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# **POLS 101: INTRODUCTION TO POLITICAL SCIENCE**

**Bellevue College (Fall 2016)**

**M-F 1:30-2:20 pm**

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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"*

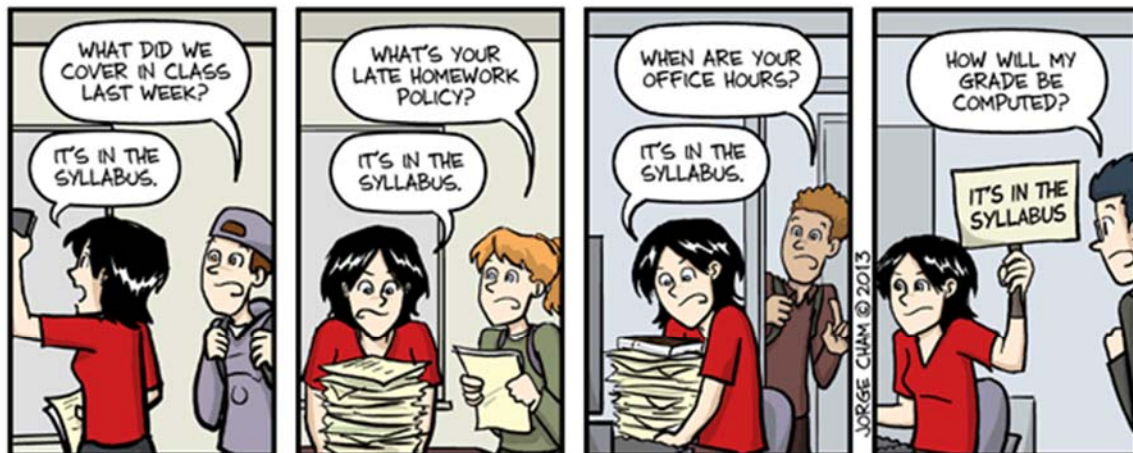
~Thomas Jefferson

*"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, to help you to sort through and develop informed opinions about a variety of political topics, and to prepare and hopefully motivate you to be better citizens. 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, and responsible 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 come to class prepared for the day's work, and to actively participate in classroom discussions and activities. You are responsible for any material missed due to absence or lateness so I encourage you to get acquainted with those around you, trade e-mail addresses and/or phone numbers, and make one or more study buddies. ***If you do not understand something please take the initiative to find out the answer***—ask me before or after class, come to my office hours, email me, etc. I cannot read minds so I ask that you be proactive about seeking 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. Our collective 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 members of our learning community. 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 are welcome in class (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* (4<sup>th</sup> Edition). It is available in the campus bookstore and it can be purchased (currently for \$80.95) or rented (currently for \$28.77) on Amazon. The book will also be made available for short-term check out (up to two hours) in the library. Earlier editions of the book, specifically the 2<sup>nd</sup> and 3<sup>rd</sup> editions are okay if you cannot afford the 4<sup>th</sup> edition, but you are responsible for any content that is different. Also, the pop culture references, and there are many in this book, are not as up-to-date in previous editions. Supplemental texts and videos will be made available on our course website in the Modules section. Note: I always try to find free versions of the videos that I assign, but you may have to rent one or two videos during the quarter if I cannot find the assigned video for free. 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 in class. If adjustments are made to the reading/viewing schedule, you will be informed in class and 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.

### **READING/VIEWING PROMPTS**

To help you get the most out of the course materials, you will be provided with a prompt for (nearly) every reading and video assigned in this course. These prompts will be made available at least one week before the reading is due and they will include a handful of reflection questions as well as a comprehensive list of key concepts. Each day's prompts can be found under the heading "Reading/Viewing Prompts" in the module for that week. I suggest engaging with these prompts before, during, and after doing the reading and/or viewing. My primary purpose in creating these prompts is to help you focus on what is important in the assigned materials, to help you get ready for our discussions, and to help you prepare for assignments and exams. You are encouraged to print the reading/viewing prompts and to write your answers to the reflection questions that I have provided on the prompts themselves as well as to define the key concepts that I have listed. These prompts will prove to be a valuable resource on the midterm and final exams as the review sheets that I create draw extensively from them. Please note that you do not have to print or engage with the prompts—you are not graded on whether you do so—but I have found that students who do engage with them do better in the course.

### **KEEPING UP WITH THE NEWS**

Please keep up with current events related to 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)**

Syllabus Quiz (Graded)	(5 pts)	1%
Profile Picture Assignment (Credit/No Credit)	(5 pts)	1%
Voter Registration Assignment	(5 pts)	1%
Office Visit	(5 pts)	1%
Citizen Pledge	(20 pts)	3%
Citizen Reflection	(50 pts)	8%
Survey Assignment	(50 pts)	8%
Political Action Assignment	(50 pts)	8%
Attendance/Participation	(100 pts)	17%
Midterm Exam	(100 pts)	17%
Final Exam	(100 pts)	17%
Weekly Journal (10 pts per week)	(110 pts)	18%
	<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%			

#### **SYLLABUS QUIZ (5 PTS ~ 1%) (DUE SEPTEMBER 21<sup>ST</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%) (SEPTEMBER 22<sup>ND</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 OCTOBER 2<sup>ND</sup>)**

For this assignment, you need to register to vote by 11:59 PM on October 2<sup>nd</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.

### **OFFICE VISIT (5 PTS ~ 1%) (DUE OCTOBER 20<sup>TH</sup>)**

To fulfill the requirements for this assignment, you need to visit me during my office hours once prior to the midterm (Monday, October 24<sup>th</sup>, 2016). Research shows that making connections with faculty increases students' academic performance and satisfaction with their college experience. My office hours are Tuesdays and Thursdays 10:30a-12:00p. If you are unable to make my office hours because of a time conflict, in order to receive full credit you need to send me an email during the first two weeks of the quarter to arrange an alternative appointment time. If you wait more than two weeks there is no guarantee that I will be able to adjust my office hours for you. The purpose of the first office visit is threefold: (1) to break the ice so that you feel comfortable visiting my office, (2) for me to get to know you a bit better, and (3) to check-in to see how the course is going. See you soon!

### **CITIZEN PLEDGE/REFLECTION (70 PTS ~ 11%) (DECEMBER 2<sup>ND</sup>/4<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 50 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 OCTOBER 9<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 ~ 8%) (DUE WEDNESDAY, NOVEMBER 23<sup>RD</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.

### **PARTICIPATION/ATTENDANCE (100 pts ~ 17%)**

This class would be extremely dull if I did all the talking so please do your part to participate. It is impossible for you to participate if you are not in class, but participation is about more than just attendance. You are expected to come to every class having done ALL the assigned reading, and you are expected to regularly contribute to our in-class discussions—even if you are shy. Please come to every class with a pen or pencil, some paper, a copy of the assigned reading, and a copy of that day's reading prompt. It is worth pointing out that *the BC guideline for homework is two hours outside of class for each credit hour!* Please note that I intend to start class on time every day and I expect you to be there when I do. Occasionally, you may find it necessary to be late, in which case I would certainly prefer that you come rather than miss the entire class. However, regular tardiness will negatively impact your grade. I will be taking attendance every day. In order

to excuse an absence you need to come talk to me before or immediately after your absence. Excused absences include documented doctor's visits, family emergencies, and sometimes school or work-related issues. If you miss class, you are expected to connect with one or more of your classmates to find out what you missed. I am happy to clarify what you miss during my office hours, but I will only do so after you have checked with at least one of your classmates first.

**\*Success Tip:** Don't be shy. Try to participate every day. If you are confused, ask me questions in class, during my office hours, or via email.

### **MIDTERM EXAM (100 PTS ~ 17%) (OCTOBER 24<sup>TH</sup>/25<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%) (DECEMBER 6<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.

### **WEEKLY JOURNAL (110 PTS ~ 18%) (DUE EVERY SUNDAY BY 11:59 PM)**

As a supplement to the reading and our time together in class, 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.



# TENTATIVE COURSE SCHEDULE

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

### Monday, September 19<sup>th</sup>, 2016—Introduction to the Course/Syllabus

- Assigned Reading
  - Syllabus (19 pgs)

### Tuesday, September 20<sup>th</sup>, 2016—Gross Ignorance

- Assigned Reading (29 pgs)
  - Shenkman: “Gross Ignorance” (pp. 13-36) (24 pgs)
  - Romano: “How Dumb Are We?” (pp. 1-4) (4 pgs)
  - CNN: “Geography Greek to Many Americans” (1 pg)

### Wednesday, September 21<sup>st</sup>, 2016—Naïve Realism

- 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
  - Syllabus Quiz Due Today by 11:59 PM! (Graded) (5 pts)

### Thursday, September 22<sup>nd</sup>, 2016—The Ancient Debate

- Assigned Reading (21 pgs)
  - Van Belle: “Ch. 1: Introducing the Ancient Debate” (pp. 1-21) (21 pgs)
- Assigned Activity
  - Profile Picture Assignment Due Today by 11:59 PM! (5 pts)

### Friday, September 23<sup>rd</sup>, 2016—The Scientific Method and Political Ideology

- Assigned Reading (24 pgs/19 mins)
  - Van Belle: “Ch. 1: Introducing the Ancient Debate” (pp. 21-43) (23 pgs)
  - Image: “Every Baby Knows the Scientific Method” (1 pg)
  - Haidt: “The Moral Roots of Liberals and Conservatives” (19 mins)
- Assigned Activity
  - Journal 1 Due (Political Ideology) due on Canvas by 11:59 PM on Sunday! (10 pts)

## **WEEK 2: GOVERNING SOCIETY**

### **Monday, September 26<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)

### **Tuesday, September 27<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, September 28<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)

### **Thursday, September 29<sup>th</sup>, 2016—Civil Obedience**

- 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)

### **Friday, September 30<sup>th</sup>, 2016—Break in Reading**

- Assigned Reading/Viewing
  - No assigned reading/viewing today! Please catch up if you are behind.
- Assigned Activity
  - Journal 2 (Fact Checking) Due Sunday by 11:59 PM! (10 pts)
  - Voter Registration Assignment Due Sunday by 11:59 PM! (5 pts)

## **WEEK 3: POLITICS, ECONOMICS, AND THE ENVIRONMENT**

### **Monday, October 3<sup>rd</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, October 4<sup>th</sup>, 2016—Economic Inequality**

- Assigned Reading (18 pgs/23 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)
  - Wilkinson: "How economic inequality harms societies" (17 mins)

### **Wednesday, October 5<sup>th</sup>, 2016—The Story of Change**

- Assigned Reading (19 pgs/26 mins)
  - Daly: "On A Road to Disaster" (1 pg)
  - Speth: "Consumption" (pp. 147-164) (18 pgs)
  - Leonard: "The Story of Stuff" (20 mins)
  - Leonard: "The Story of Change" (6 mins)

### **Thursday, October 6<sup>th</sup>, 2016—Climate of Doubt**

- Assigned Reading/Viewing (6 pgs/56 mins)
  - NASA: "Time Lapse of Global Temperatures" (30 secs)
  - Rolling Stone: "Climate Change Is Very Real" (3 pgs)
  - Pew: "Climate Change Is Already Here" (1 pg)
  - Pew: "Many Around the World" (1 pg)
  - Pew: "Climate Change – Key Data Points" (1 pg)
  - Frontline: "Climate of Doubt" (56 mins)

### **Friday, October 7<sup>th</sup>, 2016—Get Caught Up**

- Assigned Reading/Viewing
  - No assigned reading/viewing today! Please catch up if you are behind and/or work on your Survey Assignment.

### Assigned Activity

- Journal 3 (Ecological Footprint) Due Sunday by 11:59 PM! (10 pts)
- Survey Assignment Due Sunday by 11:59 PM! (50 pts)

## **WEEK 4: THE EXECUTIVE AND LEGISLATIVE FUNCTIONS AND GERRYMANDERING**

### **Monday, October 10<sup>th</sup>, 2016—Structures and Institutions**

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

### **Tuesday, October 11<sup>th</sup>, 2016—The Executive Function**

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

### **Wednesday, October 12<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)

### **Thursday, October 13<sup>th</sup>, 2016—The Legislative Function**

- Assigned Reading (33 pgs)
  - Van Belle: “Ch. 7: The Legislative Function” (pp. 190-222) (33 pgs)

### **Friday, October 14<sup>th</sup>, 2016—Gerrymandering/Midterm Prep**

- Assigned Reading (6 pgs/13 mins)
  - Midterm Review Sheet
  - Grey: “Gerrymandering Explained” (5 mins)
  - Grey: “Multiple Party Gerrymandering” (4 mins)
  - NYT: “The Great Gerrymander of 2012” (2 pgs)
  - NYT: “An Imbalance of Power” (1 pg)
  - Mother Jones: “Now That’s What I Call A Gerrymander” (2 pgs)
  - Washington Post: “How to Steal An Election: A Visual Guide) (1 pg)
  - Grey: “A Gerrymandering Solution” (4 mins)
- Assigned Activity
  - Journal 5 (Action Assignment) Due Sunday by 11:59 PM! (10 pts)

## **WEEK 5: PATRIOTISM, CIVIL DISOBEDIENCE, & CITIZENSHIP**

### **Monday, October 17<sup>th</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, October 18<sup>th</sup>, 2016—Faculty No Contract Day**

- No school (for students)—Enjoy the day off!

### **Wednesday, October 19<sup>th</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)

### **Thursday, October 20<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)
- Assigned Activity
  - Office Visit due by 2:30 pm (5 pts)

### **Friday, October 21<sup>st</sup>, 2016—Nonviolent Direct Action**

- Assigned Viewing (112 mins)
  - American Experience: *Freedom Riders* (112 mins)
- Assigned Activity
  - Journal 4 (Civil Disobedience) Due Sunday by 11:59 PM!

## **WEEK 6: MIDTERM, POLITICAL ACTION, & BUREAUCRACY**

### **Monday, October 24<sup>th</sup>, 2016—Midterm Review**

- Assigned Reading
  - Midterm Review Sheet

### **Tuesday, October 25<sup>th</sup>, 2016—Midterm (Part 1)**

- Assigned Activity
  - In-class midterm exam!

### **Wednesday, October 26<sup>th</sup>, 2016—Midterm (Part 2)**

- Assigned Activity
  - In-class midterm exam!

### **Thursday, October 27<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)

### **Friday, October 28<sup>th</sup>, 2016—The Military-Industrial Complex**

- Assigned Viewing/Listening (106 mins)
  - Jarecki: *Why We Fight* (99 mins)
  - NPR: “Ike’s Warning of Military Expansion, 50 Years Later” (7 mins)
- Assigned Activity
  - Journal 6 (November Election) Due Sunday by 11:59 PM! (10 pts)

## **WEEK 7: THE JUDICIAL FUNCTION, THE WAR ON DRUGS, & ELECTIONS**

### **Monday, October 31<sup>st</sup>, 2016—The Judicial Function**

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

### **Tuesday, November 1<sup>st</sup>, 2016—The War on Drugs**

- Assigned Viewing (109 mins)
  - *The House I Live In* (109 mins)

### **Wednesday, November 2<sup>nd</sup>, 2016—The Democratic Ideal (Part 1)**

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

### **Thursday, November 3<sup>rd</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: “The Problem with First Past the Post Voting Explained” (7 mins)
  - Grey: “The Alternative Vote Explained” (4 mins)
  - Grey: “Mixed-Member Proportional Representation Explained” (5 mins)

### **Friday, November 4<sup>th</sup>, 2016—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)
- Assigned Activity
  - Journal 7 (Your Grade) Due Sunday by 11:59 PM! (10 pts)

## **WEEK 8: THE MEDIA**

### **Monday, November 7<sup>th</sup>, 2016—Mediated Politics**

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

### **Tuesday, November 8<sup>th</sup>, 2016—Election Day**

- No assigned materials today. Please follow the election results instead.

### **Wednesday, November 9<sup>th</sup>, 2016—The Influencing Machine**

- Assigned Reading (80 pgs)
  - Gladstone: “Introduction,” “In the Beginning,” “The American Exception,” “Existential Angst” (pp. xi-xxii, pp. 3-34) (44 pgs)
  - Gladstone: “Bias” & “War” (pp. 60-70, 71-95) (36 pgs)

### **Thursday, November 10<sup>th</sup>, 2016—Filter Bubbles**

- Assigned Reading/Viewing (11 pgs/67 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)
  - 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)
- Assigned Activity
  - Journal 8 (Reflection on the Election) Due Sunday by 11:59 PM! (10 pts)

### **Friday, November 11<sup>th</sup>, 2016—Veteran’s Day!**

- No School: Enjoy the Day Off!



## WEEK 9: INTERNATIONAL POLITICS

### Monday, November 14<sup>th</sup>, 2016—International Politics (Part 1)

- Assigned Reading/Viewing (28 pgs)
  - Van Belle: “International Politics” (pp. 343-369) (27 pgs)
  - Foreign Policy Magazine: “How to Get A B.A. in International Relations in 5 minutes” (1 pg)

### Tuesday, November 15<sup>th</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)

### Wednesday, November 16<sup>th</sup>, 2016— Creative Activism

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

### Thursday, November 17<sup>th</sup>, 2016—Learning from the Rest of the World

- Assigned Reading (5 pgs)
  - The Atlantic: “To America Great Again, We Need to Leave the Country” (2 pgs)
  - The Atlantic: “What Americans Can Learn from the Rest of the World” (2 pgs)
  - Speth: “We’re Number One” (1 pg)
  - Pew: “How Americans Stand Out from the Rest of the World” (1 pg)
  - In-Class Film: *Where to Invade Next* (120 mins)

### Friday, November 18<sup>th</sup>, 2016—Get Caught Up!

- Assigned Reading/Viewing
  - No assigned reading/viewing today! Please catch up if you are behind.
- Assigned Activity
  - Journal 9 (Where to Invade Next) Due Sunday by 11:59 PM! (10 pts)

## **WEEK 10: POLITICAL CULTURE, POLITICAL ACTION, AND SPORTS AND POLITICS**

### **Monday, November 21<sup>st</sup>, 2016—Political Culture and the Study of Politics**

- Assigned Reading (36 pgs)
  - Van Belle (Political Culture) (pp. 385-408) (24 pgs)
  - Van Belle (The Study of Politics) (pp. 409-420) (12 pgs)

### **Tuesday, November 22<sup>nd</sup>, 2016—Sports and Politics**

- Assigned Reading/Viewing (61 mins)
  - Media Education Foundation: *Not Just A Game* (61 mins)

### **Wednesday, November 23<sup>rd</sup>, 2016—Political Action**

- Assigned Reading (14 pgs)
  - No reading—Come prepared to present your political action.
- Assigned Activity
  - Political Action Assignment Due Today in Class and Online by 1:30 pm!
  - Journal 10 (Thanksgiving) Due Sunday by 11:59 PM!

### **Thursday, November 24<sup>th</sup>, 2016—Thanksgiving Break**

- Enjoy the break!

### **Friday, November 25<sup>th</sup>, 2016—Thanksgiving Break**

- Enjoy the break!

## **WEEK 11: RESPONSIBLE CITIZENSHIP**

### **Monday, November 28<sup>th</sup>, 2016—Learned Helplessness and the Bystander Effect**

- Assigned Reading (29 pgs)
  - Loeb: “Introduction” (pp. 1-19) (19 pgs)
  - McRaney: “Learned Helplessness” (pp. 205-209) (5 pgs)
  - McRaney: “The Bystander Effect” (pp. 73-77) (5 pgs)

### **Tuesday, November 29<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, November 30<sup>th</sup>, 2016—Great Citizenship**

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

### **Thursday, December 1<sup>st</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)
- Assigned Activity
  - Citizen Pledge Due in Class and Online by 1:30 PM!

### **Friday, December 2<sup>nd</sup>, 2016—Final Reflection and Final Exam Prep**

- Assigned Activity
  - Weekly Journal 11 (Course Evaluation) Due Friday by 4:00 PM!
  - Final Reflection Due Sunday by 11:59 PM!

## **WEEK 12: FINAL EXAM**

### **Monday, December 5<sup>th</sup>, 2016—Faculty Professional Development Day**

- No school (for You)—Enjoy the Day Off!

### **Tuesday, December 6<sup>th</sup>, 2016—Final Exam**

- Assigned Activity
  - In-Class Final Exam 1:30-3:20 pm