This course will provide an introduction to the field of American politics through an examination of the role of the separation of powers and political parties in American politics.

**Required Texts:**

**Online Sources:**
The Avalon Project at Yale Law School: Documents on Law, History and Diplomacy
http://www.yale.edu/lawweb/avalon/ (Cited as AP)
Legal Information Institute: Cornell University Law School
http://supct.law.cornell.edu/supct/ (Cited as LLI)
*Teaching American History* http://teachingamericanhistory.org/ (Cited as TAH)
Journal articles may be found through JSTOR on the Baylor library web site.

**Requirements:**
Students will be evaluated according to the following criteria:
1. A research paper due on April 7 on a topic to be approved by February 24 (40%)
2. A final examination (40%)
4. Class attendance and participation, including two brief presentations (20%)

**Topics and readings**

**January 13—Introduction-Responsible Parties / Government**
“Toward a More Responsible Party System” Summary of Conclusions And Prescriptions, APSA (1950)
“Bush, Congress, Supreme Court Near Historical Low Approval” (2008)
http://www.gallup.com/poll/108010/Bush-Congress-Supreme-Court-Near-Historical-
Low-Approval.aspx
27, No. 2 (May, 2002), pp. 219-244 (JSTOR)

**January 20—Congress**
Mann and Ornstein, *The Broken Branch*

**January 27—Congress**
Mayhew, *Divided We Govern*

**February 3—Congress**
Fiorina, *Congress: Keystone of the Washington Establishment* (selections)
Bessette, *The Mild Voice of Reason* (Selections)

**February 10—Presidency**
Neustadt, *Presidential Power* (Selections)
Theodore Roosevelt and William Howard Taft, “Theories of Presidential Power”
(1913, 1916) in Nelson
Abraham Lincoln, “The Perpetuation of Our Political Institutions” (1832) (TAH)

**February 17—Presidency: Institutionalism Old and New**
*The Federalist Papers*, 69-70, (1787) in Nelson
James Madison, “Defense of the President’s Removal Power” (1789) in Nelson
“The Pacificus-Helvidius Letters” (1796) in Nelson
Ceaser, Introduction & Chapter 1
Skowronek, Chapters 1-3

**February 24—Presidency: Old and New**
Tulis, *The Rise of the Rhetorical Presidency*

**March 3—The Presidency and the Courts**
Corwin, *The President: Office and Powers* (Selections) (Blackboard)
*Ex Parte Milligan* (Nelson)
*U.S. v. Curtiss Wright* (Nelson)
*Youngstown Sheet and Tube v. Sawyer* (Nelson)
*Korematsu v. U.S.* (LLI)
*U.S. v. Nixon* (Nelson)
*Nixon v. Fitzgerald* (LLI)
*Morrison v. Olson* (LLI)
*Clinton v. Jones* (LLI)

**March 10—Spring Break**

**March 17—Supreme Court: Judgment**
Readings TBA

**March 24—The Administrative State and the Constitution**
Andrew Jackson, “First Message to Congress” (1829) in Nelson
Andrew Jackson, “Veto of the Bank Bill” (1832) in Nelson
Henry Clay, “On Andrew Jackson’s Veto of the Bank Bill” (1832)
http://alpha.furman.edu/~benson/docs/clay.htm
Andrew Jackson, “Message to the Senate and House Regarding South Carolina's
Nullification Ordinance” (1833) (AP)
Andrew Jackson, “Message to the Senate Regarding the Renomination of the Directors of the Bank of the United States” (1834) (AP)
Andrew Jackson, “Message of Protest to the Senate” (1834) (AP)
Andrew Jackson, “Message to the Senate Clarifying the Protest Message” (1834) (AP)

Andrew Jackson, “Veto Message Regarding the Bank of the United States” (1832) (Nelson)
Woodrow Wilson, “The Study of Administration” (1886) (TAH)

Myers v. U.S.
Report of the Brownlow Committee” (1937) in Nelson
Mistretta v. U.S (LLI)
Ex Parte Milligan (Nelson)
U.S. v. Curtiss Wright (Nelson)
Youngstown Sheet and Tube v. Sawyer (Nelson)

March 31—Political Parties and Administration
Milkis, Chs. 1-7

April 7—Political Parties as Political Institutions
Ceaser, Chs. 2-5

April 14—Political Parties and Partisan Realignment
Silbey, "Beyond Realignment…” in Shafer
E. C. Ladd, "Like Waiting for Godot" in Shafer.
Walter Dean Burnham, "Critical Realignment: Dead or Alive" in Shafer

April 21—Realignment and/or Reconstruction
Skowronek, Chs. 4-6, 7, Part 1

April 28—The Future of American Politics
Milkis, Chs. 8-12
Skowronek, Ch. 7, Parts 2-3, Ch. 8
Abraham Lincoln, “Gettysburg Address” (1863) in Nelson
Abraham Lincoln, “The Perpetuation of Our Political Institutions” (1832) (TAH)