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Spring 2-1-2010

### PSC 540.01: Seminar in American Government

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**American Government**  
University of Montana  
Political Science 540  
Thursdays 4:10 – 6:30, LA 344  
Spring 2010

Robert Saldin  
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(406) 243-4418

Office: Liberal Arts 354  
Office Hours: TuTh 10-11  
& 3:30-4:00

**Required Texts and Other Readings**

The following books are required:

- John W. Kingdon, *America the Unusual* (New York: St. Martin's/ Worth, 1999).
- Geoffrey Layman, *The Great Divide: Religious and Cultural Conflict in American Party Politics* (New York: Columbia University Press, 2001).
- Stephen Skowronek, *The Politics Presidents Make: Leadership from John Adams to Bill Clinton* (Cambridge: Harvard University Press, 1993).
- Eric Schickler, *Disjointed Pluralism: Institutional Innovation and the Development of the U.S. Congress* (Princeton: Princeton University Press, 2001).
- James W. Ceaser, Jack Rakove, Nancy Rosenblum, and Rogers Smith, *Nature and History in American Political Development: A Debate* (Cambridge, MA: Harvard University Press, 2006).
- John Gerring, *Party Ideologies in America, 1828-1996* (New York: Cambridge University Press, 1998).
- William J.M. Claggett and Byron E. Shafer, *The American Public Mind: The Issue Structure of Mass Politics in the Postwar United States* (New York: Cambridge University Press, 2010).

Other readings will be posted on the course's Blackboard website. Blackboard readings are designated on the syllabus as: "(BB)." Contact me if you are not familiar with Blackboard.

The instructor reserves the right to add, delete, or alter course readings as needed.

**Requirements and Grading**

Paper:	35%
Final:	35%
Participation:	30%

Exams: Makeup exams will only be permitted if I have been notified *prior* to the missed exam and only if I agree that the absence was necessitated by a serious, documented emergency. Check your calendar now to make sure you do not have anything that conflicts with the exams.

Paper: Each students will write one 20 page paper on a topic of his/her choosing that is related to the course. Papers will be due on May 4. Students are encouraged to meet with the instructor early in the semester to discuss their paper and its design.

Participation: Most of our class time will be spent discussing the course readings in a seminar setting. Consequently, both quantity and quality of class participation will be very important. Students are expected to do all of the assigned readings before each class meeting and come to class prepared to discuss the material. Daily attendance will be taken and factored into participation grades. *Students missing 3 or more of our scheduled class meetings will not pass the course.*

- On three occasions, as assigned by the instructor, each student will write a response paper to the week's readings, circulate it to the class by 9:00 AM Thursday, and present their paper in class.
- Each student will write one review of a book on the suggested reading list (or a book that is approved ahead of time by the instructor) and present this review to the class.

Grades: Grades will be assigned according to the following percentages:

A 93-100	B+ 87-89.9	C+ 77-79.9	D+ 67-69.9	F below 60
A- 90-92.9	B 83-86.9	C 73-76.9	D 63-66.9	
	B- 80-82.9	C- 70-72.9	D- 60-62.9	

\*\*\*\* The Final Exam and the paper must be completed in order to pass the course.\*\*\*\*

### **Academic Honesty**

All students must practice academic honesty. Academic misconduct is subject to an academic penalty by the course instructor and a disciplinary sanction by the University. All students need to be familiar with the Student Conduct Code. The Code is available online at <http://life.umt.edu/SA/documents/fromWeb/StudentConductCode1.pdf>. I take academic honesty very seriously, and will do my utmost to prevent, uncover, and penalize any form of cheating. Please contact me if you have any questions or concerns about academic honesty.

### **DSS Students**

Qualified students with disabilities will receive appropriate accommodations in this course. Students with disabilities requesting accommodations on exams, papers, or other course requirements should contact me as soon as possible, and must contact DSS in order to arrange for and provide me with a letter of approval for accommodations at least one week prior to the first exam. DSS is in Lommasson Center 154.

## COURSE SCHEDULE

### Week 1, Jan. 28: Introduction to the Course

## **PART I: CONSTAT OR RECURRING INFLUENCES ON AMERICAN POLITICS**

### **Week 2, Feb. 4: American Exceptionalism**

John W. Kingdon, *America the Unusual* (New York: St. Martin's/ Worth, 1999).

Byron E. Shafer, "American Exceptionalism," *Annual Review of Political Science* 2(1999), 445-463 (BB).

#### Suggested:

Byron Shafer, ed., *Is America Different? A New Look at American Exceptionalism*, Oxford University Press, 1991.

Seymour Martin Lipset, *American Exceptionalism: A Double-Edged Sword* (New York: W.W. Norton, 1997).

### **Week 3, Feb. 11: American Political Culture**

Louis Hartz, *The Liberal Tradition in America* (New York: Harcourt, Brace, Jovanovich, 1955), selections (BB).

Thomas L. Pangle, *The Spirit of Modern Republicanism: The Moral Vision of the American Founders and the Philosophy of Locke* (Chicago: University of Chicago Press, 1988), selections (BB).

Rogers Smith, "Beyond Tocqueville, Myrdal, and Hartz: The Multiple Traditions in America," *American Political Science Review* 87:3 (1993), 549-66. (BB)

Samuel P. Huntington, *American Politics: The Promise of Disharmony* (Cambridge, MA: Harvard University Press, 1981), selections (BB).

#### Suggested:

Rogers Smith, *Civic Ideals* (New Haven: Yale University Press, 1997).

James Davison Hunter, *Culture Wars: The Struggle to Control the Family, Art, Education, Law, and Politics in America* (New York: Basic Books, 1994).

Morris Fiorina, *What Culture War? The Myth of a Polarized America* (Longman, 2004).

### **Week 4, Feb. 18: Social Cleavages**

Geoffrey Layman, *The Great Divide: Religious and Cultural Conflict in American Party Politics* (New York: Columbia University Press, 2001).

Jennifer Hochschild, *Facing Up to the American Dream: Race, Class, and the Soul of the Nation* (Princeton: Princeton University Press, 1995), Chapter 2 (BB).

#### Suggested:

Hugh Heclo, Mary Jo Bane, Michael Kazin, Alan Wolfe, *Christianity and American Democracy* (Cambridge: Harvard University Press, 2009).

Jon Shields, *The Democratic Virtues of the Christian Right* (Princeton: Princeton University Press, 2009).

**Week 5: Feb. 25: Institutional Structure, Part I: The Presidency**

Stephen Skowronek, *The Politics Presidents Make: Leadership from John Adams to George Bush* (Cambridge: Harvard University Press, 1993).

Suggested:

Richard Neustadt, *Presidential Power and the Modern Presidents* (New York: Free Press, 1991).

Charles O. Jones, *The Presidency in a Separated System* (Washington: Brookings Institution Press, 2005 (revised ed.)).

**Week 6, Mar. 4: Class will not meet this week**

**Week 7, Mar. 11: Institutional Structure, Part II: Congress and the Courts**

Eric Schickler, *Disjointed Pluralism: Institutional Innovation and the Development of the U.S. Congress* (Princeton: Princeton University Press, 2001).

Gerald N. Rosenberg, *The Hollow Hope: Can Courts Bring About Social Change?* (Chicago: University of Chicago Press, 1991) (selections) (BB).

Nathan Glazer, "Towards an Imperial Judiciary?" *The Public Interest* 41 (Fall 1975) (BB).

Suggested:

David Mayhew, *Congress: The Electoral Connection* (New Haven: Yale University Press, 1975).

Keith Wittington, *Political Foundations of Judicial Supremacy* (Princeton: Princeton University Press, 2009).

**Week 8, Mar. 18: Partisan Realignment**

Walter Dean Burnham, "Party Systems and the Political Process," in *The American Party Systems: Stages of Development*, Burnham and William Nisbet Chambers, eds. (Oxford University Press, 1967) (BB).

James L. Sundquist, *Dynamics of the Party System: Alignment and Realignment of Political Parties in the United States*, rev.ed. (Washington, DC: Brookings Institution, 1983) (selections) (BB).

David R. Mayhew, "Electoral Realignments," *Annual Review of Political Science* Vol. 3 (2000), 449-74 (BB).

Suggested:

V.O. Key, Jr., "A Theory of Critical Elections," *Journal of Politics* 17(February 1955), 3-18.

Walter Dean Burnham, *Critical Elections and the Mainsprings of American Politics* (New York: W.W. Norton, 1970).

Jerome M. Clubb, William H. Flanagan, and Nancy H. Zingale, *Partisan Realignment: Voters, Parties, and Government in American History* (Boulder: Westview, 1990).

Byron E. Shafer, ed., *The End of Realignment? Interpreting American Electoral Eras* (Madison: University of Wisconsin Press, 1991).

Elizabeth Sanders, "In Defense of Realignment and Regimes," *Polity* (2005).

David Mayhew, *Electoral Realignments: A Critique of an American Genre* (New Haven: Yale University Press, 2003).

## **PART II: EVOLUTIONARY INFLUENCES ON AMERICAN POLITICS**

### **Week 9, Mar. 25: Political Development**

James W. Ceaser, Jack Rakove, Nancy Rosenblum, and Rogers Smith, *Nature and History in American Political Development: A Debate* (Cambridge, MA: Harvard University Press, 2006).

Nelson Polsby, *How Congress Evolves: Social Bases of Institutional Change* (New York: Oxford University Press, 2003), selections (BB).

Jeffrey K. Tulis, *The Rhetorical Presidency* (Princeton: Princeton University Press, 1987), selections (BB).

#### **Suggested:**

Karen Orren and Stephen Skowronek, *In Search of American Political Development* (New York: Cambridge University Press, 2004).

Paul Pierson, *Politics in Time: History, Institutions, and Social Analysis* (New York: Princeton University Press, 2004).

James W. Ceaser, *Presidential Selection: Theory and Development* (Princeton: Princeton University Press, 1979).

Sidney M. Milkis, *The President and the Parties* (New York: Oxford University Press, 1993).

Daniel Carpenter, *The Forging of Bureaucratic Autonomy: Reputations, Networks, and Policy Innovation, 1862-1928* (Princeton: Princeton University Press, 2001).

### **Week 10, Apr. 1: NO CLASS: Spring Break**

### **Week 11, Apr. 8: Ideologies**

John Gerring, *Party Ideologies in America, 1828-1996* (New York: Cambridge University Press, 1998).

#### **Suggested:**

Daniel J. Elazar, *The American Mosaic: The Impact of Space, Time, and Culture on American Politics* (Boulder: Westview Press, 1994).

Herbert McClosky and John Zaller, *The American Ethos: Public Attitudes toward Capitalism and Democracy* (Cambridge: Harvard University Press, 1984).

Everett Carl Ladd, *The American Ideology: An Exploration of the Origins, Meaning, and Role of American Political Ideas* (Storrs, CT: The Roper Center, 1994).

### **Week 12, Apr. 15: NO CLASS: National Conference on Undergraduate Research. At the Provost's urging, students are "academically redirected to attend NCUR sessions in lieu of class time."**

**Week 13, Apr. 22: Issue Evolution**

William J.M. Claggett and Byron E. Shafer, *The American Public Mind: The Issue Structure of Mass Politics in the Postwar United States* (New York: Cambridge University Press, 2010).

Edward G. Carmines and James A. Stimson, "On the Structure and Sequence of Issue Evolution," *American Political Science Review* 80 (Sept. 1986), 901-20 (JSTOR).

Suggested:

Theda Skocpol, *Protecting Soldiers and Mothers: The Political Origins of Social Policy in the United States* (Cambridge: Harvard University Press, 1995).

**PART III: CONTINGENT EVENTS IN AMERICAN POLITICS**

**Week 14, Apr. 29:**

Ira Katznelson, "Rewriting the Epic of America," in *Shaped by War and Trade: International Influences on American Political Development* (Princeton: Princeton University Press, 2002) (BB).

David Mayhew, "Events as Causes," *Political Contingency: Studying the Unexpected, the Accidental, and the Unforeseen*, Ian Shapiro and Sonu Bedi, eds. (New York: NYU Press, 2007) (BB).

Robert Saldin, "World War I and the 'System of 1896,'" 72:1 (Oct. 2010) *Journal of Politics* (forthcoming) (BB).

Suggested:

Ian Shapiro and Sonu Bedi, eds., *Political Contingency: Studying the Unexpected, the Accidental, and the Unforeseen* (New York: NYU Press, 2007).

**Week 15, May 6: Class will not meet this week; papers due.**