
POLS 202: AMERICAN GOVERNMENT

Bellevue College (Fall 2019)

M/W 12:30p-12:20p in L214

Professor: Tim Jones, Ph.D. (Please call me “Tim” or “Professor Jones”)

Office: A200B

Office Hours: M-Th 10:30a-11:20a and by appointment

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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

“Doubt is not a pleasant condition, but certainty is an absurd one.”

~Voltaire

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

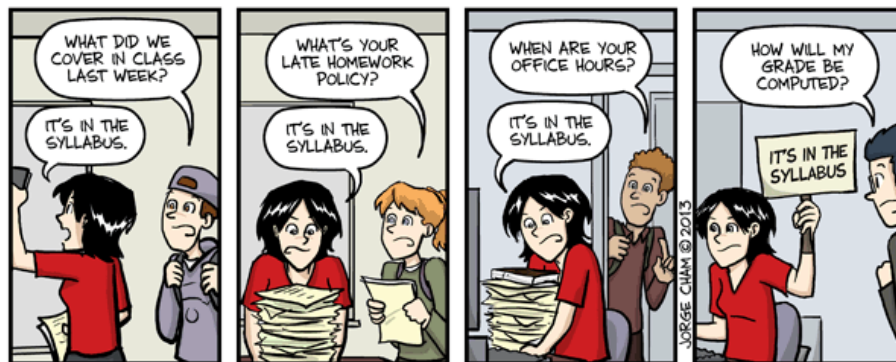
~Frederick Douglass

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

~Rabbi Hillel

“The most common way people give up their power is by thinking that they don’t have any.”

~Alice Walker



IT'S IN THE SYLLABUS

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

WWW.PHDCOMICS.COM

COURSE DESCRIPTION

This is an introductory course that is designed for students new to the study of American government. By the end of the quarter, I hope you will have a basic understanding of the structure of American government and an increased ability to critically reflect on American politics. Specific topics of study include: civic ignorance, naïve realism, the U.S. social contract, Congress, the Presidency, the Supreme Court, civil rights, civil disobedience, patriotism, the role of money in politics, and engaged citizenship, and much more. This is not a current events course, but we will often engage with current events 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 constructively engage in the political process
- 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 in a stimulating 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 are 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 make it more difficult for your classmates to learn. 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 in the syllabus and on Canvas. Because I believe that one of the major lessons that students learn in college is the importance of meeting deadlines, all late work will be penalized unless cleared with me in advance or you can document a personal hardship that I approve. Specifically, ***all assignments turned in late will be penalized*** 10% if they are turned in within one day of the due date, 25% if turned in between one and seven days of the due date, and 50% if turned in eight or more days after the due date. ***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). Also, late work is only accepted up through the last full week of the quarter; in other words, late work will NOT be accepted during final's week.

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.

RELIGIOUS ACCOMMODATIONS

Students who will be absent from course activities due to reasons of faith or conscience may seek reasonable accommodations so that grades are not impacted. Such requests must be made within the first two weeks of the course to the office of the Associate Vice President of Student Affairs (see Bellevue College Policy 2950 (<https://www.bellevuecollege.edu/policies/id2950/>)). In the event you feel you are being discriminated against based on faith or conscience, you may refer to the procedures outlined in the college's Discrimination, Harassment and Retaliation Policy 1440P (<https://www.bellevuecollege.edu/policies/id-1440p/>).

CONFIDENTIALITY AND MANDATORY REPORTING

As an instructor, one of my responsibilities is to help create a safe learning environment on our campus. It is my goal that you feel able to share information related to your life experiences in classroom discussions, in your written work, and in our one-on-one meetings. I will seek to keep information you share private to the greatest extent possible. However, I am required to share with the Title IX Coordinator any and all information regarding sexual assault and other forms of sexual misconduct (e.g. relationship violence, stalking) that may have occurred on campus or that impacts someone on campus. Students may speak to someone confidentially by contacting the BC Counseling Center at (425) 564-2212. The Title IX Office can be contacted at 425-564-2641 and more information can be found at Title IX (<http://www.bellevuecollege.edu/titleix/>). If you have any concerns, please visit: <https://www.bellevuecollege.edu/reportconcerns>.

Reports of gender and sex-based discrimination, sexual misconduct, or retaliation by a student should be raised with the Title IX office (see 1440P2 for contact information). In cases where the impacted party is a student and the responding party is a college employee, the Title IX coordinator will direct the matter to the Office of Human Resources (HR). All other reports, including all reports where the impacted party is an employee, should be raised with the HR. If a report is against personnel in the Title IX office or HR, it should be submitted to the president's office for referral to an alternate designee.

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).

Please be careful you do not plagiarize yourself. In other words, please do not turn in assignments for my class that you have turned in for other classes—unless what you turn in for my class is substantially revised. 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 texts for the course are Schubert, Dye, and Zeigler's *The Irony of Democracy* (17th Edition) and Hennessey and McConnell's *The United States Constitution: A Graphic Adaptation*. Both texts should be available for purchase in the bookstore and on on-line and the first text is available for rent. Currently they are both cheaper on Amazon—so check there if you are looking for a better deal. Please note that one copy of each text will also be made available for short-term check out (up to two hours) in the library. Also, 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 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), 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.

GRADED WORK (Percentages Are Rounded)

| | | |
|---|------------------|-------------|
| Syllabus Quiz (Graded) | (5 pts) | 1% |
| Profile Picture Assignment (Credit/No Credit) | (5 pts) | 1% |
| Voter Registration Assignment | (10 pts) | 2% |
| Office Visit | (10 pts) | 2% |
| Course Evaluation Assignment | (10 pts) | 2% |
| Citizen Pledge | (20 pts) | 3% |
| Reading Prompt Assignments | (20 pts) | 3% |
| Survey Assignment | (50 pts) | 8% |
| Political Action Assignment | (60 pts) | 10% |
| Attendance/Participation | (100 pts) | 17% |
| Midterm Exam | (100 pts) | 17% |
| Final Exam | (100 pts) | 17% |
| Weekly Journal (10 pts per week) | (110 pts) | 18% |
| | (600 pts) | 100% |

GRADEPOINT CONVERSION CHART

| Grade | Percentage | Grade | Percentage |
|-------|------------|-------|-------------|
| A | 93-100% | C | 73-76% |
| A- | 90-93% | C- | 70-72% |
| B+ | 87-89% | D+ | 67-69% |
| B | 83-86% | D | 60-66% |
| B- | 80-82% | F | 59% & Below |
| C+ | 77-79% | | |

SYLLABUS QUIZ (5 PTS ~ 1%) (SEPTEMBER 22ND)

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 22ND)

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 (10 PTS ~ 2%) (SEPTEMBER 29TH)

For this assignment, you need to register to vote by 11:59 PM on September 29th. 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 (10 PTS ~ 2%) (DUE OCTOBER 21ST)

To fulfill the requirements for this assignment, you need to visit me during my office hours once prior to the midterm (Friday, October 21st). Research shows that making connections with faculty increases students' academic performance and satisfaction with their college experience. My office hours are Mondays through Thursday 10:30a-11:20p or by appointment. 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!

COURSE EVALUATION ASSIGNMENT (10 PTS ~ 2%) (DUE WEEK ELEVEN)

This is a two-part assignment. For the first part, I would like you to write a short reflection on the course based on the course description, my course objectives, and your expectations coming into the course. For the second part, I would like you to fill out the online course evaluation and provide proof that you completed it. Both parts of the assignment should be submitted via Canvas and they will be due toward the end of the quarter. The due date will be announced in class.

READING PROMPT ASSIGNMENTS (20 PTS ~ 4 %) (DUE BEFORE EXAMS)

For nearly every assigned reading and video this quarter I have created a reading/viewing prompt to help you focus on what I think is most important for you to engage with in the

assigned materials. Most of the prompts for the quarter are already available. In my experience, students who engage with the prompts before, during, and after engaging with the assigned materials do better on the midterm and final exams. To incentivize you to engage with these prompts, four times this quarter—twice before the midterm and twice afterwards—I would like you to show me that you have engaged with a reading/viewing prompt in a meaningful way (e.g., by defining several key concepts and attempting to answer two or more questions on the prompt). Each prompt that you upload to the assignment is worth 5 points for a total of 20 points. Please let me know if you have questions.

SURVEY WRITING ASSIGNMENT (50 PTS ~ 8%) (DUE OCTOBER 6TH)

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 will be discussed in class. 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 assigned materials related to civic ignorance 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 (60 PTS ~ 10%) (DUE NOVEMBER 17TH)

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 21ST)

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 6TH)

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. Unlike the midterm exam, however, this exam will be an online exam and it will be open book/open note.

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. 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 in your entries on time, and make sure you follow the instructions regarding the number of words.

TENTATIVE COURSE SCHEDULE

WEEK 1: CIVIC IGNORANCE, NAIVE REALISM, POLITICAL IDEOLOGY, & THE IRONY OF DEMOCRACY

Monday, September 16th, 2019—Civic Ignorance & Naïve Realism

- Assigned Reading (55 pgs)
 - Shenkman: "Gross Ignorance" (pp. 13-36) (24 pgs)
 - Strauss: "Many Americans Know Nothing About Their Government" (2 pgs)
 - McRaney: "Introduction" (pp. 1-15), "Confirmation Bias" (pp. 27-31), "The Third Person Effect" (pp. 166-169) (24 pgs)
 - Resnick: "The Dunning-Kruger Effect" (5 pgs)

Wednesday, September 18th, 2019—Political Ideology/The Irony of Democracy

- Assigned Reading (37 pgs/19 mins)
 - Lakoff: "The Worldview Problem for American Politics" (pp. 24-37) (14 pgs)
 - Haidt: "The Moral Roots of Liberals and Conservatives" (19 mins)
 - Boghossian & Lindsay: "Engage with People Who Disagree with You" (2 pgs)
 - Schubert: "To the Student" (pp. xvii-xviii) (2 pgs)
 - Schubert: "Ch. 1: The Irony of Democracy" (pp. 1-19) (19 pgs)
- Assigned Activity
 - Journal 1 (Political Ideology) Due Sunday by 11:59 PM! (10 pts)
 - Syllabus Quiz Due Sunday by 11:59 PM! (Graded) (5 pts)
 - Profile Picture Assignment Due Sunday by 11:59 PM! (5 pts)

WEEK 2: CORE DOCUMENTS: THE DECLARATION OF INDEPENDENCE & THE CONSTITUTION

Monday, September 23rd, 2019—The U.S. Social Contract

- Assigned Reading/Viewing (112 pgs)
 - Jefferson: "The Declaration of Independence" (2 pgs)
 - CATO Institute: "King George III or Donald Trump?" (5 pgs)

- Wolf: “Introduction” (pp. 3-12) (10 pgs)
- Wolf: “Freedom Intended as a Challenge” (pp. 13-21) (9 pgs)
- Hennesey: “A Graphic Adaptation” (pp. 2-87) (86 pgs) (CARTOON BOOK)
 - Schubert: “The Constitution of the United States of America” (pp. 369-378) (10 pgs) (REFERENCE)
 - Ted-Ed: “How Power Is Divided in the United States Government” (4 mins) (REFERENCE)

Wednesday, September 25th, 2019—Amending and Defending the Constitution

- Assigned Reading/Viewing (87 pgs)
 - Hennesey: “A Graphic Adaptation” (pp. 88-141) (54 pgs) (Cartoon book)
 - Schubert: “Amendments to the U.S. Constitution” (pp. 378-385) (8 pgs) (REFERENCE)
 - Constitution Center: “Eight Basic Facts about the Bill of Rights” (2 pgs)
 - Schubert: “The Elite Consensus of the Founding Fathers” (pp. 21-47) (28 pgs)
 - Zinn: “Some Truths Are Not Self-Evident” (pp. 110-112) (3 pgs)
- Assigned Activity
 - Journal 2 (Veil of Ignorance) Due Sunday by 11:59 PM! (10 pts)
 - Voter Registration Assignment Due Sunday by 11:59 PM! (10 pts)

WEEK 3: ELITES, INEQUALITY, & THE SURVEY ASSIGNMENT

Monday, September 30th, 2019—Elites and Inequality

- Assigned Reading/Viewing (43 pgs/24 mins)
 - Schubert: “Ch. 3: Elites in America” (pp. 49-76) (28 pgs)
 - Yes Magazine: “Wealth Inequality in the United States” (6 mins)
 - Stiglitz: “The American Economy Is Rigged and What We Can Do About It” (15 pgs)
 - Wilkinson: “How economic inequality harms societies” (17 mins)
- Assigned Activity
 - Journal 3 (TBD) Due Sunday by 11:59 PM! (10 pts)
 - Survey Assignment Due Sunday by 11:59 PM! (50 pts)

Wednesday, October 1st, 2019—Faculty Professional Development Day

- No School for Students

WEEK 4: MASSES AND THE MEDIA

Monday, October 7th, 2019—The Masses & Fake News

- Assigned Reading/Viewing (56 pgs)
 - Schubert: “Ch. 4: Masses in the United States” (pp. 75-101) (27 pgs)

- Flake: “On Bad Information and the Threat to Democracy” (pp. 28-41) (14 pgs)
- Bartlett: “How to Fight Fake News” (pp. 119-126) (8 pgs)
- NPR: “Students Have Dismaying Ability to Tell Fake News from Real” (4 pgs)
- Factcheck.org: “How to Spot Fake News” (2 pgs)
- NPR: “How to Self-Check the News and Get the Facts” (2 pgs)
- News Literacy Project: “10 Questions for Fake News Detection” (1 pg)

Wednesday, October 9th, 2019—The Media

- Assigned Reading/Viewing (33 pgs/9 mins)
 - Schubert: “The Media” (pp. 105-126) (22 pgs)
 - Postman: “Amusing Ourselves to Death” (pp. 1-4) (4 pgs)
 - Postman: “My Dad Predicted Trump in 1985” (2 pgs)
 - Pariser: “The Filter Bubble” (9 mins)
 - Waters: “Electronic Isolation Brings Cold Comfort” (pp. 1-2) (2 pgs)
 - March: “How to Break Your Online Filter Bubble” (3 pgs)
- Assigned Activity
 - Journal 4 (Factchecking) Due Sunday by 11:59 PM! (10 pts)

WEEK 5: THE U.S. ELECTORAL SYSTEM, PATRIOTISM, & CIVIL DISOBEDIENCE

Monday, October 14th, 2019—The U.S. Electoral System

- Assigned Reading/Viewing (51 pgs)
 - Schubert: “Ch. 6: Elections, Parties, Democracy” (pp. 129-156) (28 pgs)
 - Grey: “Primary Elections Explained” (5 mins) (REFERENCE)
 - Grey: “The Problems with First Past the Post Voting Explained” (7 mins) (REFERENCE)
 - Grey: “The Alternative Vote Explained” (4 mins) (REFERENCE)
 - Dahl: “Electing the President” (pp. 73-89) (17 pgs)
 - Grey: “How the Electoral College Works” (5 mins) (REFERENCE)
 - Grey: “The Trouble with the Electoral College” (7 mins) (REFERENCE)
 - Ted-Ed: “Does Your Vote Count?” (5 mins) (REFERENCE)
 - Khan: “The Troubling Reason the Electoral College Exists” (2 pgs)
 - Kessler: “Trump’s Flip-Flop on the Electoral College” (2 pgs)
 - ACLU: “Can We Fire the Electoral College?” (2 pgs)

Wednesday, October 16th, 2019—Patriotism and Civil Disobedience

- Assigned Reading/Viewing (43 pgs/2 mins)
 - 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)

- Jabbar: “Insulting Colin Kaepernick Says More About Our Patriotism Than His” (1 pg)
- BBC Radio: “Civil Disobedience” (2 mins)
- Thoreau: “Civil Disobedience” (pp. 286-289) (4 pgs)
- Canon, Lincoln, & King: “Civil Disobedience” (pp. 127-141) (15 pgs)
- The Root: “MLK Would Never Shut Down A Freeway” (3 pgs)
- Assigned Activity
 - Journal 5 (November Election) Due Sunday by 11:59 PM! (10 pts)

WEEK 6: MIDTERM/CITIZENSHIP & GETTING INVOLVED

Monday, October 21st, 2019—Midterm

- Assigned Activity
 - In-Class Midterm

Wednesday, October 23rd, 2019—Citizenship & Getting Involved

- Assigned Reading/Viewing (47 pgs)
 - Bellamy: “What is citizenship, and why does it matter?” (pp. 1-26) (26 pgs)
 - Liu: “Democracy Is For Amateurs” (3 pgs)
 - Carroll: Chapters 1-2, 6, 21, 33 (18 pgs)
- Assigned Activity
 - Journal 6 (Action Assignment) Due Sunday by 11:59 PM! (10 pts)

WEEK 7: MONEY IN POLITICS

Monday, October 28th, 2019—Elites and Organized Interests

- Assigned Reading (54 pgs)
 - Schubert: “Ch. 7: Elites and Organized Interests” (pp. 157-176) (20 pgs)
 - Boren: “Major Study Finds U.S. Is an Oligarchy” (1 pg)
 - Lessig: “Introduction” (pp. 1-9), “Good Souls, Corrupted” (pp. 13-20), & “Good Questions, Raised” (pp. 21-36) (9 pgs) (33 pgs)

Wednesday, October 30th, 2019—The Corrupting Influence of Money

- Assigned Reading (69 pgs)
 - Lessig: “What So Much *Damn* Money Does” (pp. 125-171) (47 pgs), “Reforms That Would Reform” (pp. 264-272) (9 pgs), “Conclusion” (pp. 309-317) (9 pgs), & “What You Can Do, Now” (pp. 323-326) (4 pgs)
- Assigned Activity
 - Journal 7 (Money in Politics) Due Sunday by 11:59 PM! (10 pts)

WEEK 8: THE LEGISLATIVE ELITE, GERRYMANDERING, & THE PRESIDENCY

Monday, November 4th, 2019—The Legislative Elite & Gerrymandering

- Assigned Reading (36 pgs/20 mins)
 - Schubert: “Congress: The Legislative Elite” (pp. 181-212) (32 pgs)
 - Golkowski: “D.C. Votes to Become the 51st State, But It Likely Won’t” (2 pgs)
 - Oliver: “Gerrymandering” (20 mins)
 - Washington Post: “How to Steal An Election: A Visual Guide” (1 pg)
 - NYT: “The Great Gerrymander of 2012” (1 pg)

Wednesday, November 6th, 2019

- Assigned Reading (27 pgs/22 mins)
 - Schubert: “Ch. 9: The Presidency” (pp. 213-232 & 238) (21 pgs)
 - Oliver: “Authoritarianism” (18 mins)
 - LA Times: “Trump’s Authoritarian Vision” (2 pgs)
 - Reich: “Donald Trump’s Guiding Philosophy Is Authoritarianism” (2 pgs)
 - McMullin: “Trump’s Attacks Are Authoritarian” (4 mins)
 - Edelson: “Donald Trump and Congress Are Showing Us What Constitutional Failure Looks Like” (2 pgs)
- Assigned Activity
 - Journal 8 (Researching Your Representatives) Due Sunday by 11:59 PM! (10 pts)

WEEK 9: VETERAN’S DAY/THE JUDICIARY

Monday, November 11th, 2019—Veteran’s Day Observed

- No School!

Wednesday, November 13th, 2019—The Judiciary

- Assigned Reading (44 pgs/5 mins)
 - Schubert: “Ch. 10: Courts: Elites in Black Robes” (pp. 241-260) (20 pgs)
 - Canon: “The Federal Judiciary: Interpreting the Constitution—Originalism or a Living Constitution?” (pp. 154-177) (24 pgs)
 - Colbert: “The Word – Original Spin” (5 mins)
- Assigned Activity
 - Journal 9 (TBD) Due Sunday by 11:59 PM! (10 pts)
 - Action Assignment Due Sunday by 11:59 PM! (60 pts)

WEEK 10: CIVIL RIGHTS, FEDERALISM, & HOPE

Monday, November 18th, 2019—Civil Rights

- Assigned Reading (44 pgs)
 - Schubert: “Civil Rights: Diversifying the Elite” (pp. 315-338) (24 pgs)
 - Scientific American: “How to Think About Implicit Bias” (4 pgs)
 - Coates: “The Case for Reparations” (pp. 56-71) (16 pgs)

Wednesday, November 20th, 2019—Federalism & Overcoming Pessimism

- Assigned Reading (53 pgs)
 - Dye: “Ch. 12: Federalism: State and Community Elites” (pp. 293-313) (21 pgs)
 - Madison: “Federalist Paper No. 10 51” (pp. 381-383) (3 pgs)
 - Solnit: “Foreward to the Third Edition,” “Looking into the Darkness,” “When We Lost,” and “Afterward” (pp. xi-xxvi, 1-13, 137-142) (29 pgs)
- Assigned Activity
 - Journal 10 (IAT) Due Sunday by 11:59 PM! (10 pts)

WEEK 11: ENGAGED CITIZENSHIP

Monday, November 25th, 2019—Learned Helplessness & the Bystander Effect

- Assigned Reading (53 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)
 - Loeb: “We Don’t Have to Be Saints” (pp. 34-57) (24 pgs)

Wednesday, November 27th, 2019—You Have to Pick Your Team

- Assigned Reading/Viewing (49 pgs)
 - Liu: “Great Citizenship” (pp. 41-73) (33 pgs)
 - Tinsley: “You Have to Pick Your Team” (pp. 406-407) (2 pgs)
 - Schubert: “What Can Students Do?” (pp. 367-368) (2 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 12:30 PM! (20 pts)
 - Course Evaluation Due Today by 11:59 PM! (10 pts)
 - Journal 11 (Thanksgiving) Due Sunday by 11:59 PM!

WEEK 12: FINAL EXAM

Monday, December 2nd, 2019—Student Success Day

- Tim available for office hours.

Friday, December 6th, 2019—Final Exam

- In-Class Final Exam