responsibility. All of the work presented in this course is expected to be your own. I will follow the University's policies and procedures for academic integrity. Using information from a book, article, web page, another person, etc. without crediting the author is plagiarism. Quotations, paraphrased information, and use of others' ideas should be properly cited in your written assignments. If you have questions about citation, please contact the Professor or one of the TA's. More information is available at:

<http://www1.umn.edu/regents/policies/academic/StudentConduct.html>

Students with Disabilities. I will make every effort to accommodate the needs of students with disabilities. Please contact Disability Services (180 McNamara Alumni Center: 612-626-1333) to discuss your individual needs as early as possible in the semester. More information on disability services is available at <http://disserv3.stu.umn.edu>

Late work and missed exams. Make-up exams are possible only in the case of emergencies or for University-approved functions. In both cases students will need to provide me with documentation (either a note from a physician or from your coach or faculty sponsor). If you must miss an exam for an approved function, you must contact me before the scheduled test time. The make-up exam questions may be different from the regular exam, though the format will be the same.

Please do not come to class after the scheduled start time. We have very little time for each class session, and streams of latecomers are disruptive to the rest of the students in the class.

I will respect and follow University policies regarding sexual harassment, and I expect all students in the course to do the same. The Regents' policy on sexual harassment can be found on the web at

(<http://www1.umn.edu/regents/policies/humanresources/SexHarassment.html>).

University resources. This class will use multiple choice and short answer exams. Students who feel they might benefit from test-taking services should contact the University Learning and Academic Skills Center at 109 Eddy Hall, East Bank (612-624-3323) or on the web at (<http://www.ucs.umn.edu/lasc/>). This class will also use writing assignments. The Student Writing Center has TA's and ESL specialists to help with your writing skills. The Writing Center is at 306 B Lind Hall, East Bank (612-625-1893) or on the web at (<http://swc.umn.edu.html>).

V. Weekly Schedule and Assigned Readings

Week 1: Bad Government

9/2: No readings.

9/4: *The Declaration of Independence*. Grover and Peschek or Woll, Appendix.

Martin Luther King, Jr., *Letter From a Birmingham Jail*. Grover and Peschek, Number 37.

Week 2: Power and American Democracy

9/9: Robert Dahl. *On the Species Homo Politicus*. Nivola and Rosenbloom, Number 13.

Peter Bachrach and Morton S. Baratz. *Two Faces of Power*. Nivola and Rosenbloom, Number 14.

9/11: C. Wright Mills. *The Structure of Power in American Society*. Nivola and Rosenbloom, Number 12.

Charles E. Lindblom. *The Market as Prison*. Grover and Peschek, Number 2.

Week 3: The Constitution

9/16: Charles A. Beard. *Framing the Constitution*. Woll, Number 3.

John P. Roche. *The Founding Fathers: A Reform Caucus in Action*, Woll, Number 2.

Antifederalist Paper Number 84. Woll, Number 14.

9/18: *The Constitution of the United States*. Grover and Peschek or Woll, Appendix.

James Madison. *Federalist, Numbers 47, 48, 51*. Woll, Number 4.

Week 4: The Constitution (continued); Federalism

9/23: Kenneth M. Dolbeare and Linda Metcalf. *The Dark Side of the Constitution*. Grover and Peschek, Number 10.

Howard Zinn. *Some Truths are Not Self Evident*. Grover and Peschek, Number 12.

9/25: James Madison. *Federalist Number 44*. Woll, Number 7.

James Madison. *Federalist Number 39*. Woll, Number 8.

Martha Derthick. *The Enduring Features of American Federalism*. Nivola and Rosenbloom, Number 8.

Week 5: Democratic Ideals and American Political Culture

9/30: John Locke, *Second Treatise, Of Civil Government*. Woll, Number 1.

Louis Hartz. *The Concept of a Liberal Society*. Nivola and Rosenbloom, Number 2.

Jennifer Hochschild. *What is the American Dream?* Grover and Peschek, Number 5.

Exam #1 in class Thursday, October 2

Week 6: Congress

No Class Tuesday October 7

10/9: James Madison. *The Federalist, Numbers 53, 56, 57, 58, 62, 63*. Woll, Number 58.

John C. Berg. *Congress and Big Business*. Grover and Peschek, Number 21.

Week 7: Congress (continued)

10/14: Richard F. Fenno, Jr. *Home Style and Washington Career*. Woll, Number 66.

David Mayhew. *Congress: The Electoral Connection*. Woll, Number 65

Morris P. Fiorina. *Congress and the Washington Political Establishment*. Woll, Number 59.

10/16: Benjamin Ginsberg and Martin Shefter. *RIP for Democratic Politics*. Grover and Peschek, Number 22.

Nelson W. Polsby. *Congress-Bashing for Beginners*. Woll, Number 64.

Week 8: The Judiciary

10/21: Alexander Hamilton. *The Federalist, Number 78*. Nivola and Rosenbloom, Number 36.

Marbury v. Madison. Nivola and Rosenbloom, Number 36.

No class Thursday, October 23

Week 9: Civil Rights and Civil Liberties

10/28: *The Constitution of the United States*. Grover and Peschek or Woll, Appendix.

Plessy v. Ferguson. Woll, Number 19.

Brown v. Board of Education of Topeka (I and II). Woll, Numbers 20 and 21.

10/30: *Engel v. Vitale*. Woll, Number 22.

Zelman v. Simmons-Harris. Woll, Number 23.

Week 10: Civil Rights and Civil Liberties (continued)

11/4: Oliver Wendell Holmes. *The Need to Maintain a Free Marketplace of Ideas*. Woll, Number 17.

Patricia J. Williams. *This Dangerous Patriot's Game*. Grover and Peschek, Number 31.

Exam #2, in class Thursday, November 6

Week 11: The President and the Bureaucracy

11/11: Alexander Hamilton, *The Federalist, Number 69*. Nivola and Rosenbloom, Number 28.

Bruce Miroff. *The Presidential Spectacle*. Grover and Peschek, Number 26.

Kevin Phillips. *Presidential Dynasties*. Grover and Peschek, Number 27.

11/13: James Q. Wilson. *The Rise of the Bureaucratic State*. Woll, Number 57.

Herbert Kaufman. *Red Tape*. Nivola and Rosenbloom, Number 34.

Week 12: Interest Groups and the Media

11/18: James Madison. *The Federalist, Number 10*. Nivola and Rosenbloom, Number 5.

Mancur Olson, Jr. *Collective Action: The Logic*. Nivola and Rosenbloom, Number 19.

Jeffrey M. Berry. *Madison's Dilemma*. Woll, Number 41.

11/20: Richard E. Neustadt. *The Power to Persuade*. Nivola and Rosenbloom, Number 30.

Robert W. McChesney and John Nichols. *It's the Media, Stupid*. Grover and Peschek, Number 13.

Ina Howard. *Media Power Sources: TV Sets the Agenda*. Grover and Peschek, Number 16.

Week 13: Parties, Campaigns, and Elections

11/25: Anthony Downs. *An Economic Theory of Democracy*. Nivola and Rosenbloom, Number 15.

Lani Guinier. *After the Deluge: Electoral Reform in the Wake of the Election of 2000*. Grover and Peschek, Number 20.

No class on Thursday, November 27

Week 14: Public Opinion and Political Participation

12/2: E. E. Schattschneider. *The Scope and Bias of the Pressure System*. Nivola and Rosenbloom, Number 22.

Bernard R. Berelson, et al. *Democratic Practice and Democratic Theory*. Woll, Number 34.

12/4: Frances Fox Piven and Richard A. Cloward. *Why Americans Still Don't Vote*. Grover and Peschek, Number 17.

Joel Rogers and Ruy Teixeira. *America's Forgotten Majority*. Grover and Peschek, Number 19.

Week 15: Foreign Policy

12/9: Aaron Wildavsky. *The Two Presidencies*. Woll, Number 53.

Noam Chomsky. *The United States and Global Wars of Terror*. Grover and Peschek, Number 36.

Noncumulative exam in class Thursday, December 11