
POLS 202: AMERICAN GOVERNMENT

Bellevue College
Spring 2020 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

“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.”

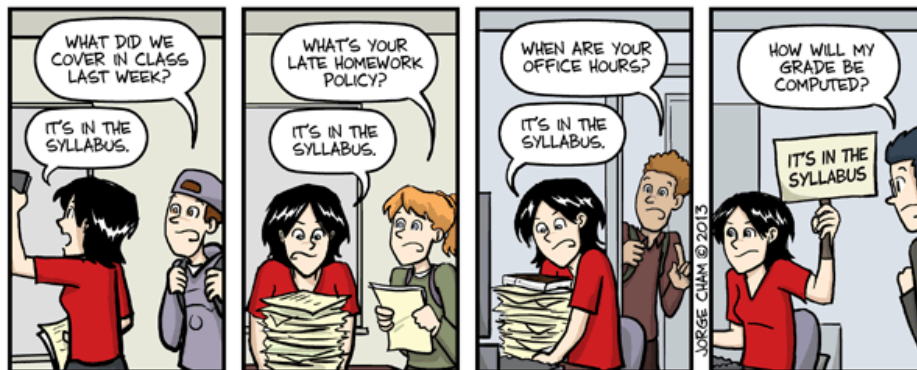
~Frederick Douglass

“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 and politics. 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, cognitive biases, the Declaration of Independence, the Constitution, Congress, the Presidency, the Supreme Court, civil rights, civil disobedience, patriotism, the media, the role of money in politics, engaged citizenship, and more. This is not a current events course, but you will have an opportunity on the discussion board each week to address news topics related to the course content.

COURSE OBJECTIVES

1. To develop a critical understanding of American government and politics.
2. To become more informed and discriminating consumers of political information.
3. To constructively engage in the political process
4. 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 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 log on to the course website several times each week prepared for the day's work, and to actively participate in on-line discussions and activities. ***If you do not understand something please 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 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 undermine the ability of others in the class 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 encouraged on the discussion board (i.e. those that are logically sound and supported by the available evidence); bad arguments will be discouraged. If I challenge one of your arguments, please do not take it personally; rather, please take it as an opportunity to either refine your thinking or better communicate your arguments.

LATE ASSIGNMENTS AND MISSED EXAMS

All major due dates are indicated in the syllabus and on our course website. 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 experience a hardship that you can document and 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.*** Note: *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; ***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.

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. 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. Multiple cases of plagiarism or cheating will result in you failing the course. 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 materials as they are assigned. For those of you who do not have a printer at home you can print in the student computer labs 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), 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)

Citizenship Exam (Credit/No Credit)	(5 pts)	1%
Syllabus Quiz (Graded)	(5 pts)	1%
Profile Picture Assignment (Credit/No Credit)	(5 pts)	1%
Voter Registration Assignment	(5 pts)	1%
Course Evaluation Assignment	(10 pts)	2%
Citizen Pledge	(20 pts)	3%
Citizen Reflection	(50 pts)	8%
Survey Assignment	(50 pts)	8%
Political Action Assignment	(50 pts)	8%
Midterm Exam	(100 pts)	17%
Final Exam	(100 pts)	17%
Weekly Participation (10 pts per week)	(100 pts)	17%
Weekly Journal (10 pts per week)	(100 pts)	17%
	(600 pts)	100%

GRADEPOINT CONVERSION CHART

Grade	Percentage	Grade	Percentage
A	93-100%	C	73-76%
A-	90-92%	C-	70-72%
B+	87-89%	D+	67-69%
B	83-86%	D	60-66%
B-	80-82%	F	59% & Below
C+	77-79%		

CITIZENSHIP EXAM (5 PTS ~ 1%) (DUE APRIL 8TH)

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 so minutes—either you know the answer or you don't. 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. ***You need to take the quiz AND post your score and reflections on the discussion board to receive credit for this assessment.*** 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 it in the Week One “Module,” but you can also access it by clicking on the “Quizzes” heading. Good luck!

SYLLABUS QUIZ (5 PTS ~ 1%) (DUE APRIL 9TH)

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%) (DUE APRIL 10TH)

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 APRIL 19TH)

For this assignment, you need to register to vote by 11:59 PM on April 19th. 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 sixteen (that is the age you can register to vote in Washington State), or you have a very good reason why you do not want to register to vote, please register someone else to vote and document that you did that for this assignment. Please let me know if you have any questions.

CITIZEN PLEDGE/REFLECTION (70 PTS ~ 11%) (JUNE 16TH)

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 links 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, Schubert, 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 at least seven to ten course materials to support your reflections in this assignment. 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 26TH)

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 SUNDAY, MAY 31ST BY 11:59 PM)

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 journal response 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 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. ***Note: your lowest grade on this assignment will be dropped. In other words, your grade will be based on 10 of the 11 weeks of discussion.*** 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) (DUE MAY 10TH)

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) (DUE JUNE 18TH)

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, SELF DELUSION, AND POLITICAL IDEOLOGY

Wednesday, April 8th, 2020—Civic Ignorance

- Assigned Reading (18 pgs/6 mins)
 - Strauss: “Many Americans Know Nothing About Their Government” (6 pgs)
 - Longworth: “America’s Stupidity Epidemic” (3 pgs)
 - Romano: “How Dumb Are We?” (4 pgs)
 - Maher: “Maybe We Need A New Citizenship Test” (2 mins)
 - Nichols: “America’s Cult of Ignorance” (5 pgs)
 - Souter: “How Democracy Dies” (4 mins)
- Assigned Activity
 - Citizenship Exam Due Today by 11:59 PM! (5 pts) (Credit/No-Credit)

Thursday, April 9th, 2020—Self Delusion and Intellectual Humility

- Assigned Reading (31 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)
 - Connor: “Are You Open to Being Wrong?” (7 pts)
- Assigned Activity
 - Syllabus Quiz Due Today by 11:59 PM! (5 pts) (GRADED)

Friday, April 10th, 2020—The Moral Roots of Liberals and Conservatives

- Assigned Reading/Viewing (19 pgs/23 mins)
 - Lakoff: “The Worldview Problem for American Politics” (pp. 24-37) (14 pgs)
 - Haidt: “The Moral Roots of Liberals and Conservatives” (19 mins)
 - Boghossian: “Engage with People Who Disagree with You” (5 pgs)
 - Boghossian/Lindsay: “How to Disagree Better” (4 mins)
- Assigned Activity
 - Profile Picture Assignment Due Today by 11:59 PM! (5 pts) (CREDIT/NO-CREDIT)
 - Journal 1 (Political Ideology) Due Sunday by 11:59 PM! (10 pts)
 - Weekly Participation 1 Due Sunday by 11:59 PM! (10 pts)

WEEK 2: THE IRONY OF DEMOCRACY, THE DECLARATION OF INDEPENDENCE & THE CONSTITUTION

Monday April 13th, 2020—The Irony of Democracy

- Assigned Reading (21 pgs)

- Schubert: “To the Student” (pp. xvii-xviii) (2 pgs)
- Schubert: “Ch. 1: The Irony of Democracy” (pp. 1-19) (19 pgs)

Tuesday, April 14th, 2020—The Declaration of Independence

- Assigned Reading/Viewing (29 pgs)
 - Wolf: “Introduction” (pp. 3-12) (10 pgs)
 - Wolf: “Freedom Is Intended As A Challenge” (pp. 13-21) (9 pgs)
 - Jefferson: “The Declaration of Independence” (5 pgs)
 - Stanton/Mott (Declaration of Sentiments) (2 pgs) (REFERENCE/OPTIONAL)
 - Vietnamese Declaration of Independence (REFERENCE/OPTIONAL)
 - CATO Institute: “Reading the Declaration of Independence in 2019” (5 pgs)

Wednesday, April 15th, 2020—The U.S. Constitution

- Assigned Reading (97 pgs/4 mins)
 - Hennessey: “The Graphic Constitution” (pp. 1-87) (87 pgs) (THIS IS A CARTOON BOOK)
 - Schubert: “The Constitution of the United States of America” (pp. 369-378) (10 pgs)
 - Ted-Ed: “How Is Power Divided in the United States Government?” (4 mins)

Thursday, April 16th, 2020—Amendments to the U.S. Constitution

- Assigned Reading/Viewing (64 pgs/2 mins)
 - BBC: “Veil of Ignorance” (2 mins)
 - Hennessey: “The Graphic Constitution” (pp. 88-141) (54 pgs) (THIS IS A CARTOON BOOK)
 - Schubert: “Amendments to the Constitution” (pp. 378-385) (8 pgs)
 - Constitution Center: “Eight Basic Facts About the Bill of Rights” (2 pgs)

Friday, April 17th, 2020—The Elite Consensus of the Founding Fathers

- Assigned Reading (30 pgs)
 - Zinn: “Some Truths Are Not Self-Evident” (pp. 110-112) (3 pgs)
 - Schubert: “Ch. 2: The Elite Consensus of the Founding Fathers” (pp. 21-47) (27 pgs)
- Assigned Activity
 - Journal 2 (Veil of Ignorance) Due Sunday by 11:59 PM! (10 pts)
 - Weekly Participation 2 Due Sunday by 11:59 PM! (10 pts)
 - Voter Registration Assignment Due Sunday by 11:59 PM! (5 pts)

WEEK 3: ELITES, INEQUALITY, MASSES, POWER & THE SURVEY ASSIGNMENT

Monday, April 20th, 2020—Elites in America

- Assigned Reading (28 pgs)
 - Schubert: “Ch. 3: Elites in America” (pp. 49-76) (28 pgs)

Tuesday, April 21st, 2020—Economic Inequality

- Assigned Reading (30 pgs/26 mins)
 - Stiglitz: “Of the 1%, By the 1%, For the 1%” (pp. 1-4) (4 pgs)
 - CBS This Morning: “What Does Inequality Look Like?” (6 mins)
 - Reich: “The Paradox” (pp. 3-14) (12 pgs)
 - Leonhardt: “The Rich Really Do Pay Lower Taxes Than You” (3 pgs)
 - Millman: “Report Calls Washington the Most Regressive Tax Structure...Again” (2 pgs)
 - Wilkinson: “How economic inequality harms societies” (17 mins)
 - Hanauer: “The Pitchforks Are Coming...For Us Plutocrats” (9 pgs)
 - TED: “Two Monkeys Were Paid Unequally” (3 mins)
 - Oliver: “Wealth Gap” (14 mins) (OPTIONAL/HUMOROUS)

Wednesday, April 22nd, 2020—Masses in the United States

- Assigned Reading (27 pgs)
 - Schubert: “Ch. 4: Masses in the United States” (pp. 77-103) (27 pgs)

Thursday, April 23rd, 2020—You’re More Powerful Than You Think

- Assigned Reading/Viewing (44 pgs)
 - Liu: Excerpts from *You’re More Powerful Than You Think* (pp. ix-xii, 3-14, 17-24, 25-44) (44 pgs)

Friday, April 24th, 2020—Catch-Up Day/Work on Survey Assignment

- Assigned Activity
 - Journal 3 (TBD) 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: THE MEDIA, FILTER BUBBLES, FAKE NEWS, CIVIL DISOBEDIENCE & THE MLK YOU DON’T SEE ON TV

Monday, April 27th, 2020—The Media

- Assigned Reading (22 pgs)
 - Schubert: “Ch. 5: The Media” (pp. 105-126) (22 pgs)

Tuesday, April 28th, 2020—Filter Bubbles

- Assigned Reading/Viewing (11 pgs/9 mins)
 - Postman: “Amusing Ourselves to Death” (pp. 1-4) (4 pgs)
 - Postman: “My Dad Predicted Trump in 1985” (2 pgs)
 - Waters: “Electronic Isolation Brings Cold Comfort” (pp. 1-2) (2 pgs)

- Pariser: “The Filter Bubble” (9 mins)
- March: “How to Break Your Online Filter Bubble” (3 pgs)

Wednesday, April 29th, 2020—Fake News

- Assigned Reading/Viewing (36 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)
 - Kiely & Richardson: “How to Spot Fake News” (3 pgs)
 - NPR: “Students Have Dismaying ‘Inability’ to Tell Fake News from Real, Study Finds” (4 pgs)
 - Davis: “How to Self-Check the News And Get the Facts” (pp. 1-6) (6 pgs)
 - The News Literacy Project: “10 Questions for Fake News Detection” (1 pg)

Thursday, April 30th, 2020—Civil Disobedience

- Assigned Reading/Viewing (19 pgs/2 mins)
 - BBC Radio 4: “Civil Disobedience” (2 mins)
 - Thoreau: “Civil Disobedience” (pp. 286-289) (4 pgs)
 - Canon, Lincoln, & King: “Civil Disobedience” (pp. 127-141) (15 pgs)

Friday, May 1st, 2020—The MLK You Don’t See on TV

- Assigned Reading (7 pgs/57 mins)
 - Solomon: “The MLK You Don’t See on TV” (2 pgs)
 - Smiley: “A Call to Conscience” (57 mins)
 - The Root: “MLK Would Never Shut Down A Freeway...” (5 pgs)
- Assigned Activity
 - Journal 4 (Factchecking) Due Sunday by 11:59 PM! (10 pts)
 - Weekly Participation 4 Due Sunday by 11:59 PM! (10 pts)

WEEK 5: U.S. ELECTIONS, PATRIOTISM & CIVIL DISOBEDIENCE

Monday, May 4th, 2020— Elections and Democracy

- Assigned Reading/Viewing (28 pgs/16 mins)
 - Schubert: “Elections, Parties, and Democracy” (pp. 127-154) (28 pgs)
 - Grey: “The Problems with First Past the Post Voting” (7 mins)
 - Grey: “The Alternative Vote Explained” (4 mins)

Tuesday, May 5th, 2020—The Primary Process

- Assigned Reading/Viewing (15 pgs/7 mins)
 - YouTube: “How to Become President of the United States” (2 mins)
 - Grey: “Primary Elections Explained” (5 mins)
 - The Guardian: “U.S. Elections 2020” (4 pgs)

- Fairvote: “Open and Closed Primaries” (2 pgs)
- Vox: Washington Has A Top-Two Primary. Here’s How It Works” (3 pgs)
- Leonhardt: “Iowa Should Never Go First Again” (2 pgs)
- NBC News: “Delegate Count” (1 pg)
- Politico: “What’s the Deal with a Contested Convention, Anyway?” (3 pgs)

Wednesday, May 6th, 2020—The Electoral College

- Assigned Reading (23 pgs/17 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)
 - Ted-Ed: “Does Your Vote Count?” (5 mins)
 - 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)

Thursday, May 7th, 2020—The Value of Comparison

- Assigned Viewing (5 pgs/120 mins)
 - The Atlantic: “What America Can Learn from the Rest of the World” (1 pg)
 - Gerson: “To America Great Again, We Need to Leave the Country” (3 pgs)
 - Speth: “We’re Number One” (1st 2 pgs)
 - Moore: *Where to Invade Next* (120 mins)

Friday, May 8th, 2020—Midterm

- Assigned Reading (2 pgs)
 - Midterm Review Sheet (Available One Week Before Exam)
- Assigned Activity
 - Journal 5 (The Value of Comparison) 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 PARADOX OF CITIZENSHIP, GETTING INVOLVED, HOPE & PATRIOTISM

Monday, May 11th, 2020—The Paradox of Citizenship

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

Tuesday, May 12th, 2020—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)

Wednesday, May 13th, 2020—Hope in the Dark

- Assigned Reading (29 pgs/6 mins)
 - Solnit: “Grounds for Hope,” “Looking into Darkness” (pp. xi-xxvi, 1-5, 6-13) (29 pgs)
 - Kaur: “What If This Is Not the Darkness of the Tomb, But the Darkness of the Womb?” (6 mins)

Thursday, May 14th, 2020—Patriotism

- Assigned Reading (22 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)
 - Abdul-Jabbar: “Insulting Colin Kaepernick Says More About Our Patriotism Than His” (2 pgs)

Friday, May 15th, 2020—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)
- Assigned Activity
 - Journal 6 (Action Assignment) Due Sunday by 11:59 PM! (10 pts)
 - Weekly Participation 6 Due Sunday by 11:59 PM! (10 pts)

WEEK 7: MONEY IN POLITICS

Monday, May 18th, 2020—Elites and Organized Interests

- Assigned Reading (22 pgs)
 - Schubert: “Elites and Organized Interests” (pp. 159-179) (21 pgs)
 - Boren: “Major Study Finds the U.S. Is An Oligarchy” (1 pg)

Tuesday, May 19th, 2020—Money in Politics

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

Wednesday, May 20th, 2020—What So Much Damn Money Does

- Assigned Reading (47 pgs)
 - Lessig: “What So Much Damn Money Does” (pp. 125-171) (47 pgs)

Thursday, May 21st, 2020—Reforming the System

- Assigned Reading/Viewing (27 pgs)
 - Brennan Center for Justice: “Citizens United Explained” (5 pgs)
 - Lessig: “Reforms That Would Reform” (pp. 264-272) (9 pgs)
 - Lessig: “Conclusion” (pp. 309-317) (9 pgs)
 - Lessig: “What You Can Do, Now” (pp. 323-326) (4 pgs)

Friday, May 22nd, 2020—Good Enough Activism

- Assigned Reading (24 pgs)
 - Loeb: “We Don’t Have to Be Saints” (pp. 34-57) (24 pgs)
- Assigned Activity
 - Journal 7 (Money in Politics) Due Sunday by 11:59 PM! (10 pts)
 - Weekly Participation 7 Due Sunday by 11:59 PM! (10 pts)

WEEK 8: MEMORIAL DAY, CONGRESS, GERRYMANDERING, THE PRESIDENCY, AUTHORITARIANISM, DEMAGOGUERY, & YOUR ACTION ASSIGNMENT

Monday, May 25th, 2020—No School (Memorial Day)

Tuesday, May 26th, 2020—The Legislative Elite

- Assigned Reading/Viewing (34 pgs)
 - Schubert: “Congress: The Legislative Elite” (pp. 181-212) (32 pgs)
 - Golgowski: “D.C. Votes to Become 51st State” (2 pgs)
 - Colbert: “Taxation without Representation in Washington, D.C.” (7 mins) (OPTIONAL)

Wednesday, May 27th, 2020—Gerrymandering

- Assigned Reading/Viewing (4 pgs/19 mins)
 - Politifact: “Congress Has 11% Approval Ratings” (1 pg)
 - Oliver: “Gerrymandering” (19 mins)
 - Washington Post: “How to Steal an Election: A Visual Guide” (1 pg)
 - NYT: “The Great Gerrymander of 2012” (1 pg)
 - NYT: “Supreme Court Bars Challenges to Partisan Gerrymandering” (1 pg)
 - Grey: “Gerrymandering Explained” (5 mins) (OPTIONAL)
 - Grey: “Multiple Party Gerrymandering” (4 mins) (OPTIONAL)
 - Ted-Ed: “Gerrymandering: How Drawing Jagged Lines Can Impact an Election” (4 mins) (OPTIONAL)
 - Grey: “A Gerrymandering Solution” (4 mins) (OPTIONAL)

Thursday, May 28th, 2020—The Presidency

- Assigned Reading (28 pgs/18 mins)
 - Schubert: “The Presidency” (pp. 213-232, 238) (21 pgs)
 - Oliver: “Authoritarianism” (18 mins)
 - Gerson: “Are Republicans Abetting a Demagogue?” (2 pgs)
 - Hochschild: “Trump’s Demagoguery is an Old Tradition” (5 pgs)

Friday, May 29th, 2020—Catch-Up Day/Work on Action Assignment

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

WEEK 9: THE JUDICIARY, THE WAR ON DRUGS, FEDERALISM, CIVIL RIGHTS,

Monday, June 1st, 2020—The Judiciary

- Assigned Reading (20 pgs)
 - Schubert: “Courts: Elites in Black Robes” (pp. 241-260) (20 pgs)

Tuesday, June 2nd, 2020—Interpreting the Constitution

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

Wednesday, June 3rd, 2020—The War on Drugs/Political Action Assignment

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

Thursday, June 4th, 2020—Federalism

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

Friday, June 5th, 2020—Great Citizenship

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

WEEK 10: CIVIL RIGHTS WITH AN EMPHASIS ON RACE

Monday, June 8th, 2020—Civil Rights

- Assigned Reading/Viewing (24 pgs)
 - Schubert: “Civil Rights: Diversifying the Elite” (pp. 315-338) (24 pgs)

Tuesday, June 9th, 2020—The Hidden Costs of Stereotypes

- Assigned Reading/Viewing (4 pgs/74 mins)
 - Scientific American: “How to Think About Implicit Bias” (4 pgs)
 - ABC: What Would You Do?—Bicycle Thief (12 mins)
 - YouTube: “What Kind of Asian Are You?” (2 mins)
 - Frontline: “A Class Divided” (60 mins)

Wednesday, June 10th, 2020—The Case for Reparations/Segregated Seattle

- Assigned Reading (22 pgs/24 mins)
 - Coates: “The Case for Reparations” (pp. 54-71) (18 pgs)
 - Brooks: “The Case for Reparations: A Slow Convert to the Cause” (2 pgs)
 - Henderson: “Why Is Seattle So Racially Segregated?” (6 mins)
 - Pulkkinen: “Here’s How Seattle Became So Segregated” (2 pgs)
 - Segregated Seattle (Website to Explore)
 - Oliver: “School Segregation” (18 mins)

Thursday, June 11th, 2020—When Whites Don’t Get It

- Assigned Reading (16 pgs/69 mins)
 - Wise: *White Like Me* (69 mins)
 - Kristoff: “When Whites Don’t Get It: Parts 1-7” (14 pgs)
 - Ayres: “When Whites Get A Free Pass” (2 pgs)

Friday, June 12th, 2020—White Nationalism

- Assigned Viewing (22 mins or 54 mins)
 - VICE: “Charlottesville: Race and terror” (22 mins) or Frontline: “Documenting Hate: Charlottesville” (54 mins)
- Assigned Activity
 - Journal 10 (IAT) Due Sunday by 11:59 PM! (10 pts)
 - Weekly Participation 10 Due Sunday by 11:59 PM! (10 pts)
 - Course Evaluation Assignment Due Sunday by 11:59 PM! (10 pts)

WEEK 11: RESPONSIBLE CITIZENSHIP & CITIZEN PLEDGE

Monday, June 14th, 2020—The Optimism of Uncertainty

- Assigned Reading/Viewing (17 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)
- Tinsley: “You Have to Pick Your Team” (2 pgs)
- Brockman: “Dispair Is Not A Strategy” (3 pgs)

Tuesday, June 15th, 2020—Citizen Pledge/Reflection

- Assigned Activity
 - Citizen Pledge Due by 11:59 PM! (20 pts)
 - Citizen Reflection Due by 11:59 PM! (50 pts)

Wednesday, June 16th, 2020—Prepare for Final Exam

Thursday, June 17th, 2020—Final Exam

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