In this course, we examine American politics from the perspective of political scientists. This is not a course on current events; rather, we discuss major questions about institutional and behavioral aspects of the U.S. system, evaluating competing theoretical claims using empirical evidence.

The title of this course suggests two, sometimes competing, normative goals that a democracy might try to achieve: liberty and equality. Explicit debates about these ideals have shaped discussions about politics in this country at least since independence. Modern discussions about these and other normative goals too often end with claims that "democracy" is the "best" system. Such claims avoid a variety of more difficult (and more interesting) questions: What kinds of institutions are most likely to translate public opinion into public policy? Are there some types of institutions (Courts? Bureaucracies?) that should be more isolated from public opinion than others? Is there such a thing as a unified "public opinion"? Should extra-governmental organizations such as political parties, interest groups, and the media be accorded influence on governmental decision-making? How much influence? Political scientists attempt to shed light on such questions by examining the ways that institutions and individual behavior function (and have functioned) in practice.

There will be two 5-page papers during the term (25% each, topics will be distributed) and one final exam (30%). Students may rewrite the first paper to elevate their grade (I will average the two grades). We will talk about my expectations for papers in a later class period. In general, fine papers make good use of the course materials, contain a coherent and original argument, and are written in flawless prose. I will grant no extensions except under extraordinary circumstances beyond a student's control. Late papers fall a third of a grade (i.e. from B+ to B) for each day (or portion thereof) that they are late.

Participation in class discussions (both in small groups and as a class) will count for the remaining 20% of the grade. It is important that you COMPLETE THE READINGS AND COME TO CLASS PREPARED TO DISCUSS THEM! The quality of the course will suffer along with your grades if you do not do so.

The following books are available for purchase at the bookstore:


Other readings (Marked RR on syllabus) are available on reserve at Gould Library.

**I ♦ Introduction: Elections and American Democracy**

1 ♦ Friday, January 4

- Fiorina & Peterson, Ch. 1
- Woll pp. 454-457. *Declaration of Independence*

**II ♦ Foundations and Constitutionalism**
Creating A Constitutional Democracy

2  Monday, January 7
   • Woll pp. 458-477. Constitution of the United States
   • Woll pp. 10-30. Roche, "The Founding Fathers: A Reform Caucus in Action"
   • Woll pp. 31-40. Beard, "Framing the Constitution"

3  Wednesday, January 9
   • Fiorina & Peterson, Ch. 2
   • Woll, pp. 171-176. Federalist 10
   • Woll, pp. 41-44. Federalist 47, 48, 51

The American Political Tradition

4  Friday, January 11
   • Fiorina & Peterson, Ch 4 (recommended)

The Courts

5  Monday, January 14
   • Woll, p. 418-422. Federalist 78
   • Woll, p. 423-426. Marbury v. Madison

6  Wednesday, January 16
   • Fiorina & Peterson, Ch 15

Federalism

7  Friday, January 18
   • Fiorina & Peterson, Ch 3
   • Woll, p. 55-61. Federalist 39
   • Woll, p. 72-76. United States v. Morrison

8  Monday, January 21

Civil Rights and Civil Liberties
9  Wednesday, January 23

- Fiorina & Peterson, Ch. 16 (skim)
- Schenck v. U.S. (1919) (Handout)

10  Friday, January 25

- Fiorina & Peterson, Ch 17 (skim)

III  Participation in American Democracy

Public Opinion and Voting

11  Monday, January 28

- Fiorina & Peterson, Ch 5

12  Wednesday, January 30

- Ornstein and Mann, Ch. 3. Bowman, "Polling to Campaign and Govern."

Individual Participation

13  Friday, February 1  First Paper Due

- Fiorina & Peterson, Ch. 6

[Monday, February 4  MID-TERM BREAK]

14  Wednesday, February 6

- Rosenstone & Hanson, Mobilization, Participation, and Democracy in America, Ch. 6 (RR)
- Derek Bok, The Trouble With Government, (2001) Ch. 16 (RR)

Interest Group Participation

15  Friday, February 8

- Fiorina & Peterson, Ch. 7
- Re-read Federalist 10 (from January 9)

Political Parties

16  Monday, February 11
• Fiorina & Peterson, Ch 8
• Woll, pp. 183-186. "Toward a More Responsible Two-Party System."

17 Wednesday, February 13


The Media

19 Friday, February 15

• Fiorina & Peterson, Ch. 9
• Ornstein & Mann, Ch. 2, Hess, "The Press and the Permanent Campaign"

IV Separate Institutions Sharing Power

The Presidency

20 Monday, February 18

• Fiorina & Peterson, Ch. 10, 13 (skim)

21 Wednesday, February 20

• Woll, pp. 312-318. Wildavsky, "The Two Presidencies."
• Ornstein & Mann, Ch. 5, Tenpas, "The American Presidency: Surviving and Thriving Amidst the Permanent Campaign."

Congress

22 Friday, February 22

• Fiorina & Peterson, Ch. 11 (skim), 12
• Woll, pp. 398-402, Mayhew, "Congress: The Electoral Connection"
• Woll, pp. 403-407, Fenno, "Home Style and Washington Career."

23 Monday, February 25

• Woll, pp. 384-390. Fenno, "If, As Ralph Nader Says, "
• Ornstein & Mann, Ch 6, Brady & Fiorina, "Congress in the Era of the Permanent Campaign."

Bureaucracy

24 Wednesday, February 27

• Fiorina & Peterson, Ch. 14
• Francis E. Rourke, "Bureaucracy in the American Constitutional Order," Political Science Quarterly, Vol. 102, No. 2 (Summer 1987), 217-232. (RR) (Also available via the library's JSTOR database.)
V The Permanent Campaign

25 Friday, March 1 Second Paper Due
- Waldman, Preface, Ch 1-5
- Woll, pp. 302-304. Edwards, "Campaigning is not Governing"

26 Monday, March 4
- Waldman, Ch 6-9

27 Wednesday, March 6
- Waldman, Ch 10-13
- Woll, pp. 362-372, Dodd, "Congress and the Quest for Power"

28 Friday, March 8
- Waldman, Ch. 14-15, Epilogue

29 Monday, March 11
- Ornstein & Mann, Ch. 1, Heclo "Campaigning and Governing: A Conspectus"
- Ornstein & Mann, Ch 9, Ornstein & Mann, "Conclusion"