Introduction to American Government
PSC 1100-001
Spring 2004
Monday, Wednesday, Friday 9:30 - 10:20
Tolentine 310C

Instructor: Gregory Schaller
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Course Description

Throughout this course, we will examine the American system of government, from its founding principles to its practical everyday workings. We will study how the system of government operates, as well as the political institutions and culture that constitute it. Central to our investigation will be the development of an understanding of how and why our system of government works, why the founders agreed that it was the best system of government, and whether or not you agree with their reasoning.

Required Reading:


Additional *required* readings are provided through the course website.

The student is also expected to follow current events. It is recommended that you read at least one, if not several, of the following on a regular basis: *New York Times, Wall Street Journal, Newsweek, Time, Economist, The Philadelphia Inquirer, Washington Post*. All are available at the library and on-line.

Attendance: Regular attendance is expected. Failure to arrive to class on time and regularly — having read the assigned material and prepared to participate in class discussions — will adversely affect your participation/preparation grade. Participation makes up 10% of your final grade and your grade will be lowered if you fail to attend regularly. It is expected that no more than six unexcused absences occur during the semester.

Exams: Three exams will be given. Exam questions will come from the assigned readings and from class lectures and discussions. The format of the exams will be multiple choice, short essay and long essay.

Academic Integrity: Please review Villanova's academic integrity policies concerning cheating, plagiarism and other inappropriate behavior. These rules will be enforced. If a student is found to have acted inappropriately, the exam or paper will be graded as a 0.

Paper/Oral Presentation: A paper of between 6-7 pages is required. You are also required to give an in-class oral presentation that summarizes your paper. The topic may be chosen by the student from the list provided. You must select a topic for your paper by January 26, 2004. *The papers are due on March 31,
2004. The presentations will begin on February 25. A list of suggested paper topics, as well as the approximate scheduled date for presentations is provided at the end of the syllabus.

**Grading:**

- Exams: 3 x 20%
- Paper/Oral presentation: 30%
- Class Participation/Preparation: 10%

**Course Outline:**

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<tr>
<th>Week</th>
<th>Topic</th>
<th>Required Reading</th>
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<tr>
<td>Week 1</td>
<td>Founding &amp; The Constitution</td>
<td>1/12: Course Introduction&lt;br&gt;1/14: <em>The Constitution (A-6 in Text)</em>&lt;br&gt;1/16:</td>
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<td>Week 2</td>
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<td>1/19: Martin Luther King Jr. Day, (No Class)&lt;br&gt;1/21: <em>Declaration of Independence</em>&lt;br&gt;1/23: <em>Federalist 1</em></td>
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<td>Week 3</td>
<td>Federalism</td>
<td>1/26: Patterson, Chapter 2&lt;br&gt;1/28: <em>Federalist 10 &amp; Federalist 51</em>&lt;br&gt;1/30: Patterson, Chapter 3</td>
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<td>Week 4</td>
<td>Congress</td>
<td>2/2: <em>American Federalism, Past, Present and Future</em>&lt;br&gt;2/4: Patterson, Chapter 11&lt;br&gt;2/6: <em>Federalist 57 &amp; Federalist 58</em></td>
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<td>Week 5</td>
<td>Executive</td>
<td>2/9: <em>Federalist 62 &amp; Federalist 63</em>&lt;br&gt;2/11: Patterson, Chapter 12&lt;br&gt;2/13: <em>Federalist 70, Federalist 71 &amp; Federalist 72</em></td>
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<td>Week 6</td>
<td>Judiciary</td>
<td>2/16: <em>Exam #1</em>&lt;br&gt;2/18: Patterson, Chapter 14&lt;br&gt;2/20: <em>Federalist 78, Federalist 79 &amp; Federalist 80</em></td>
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| Week 7 | Civil Liberties | 2/23: Patterson, Chapter 4  
2/25:  
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<td>SPRING BREAK</td>
<td>3/1 - 3/5</td>
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| Week 8 | Civil Rights | 3/8:  
3/10: *Plessy v. Ferguson*, & *Brown v. Board of Education*  
3/12: Patterson, Chapter 5 |
| Week 9 | Political Ideologies | 3/15: Patterson, Chapter 1 |
| | Public Opinion | 3/17: Patterson, Chapter 6 |
| | Interest Groups | 3/19: Patterson, Chapter 9 |
| Week 10 | Political Parties | 3/22 Patterson, Chapter 8  
3/24: *The Current State of Campaign Finance Law* |
| | Elections and Campaigns |  
Voting/Participation | 3/26: Patterson, Chapter 7 |
| Week 11 | The Media | 3/29: *Exam #2*  
3/31: Patterson, Chapter 10  
4/2: *How Power Shapes the News* |
| Week 12 | Public Policy | 4/5:  
4/7: Patterson, Chapter 13 |
| | The Bureaucracy | 4/9: Easter Break (No Class): |
| Week 13 | Budgeting | 4/12: Easter Break (No Class):  
4/14: *A Brief Introduction to the Federal Budget Process* |
| | Economic Policy & Environmental Policy | 4/16: Patterson Chapter 15 & *How the United States Economy Works* |
Week 14

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<tr>
<th>Education Policy &amp; Social Welfare</th>
<th>4/19: Patterson Chapter 16</th>
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<td>Foreign Policy</td>
<td>4/21: Patterson Chapter 17 &amp; <a href="#">Foreign Policy Issue Overviews</a> (Read the overviews on: Central Foreign Policy Principles, Arms Control, United Nations, and Nuclear Missile Defense)</td>
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<tr>
<td>Military Policy</td>
<td>4/23: <a href="#">Unlearning the Lessons of Kosovo &amp; Force is the Issue</a></td>
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Week 15

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<th>Nature of American Government</th>
<th>4/26: &quot;The American Founding as the Best Regime&quot;</th>
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<td>Course Review</td>
<td>4/28: Course Review</td>
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**Paper Topics:**

Affirmative Action (February 25)
- Gratz v. Bollinger  University of Michigan
- Grutter v. Bollinger  University of Michigan
- Sweat v. Painter
- Strauder v West Virginia: West VA ban on blacks serving on juries
- Bakke v. Regents of U of C  University of California Medical School
- Harlan dissent in Plessy v. Ferguson

Environmental Policy (April 7)
- Clean Air Act of 1970 (Amended in 1990)
- Case Study: Pacific Lumber Company and northern spotted owl
- Endangered species act amended to protect habitat in 1995

Capitol Punishment (March 8)
- Atkins v. Virginia
- Penry v. Lynaugh
- Gregg v. Georgia
- Coker v. Georgia (cruel and unusual punishment)

Racial Gerrymandering (March 19)
- Hunt v. Cromartie  Case out of North Carolina following the 1990 census

Abortion (March 10)
- Planned Parenthood of SE PA v. Casey
- Akron v. Akron Center for Reproductive Health
- Bellotti v. Baird (judicial bypass for parental consent)
- Planned Parenthood of Central Missouri v. Danforth (spousal and parental consent)
Pledge of Allegiance  (February 27)
   Newdow case in California

Church and State  (February 27)
   Engel v. Vitale
   Wallace v. Jafress (Alabama mandatory moment of silence)
   Lemon v. Kurtzman  (Lemon Test)
   Murray v. Curlett (Baltimore public school bible reading and prayers)
   Stone v. Graham (posting of 10 Commandments in public school)
   Abington Township v. Schempp (School prayer)
   Lee v. Weisman  (Coercion test)
   Allegheny County v. ACLU (endorsement test)

School Vouchers February 27)
   Zelman v. Simmons-Harris  (Cleveland School voucher program)

Free speech  (March 8)
   Tinker v. Des Moines Independent School District  (Students wearing black arm
   bands in protest of the Vietnam War)
   Cox v. Louisiana (limits on when and where opinions and beliefs can be
   espoused)
   Hazelwood School District v. Kuhlmeier  (School newspaper)
   Ashcroft v. Free Speech Coalition (child pornography)
   Schenk v. US  (Socialist passing out anti-war propaganda… clear and present
   danger)

Mandatory Drug Testing  (March 12)
   Veronia School District v. Acton
   Board of Education of Independent School District No. 92 v. Earls

Homosexual Rights  (March 10)
   Lawrence v. Texas
   Bowers v. Hardwick

Gay Marriage  (March 10)
   State of Massachusetts Supreme Court decision
   Efforts in Vermont, Hawaii, Alaska—to legalize homosexual marriage

Megan’s Law  (March 29)

4th Amendment Search and Seizure (March 15)
   Kyllo v. US
   Ferguson v. Charleston
   Edmond v. City of Indianapolis
   Martinez-Fuerte (border stops)
   Michigan dept of state police v. Sitz (DUI stops)
Delaware v. Prouse (license and registration stops)
Coolidge v. New Hampshire (plain view)
Arizona v. Hicks (plain view exigent circumstances)

5th Amendment (March 15)
Miranda v. Arizona

6th Amendment (March 15)
Texas v. Cobb
McNeil v. Wisconsin
Brewer v. Williams
Maine v. Mouton

Title IX

Electoral College (March 19)

ADA
PGA Tour v. Casey Martin

HUD v. Rucker (Case concerning government housing and drug policy)