

**Oxford College of Emory University
Political Science 100: National Politics
Spring 2013**

**“Student work submitted as part of this course may be reviewed by
Oxford College and Emory College faculty and staff for the purposes of
improving instruction and enhancing Emory education.”**

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CLASS MEETING: HUMANITIES 206, 10-11:40

COURSE OVERVIEW

When students take this course, they often think they will understand it easily and do well as a result. This is a very understandable assumption since many students who take this course like politics and assume they understand politics.

This course is intended for students interested in political science as a major (it fulfills a distribution requirement for the major). The course is designed to give a broad overview of politics in the American context. We begin with the theoretical basis of the American political system (democratic theory, the US Constitution, American political culture, and federalism), then move on to the linkages between that foundation and American political institutions, and lastly to Legislative and Executive Branches of our government. We conclude by taking a brief look at policymaking in the US.

The course can be dull at times as I have yet to make bureaucracy and institutional design or even federalism fun (that turns out to be impossible). However, as a student of politics, these are extremely important topics to have some basic understanding.

READINGS

Wilson and Dilulio, Jr., American Government, 10th Edition BRIEF VERSION
 The Federalist Papers
 Additional Readings (find in BB conference under “Additional Readings”
 Tab)

New York Times Weekly---National Pages

READINGS ARE DUE THE DAY WE COVER THEM IN CLASS

GRADES

- 3 Non-Cumulative Exams (25% each)
- Weekly quizzes/assignments (25% total)

Exam Dates (All In Class!!!!)

Exam 1: February 12
 Exam 2: March 21
 Exam 3: May 7 10AM-12Noon

Honor Code

A significant and last point I will make about this course and all of my courses:
I STRICTLY ENFORCE THE OXFORD HONOR CODE; if you think you are
 witnessing violations of the honor code, report it. I certainly will report
 violations. The code can be accessed at:

[http://oxford.emory.edu/audiences/current_students/academics/academic_s
 uccess/honor_code.dot](http://oxford.emory.edu/audiences/current_students/academics/academic_success/honor_code.dot)

COURSE OUTLINE

January 15 (TU) Introduction

PART I: FOUNDATIONS AND OVERVIEW OF THE AMERICAN SYSTEM
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**January 17 (TH) Democratic Theory
Ch. 1
Federalist Paper #10**

**January 22 (TU) Democratic Theory
Ch. 1
Federalist Paper #51**

**January 24 (TH) Constitution
Ch. 2
Federalist Papers #23, # 37, & #41**

**January 29 (TU) Constitution
Ch. 2
Federalist Papers #23, # 37, & #41**

**January 31 (TH) Federalism
Ch. 3
Federalist Papers #51**

**February 5 (TU) Federalism
Ch. 3
Federalist Papers #51**

February 7 (TH) American Political Culture

Ch. 4
Federalist Papers #50

February 12 (TU)

EXAM 1

**PART II: CONNECTING THE GOVERNMENT TO THE PEOPLE:
 PUBLIC OPINION & THE MEDIA, POLITICAL PARTIES & INTEREST GROUPS,
 AND CAMPAIGNS & ELECTIONS**

February 14 (TH)

Public Opinion
Ch. 7

February 19 (TU)

Public Opinion & Political Participation
Ch. 7 & 8

February 21 (TH)

Political Participation
Ch. 8
Brady, Verba, and Schlozman *Beyond SES*

February 26 (TU)

Political Participation & Parties
Ch. 8 & 9

February 28 (TH)

Political Parties
Ch. 9

March 5 (TU)

Elections and Campaigns
Ch. 10

March 7 (TH)

Elections and Campaigns
Ch. 10

March 11 – 15

OFF SPRING RECESS

March 19 (TU) **Interest Groups**
Ch. 11
Federalist papers #10 & 51

March 21 (TH) **EXAM II**

PART III: INSTITUTIONS & PUBLIC POLICY

March 26 (TU) **Congress (overview)**
Ch. 13

March 28 (TH) **Congress**
Ch. 13

April 2 (TU) **Congress in Action**
Ch. 13

April 4 (TH) **The Presidency**
Ch. 14

April 9 (TU) **The Presidency**
Ch. 14

April 11 (TH) **NO CLASS**

April 16 (TU) **Presidency**
Ch. 14
Federalist Paper #76

April 18 (TH) **Bureaucracy**
Ch. 15

April 23 (TU) **Bureaucracy & Policy Making**
Ch. 15
Federalist Paper #10

April 25 (TH)

**Politics & Policymaking
Ch. 17**

May 7

EXAM 3 (10AM-12PM)