

**Oxford College of Emory University  
Political Science 100: National Politics  
Spring 2010  
Mondays and Wednesdays 2:00-3:15**

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**Office Seney 214C**  
**Hours: M & W 3:30-4:30 (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 know politics.

This course is intended for students interested in political science as a major (it fulfils 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 onto 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: Monday February 15, 2010

Exam 2: Monday March 22, 2010

Exam 3: Monday April 26, 2010

### **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 (W)	<b>Introduction</b>
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January 18 (M)	OFF MLK
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### **PART I: THE AMERICAN SYSTEM**

January 20 (W)	<b>Democratic Theory</b> Ch. 1
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January 25 (M)	<b>American Political Culture</b> Ch. 4
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January 27 (W)	<b>Culture Continued &amp; Constitution Intro.</b> Ch. 2 & Ch. 4
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February 1 (M)	<b>Constitution</b> Ch. 2
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February 3 (W)	<b>Federalism</b> Ch. 3
February 8 (M)	<b>Federalism Continued</b> Ch. 3
February 10 (W)	<b>Review/Catch-Up</b>
February 15 (M)	<b>EXAM 1</b>

**PART II: LINKING PROCESSES: OPINIONS, PARTICIPATION, PARTIES,  
ELECTIONS, AND INTEREST GROUPS**

February 17 (W)	<b>Public Opinion</b> Ch. 7
February 22 (M)	<b>Public Opinion</b> Ch. 7
February 24 (W)	<b>Participation</b> Ch. 8
March 1 (M)	<b>Participation &amp; Political Parties</b> Ch. 9 (from p. 201)
March 3 (W)	<b>Parties &amp; Elections &amp; Campaigns</b> Ch. 10
MARCH 8 – 12	OFF SPRING RECESS
March 15 (M)	<b>Interest Groups</b> Ch. 11
March 17 (W)	<b>Interest Groups Concluded</b> Ch. 11
March 22 (M)	<b>EXAM II</b>

**PART III: INSTITUTIONS & PUBLIC POLICY**

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