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Spring 2-1-2003

### PSC 540.01: Seminar in American Politics

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**Core Readings in American Government  
PSC 540  
Spring 2003**

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Office Hours: MW – 2:00-2:45, TR – 3:45-4:30**

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**Course Requirements**

Student evaluation is based on the following criteria:

Seminar Participation- ----- 50%  
Writing Assignments- ----- 50%

Attendance at all seminars is mandatory. Each unexcused absence will result in an automatic lowering of your final grade by 10 points.

**Writing Assignments**

Each student will be assigned one volume for each seminar topic upon which he/she will prepare a 1- 1½ page overview for distribution to other students and to the instructor. These will be due no later than 8:30 am on Monday each week. All students will come to class having read the other summaries. Each student (or group of students) will present and lead the discussion around their assigned reading. As a group, we will discuss the various themes and contrasting approaches to the week's topic.

Following the seminar, students will submit a 5-6 page critical essay expanding upon the major themes addressed in the readings and the seminar discussion, choosing at least two to explore in-depth. These essays are due one week after each seminar, at the beginning of Tuesday's class.

Reading assignments will be made during the first meeting.

**Seminar Schedule**

**January 28 - Week I – Introductions and Reading Assignments**

**February 4 - Week II – The Constitution and American Political Culture**

- Robert Dahl, *A Preface to Democratic Theory*. 1956. (152)
- Richard J. Ellis, *American Political Cultures*. 1993. (268)
- Herbert Storing and Murray Dry, *What the Anti-Federalists Were For*. 1981. (77), and chapter 2,3,6&9 from Charles Beard, *An Economic Interpretation of the Constitution of the United States*, (102)
- Samuel Huntington, *American Politics: The Promise of Disharmony*. 1983. (262)
- Herbert McCloskey and John Zaller. *The American Ethos*. 1984. (302)

**February 11 - Week III – Federalism**

- Elazar, Daniel. *American Federalism: A View From the States*. 1972. (256)
- David Walker, *The Rebirth of Federalism: Slouching Towards Washington*. 1995. (384)
- Timothy Conlan, *From New Federalism to Devolution: Twenty-Five Years of Intergovernmental Reform*. 1998. (325)
- Paul Peterson, *The Price of Federalism*. 1995. (264)

- Michael Berkman, *The State Roots of National Politics: Congress and the Tax Agenda, 1978-1986*. 1993. (195)

#### **February 18 - Week IV – Belief Systems and Public Opinion**

- Carole Pateman, *Participation and Democratic Theory*. 1970. (132)
- John R. Hibbing and Elizabeth Theiss-Morse, *Stealth Democracy: American's Beliefs about How Government Should Work*. 2002. (288)
- W. Russell Neumann, *The Paradox of Mass Politics*. 1986. (241)
- Michael X. Delli Carpini and Scott Keeter, *Information and Empowerment: What Americans Know about Politics and why it Matters*. 1996. (412)
- Walter Lippmann, *Public Opinion*. 1965. (288)

#### **February 25 - Week V – Political Communication**

- Murray Edelman, *The Symbolic Uses of Politics*. 1985. (214)
- Charles Elder and Roger Cobb, *The Political Uses of Symbols*. 1983. (154)
- Stephen Ansolabehere, Roy Behr and Shanto Iyengar, *The Media Game: American Politics in the Television Age*. 1993. (240)
- Kathleen Hall Jamieson, *Dirty Politics: Deception, Distraction and Democracy*. 1992. (266)
- Doris Graber, *Processing Politics*. 2001. (232)
- Matthew Kerbel, *Remote and Controlled*. 1999. (146)

#### **March 4 - Week VI – Voter Behavior**

- Norman H. Nie, Sidney Verba, and John R. Petrocik, *The Changing American Voter*. 2<sup>nd</sup> ed. (356)
- Flanigan and Zingale, *Political Behavior of the American Electorate*. 10<sup>th</sup> ed. 2002. (203)
- Anthony Downs, *An Economic Theory of Democracy*. 1957. (300)
- Susan Tolchin, *The Angry American: How Voter Rage is Changing the Nation*. 2<sup>nd</sup> ed. 1999. (161)
- Pliven and Coward, *Why Americans (still) Don't Vote*. 2000. (336)

#### **March 11 - Week VII – Political Parties and the Electoral Process**

- E.J. Dionne, *Why Americans Hate Politics*. 1991. (373)
- James Sundquist, *Dynamics of the Party System*. 1983. (449)
- M. Wattenberg, *The Decline of American Political Parties*. 1998. (242)
- John Aldrich, *Why Parties? The Origin and Transformation of Party Politics in America*. 1995. (296)
- Douglas Amy, *Real Choices, New Voices: The Case for Proportional Representation Elections in the United States*. 1993. (223)

#### **March 18 - Week VIII - Interest Groups**

- Schattschneider, *The Semi-Sovereign People: A Realist's View of Democracy in America*. 1975. (138)
- Mancur Olson, *The Logic of Collective Action*. 1971. (167)
- Jonathan Rauch, *Government's End: Why Washington Stopped Working*. 1999. (288)
- Theodore Lowi, *The End of Liberalism*. 1979. (331).
- Scott Ainsworth, *Analyzing Interest Groups*. 2002. (221).

#### **April 1 - Week IX – The Executive**

- Richard Neustadt, *Presidential Power and the Modern Presidents*. 1990. (318)
- Theodore Lowi, *The Personal President*. 1985. (212)
- Arthur Schlesinger, *The Imperial Presidency*. 1989. (588)
- Fred Greenstein, *The Presidential Difference: Leadership Style from FDR to Clinton*. 2000. (282)
- Paul C. Light, *The President's Agenda: Domestic Policy Choice from Kennedy to Clinton*. 1999. (312)

#### **April 8 - Week X – The Congress**

- David Mayhew, *Congress: The Electoral Connection*. 1986.
- Richard Fenno, *Home Style*. 1978. (248)
- Woodrow Wilson, *Congressional Government*. 1885. (215)
- Davidson and Olesczek, *Congress Against Itself*. 1977.
- Barbara Sinclair, *Unorthodox Lawmaking*. 2000. (257)

**April 15 - Week XI – The Bureaucracy and Regulatory Oversight**

- Michael Reagan, *Regulation: The Politics of Policy*. 1987. (219)
- Kenneth Meier, *Politics and the Bureaucracy: Policymaking in the 4<sup>th</sup> Branch of Government*, 3<sup>rd</sup> ed. 1999. (288)
- Robert Higgs, *Crisis and Leviathan: Critical Episodes in the Growth of American Government*. 1989. (262)
- Charles Goodsell, *The Case for Bureaucracy*. 1994. (184)
- Martha Derthick, Bruce MacLaury and Paul Quirk, *The Politics of De-regulation*. 1985. (280)

**April 22 - Week XI – The Judiciary**

- Robert Bork, *The Tempting of America: The Political Seduction of the Law*. 1997. (356)
- Laurence Tribe, *God Save This Honorable Court*. 1985.
- Stephen Gottlieb, *Morality Imposed: The Rehnquist Court and Liberty in America* 2000. (320)
- Jesse H. Choper. *Judicial Review and the National Political Process*. 1980. (494)
- David M. O'Brien, *Storm Center: The Supreme Court in American Politics*, 2<sup>nd</sup>. Ed. 1990. (446)

**April 29, May 6 - Week XII & XIII – Political Economy**

- Robert Heilbroner, *The Worldly Philosophers*, 7<sup>th</sup> ed. 1999. (365)
- Harrison and Bluestone, *The Great U-Turn: Corporate Restructuring and the Polarizing of America*. 1988. (276)
- Douglass North, *Institutions, Institutional Change, and Economic Performance*. 1990. (152)
- Lester Thurow, *The Zero-Sum Society*. 1980. (230)
- Milton Friedman, *Capitalism and Freedom*. 1962. (212)
- Paul Krugman, *The Age of Diminished Expectations*. 3<sup>rd</sup> ed. 1997. (230)
- Ralph Mueller, *Capitalism, Democracy, and Ralph's Pretty Good Grocery*. 1999. (352)

**Finals Week – Field Exam**