

**Oxford College of Emory University
Political Science 100: National Politics
Spring 2014**

**“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 201, TU/TH 3:30-5:10

COURSE OVERVIEW

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: Institutions and Policies, 13th Edition

[Points of View: Readings in American Government and Politics](#) by Robert DiClerico

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 13
 Exam 2: April 1
 Exam 3: May 6 (9AM-12PM)

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 14 (TU)****Introduction**

PART I: FOUNDATIONS AND OVERVIEW OF THE AMERICAN SYSTEM
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January 16 & 21**Democratic Theory****Ch. 1 (Wilson)****Ch. 1 (DiClerico)****January 23 & 28****Constitution****Ch. 2 (Wilson)****Ch. 2 (DiClerico)****January 30****Federalism****Ch. 3 (Wilson)****Ch. 3 (DiClerico pp. 44-48)****February 4 & 6****Federalism****Ch. 3 (Wilson)****Ch. 3 (DiClerico pp. 52-58)****February 11 (TU)****American Political Culture****Ch. 4 (Wilson)****February 13 (TH)****EXAM 1**

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

February 18 & 20

Public Opinion
Ch. 7 (Wilson)
Ch. 4 (DiClerico)

February 25 & 27

Political Participation
Ch. 8 (Wilson)
Ch. 5 (DiClerico)

March 4 & 6

Political Parties
Ch. 9 (Wilson)
Ch. 8 (DiClerico)

March 10 – 14

OFF SPRING RECESS

March 18 & 20

Elections and Campaigns
Ch. 10 (Wilson)
Ch. 6 & 7 (DiClerico)

March 25 & 27

Interest Groups
Ch. 11 (Wilson)
Ch. 9 (DiClerico)

April 1

EXAM II

PART III: INSTITUTIONS & PUBLIC POLICY

April 3 & 8	Congress Ch. 13 (Wilson) Ch. 10 (DiClerico pp.148-167)
April 13 (TU)	Congress in Action Ch. 13 (Wilson) Ch. 10 (DiClerico pp.167-168)
April 15 & 20	The Presidency Ch. 14 (Wilson) Ch. 10 (DiClerico)
April 22 & 24	Bureaucracy Ch. 15 (Wilson) Ch. 12 (DiClerico)
April 28 (TU)	Politics & Policymaking Ch. 17 (Wilson)
May 6	EXAM 3 (9AM-12PM)