

**Oxford College of Emory University
Political Science 100: National Politics
Spring 2012**

“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, 1-2:15PM

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 16

Exam 2: March 27

Exam 3: May 9 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_success/honor_code.dot

COURSE OUTLINE

January 19 (TH)	Introduction
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PART I: FOUNDATIONS AND OVERVIEW OF THE AMERICAN SYSTEM

January 24 (TU)	Democratic Theory Ch. 1 Federalist Paper #10
January 26 (TH)	Democratic Theory Ch. 1 Federalist Paper #51
January 31 (TU)	Constitution Ch. 2 Federalist Papers #23, # 37, & #41
February 2 (TH)	Constitution Ch. 2
February 7 (TU)	Civil Liberties and Civil Rights Ch. 3-4 Federalist Papers #50
February 9 (TH)	Federalism Ch. 5 Federalist Papers # 46 & #51
February 14 (TU)	Federalism Ch. 5

Federalist Papers # 46 & #51

February 16 (TH)

EXAM 1

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

February 21 (TU)

Public Opinion
Ch. 6 (pp. 97-114)

February 23 (TH)

The Media
Ch. 6 (pp. 114-130)

February 28 (TU)

Political Parties
Ch. 7 (fpp. 131-150)

March 1 (TH)

Interest Groups
Ch. 7 (pp. 150-159)

March 6 (TU)

Money and PACS
Ch. 7 (pp. 160-167)
Federalist Paper #10

March 8 (TH)

Political Participation
Ch. 8 (168-176)
Brady, Verba, and Schlozman *Beyond SES*

March 12 – 16

OFF SPRING RECESS

March 20 (TU)

Political Campaigns
Ch. 8 (pp. 176-196)

March 22 (TH)

Money and Elections
Ch. 8 (pp. 196-204)
Hasen Interview on Citizen United

Glasser: Understanding Citizen's United

March 27 (TU)

EXAM II

PART III: INSTITUTIONS & PUBLIC POLICY

March 29 (TH)

**Congress (overview)
Ch. 9 (pp. 206-218)
Federalist Paper #62**

April 3 (TU)

**Congress in Action
Ch. 9 (pp. 218-240)**

April 5 & 10

**NO Class Meetings
Senate Filibuster Interview (double quiz
4/12)**

April 12 (TH)

**The Presidency
Ch. 10 (pp. 242-251)**

April 19 (TH)

**President, Appointments, Policy, & Congress
Ch.10 (pp. 251-277)
Federalist Paper #76**

April 24 (TU)

**Bureaucracy
Ch. 11**

April 26 (TH)

**Bureaucracy & Policy Making
Ch. 11 & 12
Federalist Paper #10**

May 1 (TU)

**Policymaking
Ch. 12
"Affordable Care Act" (AKA Obama Care)**

May 9 (W)

EXAM III 10AM-12PM

