

Spring 2-1-1996

## PSC 531.01: American Core Readings

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THE UNIVERSITY OF MONTANA  
Department of Political Science

PSc 531 American Core Readings  
Spring 1996

M. Laslovich  
Office: LA 415  
Hrs.: MW 1-2:00,  
TR 10-11:00, and by  
app't (4901)

Course Requirements

Students will prepare an one-page outline of their assigned volume for each seminar which will be distributed to fellow students and the instructor. Students will choose their text in consultation with the instructor. The outline should summarize the key points addressed by the author.

In each seminar students will make a five-minute presentation of their key points followed by a general discussion led by the instructor.

Students will then submit a five-page critical essay identifying major themes (limited to one or two) addressed in their assigned volume and critically evaluating the book's strengths and weaknesses. Critical essays are due one week after the seminar.

Grades will be assigned as follows:

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

Seminar Readings (Choose one volume in consultation with the instructor)

Political Parties

Burns, James M., The Deadlock of Democracy: Four-Party Politics in America (1963);  
Burnham, Walter Dean, Critical Elections and the Mainsprings of American Politics (1970);  
Crotty, William J. and Gary C. Jacobson. American Parties in Decline (1980);  
Key, V.O., Southern Politics in State and Nation (1949);  
Polsby, Nelson, Consequences of Policy Reform;  
Sabato, Larry J., The Party's Just Begun (1988);  
Schattschneider, E.E., Party Government (1942); and  
Wattenberg, Martin, The Decline of American Political Parties, 1952-1980 (1984).

Interest Groups

Berry, Jeffrey M., The Interest Group Society (1989);  
Dahl, Robert, Who Governs? (1961);  
Lowi, Theodore, The End of Liberalism (1979);  
McConnell, Grant, Private Power and American Democracy (1966);  
Ranney, Austin, Curing the Mischiefs of Factions (1975);  
Schattschneider, E.E., The Semisovereign People (1975); and  
Truman, David, The Governmental Process (1971).

NOTE - the remainder of the seminar reading list will be distributed at our next meeting.