**Course Description**

Harold Lasswell once defined politics as the process of “who gets what, when, and how.” The primary purpose of this course is to introduce students to this process in the American national context. During the semester we will explore the historical and philosophical foundations of the American republic; examine the political, cultural, and economic environments in which the process develops; scrutinize the governmental institutions that shape public policy; and review some of the politics that emerge from the political process.

**Texts**

Two texts are **required:**


**Grades**

All grades will be calculated on a 100 point scale, calibrated as follows:

- 92.01 - 100 = A
- 90 - 92 = A-
- 88.01 - 89.99 = B+
- 82.01 - 88 = B
- 80 - 82 = B-
- 78.01 - 79.99 = C+

**Teaching Assistants:**

- Yasemine Akbaba (yan6f@mizzou.edu; 450 McReynolds; 882.0881; M, W, F: 10-12)
- Yitan Li (yitanli@mizzou.edu; 307 Professional Building; 882.0126; T and Th: 9:30-11 and 2-3:30)
- Huan (Leslie) Liu (hl4xf@mizzou.edu; 452 McReynolds; 882.1188; M and W 3:30-5)
While scores will not be assigned according to a strict, predetermined curve (i.e., a certain percentage of students receiving each letter grade), some curving may be used, if necessary, to reflect the difficulty of the assignments.

Semester grades will be calculated according to each student’s performance on three midterm examinations and the final examination. Each of the four tests will count for one-quarter of your semester grade. The schedule for the examinations is:

- First Midterm - February 10th
- Second Midterm - March 10th
- Third Midterm - April 14th
- Final Examination - Tuesday, May 10th, 1:00 p.m. - 3:00 p.m.

These dates are set in stone and will not be changed. In addition, I will give NO make-up exams. Missed examinations will be graded as a 0 unless the student has a valid and properly documented excuse. (N.B. Valid excuses include significant illnesses, deaths in the immediate family, and required attendance at university-sponsored activities. Vacation plans, social events, sorority/fraternity functions, and the like are NOT valid reasons for missing exams.) If you have a valid reason for missing an examination, you must (except in dire emergencies) notify me (or one of the T.A.s) before the day of the test and provide required documentation within a week of the examination. Students who miss an exam for valid, documented reasons will have their other exam grades increased proportionately (e.g., a student who missed the first exam would have each of the other three exams count for one-third of her semester grade).

Examination questions will be objective (i.e., true/false and multiple choice). Questions will be drawn from the textbook, the Readings book, and lecture material. At my discretion, exams may also include one or more extra credit questions drawn from current events. The final will be cumulative. Grades will be posted as promptly as feasible on the blackboard site, where you can monitor your progress over the course of the semester.

Note this well: I will not offer any extra credit assignments/projects/papers/etc. at the end of the semester to help students pull up flagging grades ... so don’t even ask (it will only irritate me and indicate you did not read the syllabus or take it seriously).

Academic Misconduct
Academic misconduct — defined as appropriating the words or ideas of others and using them as your own through cheating or plagiarism — is something that I will not tolerate. The TAs and I go to great lengths during examinations to make cheating as difficult as possible, including ID checks, random seating, and using multiple versions of the exams. I will prosecute suspected cases of academic misconduct to the
fullest extent of University policy, and that can mean expulsion from the University. I advise you to consult the University’s *M Book* for further information.

**Readings, Lectures, and Attendance**

It is extremely important that you complete each day’s reading assignment prior to class and that you attend class regularly. Without the background provided by the daily readings, you will find it more difficult to keep up with the lectures. In addition, much material that is covered in the readings will not be duplicated in the lectures and *vice versa*. Test questions may be drawn from material in the readings, in the lectures, or in both.

While this course is not particularly difficult, it does require diligence, attendance, and consistent effort. If you work hard, you should find this class challenging but rewarding, and emerge from it with an enhanced understanding of and appreciation for the American political system.

**Class Rules and Norms**

1. **Be punctual.** This class is scheduled from 11:00 a.m. until 12:15 p.m. We will begin promptly and will generally go for the entire 75 minutes. Please be in your seats and ready to begin at 11:00 and give me your undivided attention until 12:15 (*e.g.*, do **not** begin rustling papers, packing up, *etc*. early).

2. **Be considerate of your classmates.** In a large class such as this, it is particularly important that students refrain from unnecessary chattering, whispering, comings-and-going, note passing, *etc*. Also please turn off cell phones and pagers during class. Any student whose behavior distracts me or disturbs classmates will be asked to leave the auditorium.

3. **Examinations.**
   a. Location. All exams will be given in Middlebush Auditorium.
   b. What to bring. Please bring your student ID card and extra #2 pencils. A watch might also be handy.
   c. Hats and sunglasses. You will be required to remove hats and sunglasses during examination periods. I want to be able to see your eyes ... and where they are focused.
   d. Dictionaries. You will **not** be allowed to use a dictionary during exams.
   e. Students will not be allowed to leave the auditorium for bathroom breaks during the exams.
   f. Use of cell phones **for any reason** is **strictly** prohibited during exams.

4. **ADA.** Students with disabilities that might affect class performance must notify me as soon as possible, preferably within the first two weeks of classes. You must also register with the Office of Disability Services (located Brady Commons), especially if you are requesting any kind of classroom or testing adjustment. I will make every reasonable effort to accommodate your needs.

5. **T.A.s** The teaching assistants are here for precisely that purpose ... helping me to teach and you to learn. I encourage you to capitalize on their expertise and willingness to help. At least one of them has office hours every weekday, and they are available by phone and e-mail to answer your questions and assist you with the class. Normally, if you have questions about materials covered in the books or in lectures, you should consult one of them first

**Class Schedule and Assignments**
January 18  Administrivia and Introductory Remarks

Section I — Theoretical and Historical Background

January 20  A Brief History of Political Representation
            Wilson and DiIulio, Chapter 1
            *Rakove, pp. 3-8

January 25  The American Constitution I
            Wilson and DiIulio, Chapter 2

January 27  The American Constitution II
            *Hofstadter, pp. 8-14; Roche pp. 14-26; Madison, pp. 27-31;
            Madison pp. 311-316

February 1  Federalism in America I
            Wilson and DiIulio, Chapter 3

February 3  Federalism in America II
            *McCulloch v Maryland, pp. 42-48; Donahue, pp. 48-55

February 8  American Political Culture
            Wilson and DiIulio, Chapter 4
            Review for 1st Midterm

February 10  First Midterm Examination

Section II — Opinion, Interests, and Organizations

February 15  Public Opinion in America
            Wilson and DiIulio, Chapter 5
            *Bartels, pp. 142-148; Traugott, pp. 149-155; Petrocik A31-A35
            and A50-A53

February 17  Participation in American Politics
            Wilson and DiIulio, Chapter 6
            *Sifry pp. 158-167; Schudson, pp. 167-175

February 22  American Political Parties I
            Wilson and DiIulio, Chapter 7

February 24  American Political Parties II
            *Aldrich, pp. 197-208; Toobin, pp. 209-217; Beck, pp. 218-231;
            Munger pp. A17-A30
March 1  Elections in America  
Wilson and DiIulio, Chapter 8  
*Patterson, pp. 236-254; *McConnell v. *FTC*, pp. 254-259;  
Bennet, pp. A1-A16

March 3  Organized Interests in American Politics I  
Wilson and DiIulio, Chapter 9

March 8  Organized Interests in American Politics II  
*Birnbaum, pp. 317-327; *Skocpol, pp. 328-338; *Cigler and  
Loomis, pp. 339-350

Review for 2nd Midterm

March 10  Second Midterm Examination

Section III — Institutions of American Government

March 15  Congress I  
Wilson and DiIulio, Chapter 11

March 17  Congress II  
*Shepsle, pp. 355-368; *Binder, pp. 368-375; *Cohen, pp. 376-385;  
*Kolbert, pp. 386-396; *Hulse, pp. A36-A38

March 22  No Class — Spring Break

March 24  No Class — Spring Break

March 29  Presidency I  
Wilson and DiIulio, Chapter 12

March 31  Presidency II  
*Neustadt, pp. 400-407; *Dahl, pp. 407-418; *Burns, *et al.* pp. 418- 
429; *DiIulio, pp. 429-437

April 5  Bureaucracy  
Wilson and DiIulio, Chapter 13

April 7  Judiciary I  
Wilson and DiIulio, Chapter 14

April 12  Judiciary II  
*Hamilton, pp. 486-491; *Posner, pp. 497-502; *Ponnuru, pp. 503- 
508

Review for 3rd Midterm
April 14  Third Midterm Examination

Section IV — Policy and Politics

April 19  Policy-Making Processes in America
          Wilson and DiIulio, Chapter 15
          *Stone, pp. 512-516

April 21  Economic Policies in America
          Wilson and DiIulio, Chapter 16

April 26  Social Welfare Policies in America
          Wilson and DiIulio, Chapter 17
          *Jencks, pp. 523-530

April 28  Civil Liberties in the United States
          Wilson and DiIulio, Chapter 18
          *Friendly, pp. 75-78; Griswold v Connecticut, pp. 83-88; Lawrence and Garner v Texas, pp. 88-96

May 3    Civil Rights in the United States
          Wilson and DiIulio, Chapter 19
          *Brown v Board I and II, pp. 105-110; Schuck, pp. 111-117; Joint Statement, pp. 118-124

Section V — Conclusions

May 5    Who Governs and Does it Matter?
          Wilson and DiIulio, Chapters 23 and 24

                    Review for Final Examination

May 10  Final Examination (1:00 p.m. - 3:00 p.m.)