Spring 2-1-1999

PSC 531.01: American Core Readings

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THE UNIVERSITY OF MONTANA
Department of Political Science

PSc 531 American Core Readings
Spring 1999
Dr. Laslovich

Office: LA 354
Hrs: MW 9-10:00, W 1-2:00 and by app’t (4418)

Course Requirements - Students will be evaluated upon the following basis:

Seminar Participation ........................................... 50%
Writing Assignments ........................................... 50%

Writing Assignments
Each student will be assigned one volume for each seminar topic upon which they will prepare a one-page overview for distribution to fellow students and the instructor. The overview should summarize the author’s key points. Weekly seminars will consist of brief presentations of their assigned readings and group discussion of themes and contrasting approaches to the subject matter.

Following the seminar, students will submit a five-page critical essay expanding upon the major themes (limited to one or two) addressed in their assigned volume in light of the seminar discussion. These essays are due one week after each seminar.

Seminar Dates and Readings - readings will be assigned by the instructor. Also note that dates are subject to change.

Introduction - Jan. 27

Federalism - Feb. 3 and 10

Political Parties - Feb. 17 and 24
Political Parties (continued)

Elections - March 3

Interest Groups - March 10
Executive Branch - March 24 and March 31
Herring, Pendleton. Presidential Leadership. 1940.

Congress - April 7 and 14

The Judiciary - April 21 and 28
Bickel, Alexander M. The Least Dangerous Branch: The Supreme Court at the Bar of Politics. 1962.
Tribe, Laurence, H. God Save This Honorable Court. (1985).
Bureaucracy - May 5
Aberbach, Joel D., Robert D. Putnam, and Bert A. Rockman.  
"Bureaucrats And Politicians in Western Democracies." Cambridge, 
Allison, Graham T. "Essence of Decision." Boston: Little, Brown, 
1971.
Benveniste, G. "The Politics of Expertise." Berkeley and London: 
Hyneman, C.S. "Bureaucracy in a Democracy." New York: Harper and 
Row, 1950.
Patterson, Jr., Bradley H. "The Ring of Power: The White House 