

Baylor University
Political Science 5310
Seminar in American Politics
Spring 2009
Professor Nichols
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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:

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

Sidney M. Milkis, *The President and the Parties: The Transformation of the American Party System Since the New Deal* (Oxford University Press, 1993)

Michael Nelson. *The Evolving Presidency: Addresses, Cases, Essays, Letters, Reports, Resolutions, Transcripts, and Other Landmark Documents, 1787-2004*, 2nd edition (Washington, D.C.: Congressional Quarterly Press, 2004)

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

Stephen Skowronek. *The Politics President's Make: Leadership from John Adams to Bill Clinton* (Boston: Harvard University Press, 1997)

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)

http://www.apsanet.org/~pop/APSA1950/APSA1950_Summary.pdf

Sinclair, “The Dream Fulfilled: Congressional Parties 50 Years After the APSA Report” (2000) <http://www.apsanet.org/~pop/APSA1950/apsa2000sinclair.pdf>

“Bush, Congress, Supreme Court Near Historical Low Approval” (2008)
<http://www.gallup.com/poll/108010/Bush-Congress-Supreme-Court-Near-Historical-Low-Approval.aspx>

Hibbing, “How to Make Congress Popular”, *Legislative Studies Quarterly*, Vol. 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 Constitution: Provisions Concerning the Presidency” (1787) in Nelson

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/~benenson/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)
 Theodore Roosevelt, "Applied Idealism" from Theodore Roosevelt, *An Autobiography* (1913) (Bartleby)
Humphrey's Executor v. United States (295 U.S. 602) (1935) in Nelson
Myers v. U.S.
 Report of the Brownlow Committee" (1937) in Nelson
I.N.S. v. Chadha 462 U.S. 919 (1983) in Nelson
Bowsher v. Synar (478 U.S. 714) (1986) (LLI)
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

V. O. Key "A Theory of Critical Elections." *Journal of Politics* (1955) 17: 3-18. (V. O. Key "Secular Realignment and the Party System." (1959) *Journal of Politics*" 21: 198-210.

Walter Dean Burnham, "The Changing Shape of the American Political Universe" in *The American Political Science Review*, Vol. 59, No. 1. (Mar., 1965), pp. 7-28

Jerrold G. Rusk, "Comment: The American Electoral Universe: Speculation and Evidence" in *The American Political Science Review*, Vol. 68, No. 3. (Sep., 1974), pp. 1010-28

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

Whittington and Carpenter, "Executive Power in American Institutional Development" *Perspectives on Politics*, Vol. 1, No. 3 (Sep., 2003), pp. 495-513

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)