

Introduction to Political Science: American Politics

Political Science 10, Summer 2016

Instructor Nazita Lajevardi, Ph.D. Candidate

June 27, 2016

Lectures: Monday/Wednesday, 8-10:50 am
Final Exam: Friday, July 29, 2016

Location: SEQUO 147
Location: TBD

Instructor: Nazita Lajevardi
Office Hours: Mondays, 11:15-1:15pm
Office Location: SSB 341
Email: nlajevar@ucsd.edu

Teaching Assistant: Liesel Spangler
Office Hours: 11:30-1 pm
Office Location: SSB 326
Email: lspangler@ucsd.edu

Breakdown of the Course Grade

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| 1. Midterm: Wednesday, July 13, 2016 | 30% |
| 2. Weekly Reading Quizzes (WRQ): 4 total, every Wednesday (except 7/13) | 20% |
| 3. Final Exam: Friday, July 29, 2015 | 40% |
| 4. Attendance/Participation: | 10% |

Purpose of the Course

This course is a critical introduction to American political institutions and behavior. It will provide an overview of the political system in the United States, an introduction to the institutions and behaviors studied by political scientists, and examples of modern social science approaches to inquiry.

Required Text

1. Samuel Kernell, Gary C. Jacobson, Thad Kousser, and Lynn Vavreck. *The Logic of American Politics*. Seventh Edition. CQ Press. (6th Edition copies are also available at the library.)
2. Other readings will be available on our TED course website.

Course Schedule

WEEK 1: Monday, June 27

Introduction

Required Reading:

- KJKV Chapter 1
- KJKV Chapter 2
- Madison 10 on TED
- Madison 51 on TED
- Collective Action Worksheet on TED

Learning Objectives:

1. Introduction to the course
2. Introduction on how to read, take notes, and study for the course
3. Introduction to American Politics KJKV Chapter 1
 - Collective Action*
 - Representative Government*
4. Constitutional Design KJKV Chapter 2
 - The Road from the Articles of Confederation to the Constitution*
 - Madison 10 and Madison 51*
 - The Federalist v. Antifederalist Debate*

WEEK 1: Wednesday, June 29

Federalism, Political Parties, and WRQ

Required Reading:

- KJKV Chapter 3
- McCulloch v. Maryland*: Short abbreviated case on TED.
- KJKV Chapter 12
- Fiorina's "*Parties and partisanship: A 40-year retrospective*" on TED. Read all.

Learning Objectives:

1. Federalism KJKV Chapter 3
 - Tension between federal power and states' rights*
 1. Article I: Federal Power
 2. Tenth Amendment

-*Federalism and the Constitutional Provisions Governing Federalism*

1. The Supremacy Clause
2. The Powers of Congress in the Constitution
3. The Tenth Amendment

-*Constitutional Authority of an Act of Congress*

1. Necessary and Proper Clause (McCulloch v. Maryland)
2. Congress' Broad Power through the Commerce Clause (Gibbons v. Ogden)
3. Congress' Narrower Power through the Commerce Clause (U.S. v. Lopez)

2. Political Parties

KJKV Chapter 12

-*Features of the Party System*

-*Development and Evolution of the Party System (Fiorina)*

-*Experiment Investigating the Causal Effect of Party Identification (Gerber)*

WEEK 2: Monday, July 4

NO CLASS

WEEK 2: Wednesday, July 6

Public Opinion, Political Participation, and WRQ

Required Reading:

-KJKV *Chapter 10*

-Iyengar "*Television News and Citizens? Explanations of National Affairs*" on TED. Read all.

Learning Objectives:

1. Public Opinion

KJKV Chapter 10

-*Basics of Public Opinion*

1. What is public opinion?
2. Measuring public opinion
3. Origins of Public opinion
4. Stability of Public opinion

-*Content of Public Opinion*

-*Factors Impacting/Driving Public Opinion*

2. Political Participation

-*Introduction to Political Participation: 4 main questions*

1. Why do we vote? Why do we participate?
2. Who votes? Who participates?
3. When do people participate? When do they vote?
4. Does participation matter does voting matter does it have consequences?

-*Young voters in the 2008 election*

-Voter turnout in the 2010 midterm election

WEEK 3: Monday, July 11

Voting and Elections, Polarization, and the Media

Required Reading:

- KJKV *Chapter 11* (section “Election Campaigns” to end)
- KJKV *Chapter 14* Read pages 581-604
- Abrajano and Singh: “*Examining the Link Between Issue Attitudes and News Source: The Case of Latinos and Immigration Reform*” on TED. Read all.
- Prior: “*News vs. Entertainment: How Increasing Media Choice Widens Gaps in Political Knowledge and Turnout*” on TED. Read intro and conclusion.

Learning Objectives:

1. Political Participation: Voting and Elections KJKV Chapter 11
 - How do Voters Decide?*
 - Election Campaigns*
 - Strategy and Choice*
 - Political Science Methods to Testing Voter Participation*

2. Polarization
 - History of Polarization in Congress*
 - Polarization in Congress*
 - Income and Polarization*
 - Consequences of Polarization*

3. The Media KJKV Chapter 14
 - Development of the News Business*
 - News Media as a “Fourth Branch”*
 - News Media as a Product of Politics*
 - News Media as a Datasource*
 - News Media and Race*

WEEK 3: Wednesday, July 13

MIDTERM, the Judiciary, and Civil Rights

Required Reading:

- KJKV *Chapter 9*: Read pages 385-396
- KJKV *Chapter 4*: Read pages 174-184

- Hajnal et al. “*Voter Identification Laws and the Suppression of Minority Votes*” on TED. Read Intro and Conclusion.
- Loving v. Virginia* Short 4 page case on TED.

Learning Objectives:

1. MIDTERM (1st half of class)
2. The Judiciary KJKV Chapter 9
 - Authority for Judicial Review*
 - Structure of the Federal Judiciary*
 - The Supreme Court’s Place in the Separation of Powers*
3. Civil Rights and Liberties KJKV Chapter 3
 - What are Civil Rights?*
 - The Politics and Legacy of Black Civil Rights*
 - The Voting Rights Act*
 - Voter Identification Laws*
 - Felon Disenfranchisement*

WEEK 4: Monday, July 18

Race and Representation

Required Reading:

- Bowler and Segura (2012). “*The Future is Ours: Minority Politics, Political Behavior, and the Multiracial Era of American Politics.*” Scanned copy of Chapter 2 on TED. Read all.
- Blank “*An Overview of Trends in Social and Economic Well-Being by Race? In Neil Smelser et al, America Becoming: Racial Trends and Their Consequences.*” Scanned copy of Pp21-40 on TED. Read all.
- Thernstrom and Thernstrom (1997) “*America in Black and White: One Nation Indivisible.*” Scanned Copy of Pp 183-202 on TED Read all.
- Abrajano and Hajnal (2015) “*White Backlash: Immigration, Race, and US Politics.*” Read the Introduction on TED
- Terkildsen “*When White Voters Evaluate Black Candidates: The Processing Implications of Candidate Skin Color, Prejudice, and Self-Monitoring*” on TED. Read all.
- Butler and Broockman “*Do Politicians Racially Discriminate Against Constituents? A Field Experiment on State Legislators*” on TED. Read all.

Learning Objectives:

1. What is Race? How is race political?
 - Racial Groups in American Politics*
 1. Racialization of Groups in American Politics
 2. Blacks

3. Latinos
 4. Asian Americans
 5. Muslim Americans
- Racial Trends in Economic Well-Being*
 - White Attitudes and Discrimination*
 - Experimental Research*
2. Forms Representation Can Take
 - Descriptive Representation*
 - Substantive Representation*
 - Measuring Winners and Losers*
 3. Race Relations: Where are we now and where are we going?

WEEK 4: Wednesday, July 20

Congress and WRQ

Required Reading:

-KJKV *Chapter 6*

Learning Objectives:

1. Overview of roots, history and modern usage
 - Congress in the Constitution*

KJKV Chapter 6
2. Who Serves in Congress? Today's congress:
 - Role*
 - Composition*
 - Structure and process of legislation*
3. The Electoral Connection: Member as Strategic Politician
 - Introduction to Rational Choice Models of Political Behavior*
 - Representation of groups*
4. The Basic Problems of Legislative Organization
 - The need for information*
 - Coordination Problems*
 - Transaction Costs*
 - Increased Partisanship*
5. A Discussion of Plural Governance and Governing Diversities by Liesel Spangler

WEEK 5: Monday, July 25

The Bureaucracy, Interest Groups, and Money in Politics

Required Reading:

-KJKV *Chapter 8*, Pp 320-325 and Pp. 343-352

-KJKV *Chapter 13*

Learning Objectives:

1. The Bureaucracy

KJKV Chapter 8

-*The Development of the Federal Bureaucracy*

-*Who Controls the Bureaucracy?*

1. Methods of Congressional Control
2. The Presidency and the Bureaucracy
3. The Courts and the Bureaucracy

2. Interest Groups

KJKV Chapter 13

-*What is lobbying?*

-*History of interest groups in America*

-*Motives behind lobbying and interest groups*

3. Money in Politics

-*PACs*

-*Spending by election cycle*

WEEK 5: Wednesday, July 27 Nomination Process, Presidency, Final Review, and WRQ

Required Reading:

-KJKV *Chapter 7*

Learning Objectives:

1. The Nomination Process

-*The importance of nominations*

-*The shift to primaries*

-*Presidential nomination process*

-*State of the 2016 Nomination process*

2. The Presidency

KJKV Chapter 7

-*Article II of the Constitution*

-*The Historical Presidency*

-*The Modern Presidency*

1. The President as Head of State

2. The President as Chief Executive: Delegation
- 3a. The President as Chief Executive: Executive Orders
- 3b. The President as Chief Executive: Budgeting
4. The President as Chief Executive: Centralized Administration
5. The President as Chief Executive: Unitary Presidency
6. The President as a Legislator

-Electing a President

1. The Process
2. Critics of the Process
3. The 12th Amendment

-The Presidential Spectacle

3. Final Review

WEEK 5: Friday, July 29

Location: TBD

Time: 8-10:59 am

FINAL EXAM