

The American Political System
Political Science 91D – Fall 2007
DUKE UNIVERSITY
Lecture: M&W 1:30-2:20pm, Soc Psych 130

Professor: David Rohde
Office: 408B Old Chemistry
Phone: 660-7053
Email: rohde@duke.edu

Teaching Assistants: Harriet Baker
Michael Brady
Meredith Barthelemy

Office Hours: M & W 10:30-11:30 and by appointment

Course Requirements:

This course has both a lecture and discussion section component. We meet in lecture twice a week (M&W 1:30-2:20), and your discussion section meets as noted on your registration schedule.

Attendance is required for section meetings, and strongly encouraged for lectures. Whether or not you attend a lecture, you are responsible for all material presented therein, as well as complying with all requirements communicated orally. Absences from discussion sections and exams must be excused with a note from the Dean of Students. The only acceptable excuses are a family death (that you can verify) and an illness that requires hospitalization or confinement to your residence. Although an excuse from the Dean is required, *the final decision regarding an acceptable excuse is mine alone.*

Your active participation in lecture class discussions is strongly encouraged and it is required in discussion sections. I will entertain and invite questions and/or comments during most lectures.

Blackboard: We will use Blackboard to post information and updates regarding the course. Be sure to check it frequently.

The University Code of Academic Integrity (The Honor Code) is taken seriously in this class. Violations or suspected violations will be reported to the proper authorities. Academic dishonesty includes signing someone else's name on attendance sheets, signing the attendance sheet and not attending class, and both the giving and the receiving of improper assistance on examinations and other graded work. Please familiarize yourself with what constitutes plagiarism.

Grades:

Final course grades will be calculated based on the following:

-Two 50-minute exams	40% (20% each)
-Discussion Section (attendance, participation)	20%
-Analysis paper	10%
-Final exam	30%

The 50-minute exams will consist of short answer questions plus one essay. (You will have choices to select from in each case). The final exam will include all of that plus one additional essay question that will call on you to integrate knowledge and information gleaned from all three segments of the course. Exam dates are noted on the schedule that follows.

In addition to the examinations, there is a required analysis paper. This paper is to be typewritten and passed in to your TA at the end of the discussion section meeting the week before

Thanksgiving break. **NO** late papers will be accepted without **prior** permission from Professor Rohde. The subject of the paper is a comparative critical analysis of the arguments presented in the two readings assigned for Nov. 12 plus Chapter 11-2 from Kernell and Smith assigned for Nov. 14. It should be obvious that you will have to read, think about, and analyze these readings well before the assigned dates. The dates are meant to indicate when these readings will be discussed in lecture and in sections. Prof. Rohde will elaborate on the requirements for this paper in class.

There is no extra credit option for this course.

Required Texts:

- 1) Kernell, Samuel and Gary C. Jacobson. 2003. *The Logic of American Politics*, 3rd edition.
- 2) Kernell, Samuel and Steven S. Smith. 2004. *Principles and Practice of American Politics: Classic and Contemporary Readings* 3rd edition.

These texts should be available at the Duke University Bookstore. Some additional readings will be made available in electronic form. They will either be available through Blackboard, or we will let you know via Blackboard how you can get them.

In addition to the texts, I will expect your to read a major newspaper (e.g., *New York Times* or *Washington Post*) every day to acquire information about national political events. I will draw on these events in class, and you will discuss them in section.

Class Schedule and Reading Assignments:

Note: Assignments from Kernell and Jacobson, *The Logic of American Politics*, 3rd edition are cited as K&J, while assignments from Kernell and. Smith, *Principles and Practice of American Politics: Classic and Contemporary Readings* 3rd edition are cited as K&S.

August 27: Introduction

August 29: **NO CLASS** (American Political Science Association Annual Meetings)
ALSO NO SECTION MEETINGS THIS WEEK

September 3: **Theoretical Foundations**

K&J Chap. 1

K&S Chap. 1-1, 1-3

September 5: **The Constitution and Its Consequences**

K&J Chap. 2

September 10: K&S Chap. 2-2, 2-3, 2-4

September 12: **Federalism**

K&J Chap. 3

K&S Chap. 3-2

September 17: **Civil Rights**

K&J Chap. 4

September 19: K&S Chap. 4-1, 4-2

September 24: **Civil Liberties**

K&J Chap. 5

K&S Chap. 5-3, 5-4, 5-5

September 26:

K&S Chap. 5-1, 5-2

October 1: **FIRST EXAM**

October 3: **Congress**

K&J Chap. 6

K&S Chap. 6-2

October 8: **NO CLASS: FALL BREAK**

October 10: K&S Chap. 6-1

J. Hibbing & C. Larimer, "What the American Public Wants Congress to Be."

October 15: (continued)

October 17: **The Presidency**

K&J Chap. 7

October 22: K&S Chap. 7-1, 7-2

October 24: **The Bureaucracy**

K&J Chap. 8

K&S Chap. 8-1, 8-2

October 29: **The Federal Judiciary**

K&J Chap. 9

K&S Chap. 9-3

October 31: K&S Chap. 9-1, 9-2, 9-5

November 5: **SECOND EXAM**

November 7: **Public Opinion**

K&J Chap. 10

K&S Chap. 10-1, 10-2

November 12: K&S Chap. 10-4
M. Brewer & J. Stonecash, Split, Chap. 8

REMINDER: YOUR ANALYSIS PAPERS ARE DUE IN YOUR SECTION MEETING THIS WEEK

November 14: **Voting, Campaigns, and Elections**
K&J Chap. 11
K&S Chap. 11-2

November 19: K&S Chap. 11-1, 11-3

November 21: **NO CLASS; THANKSGIVING BREAK**
ALSO NO SECTION MEETINGS THIS WEEK

November 26: **Political Parties**
K&J Chap. 12
K&S Chap. 12-1, 12-3

November 28: **Interests Groups**
K&J Chap. 13
K&S Chap. 13-2

December 3: **Mass Media and Politics**
K&J Chap. 14
K&S Chap. 14-1

December 5: **Conclusion**

FINAL EXAM: SATURDAY DECEMBER 15, 2:00-5:00 p.m.