

PSC 1305 American National Government
Department of Political Science
Baylor University
Spring 2009

Professor Brogdon
Department of Political Science
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Course Description

This course will provide a broad overview of the institutions and processes comprising the American political order. The primary medium for our examination will be primary sources culled from American political history. We will also make frequent use of a secondary text, the purpose of which is to provide context for our discussion of the primary sources.

Course Objectives

To understand the *structure* and *function* of the institutions and processes comprising the American polity

To understand the *principles* underlying those institutions and processes, particularly those embodied by the Constitution of the United States

Required Texts:

James Q. Wilson, *American Government*, brief version, 8th edition (New York: Houghton Mifflin, 2008), ISBN 0618713972

Mary P. Nichols and David K. Nichols, *Readings in American Government*, 7th edition, (New York: Kendall Hunt, 2004), ISBN 0757511244

Assignments

Readings: The key to success in this course is a combination of careful reading, consistent attendance, and copious notes. There is no shortcut. The course outline below details the material we will cover. Students should come to class prepared to discuss the readings. Please bring the Nichols reader, along with any other readings we are currently discussing, to every class meeting.

Attendance: Absences will adversely impact grades. For every absence after the third, one point will be deducted from the final grade.

Quizzes: To encourage consistent performance, online quizzes covering both readings and lectures will be administered every week. These quizzes can be found in the "Assignments" section of Blackboard and should be completed by each student without assistance from others. With the exception of spring break and exam week, they must be completed by five o'clock in the evening every Friday.

Exams: Three exams, consisting of two midterms and one final, will be administered in the course of the semester. The midterm exams will be held on February 17 and April 1. The Registrar publishes the date and time of the final exam. All exams will include a cumulative component.

OALA: If a student requires special accommodations due to a learning disability or other handicap, the instructor must receive the appropriate paperwork from the Office of Access and Learning Accommodation (254-710-3605) before the test is administered.

Grades

Quizzes:	20 %
Midterm 1:	20 %
Midterm 2:	20 %
Final Exam:	40 %

Honor Code

Cheating on an assignment will, at the least, result in a zero for that assignment. In most cases, cheating will result in immediate failure. Attempting to deceive the instructor with respect to attendance or the completion of assignments constitutes cheating and will be punished as such.

Course Outline

NN = Nichols and Nichols, *Readings in American Government*, 7th ed.

Wilson = Wilson, *American Government*, 8th ed., Brief Version

BB = Reading is available in the "Course Documents" section of Blackboard

- I. Political Parties and Elections (Wilson, Ch. 7, pp. 127-45 and Ch. 8, pp. 170-87)
 - A. The Electoral College
 - 1. Constitution of the United States: Article II, Section 1 and Amendment XII (NN Appendix)
 - 2. Alexander Hamilton on the Electoral College (NN 2.21)
 - 3. Martin Diamond, "The Electoral College and the American Idea of Democracy" (NN 2.23)
 - B. Presidential Selection as an Institution
 - 1. James Ceaser, "Political Parties and Presidential Ambition" (NN 2.24)
- II. The American Founding (Wilson, Ch. 2)
 - A. American Public Philosophy
 - 1. The Declaration of Independence (NN 1.1)
 - 2. Abraham Lincoln on the meaning of the Declaration (NN 1.2)
 - 3. Martin Diamond, "The Revolution of Sober Expectations" (NN 1.4)
 - B. The Extended Republic and the Small Republic
 - 1. Centinel's small republic argument (NN 1.5)
 - 2. James Madison, Federalist 10 (NN 1.8)
 - C. Separation of Powers and the Mixed Regime
 - 1. James Madison, Federalist 51 (NN 1.9)
 - 2. John Adams on the role of the rich and the poor in the legislature (NN 1.10)
- III. The Federal System (Wilson, Ch. 5)
 - 1. John Marshall, *McCulloch v. Maryland* (NN 1.17)
- IV. Congress and the Separation of Powers (Wilson, Ch. 9)
 - A. Structure and Function
 - 1. Hamilton and Madison on Congress (NN 3.29)
 - 2. Woodrow Wilson, "Cabinet Government in the United States" (NN 3.30)

3. William Connelly, "In Defense of Congress" (NN 3.31)
4. William Connelly, "Congressional Government and Separation of Powers" (NN 3.32)
- B. Legislative Supremacy vs. Separation of Powers
 1. War Powers Resolution (NN 3.36)
 2. Committee report on the Iran-Contra Affair (NN 3.37)
- V. The Presidency (Wilson, Ch. 10)
 - A. The President as Chief Executive
 1. Hamilton on the presidency (NN 4.38)
 2. Lincoln on the suspension of the Writ of Habeas Corpus (NN 4.47)
 - B. The President as Democratic Leader
 1. Ceaser, Thurow, Tulis, and Bessette, "Rise of the Rhetorical Presidency" (NN 4.40)
 2. John F. Kennedy, campaign speech on the Presidency (NN 4.42)
 3. Lincoln, "The Perpetuation of Our Political Institutions" (NN 4.43)
- VI. The Judiciary (Wilson, Ch. 12)
 - A. The Judicial Role and Judicial Review
 1. Hamilton on the role of the Supreme Court (NN 5.50)
 2. Jefferson's argument against judicial review (NN 5.52)
 - B. Judicial Review in Practice
 1. John Marshall, *Marbury v. Madison* (NN 5.54)
 - C. The Living Constitution, Its Critics, and Its Consequences
 1. William Brennan on constitutional interpretation (NN 5.58)
 2. Robert Bork's testimony before the Senate Judiciary Committee (NN 5.59)
 3. Jefferson and Madison's exchange on the binding of generations (NN 5.60)
 - D. A Case Study on the Judicial Role: Affirmative Action
 1. *California v. Bakke* (NN 5.62)
 2. L. Peter Schultz, "The Supreme Court, Affirmative Action, and the Judicial Function" (5.63)
- VII. American Political Economy (Wilson, Ch. 13)
 - A. The Economic Consequences of Politics
 1. Milton Friedman, *Capitalism and Freedom* (NN 6.65)
 2. Franklin D. Roosevelt on the new goals of politics (NN 6.66)
 3. Catherine Zuckert, "The Political Lessons of Economic Life" (NN 6.72)
 - B. The Political Consequences of Economics
 1. Tocqueville on soft despotism (NN 6.68)
 2. Jefferson against manufacturing (NN 6.69)
 3. Hamilton, *Report on Manufactures* (NN 6.70)
- VIII. American Foreign Policy (Wilson, Ch. 14)
 1. Joseph Cropsey, "The Moral Basis of International Action" (NN 7.73)
 2. Hans Morganthau, "The Mainsprings of American Foreign Policy" (NN 7.74)
 3. Hamilton on neutrality toward France (NN 7.75)
 4. Woodrow Wilson, Fourth Liberty Loan Speech (NN 7.77)
 5. James Pontuso, "American Foreign Policy and the Victory of Liberal Democracy" (NN 7.78)
- IX. Individual Liberty (Wilson, Ch. 3)
 1. *Roe v. Wade* (NN 8.81)
 2. *Planned Parenthood of Southeastern Pennsylvania v. Casey* (NN 8.82)
 3. *Zelman v. Simmons-Harris* (NN 8.83)
- X. Equality (Wilson, Ch. 4)
 1. *Brown v. Board of Education* (NN 8.84)
 2. Eugene McCarthy, "A Note on the New Equality" (NN 8.86)
 3. Kurt Vonnegut, *Harrison Bergeron* (NN 8.87)
 4. Jefferson on the natural aristocracy (NN 8.88)
 5. Tocqueville, *Democracy in America*, excerpts (BB)