

POLITICAL SCIENCE 202—AMERICAN GOVERNMENT

Fall Quarter 2014

Hours and Location:

Monday and Wednesday from 12:30 p.m. - 2:20 p.m.

L 221

Office hours by appointment

Instructor:

Nicholas Price (Please call me Nick!)

J.D., Harvard Law School

B.A., University of Washington, Seattle

Member, Washington State Bar Association

The instructor is a lawyer licensed to practice in Washington State, but neither the course, nor lectures, nor anything else related to the course constitutes legal advice. *This course only presents an overview of American government and does not provide adequate tools for you to appropriately analyze real-world legal situations. Lawyers spend their entire careers focusing on the material we'll survey during single course sessions.* Individuals should therefore seek the advice of licensed and qualified legal counsel and enter into an attorney-client relationship when seeking legal advice.

Course Materials*:

The primary texts for the course are Schubert, Dye, Zeigler, and Schubert's *The Irony of Democracy* (16th Edition) and Hennessey and McConnell's *The United States Constitution: A Graphic Adaptation*. Both texts should be available in the bookstore and on on-line. They are currently priced at \$90.88 and \$14.12 respectively on Amazon.com. The Schubert book is also available for rent through Amazon for cheaper. One copy of each text will also be made available for short-term check out (up to two hours) in the library. Supplemental texts will be made available on our course website. To access the supplemental materials click on the "Modules" button and you will find them uploaded in the order in which they have been assigned. Please note that you are responsible for downloading (and reading and/or watching) all supplemental materials as they are assigned. For those of you who do not have a printer at home you can print in the student computer lab in the N-Building or if you prefer you can just read the materials on-line. Please also note that all assigned materials should be completed before the class session for which they are scheduled, so that you can participate in discussions and other activities that I have planned. Any material covered by an assigned reading/video may be included in examination questions, regardless of whether it is specifically discussed on the discussion board. If adjustments are made to the reading/viewing schedule, you

will be informed via the announcement board on our class website. The assigned reading/viewing is the core of this class—if you don't keep up you are going to find it hard to succeed. The quarter's reading and viewing schedule appears at the end of this syllabus. Please review it carefully and let me know if you have any questions or concerns so that we can address potential issues before they become problems.

Course Description:

This is an introductory course that is designed for students new to the study of American politics. By the end of the quarter, I hope you will have a basic understanding of the structure of American government and have an increased ability to critically reflect on American politics. Specific topics of study include: the Revolution, the Constitution, Congress, the Presidency, the Supreme Court, civil rights, civil disobedience, patriotism, the role of money in politics, informed and active citizenship, and much more. This is not a current events course, but you will also have an opportunity on the discussion board each week to address news topics related to the course content.

Course Objectives:

- To develop a critical understanding of American government and politics.
- To become more informed and discriminating consumers of political information.
- To foster self-reflection about the rights and responsibilities of citizenship.

Course Policies:

This is a college-level course, which means you are responsible for your own learning. I will do my best to facilitate our interactions on-line in a fun and interesting way, and to assess your learning fairly. I expect you to do your best to complete assignments in a timely and appropriate fashion, to log on to the course website each work day prepared for the day's work, and to actively participate in on-line activities. If you do not understand something you need to take the initiative to find out the answer. I cannot read minds, so it is up to you to try to seek clarity when it is lacking.

Rules of Engagement for Class Discussions:

This course involves the discussion of controversial political issues. Remember that reasonable people often disagree. Your challenge and responsibility is to maintain civil discourse. We will achieve this by being respectful of each other and avoiding inflammatory, derogatory and insulting words, phrases and labels. Please use your common sense to avoid any other conduct that might distract or offend me or your classmates. Thank you!

A Note About Ideology:

I have no intention of trying to convert you to my belief system. The issues we will be exploring are often contentious and sometimes there will be no right or wrong answers. That said, there are good and bad arguments. Good arguments will be entertained on the discussion board (i.e. those that are logically sound and supported by the available evidence); bad arguments will be discouraged.

Keeping Up With the News:

Please keep up with current events related to American government and politics. Please find a few news sources that work for you (representing different mediums and viewpoints) and make a habit of reading, listening, and/or watching them throughout the quarter. If you have questions about the appropriateness of a particular news source for this class, please ask me sooner rather than later. I suggest that at least one of your sources be a national newspaper such as: the New York Times (www.nytimes.com), the Washington Post (www.washingtonpost.com), or the Wall Street Journal (www.wsj.com). I also encourage international sources such as the BBC (www.bbc.co.uk) and Al Jazeera <http://english.aljazeera.net>. If you speak another language I encourage you to follow the news in that language and bring that perspective to class.

E-Mail Etiquette:

Please *only message me on Canvas*--I set aside time specifically to respond to Canvas messages. Messaging me on Canvas will ensure the quickest possible response. If Canvas isn't working, you're welcome to message me at Nicholas.Price@BellevueCollege.Edu.

You should strive to use professional-grade, typo-free writing when drafting electronic messages. Your attention to detail reflects your professionalism; I don't take typos personally, I just want to prepare you for the real world. You should also employ the below conventions.

Please include in Canvas message subject lines: 1) an identification of both the class; and 2) the matter (example: "POLS 202—Week 3 Quiz; NOT "question"). Most professionals receive dozens—*if not hundreds*—of e-mails every day. The subject line provides an opportunity to summarize your request and allows the reader to appropriately triage your question.

Also, if you do not receive a reply from me within 48 hours (longer on weekends/holidays), it could mean that, for whatever reason, I did not receive your message. If I do not respond, please feel free to send me another message to ensure that I've received your message.

You are responsible for confirming receipt of any message. Consequences for any glitches resulting from not following these or any other instructions are your responsibility--you are training for a college-educated career and should act as if every responsibility is your own.

Grades will be awarded as follows:

Foundational Assignments:

Citizenship Exam (Credit/No Credit)	1%
Geography Quiz (Credit/No Credit)	1%
Syllabus Quiz (Graded)	2%
Profile Picture Assignment (Credit/No Credit)	1%
Course Evaluation (Credit/No Credit)	2%

Ongoing Assignments:

Weekly Reading and Reflection	20%
Class Participation	5%

Major Deliverables:

Citizen Pledge	3%
Political Action Memo Version 1	5%
Political Action Memo Version 2	30%
Final exam	30%

GRADE	POINTS	PERCENTAGE
A	4.0	92-100
A-	3.7	90-91
B+	3.3	88-89
B	3.0	82-87
B-	2.7	80-81
C+	2.3	78-79
C	2.0	72-77
C-	1.7	70-71
D+	1.3	68-69
D	1.0	62-67
F	0.0	BELOW 62

Citizenship Exam (1%) (DUE SEPTEMBER 28)

Immigrants who want to become citizens have to meet a number of requirements, including passing a civics test that covers U.S. government and history. The test is conducted orally and in order to pass the test the applicant has to answer 6 out of 10 questions correctly. The questions for this civics test are selected from a list of 100 sample questions. Some of the questions are easy—For example: “When do we celebrate independence day?” Others are more difficult. Presumably most of

you are already American citizens so you should be able to pass the test. This particular assessment is a credit/no-credit quiz so it doesn't matter how many questions you get right or wrong—at least not for your grade. The exam itself should only take five or ten minutes. Please do NOT refer to outside sources (the Internet, your textbook, friends, etc.) while taking the quiz. When you finish, the computer will give you a score out of ten points. I would like you to post your scores on the discussion board along with your reflections on the quiz and your performance. At the end of the week I will go back in and change your grade to either five points if you took the quiz and posted your results and reflections on the discussion board or zero points if you did not. To best way to access this assessment is to find in the Week One “Module,” but you can also access it by clicking on the “Quizzes” heading.

Geography Quiz (1%) (DUE SEPTEMBER 28)

Like the Citizenship Exam above, this assessment is a credit/no-credit quiz so it doesn't matter how many questions you get right or wrong—at least not for your grade. The exam itself should only take about two minutes. Please do NOT refer to outside sources (the Internet, your textbook, friends, etc.) while taking the quiz. When you finish, the computer will give you a score out of five points. I would like you to post your scores on the discussion board along with your reflections on the quiz and your performance. At the end of the week I will go back in and change your grade to either five points if you took the quiz and posted your results and reflections on the discussion board or zero points if you did not. You need to take the quiz AND post your score and reflections on the discussion board to receive credit for this assessment. Good luck!

Syllabus Quiz (2%) (DUE OCTOBER 1)

For this assignment you need to read the syllabus and answer ten logistical questions about the class. The quiz will be made available on our course website. To access the quiz just click on the “Quiz” button and you should see it. The purpose of this quiz is to make sure you (a) read the syllabus, (b) are familiar with the course schedule and my expectations, and (c) can navigate your way around our course website. I would recommend printing the syllabus so that you can easily refer to it during the quiz.

Profile Picture Assignment (1%) (DUE OCTOBER 1)

For this assignment, you need to upload a profile picture of yourself to our course website. If you prefer not to share a picture of yourself, please upload an (appropriate) image with which you would like to be associated. Thank you!

Course Evaluation (2%) (DUE DATE TBD)

This assignment involves filling out an online course evaluation before the end of the quarter. You will not be graded on how you evaluate the course, but rather on whether you evaluate it. In other

words, this is a credit/no-credit assignment. Its purpose is for me to get feedback on the course and my role in it. Your feedback will be anonymous and I won't see it until after grades have been posted. More details will be made available toward the end of the quarter. Please let me know if you have questions before then.

Citizen Pledge (3%) (DUE DECEMBER 1)

For this assignment, you need to write a citizen pledge that you will recite, record, and share on the course discussion board. I encourage you to draw inspiration from other pledges, oaths, and inspiring texts, but the pledge that you write and recite needs to be your own. See the course website for more details on this assignment (including link to other pledges, oaths, and inspiring texts).

Political Action Memo (Version One—5%, Final Version—30%) (Version One Due November 2, Final Version Due November 23)

For this assignment, you'll draft a 4-6 page single-spaced memo that identifies a political issue that you'd like lawmakers to handle differently. After describing the background of the issue, you'll summarize the different mechanisms available for political action, describing the pros and cons of each approach. Finally, you'll choose a mechanism and take political action; examples might include writing a letter to a lawmaker, attending a protest, or even creating a grassroots organization. Initially, you'll submit a "draft" of the memorandum, and I'll provide highly-detailed, redlined feedback, including links to writing improvement websites. You'll then use my feedback to create a finalized memo. Specific details for the memo will be discussed during class and posted on Canvas.

Weekly Reading Reflection (20%) (DUE EVERY SUNDAY BY MIDNIGHT)

Please keep a reflective journal this quarter. The purpose of this journal is to stimulate your thinking about the class material and to serve as a starting point for class discussions. You are responsible for writing one outside-of-class journal entry per week for a total of seven entries. Each journal entry should be at least 300 words in length. You should cite specific text from your readings. Each week's journal prompts will be posted on our course website by 11:59 pm on Monday and you must complete your journal entry by 11:59 PM on Sunday; there's no entry for the first week. We'll discuss more details about journal entry requirements during class.

Final Exam (30%) (DUE MONDAY, DECEMBER 8 AT 11:59 PM)

Your final must be submitted by 11:59 pm on Monday, December 8. This exam will consist of a mix of question types, including: true-false, multiple-choice, identifications, short answer, and essay. A study-guide will be made available to you a week before the exam.

Academic Integrity:

If you choose to cheat, steal, or plagiarize, then you will receive a zero for the assignment. You might also receive a failing grade for the course.

Cheating includes, but is not limited to, copying answers on exams, glancing at nearby exams, turning in assignments or papers that have been used in other classes, and giving or receiving help during an exam. Cheating includes, but is not limited to, purchasing or selling notes, assignments, or examination materials.

Stealing includes, but is not limited to, using the text, notes, exams, library books or other personal property of others without their permission.

Plagiarism is presenting the words, ideas, and/or work of others as your own. It includes, but is not limited to, using other's papers as one's own and including parts of published works without giving credit where credit is due.

Late Policy:

All assignments are due on the dates specified below unless you are notified otherwise. Late assignments receive zero points.

If you are experiencing difficulties comprehending or completing the material, are experiencing personal hardship, or otherwise need to make any other arrangements, please contact me as soon as possible. *In order for me to grant an exception to the standard grading policies, you must e-mail me BEFORE the due date of the particular assignment with documentation of an excuse (e.g., a doctor's note, etc.).*

Affirmation of Inclusion:

Bellevue College is committed to maintaining an environment in which every member of the campus community feels welcome to participate in the life of the college, free from harassment and discrimination. We value our different backgrounds at BC, and students, faculty, staff members, and administrators are to treat one another with dignity and respect.

Code of Honor:

By being a student in this course you acknowledge that you are a part of a learning community at Bellevue College that is committed to the highest academic standards. As a part of this community, you pledge to uphold the fundamental standards of honesty, respect, and integrity, and accept the responsibility to encourage others to adhere to these standards.

Accommodations:

The Disability Resource Center serves students with a wide array of learning challenges and disabilities. If you are a student who has a disability or learning challenge for which you have documentation or have seen someone for treatment, and if you feel you may need accommodations in order to be successful in college, please contact DRC as soon as possible.

If you are a person who requires assistance in case of an emergency situation, such as a fire, earthquake, etc., please meet with your individual instructors to develop a safety plan within the first week of the quarter.

The DRC office is located in B 132 or you can call at 425-564-2498. Deaf students can reach us by video phone at 425-440-2025 or by TTY at 425-564-4110. Application information and other helpful links are available at www.bellevuecollege.edu/drc.

Public Safety:

The Bellevue College Public Safety services provide personal safety, security, crime prevention, preliminary investigations, and other services to the campus community, 24 hours per day, 7 days per week. Their phone number is 425-564-2400. Public Safety is located in K100 and on the web at <http://bellevuecollege.edu/publicsafety/> for campus emergency preparedness information, campus closure announcements, and critical information in the event of an emergency.

COURSE SCHEDULE

WEEK 1: STATE OF THE UNION?

Monday, September 22, 2014

Gross Ignorance

- Assigned Reading/Viewing (28 pgs/2 mins)
 - Shenkman: "Gross Ignorance" (pp. 13-36) (24 pgs)
 - Romano: "How Dumb Are We?" (4 pgs)
 - Maher: "Maybe We Need A New Citizenship Exam" (2 mins)

Wednesday, September 24

The Knowledge Gap

- Assigned Reading/Viewing (7 pgs/1 min)
 - CNN: "Geography Greek to Many Americans" (1 pg)
 - Miss Teen South Carolina: "Some People Out There Don't Have Maps" (1 min)
 - Iyengar: "Mind the Gap" (pp. 1-4) (4 pgs)
 - Speth: "We're Number One" (1 pg)
 - World Public Opinion: "American Public Vastly Overestimates Amount of U.S. Foreign Aid" (1 pg)

Cognitive Biases & Logical Fallacies

- Assigned Reading (24 pgs)
 - McRaney: "Self Delusion" (pp. 1-15) (15 pgs), "Confirmation Bias" (pp. 27-31) (5 pgs), "The Third Person Effect" (pp. 166-169) (4 pgs)

Political Ideology

- Assigned Reading (14 pgs/25 mins)
 - Lakoff: "The Worldview Problem for American Politics" (pp. 24-37) (14 pgs)
 - Haidt: "The Moral Roots of Liberals and Conservatives" (19 mins)
 - Jonathan Haidt on the Colbert Report (6 mins)

Sunday, September 28

***DUE at 11:59 PM: Citizenship Exam, Geography Exam**

WEEK 2: THE DECLARATION OF INDEPENDENCE

Monday, September 29, 2014

The American Revolution

- Assigned Reading (36 pgs)
 - Wood (The Radicalism of the American Revolution) (pp. 3-8) (6 pgs)
 - Zinn (Tryanny Is Tyranny) (pp. 71-75) (5 pgs)
 - Zinn (A Kind of Revolution) (pp. 77-101) (25 pgs)

The Declaration of Independence

- Assigned Reading/Viewing (21 pgs)
 - Jefferson: "The Declaration of Independence" (pp. 345-346) (2 pgs)
 - Wolf: "Introduction" (pp. 3-12) (10 pgs)
 - Wolf: "Freedom Is Intended As A Challenge" (pp. 13-21) (9 pgs)

Deliberative Democracy

- Assigned Reading (15 pgs)
 - Wolf: "Americans Deliberate with Their Neighbors" (pp. 173-187) (15 pgs)

Wednesday, October 1, 2014

The Irony of Democracy

- Assigned Reading (21 pgs)
 - Schubert: "To the Student" (pp. xix-xx) (2 pgs)
 - Schubert: "Ch. 1: The Irony of Democracy" (pp. 1-19) (19 pgs)

The Paradox of Citizenship

- Assigned Reading (29 pgs)
 - Bellamy: "What is citizenship, and why does it matter?" (pp. 1-26) (26 pgs)
 - Liu: "Democracy Is for Amateurs" (pp. 1-3) (3 pgs)

***DUE AT 11:59 PM: Syllabus Quiz and Profile Picture Assignment**

WEEK 3: THE U.S. CONSTITUTION

Monday, October 6, 2014 (No Lecture)

The U.S. Constitution

- Assigned Reading (97 pgs)
 - Hennessey: "The Graphic Constitution" (pp. 1-87) (87 pgs)
 - Schubert: "The Constitution of the United States of America" (pp. 369-378) (10 pgs)

Amendments to the U.S. Constitution

- Assigned Reading (62 pgs/7 mins)
 - Hennessey: "The Graphic Constitution" (pp. 88-141) (54 pgs)
 - Schubert: "Amendments to the Constitution" (pp. 378-385) (8 pgs)
 - Daily Show: "Weak Constitution" (7 mins)

Wednesday, October 8, 2014 (No Lecture)

The Elite Consensus of the Founding Fathers

- Assigned Reading/Viewing (24 pgs)
 - Schubert: "Ch. 2: The Elite Consensus of the Founding Fathers" (pp. 21-47) (27 pgs)
 - Zinn: "Some Truths Are Not Self-Evident" (pp. 110-112) (3 pgs)

The Judiciary

- Assigned Reading/Viewing (20 pgs)
 - Schubert: "Courts: Elites in Black Robes" (pp. 237-256) (20 pgs)

Interpreting the Constitution

- Assigned Viewing (24 pgs/5 mins)
 - Canon: "The Federal Judiciary: Interpreting the Constitution—Originalism or a Living Document?" (pp. 154-177) (24 pgs)
 - Colbert: "The Word – Original Spin" (5 mins)

WEEK 4: ELITES, MASSES, INEQUALITY AND CIVIL DISOBEDIENCE

Monday, October 13, 2014

Elites in America

- Assigned Reading (26 pgs)
 - Schubert: "Ch. 3: Elites in America" (pp. 49-74) (26 pgs)

Inequality in America

- Assigned Reading/Viewing (7 pgs/29 mins)
 - Stiglitz: "Of the 1%, by the 1%, for the 1%" (pp. 1-4) (4 pgs)
 - Yes Magazine: "Wealth Inequality in the United States" (6 mins)
 - Porter: "Inequality in America" (1 pg)
 - NYT: "The Rich Get Richer During the Recovery" (1 pg)
 - Mother Jones: "It's the Inequality, Stupid!" (1 pg)
 - Reich: "Excerpt from Inequality for All" (1 min)
 - Wilkinson: "How economic inequality harms societies" (17 mins)
 - "Warren Buffet's Tax Rate Is Lower Than His Secretary's" (5 mins)

Masses in the United States

- Assigned Reading (27 pgs)
 - Schubert: "Ch. 4: Masses in the United States" (pp. 75-101) (27 pgs)

Wednesday, October 15, 2014

Civil Disobedience in Theory

- Assigned Reading (20 pgs)
 - Thoreau: "Civil Disobedience" (286-289) (4 pgs)
 - Canon: "The Constitutional Framework and the Individual" (1 pg)
 - Lincoln: "The Perpetuation of Our Political Institutions" (pp. 135-141) (7 pgs)
 - King: "Letter from Birmingham Jail" (pp. 142-149) (8 pgs)

Civil Disobedience in Practice

- Assigned Viewing (113 mins)
 - PBS: *Freedom Riders* (113 mins)

WEEK 5: THE MEDIA

Monday, October 20, 2014

The Filter Bubble

- Assigned Reading (6 pgs/11 mins)
 - Postman: "Amusing Ourselves to Death" (pp. 1-4) (4 pgs)
 - Waters: "Electronic Isolation Gives Cold Comfort" (pp. 1-2) (2 pgs)
 - Pariser: "The Filter Bubble" (9 mins)
 - NPR: "Our Cultural Addiction to Phones, In One Disconcerting Video" (2 mins)

The Media

- Assigned Reading (22 pgs)
 - Schubert: "Ch. 5: The Media" (pp. 103-124) (22 pgs)

The Influencing Machine

- Assigned Reading/Viewing (55 pgs/6 mins)
 - Gladstone: "The Influencing Machine" (pp. xi-xxii; 3-34; 60-70) (55 pgs)
 - CNN: "Kalle Lasn on Buy Nothing Day" (5 mins)
 - "Be A Witness to Genocide Darfur" Ad (30 secs)

Wednesday, October 22, 2014

The Most Dangerous Man in America

- Assigned Reading/Viewing (112 mins)
 - *The Most Dangerous Man in America* (94 mins)
 - *Collateral Murder* (18 mins)

The MLK You Don't See on TV

- Assigned Reading (5 pgs/56 mins)
 - Solomon: "The MLK You Don't See on TV" (2 pgs)
 - West: "Dr. King Weeps in His Grave" (3 pgs)
 - Smiley: *A Call to Conscience* (56 mins)

WEEK 6: ELECTIONS AND THE MIDTERM

Monday, October 27, 2014

Elections in the United States

- Assigned Reading (28 pgs)
 - Schubert: "Elections, Parties, and Democracy" (pp. 127-154) (28 pgs)

Elements of the U.S. Electoral System

- Assigned Viewing (28 pgs/16 mins)
 - Grey: "Primary Elections Explained" (5 mins)
 - Grey: "The Problems with First Past the Post Voting" (7 mins)
 - Grey: "The Alternative Vote Explained" (4 mins)

The Electoral College

- Assigned Reading (17 pgs/16 mins)
 - Dahl: "Electing the President" (pp. 73-89) (17 pgs)
 - Grey: "How the Electoral College Works" (5 mins)
 - Grey: "The Trouble with the Electoral College" (7 mins)
 - Grey: "What If the Electoral College Is Tied?" (4 mins)

Wednesday, October 29, 2014

Take Back Your Government

- Assigned Reading (34 pgs)
 - Carroll: "You Can Do This," "You Need to Do This," Registering Your Support or Opposition," "Calling Your Legislators," "Emailing Your Legislators," "Writing Your Legislators," "Using Petitions," "Advocacy for Busy People," "Advocacy for Youth Under Eighteen," "Other Ways to Be Involved" & "Putting It in Perspective" (pp. 3-4, 5-11, 29-31, 53-54, 55-57, 59-60, 61-63, 77-78, 79-83, 133-136, 143) (34 pgs)

Sunday, November 2, 2014

***DUE AT 11:59 PM: Political Action Memo Version 1**

WEEK 7: MONEY IN POLITICS

Monday, November 3, 2014

Citizens United

- Assigned Reading/Viewing (30 pgs/7 mins)
 - Moyers: "Forward" (pp. xi-xviii) (8 pgs)
 - Clement: "Introduction" (pp. 1-6) (6 pgs)
 - Leonard: "The Story of Citizens United v. FEC" (9 mins)
 - Propublica: "Money Is Speech" (3 mins)

Money in Politics

- Assigned Reading/Viewing (33 pgs/18 mins)
 - Lessig: "Introduction" (pp. 1-9) (9 pgs)
 - Lessig: "Good Souls, Corrupted" (pp. 13-20) (8 pgs)
 - Lessig: "Good Questions, Raised" (pp. 21-36) (16 pgs)
 - Lessig: "We the People, And the Republic We Must Reclaim" (18 mins)

What So Much Damn Money Does

- Assigned Reading/Viewing (47 pgs)
 - Lessig: "What So Much Damn Money Does" (pp. 125-171) (47 pgs)

Wednesday, November 5, 2014

Reforming the System

- Assigned Reading (22 pgs)
 - Lessig: "Reforms That Would Reform" (pp. 264-272) (9 pgs)
 - Lessig: "Conclusion" (pp. 309-317) (9 pgs)
 - Lessig: "What You Can Do, Now" (pp. 323-326) (4 pgs)

WEEK 8: CONGRESS AND THE PRESIDENCY

Monday, November 10, 2014

The Legislative Elite

- Assigned Reading (30 pgs/7 mins)
 - Schubert: "Congress: The Legislative Elite" (pp. 177-206) (30 pgs)
 - Colbert: Taxation without Representation in Washington, D.C. (7 mins)

The Filibuster

- Assigned Reading/Viewing (12 pgs/2 mins)
 - DiClerico: "The Filibuster" (pp. 174-184) (11 pgs)
 - Odd Todd: The Filibuster and You (2 mins)
 - NYT: "Fillibusters: The Senate's Self-Inflicted Wound" (1 pg)

Wednesday, November 12, 2014

Gerrymandering

- Assigned Reading/Viewing (2 pgs/15 mins)
 - Gerrymandering Trailer (2 mins)
 - Grey: "Gerrymandering Explained" (5 mins)
 - Grey: "Multiple Party Gerrymandering" (4 mins)
 - Grey: "A Gerrymandering Solution" (4 mins)
 - NYT: "The Great Gerrymander of 2012" (1 pg)
 - NYT: "Imbalance of Power" (1 pg)
 - Mother Jones: "Now That's What I Call A Gerrymander" (2 pgs)

The Presidency

- Assigned Reading/Viewing (22 pgs)
 - Schubert: "The Presidency" (pp. 209-228, 235-236) (22 pgs)

WEEK 9: FEDERALISM AND CIVIL RIGHTS

Monday, November 17, 2014

Federalism

- Assigned Reading (24 pgs)
 - Schubert: "Federalism: State and Community Elites" (pp. 289-309) (21 pgs)
 - Madison: "Federalist #51" (pp. 381-383) (3 pgs)

Civil Rights

- Assigned Reading (24 pgs)
 - Schubert: "Civil Rights: Diversifying the Elite" (pp. 311-334) (24 pgs)

Race to Incarcerate

- Assigned Reading/Viewing (108 pgs)
 - Jones & Mauer: "The Race to Incarcerate: A Graphic Retelling" (pp. 1-108) (108 pgs)

Wednesday, November 19, 2014

The War on Drugs

- Assigned Reading (109 mins)
 - *The House I Live In* (Part 2) (109 mins)

Discrimination and Prejudice

- Assigned Reading/Viewing (70 mins)
 - Frontline: "A Class Divided" (60 mins)
 - Dateline: "Implicit Association Test" (10 mins)

Sunday, November 23, 2014

***DUE AT 11:59 PM: Political Action Memo Final Version**

WEEK 10: RESPONSIBLE CITIZENSHIP

Monday, November 24, 2014

The War Over Patriotism

- Assigned Reading (20 pgs)
 - Beinart: "The War Over Patriotism" (pp. 1-7) (7 pgs)
 - Goldman: "Patriotism: A Menace to Liberty" (pp. 270-272) (3 pgs)
 - Zinn: "Patriotism" (pp. 111-120) (10 pgs)

Learned Helplessness and the Bystander Effect

- Assigned Reading/Viewing (29 pgs)
 - Loeb: "Introduction" (pp. 1-19) (19 pgs)
 - McCraney: "Learned Helplessness" (pp. 205-209) (5 pgs)
 - McCraney: "The Bystander Effect" (pp. 73-77) (5 pgs)

Good Enough Activism

- Assigned Reading/Viewing (24 pgs)
 - Loeb: "We Don't Have to Be Saints" (pp. 34-57) (24 pgs)

Wednesday, November 26, 2014

Great Citizenship

- Assigned Reading (33 pgs)
 - Liu: "Great Citizenship" (pp. 41-73) (33 pgs)

The Optimism of Uncertainty

- Assigned Reading (14 pgs)
 - Loeb: "Postscript: The Ten Suggestions" (pp. 357-358) (2 pgs)
 - Schubert: "What Can Students Do?" (pp. 367-368) (2 pgs)
 - Zinn: "The Optimism of Uncertainty" (pp. 63-72) (10 pgs)

Monday, December 1

***DUE AT 11:59 PM: Citizenship Pledge**

WEEK 11: FINAL EXAM

Monday, December 8, 2014

***DUE AT 11:59 PM: FINAL EXAM**

* The syllabus and classroom policies are borrowed in part from Dr. Michael S. Brown and Dr. Timothy Jones.