

**Oxford College of Emory University  
Political Science 100: National Politics  
Spring 2011**

**TU & TH 10:00-11:15 AM**

**Humanities 206**

**Katie Vigilante**

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**Office Seney 214C**

**Office Hours: M&W: 11-12:30 & 4-5PM (or by appointment)**

**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). That said, you will learn that what you thought you knew about American politics before was but the tip of the iceberg. Welcome!

**Readings**

**\* Wilson and Dilulio, Jr., *American Government ,Dolphin Edition***

**\* Class Attendance Critical (lectures include material not covered in text)**

**Grades**

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

**Exam Dates (All In Class!!!!)**

Exam 1: Thursday February 10, 2011

Exam 2: Tuesday March 22, 2011

Exam 3: Tuesday April 26, 2011

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

**COURSE OUTLINE**

January 13 (TH)

**Introduction**

**PART I: THE AMERICAN SYSTEM**

January 18 (TU)

**Democratic Theory**  
Ch. 1

January 20 (TH)

**American Political Culture**  
Ch. 4

January 25 (TU)

**Culture Continued & Constitution Intro.**  
Ch. 2 & Ch. 4

January 27 (TH)

**Constitution**  
Ch. 2

February 1 (TU)

**Federalism**  
Ch. 3

February 3 (TH) **Federalism Continued**  
Ch. 3

February 8 (TU) **Review/Catch-Up**

February 10 (TH) **EXAM 1**

<p><b>PART II: LINKING PROCESSES: OPINIONS, PARTICIPATION, PARTIES, ELECTIONS, AND INTEREST GROUPS</b></p>
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February 15 (TU) **Public Opinion**  
Ch. 7

February 17 (TH) **Public Opinion**  
Ch. 7

February 22 (TU) **Participation**  
Ch. 8

February 24 (TH) **Participation & Political Parties**  
Ch. 9 (from p. 201)

March 1 (TU) **Parties & Elections & Campaigns**  
Ch. 10

March 3 (TH) **Elections & Campaigns**  
Ch. 10

March 7 – 11 **OFF SPRING RECESS**

March 15 (TU) **Interest Groups**  
Ch. 11

March 17 (TH) **Interest Groups Concluded**  
Ch. 11

March 22 (TU) **EXAM II**

**PART III: INSTITUTIONS & PUBLIC POLICY**

March 24 (TH)	<b>Congress</b> Ch. 13
March 29 (TU)	<b>Congress Continued:</b> Ch. 13
March 31 (TH)	<b>The Presidency</b> Ch. 14
April 5 (TU)	<b>The Presidency Continued</b> Ch. 14
April 7 (TH)	<b>PROFESSOR OUT</b>
April 12 (TU)	<b>Bureaucracy</b> Ch. 15
April 14 (TH)	<b>Bureaucracy Continued</b> Ch. 15
April 19 (TU)	<b>Policymaking</b> Ch. 17
April 21 (TH)	<b>Policymaking Continued</b> Ch. 17
April 26 (TU)	<b>EXAM III</b>