



PLD

**DEPARTMENT OF POLITICAL SCIENCE**

**FACULTY OF ARTS**

**Political Science 477 - L01**

**American Politics**

**Instructor:** Dr. T. Terriff  
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**Email:** tterriff@ucalgary.ca  
**Office Hours** W 12:00-13:00  
**Lecture Location:** SH 288  
**Lecture Times:** TR 0930-1045  
**Required Prerequisite:** Poli 359 Introduction to Comparative Politics  
**D2L Website:** <https://d2l.ucalgary.ca>

**Course Description:** This course is an introduction to American government and politics. It emphasizes the design and evolution of American political institutions.

**Course Objectives:** To help the student understand how institutions shape the conduct of American politics.

**Grade Distribution**

1	Research Proposal	Thurs	1 February	10%
2	Mid Term Exam	Thurs	15 February	15%
3	Research Essay	Tues	20 March	40%
4	Final exam	as scheduled by the registrar		35 %

**Required Text**

Marc Landy and Sidney M. Milkis, *American Government: Enduring Principles, Critical Choices, Third Edition* (New York, NY: Cambridge University Press, 2014).  
*The Federalist Papers*, selected readings. At <http://www.foundingfathers.info/federalistpapers/>  
 (The Federalist Papers can be accessed from other websites as well).

**Other Readings**The Federalist Papers Online

Chronology of the Pro- and Anti-Federalist Papers and how they related to one another and to key events, at: <http://www.constitution.org/afp/afpchron.htm>

Extra Readings (not on reserve)

- Aldrich, John Herbert, *Why parties? the origin and transformation of political parties in America* (University of Chicago Press, 1995) JK2261 .A34 1995
- Beeman, Richard R. *Beyond confederation : origins of the constitution and American national identity* E303 .B49 1987
- Cox, Gary W., *Legislative leviathan: party government in the House* 2nd ed. (Cambridge University Press, 2007). JK1429 .C69 2007
- Evans, Diana, *Greasing the wheels: using pork barrel projects to build majority coalitions in Congress* (Cambridge University Press, 2004). JK1051 .E93 2004 / JK1051 INTERNET
- Hall, Kermit and Kevin T. McGuire, *The Institutions of American Democracy: The judicial branch* (Oxford University Press, USA, 2006) KF8700 .J833 2005
- Jacobson, Gary C., *The politics of congressional elections* 7th edition ( Longman; 8 February, 2008). JK1067 .J29 2009
- McDonald, Forrest, *We the people: the economic origins of the Constitution* (Transaction Press, 1992) JK146 .M15 1992
- Overholser, Geneva and Kathleen Hall Jamieson, eds, *The Institutions of American Democracy: The press* (Oxford University Press, USA, 2006) PN4888 .P6 P64 2005
- Parsons, Lynn H. , *The birth of modern politics: Andrew Jackson, John Quincy Adams, and the election of 1828* E380 .P37 2009
- Smith, Steven S., *Party influence in Congress* (Cambridge University Press, 2007) JK1021 .S65 2007
- Smith, Steven S., *The American Congress* 5th ed. (Cambridge University Press, 2007) JK1041 .S65 2007
- Stewart, David O., *The Summer of 1787: The Men Who Invented the Constitution* (Simon & Schuster, 2008) KF4510 .S74 2008
- Sundquist, James L. *Dynamics of the party system: alignment and realignment of political parties in the United States* Rev. ed. (Brookings Institution Press, 1983) JK2261 .S84 1983

Hall, Kermit, *The Oxford companion to the Supreme Court of the United States* 2nd ed.

KF8742.A35 INTERNET (This reference is a comprehensive guide to the history, justices, cases and procedures of the United States' highest court.)

Ferling, John E., *Adams vs Jefferson: The Tumultuous Election of 1800*, E330 INTERNET

Ferling, John E., *A Leap in the Dark: The Struggle to Create the American Republic* E195 INTERNET

Wood, Gordon S. *American revolution: a history* E208 INTERNET

### **Class Participation**

There is no mark for class participation, but students will be expected to come to class prepared for discussion. This means staying up with the readings and current affairs as it may concern the subject of the course. Students must also be prepared to be called upon to offer their assessment of the issues being discussed.

### **Research Paper Proposal**

A hard copy paper proposal must be submitted at the beginning of class, on **Thursday, 1 February 2018**. The proposal (800 words, or 3-4 pages, double spaced) must include a clear identification of the question to be addressed in the paper, the context and relevance of the question, any relevant concepts, and the methodology to be utilized. The proposal must cite research sources. In addition to the main body of the proposal, a one page preliminary list of sources (bibliography), including those cited, must be included. The research question may be on any aspect of American government or politics.

The clarity of writing style (including grammar and punctuation) as well as the correct formatting of citations are evaluated as part of the grade assessment. Information on the research proposal, on how it is assessed, and on the appropriate citation style is available on D2L.

*Do note that the generation of a research proposal requires conducting research!*

### **Midterm Exam**

The midterm exam will consist of two parts; the first part consists of multiple choice questions and the second part consists of an essay answer question. The midterm exam is closed book and no aids will be permitted. The midterm exam will be written on **Thursday, 15 February 2018**.

### **Research Paper**

A research paper must be submitted at the beginning of class, on **Tuesday, 20 March 2018**.

This paper (3000 to 3500 words) is to provide an analytical study of an aspect of American government or politics. The essay will use an appropriate citation style and include a bibliography. The clarity of writing style (including grammar and punctuation) as well as the correct formatting of citations are evaluated as part of the grade assessment. Information on the research essay, how it is assessed, and on the appropriate citation style is available on D2L.

### **Final Exam**

The final exam will be two hours in length and will consist of long-answer, essay questions. The final exam is closed book and no aids will be permitted. The final exam is scheduled by the Office of the Registrar during the examination period, **Monday, 16 April - Thursday, 26 April, 2018.**

### Writing Statement

Written assignments are often required in Political Science courses, including this one, and the quality of writing skills, including but not limited to such elements as grammar, punctuation, sentence structure, clarity, citation, and organization, will be taken into account in the determination of grades. Students are encouraged to make use of the services offered through Writing Support Services in the Student Success Centre (3<sup>rd</sup> floor of the Taylor Family Digital Library) or at <http://www.ucalgary.ca/ssc/writing-support>.

### Grade Scale

The following grading scale will be used:

A+ = 95-100	B+ = 77-79	C+ = 67-69	D+ = 55-59
A = 86-94	B = 73-76	C = 63-66	D = 50-54
A- = 80-85	B- = 70-72	C- = 60-62	F = 0-49

### Late Penalties

A late penalty of three (3) percent will be applied for each day past the required submission date a piece of work is submitted. This late penalty applies to the research proposal and the research essay.

### Class Preparation and Desire2Learn

Lectures focus on the material presented in the textbook and general discussion relating to the topic(s) outlined in the lecture schedule. Students are expected to read the assigned text chapters and readings before class, and be prepared for class discussion. Any important information and additional readings for American Politics (Poli 477.01) will be posted on D2L. Students should regularly check the Announcements section of D2L for ongoing notices.

*Your instructor may not necessarily cover all of the materials in the course outline or in the required readings, but it is the responsibility of the student to understand the concepts presented in the textbook and lectures. If you are unsure of any of the concepts, please take the initiative to ask the instructor during class. The instructor may also address current events relevant to the course subject matter.*

### Instructor Instructions

Students requiring assistance are encouraged to speak to the instructor during class or their office hours. Should you wish to meet outside of office hours, please email the instructor or teaching assistant to make an appointment. It is to the student's advantage to keep such appointments.

Email is commonly used by students to communicate with their instructor. However, it does limit the effectiveness of the communications and may not be the best way for instructors to answer student questions, especially those requiring an explanation of concepts covered in this course or some personal concerns. Therefore the instructor may request a telephone call or personal meeting. *Your instructor will inform you as to his/her expectations about emails.*

Students are welcome to use laptops and other electronic note-taking devices in this course. Please be considerate of others and switch off all cell phones when you enter the classroom. Sending/receiving texts and browsing the Web is extremely disruptive to others and will not be tolerated.

## Course Outline

### Week 1 Tues (9 Jan) **Introduction & American Political Culture**

*Required Reading:* Landy and Milkis, Ch 1 & 2.

Thurs **American Political Culture** cont

### Week 2 **Revolution and the Declaration of Independence**

*Required Reading:* A pre-recorded lecture and a PowerPoint presentation will be available on D2L

Tues NO CLASS

Thurs: NO CLASS

### Week 3 Tues **Revolution and the Declaration of Independence** cont.

*Required Readings:* The Declaration of Independence, at:  
<http://www.foundingfathers.info/federalistpapers/>

### Week 3 Thurs **The Philadelphia Convention and the US Constitution**

*Required Readings:* Landy and Milkis, Ch. 3, pp. 57-74  
Federalist #6 and 15

Week 4 Tues **The Philadelphia Convention and the US Constitution**

*Required Reading:* The Constitution of the USA, at:  
<http://www.foundingfathers.info/federalistpapers/>

Thurs **The US Constitution and the US Bill of Rights**

*Required Readings:* Landy and Milkis, Ch. 3, pp. 74 - 80.  
Federalist #10 and 51  
Federalist #47 and 48  
The Bill of Rights, at:  
<http://www.foundingfathers.info/federalistpapers/>

**Research Proposal Due: Thursday, 1 February 2018**

Week 5 Tues **The US Constitution and the US Bill of Rights** cont

Thurs **Federalism**

*Required Readings:* Landy and Milkis, Ch. 5.  
Federalist #39

Week 6 Tues **Federalism** cont

Thurs **Mid Term Exam (15 February)**

Week 7 ***Reading Week: Sunday, 18 February to Sunday, 25 February 2018***

Week 8 Tues & Thurs **Congress**

*Required Readings:* Landy and Milkis, Ch. 7.  
Federalist #48

Week 9 Tues & Thurs **The Presidency and the Executive Branch**

*Required Readings:* Landy and Milkis, Ch. 8  
Federalist #68, 70, and 72.

Week 10 Tues & Thurs **The Judiciary**

*Required Readings:* Landy and Milkis, Ch. 9.

*Required Readings:* Federalist #78

Week 11 Tues **Civil Rights and Civil Liberties**

*Required Readings:* None.

Thurs **Political Parties and Interest Groups**

*Required Readings:* Landy and Milkis, Ch. 11

**Term Essay Due - Tuesday, 20 March 2018**

Week 12 Tues **Political Parties and Interest Groups** cont

Thurs **Public Opinion and the Media**

*Required Readings:* Landy and Milkis, Ch. 12

Week 13 Tues & Thurs **Elections and Campaigns**

*Required Readings:* Landy and Milkis, Ch. 11

Week 14 Tues **The Trump Administration: A Challenge to the Constitutional Order?**

Thurs (12 April) **Course Review**

**Winter Term Ends, Friday, 13 April, 2018**

**IMPORTANT POLICIES AND INFORMATION**

Absence From a Mid-term Examination:

Students who are absent from a scheduled term test or quiz for legitimate reasons (e.g. illness with the appropriate documentation) are responsible for contacting the instructor via email within

48 hours of the missed test to discuss alternative arrangements. A copy of this email may be requested as proof of the attempt to contact the instructor. Any student who fails to do so forfeits the right to a makeup test.

#### Deferral of a Final Examination:

Deferral of a final examination can be granted for reasons of illness, domestic affliction, and unforeseen circumstances, as well as to those with three (3) final exams scheduled within a 24-hour period. Deferred final exams will not be granted to those who sit the exam, who have made travel arrangements that conflict with their exam, or who have misread the examination timetable. The decision to allow a deferred final exam rests not with the instructor but with Enrolment Services. Instructors should, however, be notified if you will be absent during the examination. The Application for Deferred Final Exam, deadlines, requirements and submission instructions can be found on the Enrolment Services website at <https://www.ucalgary.ca/registrar/exams/deferred-exams>.

#### Appeals:

If a student has a concern about the course or a grade they have been assigned, they must first discuss their concerns with the instructor. If this does not resolve the matter, the student can then proceed with an academic appeal. The first in an academic appeal is to set up a meeting with the Department Head.

#### University Regulations:

Students are encouraged to familiarize themselves with the University policies found in the Academic Regulations sections of the Calendar at [www.ucalgary.ca/pubs/calendar/current/academic-regs.html](http://www.ucalgary.ca/pubs/calendar/current/academic-regs.html).

#### Student Accommodations:

Students seeking an accommodation based on disability or medical concerns should contact Student Accessibility Services; SAS will process the request and issue letters of accommodation to instructors. For additional information on support services and accommodations for students with disabilities, visit [www.ucalgary.ca/access/](http://www.ucalgary.ca/access/).

Students who require an accommodation in relation to their coursework based on a protected ground other than disability should communicate this need in writing to their Instructor.

The full policy on Student Accommodations is available at

<http://www.ucalgary.ca/policies/files/policies/student-accommodation-policy.pdf>.

#### Plagiarism And Other Forms Of Academic Misconduct:

Academic misconduct in any form (e.g. cheating, plagiarism) is a serious academic offence that can lead to disciplinary probation, suspension or expulsion from the University. Students are expected to be familiar with the standards surrounding academic honesty; these can be found in the University of Calgary calendar at <http://www.ucalgary.ca/pubs/calendar/current/k-5.html>. Such offences will be taken seriously and reported immediately, as required by Faculty of Arts policy.



Freedom of Information and Protection of Privacy (FOIP):

FOIP legislation requires that instructors maintain the confidentiality of student information. In practice, this means that student assignment and tests cannot be left for collection in any public place without the consent of the student. It also means that grades cannot be distributed via email. Final exams are kept by instructors but can be viewed by contacting them or the main office in the Department of Political Science. Any uncollected assignments and tests will be destroyed after three months; final examinations are destroyed after one year.

Evacuation Assembly Points:

In the event of an emergency evacuation from class, students are required to gather in designated assembly points. Please check the list found at [www.ucalgary.ca/emergencyplan/assemblypoints](http://www.ucalgary.ca/emergencyplan/assemblypoints) and note the assembly point nearest to your classroom.

Faculty of Arts Program Advising and Student Information Resources:

For program planning and advice, visit the Arts Students' Centre in Social Sciences 102, call 403-220-3580 or email [artsads@ucalgary.ca](mailto:artsads@ucalgary.ca). You can also visit [arts.ucalgary.ca/advising](http://arts.ucalgary.ca/advising) for program assistance.

For registration (add/drop/swap), paying fees and assistance with your Student Centre, contact Enrolment Services at (403) 210-ROCK [7625] or visit their office in the MacKimmie Library Block.

Important Contact Information:

Campus Security and Safewalk (24 hours a day/7 days a week/365 days a year)  
Phone: 403-220-5333

Faculty of Arts Undergraduate Students' Union Representatives

Phone: 403-220-6551

Email: [arts1@su.ucalgary.ca](mailto:arts1@su.ucalgary.ca), [arts2@su.ucalgary.ca](mailto:arts2@su.ucalgary.ca), [arts3@su.ucalgary.ca](mailto:arts3@su.ucalgary.ca), [arts4@su.ucalgary.ca](mailto:arts4@su.ucalgary.ca)  
Students' Union URL: [www.su.ucalgary.ca](http://www.su.ucalgary.ca)

Graduate Students' Association

Phone: 403-220-5997

Email: [ask@gsa.ucalgary.ca](mailto:ask@gsa.ucalgary.ca)

URL: [www.ucalgary.ca/gsa](http://www.ucalgary.ca/gsa)

Student Ombudsman

Phone: 403-220-6420

Email: [ombuds@ucalgary.ca](mailto:ombuds@ucalgary.ca)