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# POLS 101: INTRODUCTION TO POLITICAL SCIENCE

Bellevue College  
Spring 2016 (Online)

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*“If a nation expects to be ignorant and free, in a state of civilization, it expects what never was and what never will be”*

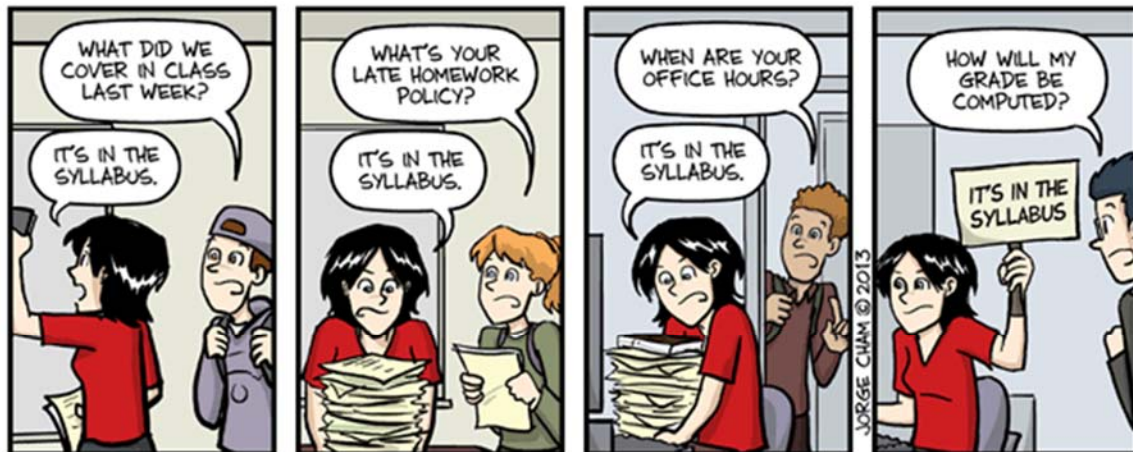
~Thomas Jefferson

*“If there is no struggle, there is no progress. Power concedes nothing without a demand. It never did and it never will.”*

~Frederick Douglass

*“If I am not for myself, who will be for me? And if I am only for myself, what am I”*

~Rabbi Hillel



## IT'S IN THE SYLLABUS

This message brought to you by every instructor that ever lived.

[WWW.PHDCOMICS.COM](http://WWW.PHDCOMICS.COM)

## **COURSE DESCRIPTION**

This is an introductory course that is designed for students who are new to the study of politics. The purpose of this course is to provide you with a broad introduction to the field of political science and to help you to sort through and develop informed opinions about a variety of political topics. Some of the specific topics of study include: civic ignorance, the purpose of government, the functions of government, civil disobedience and patriotism, the relationship between the government and the economy, environmental politics, the media, international politics, race and politics, and citizenship. This is not a current events course, but we will spend time each week addressing news topics related to the course content.

## **COURSE OBJECTIVES**

1. To develop a basic understanding of the academic field of political science.
2. To develop a more nuanced understanding of the role, power, and functions of government.
3. To become more informed and discriminating consumers of political information.
4. To constructively engage in the political process
5. 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 discussions and activities. *If you do not understand something you need to take the initiative to find out the answer*—post a question on the “Ask the Professor” discussion board, email me, etc. 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 offend others in the class. 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.

## **LATE ASSIGNMENTS AND MISSED EXAMS**

All major due dates are indicated on the calendar on our course website. Because I believe that one of the major lessons that students learn in college is the importance of meeting

deadlines, I will not accept any late work unless it has been approved by me BEFORE the date it is due or you can document an emergency. ***All assignments turned in late will receive a grade of 0.0.*** Likewise, ***missed quizzes and exams will receive a grade of 0.0.*** Make-up exams will not be administered unless you receive prior permission from me or you can document a catastrophe (such as being medically unable to take the exam).

### **DISABILITY RESOURCES**

The Disability Resource Center (DRC) serves students with a wide array of learning challenges and disabilities. If you are a student who has a disability or a 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 the DRC staff as soon as possible. The DRC office is located in B132 and the reception desk phone number is 425-564-2498. For application information and other helpful links the DRC website is <http://www.bellevuecollege.edu/drc>. Deaf students can reach the DRC by videophone at 425-440-2025 or by TTY at 425-564-4110. Finally, if you have either an apparent or non-apparent disability and require assistance in case of an emergency situation, such as a fire, earthquake, etc., please let me know early in the quarter so that we can develop an appropriate safety plan for you. Thank you.

### **ACADEMIC INTEGRITY**

Cheating and plagiarism (using the ideas or words of another as one's own without crediting the source) are violations of the Student Code of Conduct at Bellevue College ([http://bellevuecollege.edu/policies/2/2050P\\_Student\\_Code\\_%28Procedures%29.asp](http://bellevuecollege.edu/policies/2/2050P_Student_Code_%28Procedures%29.asp)). Such behavior will result in a grade of 0.0 for the assignment/exam in question. Please note that these are serious offences, which can result in possible probation or suspension from Bellevue College and go on your permanent record. If you have questions about academic integrity, please familiarize yourself with BC's Student Code of Conduct and/or send me a message via email.

### **COURSE MATERIALS**

The primary text for this course is Van Belle and Mash's *A Novel Approach to Politics* (3rd or 4<sup>th</sup> Edition). It is available in the campus bookstore, and the last time I checked it could be purchased on Amazon for \$67.95 and rented for \$26.92. The 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 tentative reading/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.

### KEEPING UP WITH THE NEWS

Please keep up with current events related to American government and politics. Our discussions on the discussion board will sometimes touch on current events and it is important that you keep up-to-date on the major political goings-on. 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](http://www.nytimes.com)), the *Washington Post* ([www.washingtonpost.com](http://www.washingtonpost.com)), or the *Wall Street Journal* ([www.wsj.com](http://www.wsj.com)). I also encourage international sources such as the *BBC* ([www.bbc.co.uk](http://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.

### GRADED WORK (Percentages Are Rounded)

|   |                  |             |
|---|------------------|-------------|
| Citizenship Exam (Credit/No Credit)           | (5 pts)          | 1%          |
| Geography Quiz (Credit/No Credit)             | (5 pts)          | 1%          |
| Syllabus Quiz (Graded)                        | (5 pts)          | 1%          |
| Profile Picture Assignment (Credit/No Credit) | (5 pts)          | 1%          |
| Voter Registration Assignment                 | (10 pts)         | 2%          |
| Citizen Pledge                                | (20 pts)         | 3%          |
| Citizen Reflection                            | (40 pts)         | 7%          |
| Survey Assignment                             | (50 pts)         | 8%          |
| Political Action Assignment                   | (60 pts)         | 10%         |
| Midterm Exam                                  | (100 pts)        | 17%         |
| Final Exam                                    | (100 pts)        | 17%         |
| Weekly Journal (10 pts per week)              | (100 pts)        | 17%         |
| Weekly Participation (10 pts per week)        | (100 pts)        | 17%         |
|   | <b>(600 pts)</b> | <b>100%</b> |

### GRADEPOINT CONVERSION CHART

| Grade | Points  | Percentage | Grade | Points  | Percentage  |
|-------|---------|------------|-------|---------|-------------|
| A     | 558-600 | 93-100%    | C     | 438-461 | 73-76%      |
| A-    | 540-557 | 90-93%     | C-    | 420-437 | 70-72%      |
| B+    | 522-539 | 87-89%     | D+    | 402-419 | 67-69%      |
| B     | 498-521 | 83-86%     | D     | 360-401 | 60-66%      |
| B-    | 480-497 | 80-82%     | F     | 0-359   | 59% & Below |
| C+    | 462-479 | 77-79%     |       |         |             |

**CITIZENSHIP EXAM (5 PTS ~ 1%) (DUE APRIL 5<sup>TH</sup>)**

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 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 on time or zero points if you did not. The 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 (5 PTS ~ 1%) (DUE APRIL 5<sup>TH</sup>)**

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 on time 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 (5 PTS ~ 1%) (DUE APRIL 6<sup>TH</sup>)**

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 (5 PTS ~ 1%) (APRIL 7<sup>TH</sup>)**

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!

#### **VOTER REGISTRATION ASSIGNMENT (5 PTS ~ 1%) (DUE MAY 1<sup>ST</sup>)**

For this assignment, you need to register to vote by 11:59 PM on May 1<sup>st</sup>. Once you have registered to vote, all you need to do for this assignment is upload some sort of proof that you are registered (for example, a screen shot of the confirmation page if you register online

or a picture of your voter registration card if you register in person). If you are registered in the state of Washington, one way to get proof is to log into the MyVote website and print and/or take a screen shot of your voting registration information. Please black out any information that you do not want to share with me (for example, your mailing and/or residential address). If you are registered to vote in another state there should be an equivalent website where you can download your voting information. If you are not a U.S. citizen, you are under eighteen, or you have a very good reason why you do not want to register to vote, you should contact me and I will come up with an alternative assignment for you. Please let me know if you have any questions.

### **CITIZEN PLEDGE/REFLECTION (70 PTS ~ 12%) (JUNE 10<sup>TH</sup>/13<sup>TH</sup>)**

This is a two-part assignment. For the first part of this assignment, the citizen pledge, worth 20 points, 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). For the second part of this assignment, which is worth 40 points, I would like you to summarize what you have learned in this course about your rights and responsibilities as a citizen in a democracy. Please be specific and cite specific course content in your response (e.g., Bellamy, Carroll, Jefferson, King, Lincoln, Liu, Loeb, Van Belle, Wolf, Zinn, etc.). This write-up should be one to two pages in length, single-spaced, with Times New Roman, 12 pt font, 1-inch margins, and a clear and descriptive title. You can choose whatever citation method you feel most comfortable with as long as you are consistent and it is clear where your ideas originated. I will be grading you on the clarity of your thinking and writing, the depth of your reflection, and the extent to which you incorporate the appropriate course content. I would recommend citing five to ten course materials to corroborate your claims in this reflection. Click on the “Assignments” button on the course website to see more detailed directions for this assignment. Please let me know if you have any questions.

### **SURVEY WRITING ASSIGNMENT (50 PTS ~ 8%) (DUE APRIL 24<sup>TH</sup>)**

This writing assignment requires you to conduct a survey of twenty questions to ten people. The first ten questions are drawn verbatim from the U.S. Citizenship exam and the second ten questions are drawn verbatim from the geography exam you took at the beginning of the quarter. You will need to make at least one front-to-back copy of the questionnaire provided in order to complete this assignment. This is an in-person interview survey—not a self-administered questionnaire—so you will need to read each question to each respondent. When the respondents give you an answer make sure you mark it down. It is important that you prevent the survey respondent from seeing the questionnaire itself. Once you have completed ten surveys, you will need to input the data that you collect into the excel template that I have provided for you on the course website. Once the data have been inputted, I would like you to analyze and reflect on the data in light of the first day’s readings and our class discussion about civic ignorance. Your write-up should be at least one-page, single-spaced, typed with Times New Roman, 12 pt font, and 1-inch margins. It should also include a clear and descriptive title as well as proper spelling, syntax and

grammar. Click on the “Assignments” button on the course website to see more detailed directions. Please let me know if you have any questions.

**\*Success Tip:** Plan out in advance when you will conduct the surveys so that you are not rushing to do everything at the last minute.

### **ACTION ASSIGNMENT (50 PTS ~ 10%) (DUE SUNDAY, MAY 29<sup>TH</sup>)**

This assignment requires you to choose a political issue that you care about, research it, take political action, and reflect on your action. Start by thinking about what political issues you care about and why you care about them. Choose an issue and do some research into what, if anything, is being done locally, nationally, or internationally in regards to this issue. Once you’ve decided on an issue, carefully decide on one or more actions that you would be willing to take that would help resolve this issue. For example, you might start a petition, contact an elected official, attend a political protest or rally, volunteer for a cause you believe in, etc. Please clear your action with me before doing it. After you’ve acted, you need to write a one-page, single-spaced reflection on the issue that you chose, what you did, why you did it, and what you learned. I would also like you to share an abbreviated version of this write-up with your classmates so they have a chance to engage with you about your action—these write-ups should be posted on the discussion board called “Action Assignment.” The write-up for me should be at least one-page, single-spaced, typed with Times New Roman, 12 pt font, and 1-inch margins. It should also include a clear and descriptive title as well as proper spelling, syntax and grammar. Click on the “Assignments” button on the course website to see more detailed directions for this assignment. Please let me know if you have any questions.

**\*Success Tip:** Pick a political topic that you care about and clear your action with me early in the quarter so that you are not rushing to do something meaningless to both of us at the last minute.

### **WEEKLY JOURNAL (100 PTS ~ 17%) (DUE EVERY SUNDAY BY 11:59 PM)**

As a supplement to the weekly discussion, I would like you to keep a reflective journal this quarter. The purpose of the journal is to stimulate your thinking about the material being covered and to serve as a starting point for discussions. You are responsible for writing one outside-of-class journal entry per week for a total of 11 entries. Each journal entry should be at least 300 words in length. Each week’s journal prompts will be posted on our course website by 12:00 am Wednesday. You must complete your journal entry by 11:59 pm on the following Sunday. Each journal entry is worth ten points. Please let me know if you have any questions.

**\*Success Tip:** Take the journal prompts seriously, turn your entries in on time, and make sure you follow the instructions regarding the number of words.

### **WEEKLY DISCUSSION (100 PTS ~ 17%) (DUE EVERY SUNDAY BY 11:59 PM)**

Each week I will post between approximately ten discussion questions on the discussion board, which can be accessed via the “Discussions” link (on the left hand side of the course website) or via the “Modules” page. It is your responsibility, as a member of our class, to respond thoughtfully to not only to my questions, but also to your classmates’ comments—this requires reading (most of) your classmates’ comments. To receive full credit on this portion of the class, you need to participate thoroughly in each week’s discussion. Your

final grade will be based on the level of your involvement and the thoughtfulness of your contributions. I expect you to post throughout the week. Please don't wait until the end of the week to post—if you do, your classmates will not benefit from your insights and you will be downgraded for doing so. I expect you to read (most of) your classmates' posts and to make a minimum of five intellectually meaningful posts throughout the week. I recommend that you check the discussion board at least once a day between Monday and Friday. By checking the discussion board frequently, you will be able to identify more opportunities where you can add something to the conversation (thus improving your grade). Please follow the following guidelines when making posts.

- Your posts should be in sentence/paragraph format, and you should avoid “text message” grammar (that means no “u” instead of “you”).
- Please write complete sentences/paragraphs and fully explain and elaborate your points, using examples, evidence, and logic.
- Be precise about what you are saying; don't be vague or general.
- Respond to the topic, not the author. This does not mean that you should ignore the person who wrote the original post, but it means you need to focus on the ideas in the post and how to further the conversation on the topic, not tell the author what you think of his or her post.
- Minimize prejudices, biases, unfounded beliefs, and emotional reactions.
- Feel free to be personal and interpersonal as this will help us bond as an online community, but please do not go too far off onto personal tangents. In other words, I would like you to stay focused on the topics that I post for you. If you want to carry on other discussions, please use the “other” forum on the discussion site. The course content forums are reserved for addressing the course content of the week.
- Examples of good discussion posts include: clarifying or expanding the discussion if important points are unclear or missing; looking at the issue from another angle or perspective; adding pertinent information; and asking a question that forces your classmates to think more in depth about the topic.
- As much as possible, please cite page numbers and/or a web address so that your classmates can benefit from access to the sources of your information.
- I'm looking forward to an engaging and interesting discussion board!

### **MIDTERM EXAM (100 PTS ~ 17%) (DUE MAY 8<sup>TH</sup>)**

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.

**\*Success Tip:** Keep up with the assigned material and do not leave your exam preparation until the night before the exam. I will provide you with a review sheet a week before the exam: take advantage of the review sheet and the reading prompts and let me know if you have questions.

### **FINAL EXAM (100 PTS ~ 17%) (DUE JUNE 15<sup>TH</sup>)**

Like the midterm, this exam will consist of a mix of question types, including: true-false, multiple-choice, identifications, short answer, and essay. Also, like the midterm, a study-guide will be made available to you a week before the exam.





# TENTATIVE COURSE SCHEDULE

## WEEK 1: CIVIC IGNORANCE, NAÏVE REALISM, & POLITICAL IDEOLOGY IDEOLOGY

### Monday, April 4<sup>th</sup>, 2016—The MLK You Don't See on TV

- Assigned Reading/Viewing (25 pgs/56 mins)
  - Syllabus (20 pgs)
  - 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)

### Tuesday, April 5<sup>th</sup>, 2016—Gross Ignorance

- Assigned Reading (28 pgs/2 mins)
  - Shenkman: “Gross Ignorance” (pp. 13-36) (24 pgs)
  - Romano: “How Dumb Are We?” (pp. 1-4) (4 pgs)
  - Maher: “Maybe We Need A New Citizenship Test” (2 mins)
- Assigned Activity
  - Citizenship Exam Due Today by 11:59 PM! (Credit/No Credit) (5 pts)
  - Geography Exam Due Today by 11:59 PM! (Credit/No Credit) (5 pts)

### Wednesday, April 6<sup>th</sup>, 2016—The Knowledge Gap

- Assigned Reading/Viewing (10 pgs)
  - CNN: “Geography Greek to Many Americans” (1 pg)
  - Miss 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: “U.S. Foreign Aid” (1 pg)
  - The Guardian: “30% of GOP Voters Support Bombing Agrabah” (2 pgs)
  - The Telegraph: “Americans Misunderstood...?” (1 pg)
- Assigned Activity
  - Syllabus Quiz Due Today by 11:59 PM! (Graded) (5 pts)

### Thursday, April 7<sup>th</sup>, 2016—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)
- Assigned Activity
  - Profile Picture Assignment Due Today by 11:59 PM! (5 pts)

### Friday, April 8<sup>th</sup>, 2016—The Moral Roots of Liberals and Conservatives

- Assigned Reading/Viewing (15 pgs/25 mins)
  - Haidt: “The Moral Roots of Liberals and Conservatives” (19 mins)
  - Colbert: “Interview with Jonathan Haidt” (6 mins)

- Wolf: “Americans Deliberate...” (pp. 173-187) (15 pgs)
- Assigned Activity
  - Journal 1 Due (Political Ideology) due Sunday by 11:59 PM! (10 pts)
  - Weekly Participation 1 Due Sunday by 11:59 PM! (10 pts)

## **WEEK 2: GOVERNING SOCIETY**

### **Monday, April 11<sup>th</sup>, 2016—The Ancient Debate**

- Assigned Reading (18 pgs)
  - Van Belle: “Ch. 1: Introducing the Ancient Debate” (pp. 1-21) (21 pgs)

### **Tuesday, April 12<sup>th</sup>, 2016—The Scientific Method**

- Assigned Reading (24 pgs)
  - Van Belle: “Ch. 1: Introducing the Ancient Debate” (pp. 21-43) (23 pgs)
  - Image: “Every Baby Knows the Scientific Method” (1 pg)

### **Wednesday, April 13<sup>th</sup>, 2016—Why Government?**

- Assigned Reading/Viewing (22 pgs)
  - Van Belle: “Ch. 2: Why Government?” (pp. 44-63) (20 pgs)
  - Jefferson: “Declaration of Independence” (1 pg)
  - Constitution: “Preamble” (1 pg)

### **Thursday, April 14<sup>th</sup>, 2016—Conformity**

- Assigned Reading/Viewing (35 pgs)
  - Van Belle: “Why Government?” (pp. 63-73) (11 pgs)
  - McRaney: “Brand Loyalty,” “The Argument from Authority,” “Cult Indoctrination,” “Group Think,” & “Conformity” (pp. 87-92, 93-96, 124-126, 127-130, 183-189) (24 pgs)

### **Friday, April 15<sup>th</sup>, 2016—Governing Society**

- Assigned Reading (29 pgs)
  - Van Belle: “Ch. 3: Governing Society” (pp. 74-100) (27 pgs)
  - Van Belle: “Ch. 13: Secret Government” (pp. 383-384) (2 pgs)
- Assigned Activity
  - Journal 2 (Researching Candidates) Due Sunday by 11:59 PM! (10 pts)
  - Weekly Participation 2 Due Sunday by 11:59 PM! (10 pts)

## **WEEK 3: POLITICAL ECONOMY AND ENVIRONMENTAL POLITICS**

### **Monday, April 18<sup>th</sup>, 2016—Government's Role in the Economy**

- Assigned Reading (35 pgs/5 mins)
  - Van Belle: "Ch. 4: "Government's Role in the Economy" (pp. 102-136) (35 pgs)
  - Good Morning America: "The Great Pacific Garbage Patch" (5 mins)

### **Tuesday, April 19<sup>th</sup>, 2016—The Public Good**

- Assigned Reading (17 pgs)
  - Colomer: "The Public Good" (13 pgs)
  - McRaney: "The Public Goods Game" (pp. 112-115) (4 pgs)

### **Wednesday, April 20<sup>th</sup>, 2016—Economic Inequality**

- Assigned Reading (18 pgs/37 mins)
  - Reich: "Introduction: The Paradox" (pp. 3-14) (12 pgs)
  - Stiglitz: "Of the 1%, By the 1%, For the 1%" (pp. 1-4) (4 pgs)
  - YES Magazine: "Wealth Inequality in America" (6 mins)
  - Mother Jones: "It's the Inequality, Stupid" (2 pgs)
  - Oliver: "Wealth Gap" (14 mins)
  - Wilkinson: "How economic inequality harms societies" (17 mins)

### **Thursday, April 21<sup>st</sup>, 2016—On A Road to Disaster**

- Assigned Reading (34 pg/1 min)
  - Daly: "On A Road to Disaster" (1 pg)
  - Speth: "Looking into the Abyss" (pp. 17-19, 39-45) (10 pgs)
  - Speth: "Consumption" (pp. 147-164) (18 pgs)
  - Speth: "The Bridge at the Edge of the World" (pp. 233-237) (5 pgs)
  - NASA: "Time Lapse of Global Temperatures" (30 secs)

### **Friday, April 22<sup>nd</sup>, 2016—Earth Day**

- Assigned Reading/Viewing (35 mins)
  - Leonard: "The Story of Stuff" (20 mins)
  - Leonard: "The Story of Solutions" (9 mins)
  - Leonard: "The Story of Change" (6 mins)
- Assigned Activity
  - Journal 3 (Ecological Footprint) Due Sunday by 11:59 PM! (10 pts)
  - Weekly Participation 3 Due Sunday by 11:59 PM! (10 pts)
  - Survey Assignment Due Sunday by 11:59 PM! (50 pts)

## WEEK 4: VOTING, CITIZENSHIP, & GETTING INVOLVED

### Monday, April 25<sup>th</sup>, 2016—The Democratic Ideal (Part 1)

- Assigned Reading (17 pgs)
  - Van Belle: “Ch. 10: “The Democratic Ideal: Part 1” (pp. 275-294) (20 pgs)

### Tuesday, April 26<sup>th</sup>, 2016—The Democratic Ideal (Part 2)

- Assigned Reading (15 pgs/16 mins)
  - Van Belle: “Ch. 10: “The Democratic Ideal: Part 2” (pp. 294-308) (15 pgs)
  - Grey: “Primary Elections Explained” (5 mins)
  - Grey: “The Problem with First Past the Post Voting Explained” (7 mins)
  - Grey: “The Alternative Vote Explained” (4 mins)

### Wednesday, April 27<sup>th</sup>, 2016—The Electoral College

- Assigned Reading (17 pgs/21 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)
  - Ted-Ed: “Does Your Vote Count?” (5 mins)

### Thursday, April 28<sup>th</sup>, 2016—The Paradox of Citizenship

- Assigned Reading (29 pgs)
  - Bellamy: “What Is Citizenship And Why Does It Matter?” (26 pgs)
  - Liu: “Democracy Is for Amateurs” (3 pgs)

### Friday, April 29<sup>th</sup>, 2016—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)
- Assigned Activity
  - Journal 4 (Action Assignment) Due Sunday by 11:59 PM! (10 pts)
  - Weekly Participation 3 Due Sunday by 11:59 PM! (10 pts)
  - Voter Registration Assignment Due Sunday by 11:59 PM! (10 pts)

## **WEEK 5: THE EXECUTIVE AND LEGISLATIVE FUNCTIONS AND MIDTERM**

### **Monday, May 2<sup>nd</sup>, 2016—Structures and Institutions**

- Assigned Reading (27 pgs)
  - Van Belle: “Ch. 5: Structures and Institutions” (pp. 137-163) (27 pgs)

### **Tuesday, May 3<sup>rd</sup>, 2016—The Executive Function**

- Assigned Reading (26 pgs)
  - Van Belle: “Ch. 6: The Executive” (pp. 164-189) (26 pgs)

### **Wednesday, May 4<sup>th</sup>, 2016—The Legislative Function (Part 1)**

- Assigned Reading (18 pgs)
  - Van Belle: “Ch. 7: The Legislative Function” (pp. 190-207) (18 pgs)

### **Thursday, May 5<sup>th</sup>, 2016—The Legislative Function (Part 2)**

- Assigned Reading (18 pgs/9 mins)
  - Van Belle: “Ch. 7: The Legislative Function” (pp. 207-222) (16 pgs)
  - Grey: “Gerrymandering Explained” (5 mins)
  - Grey: “Multiple Party Gerrymandering” (4 mins)
  - NYT: “The Great Gerrymander of 2012” (2 pgs)
  - Grey: “A Gerrymandering Solution” (4 mins)

### **Friday, May 6<sup>th</sup>, 2016—Midterm**

- Assigned Activity
  - Journal 5 (TBD) Due Sunday by 11:59 PM! (10 pts)
  - Weekly Participation 5 Due Sunday by 11:59 PM! (10 pts)
  - Midterm Due Sunday by 11:59 PM! (100 pts)

## **WEEK 6: THE BUREAUCRATIC & JUDICIAL FUNCTIONS**

**Monday, May 9<sup>th</sup>, 2016—TBD**

**Tuesday, May 10<sup>th</sup>, 2016—The Bureaucratic Function**

- Assigned Reading (21 pgs)
  - Van Belle: “Ch. 8: Brazilian Bureaucracy” (pp. 223-241) (19 pgs)
  - Danziger: “Five Styles of Administration” (pp. 158-159) (2 pgs)

**Wednesday, May 11<sup>th</sup>, 2016—Why We Fight**

- Assigned Viewing/Listening (106 mins)
  - Jarecki: *Why We Fight* (99 mins)
  - NPR: “Ike’s Warning of Military Expansion, 50 Years Later” (7 mins)

**Thursday, May 12<sup>th</sup>, 2016—The Judicial Function**

- Assigned Reading (32 pgs)
  - Van Belle: “Ch. 9: Courts and Law” (pp. 242-273) (32 pgs)

**Friday, May 13<sup>th</sup>, 2016—The War on Drugs**

- Assigned Viewing (109 mins)
  - *The House I Live In* (109 mins)
- Assigned Activity
  - Journal 6 (TBD) Due Sunday by 11:59 PM! (10 pts)
  - Weekly Participation 6 Due Sunday by 11:59 PM! (10 pts)

## WEEK 7: MEDIATED POLITICS

### Monday, May 16<sup>th</sup>, 2016—Mediated Politics

- Assigned Reading (34 pgs)
  - Van Belle: “Ch. 11: Media, Politics, and Government” (pp. 309-342) (34 pgs)

### Tuesday, May 17<sup>th</sup>, 2016—The Influencing Machine (Part 1)

- Assigned Reading (44 pgs)
  - Gladstone: “Introduction,” “In the Beginning,” “The American Exception,” “Existential Angst” (pp. xi-xxii, pp. 3-34) (44 pgs)

### Wednesday, May 18<sup>th</sup>, 2016—The Influencing Machine (Part 2)

- Assigned Reading (36 pgs/ 6 mins)
  - Gladstone: “Bias” & “War” (pp. 60-70, 71-95) (36 pgs)
  - CNN: “Kalle Lasn on Buy Nothing Day Ad” (5 mins)
  - Be A Witness to Genocide Darfur Ad (1 min)

### Thursday, May 19<sup>th</sup>, 2016—Freedom vs. Security

- Assigned Reading/Viewing (119 mins)
  - PBS: *The Most Dangerous Man in America* (94 mins)
  - Wikileaks: “Collateral Murder” (18 mins)
  - Colbert: “Interview with Julian Assuange” (7 mins)

### Friday, May 20<sup>th</sup>, 2016—The Filter Bubble

- Assigned Reading/Viewing (6 pgs/34 mins)
  - Postman: “Amusing Ourselves to Death” (pp. 1-4) (4 pgs)
  - Waters: “Electronic Isolation Gives Cold Comfort” (pp. 1-2) (2 pgs)
  - Pariser: “The Online Filter Bubble” (9 mins)
  - Oliver: “Native Advertising” (11 mins)
- Assigned Activity
  - Journal 7 (TBD) Due Sunday by 11:59 PM! (10 pts)
  - Weekly Participation 7 Due Sunday by 11:59 PM! (10 pts)



## WEEK 8: PATRIOTISM, CIVIL DISOBEDIENCE, AND POLITICAL ACTION

### Monday, May 21<sup>st</sup>, 2016—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)

### Tuesday, May 22<sup>nd</sup>, 2016—Civil Disobedience

- Assigned Reading/Viewing (19 pgs)
  - Thoreau: “Civil Disobedience” (pp. 286-289) (4 pgs)
  - Canon, Lincoln, & King: “Civil Disobedience” (pp. 127-141) (15 pgs)

### Wednesday, May 23<sup>rd</sup>, 2016—The Freedom Riders

- Assigned Viewing (112 mins)
  - American Experience: *Freedom Riders* (112 mins)

### Thursday, May 24<sup>th</sup>, 2016—Edward Snowden

- Assigned Viewing
  - Poitras: *Citizen Four* (114 mins)

### Friday, May 25<sup>th</sup>, 2016—Political Action Assignment

- Assigned Activity
  - Political Action Assignment Due Sunday by 11:59 PM! (50 pts)
  - Journal 8 (TBD) Due Sunday by 11:59 PM! (10 pts)
  - Weekly Participation 8 Due Sunday by 11:59 PM! (10 pts)

## WEEK 9: GLOBAL POLITICS AND POLITICAL CULTURE

### Monday, May 30<sup>th</sup>, 2016—Memorial Day

- No School!

### Tuesday, May 31<sup>st</sup>, 2016—International Politics (Part 1)

- Assigned Reading/Viewing (27 pgs)
  - Van Belle: “International Politics” (pp. 343-369) (27 pgs)

### Wednesday, June 1<sup>st</sup>, 2016—International Politics (Part 2)

- Assigned Reading/Viewing (14 pgs/4 mins)
  - Van Belle: “International Politics” (pp. 370-382) (13 pgs)
  - YouTube: “Global Wealth Inequality” (4 mins)
  - Forbes: “The 67 People As Wealthy As the World’s Poorest 3.5 Billion” (1 pg)

### Thursday, June 2<sup>nd</sup>, 2016—Creative Activism

- Assigned Viewing (118 mins)
  - *The Yes Men Fix the World* (96 mins)
  - Al Jazeera: “It Happened in Bhopal” (22 mins)

### Friday, June 3<sup>rd</sup>, 2016—Political Culture

- Assigned Reading (36 pgs)
  - Van Belle: “Ch. 14: Political Culture” (pp. 385-408) (24 pgs)
  - Van Belle: “Ch. 15: The Study of Politics” (pp. 409-420) (12 pgs)

### Assigned Activity

- Journal 9 (TBD) Due Sunday by 11:59 PM! (10 pts)
- Weekly Participation 9 Due Sunday by 11:59 PM! (10 pts)
- Action Assignment Due Sunday by 11:59 PM! (50 pts)

## **WEEK 10: RESPONSIBLE CITIZENSHIP**

### **Monday, June 6<sup>th</sup>, 2016—Learned Helplessness and the Bystander Effect**

- Assigned Reading (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)

### **Tuesday, June 7<sup>th</sup>, 2016—Good Enough Activism**

- Assigned Reading (24 pgs)
  - Loeb: “We Don’t Have to Be Saints” (pp. 34-57) (24 pgs)

### **Wednesday, June 8<sup>th</sup>, 2016—Great Citizenship**

- Assigned Reading/Viewing (33 pgs)
  - Liu: “Great Citizenship” (pp. 41-73) (33 pgs)

### **Thursday, June 9<sup>th</sup>, 2016—The Optimism of Uncertainty**

- Assigned Reading/Viewing (12 pgs)
  - Loeb: “The Ten Suggestions” (2 pgs)
  - Zinn: “The Optimism of Uncertainty” (pp. 63-72) (10 pgs)

### **Friday, June 10<sup>th</sup>, 2016—Citizen Pledge**

- Assigned Activity
  - Citizen Pledge Due Today by 11:59 PM!
  - Journal 10 (Course Evaluation) Due Sunday by 11:59 PM!
  - Weekly Participation 10 Due Sunday by 11:59 PM!

## **WEEK 11: FINAL REFLECTION AND EXAM**

### **Monday, June 13<sup>th</sup>, 2016—Citizen Reflection**

- Assigned Activity
  - Final Reflection Due Today by 11:59 PM!

### **Wednesday, June 15<sup>th</sup>, 2016—Final Exam**

- Assigned Activity
  - Final Exam Due Today by 11:59 PM!

### **Money in Politics**

- Assigned Viewing (18 mins)
  - Lessig: “We the People, And the Republic We Must Reclaim” (18 mins)