

Political Science 101 (Section 002)  
**American Government**  
Spring 2005

**Meeting times:** Monday, Wednesday, and Friday 11 - 11:50 am  
**Location:** #139 Chemistry/Physics Building  
**Course Page:** <http://www.uky.edu/~dsvoss/docs/ps101.htm>

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PS 101 is not a Civics class, in which you learn how to be a good citizen or how to get involved in politics. It is not a Social Studies class, in which you memorize details about the political process. It is not a Current Events class, in which you study the personalities in government. It is not a Persuasive Speaking class, in which you debate hot policy issues or argue the virtues of popular candidates and political parties. And it is certainly not a Church, in which you are told what is right and wrong with the hope that you will change your beliefs or actions.

Rather, the purpose of PS 101 is to introduce you to the *science* of American politics – to teach you how to think critically and analytically about the relationship between Americans and their government. Our goal will be to question why government works as it does and to trace the effects of the country's method of conducting public business. Because PS 101 is only an introductory course, and therefore must skim rather quickly over a multitude of topics, your factual knowledge about particular components of the political system certainly will not be complete by the end of the semester. More advanced offerings in political science will provide you that depth, if you wish to achieve it.

That being said, students who attend lecture regularly and do their best to stay up with the assigned readings should leave the course with a much better understanding of

- (1) how the nation's historical experience molds current events,
- (2) how the public communicates values, opinions, and attitudes to public officials, and
- (3) how political institutions shape the connection between policies and public demands.

If you also pick up advice along the way about how to be a good political activist, or add to your knowledge base of political trivia, or develop a firmer sense of what you believe – so much the better. But those insights go beyond the academic purpose of the course.

## Sources of Required Reading Material

1. **Morris P. Fiorina, Paul E. Peterson, and D. Stephen Voss. 2005. *America's New Democracy*. New York: Penguin/Longman. Second edition election update.** The main text. You *must* have the second edition, but need not purchase the election update. Hereafter abbreviated as FPV.
2. **Anne G. Serow and Everett C. Ladd. 2003. *The Lanahan Readings in the American Polity*. Baltimore, MD: Lanahan Publishers, Inc. Third edition.** Essays and articles used to look at topics in depth or to give detailed examples. Hereafter abbreviated as SL.

### Evaluation (computational weight of each assignment):

- ! 23%: **exam** taken on February 14, during the scheduled 50-minute class
- ! 23%: **exam** taken on March 28, during the scheduled 50-minute class
- ! 24%: two **response papers** of 2-3 pages in length; due date determined by chosen topic
- ! 30%: **final examination** on 4 May 2005, from 10:30 am – 12:30 pm, in regular classroom

Despite the enormous size of our class, none of the **examinations** in PS 101-002 will involve fill-in-the-bubble testing. Rather, all three exams ask open-ended questions and your answers will be graded by a human being. The first two exams are non-cumulative – that is, they only include material from one third of the course – and will consist of a mixture of short answer, identification, and multiple choice questions. Even the multiple choice questions will be graded by hand, allowing you to explain your answers if necessary. The final exam also will include a non-cumulative portion worth 23 percentage points of the course grade, offering the same mix of question formats covering material from the final third of the course. It adds a 7-point long essay question, though, which you must answer with material drawn from across the entire semester.

A single form of evaluation is not sufficient to test true knowledge and effort. Thus, the exams are not the only opportunity for you to receive direct feedback on your performance in the course. Rather, you will be asked to sign up for two topics featured in the syllabus outline (e.g., Public Opinion, the Judiciary). You then will be responsible for writing a **2-3 page response** to the readings assigned for each topic you have chosen, either answering a question posted to the course Web page or answering a question of your choice (if approved by Adam or Kirill). The papers, worth 12 points each (for a total of 24% of your course grade), are due Monday before class on the day when the topic is *scheduled* to begin. Students also are encouraged to participate in class discussion, as opportunities permit, during the weeks for which they have signed up.

Each assignment will be graded on a **10-point scale** (in theory, A = 90-100, B = 80-89, C = 70-79, D = 60-69, E = 0-59). However, the examinations for the course are particularly rigorous, generally producing numerical averages far lower than found in other UK social science courses. Should that occur, **final grades will be curved upward** significantly before marks are reported to the registrar for inclusion on your transcript, so that they are representative of what you would find in comparable courses at the institution (roughly 2.65 GPA with 1/5 of the class receiving an “A” grade). Because your ultimate grade will depend on your relative performance, you are welcome to seek clarification on

your standing in the course at any time. Please note that students taking the course on a Pass/Fail basis *must* complete the final examination and receive a passing score in order to receive a grade of “P.”

Because there will be no attempt to take **attendance** during class, you obviously are not forced to participate in, or even show up for, most meetings of PS 101 (the exceptions being testing days and perhaps days on which you have a response paper due). However, do not take this lack of hand-holding to mean that skipping class will have no serious consequences. Not all of the information presented in the lectures will appear in the assigned readings, yet you are responsible for all lecture material. Furthermore, important organizational policies will be announced during class meetings, and lectures will be the best means available for determining what material is likely to appear on the exam. You cannot perform well in a course that you do not attend faithfully, and this course is no exception in that regard.

This course will follow university policy on make-up exams/essays. **Extensions** are available only under the most dire and clearly documented circumstances: a death in the family, or an illness or debilitating injury spanning a majority of the time during which you should have worked on the assignment. Even in these exceptional cases, you are responsible for informing the professor ahead of time, when circumstances permit, that an assignment will be late. *Failure to do so will remove any chance of having the absence excused.* **Late assignments** will be penalized five points per day if the delay is not excused, and it is your responsibility to ensure that late work reaches the teaching staff (i.e., simply placing something in a mailbox is not enough). Note: Adam and Kirill do *not* have authority to grant extensions, even under the permissible instances; only Steve may do this.

All of the material you submit for class is supposed to reflect your own work. If you copy answers from someone else’s exam, that constitutes **cheating** and can result in serious disciplinary action on the part of the professor and/or the university. If you submit someone else’s writing as though it is yours, even if the copied portion only amounts to an uncredited sentence or paragraph, you have committed **plagiarism** and again can expect to face harsh disciplinary action. Check with the teaching staff if you are not certain whether a particular form of borrowing constitutes plagiarism.

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**Course Outline** - Readings are organized on a weekly basis, as reflected on the following pages. You should try to read the assigned material before or during the week for which it is scheduled. Note that, although the topics are listed in week-long chunks, some topics actually may take more or less time. For that reason, it is important to pace your reading according to the schedule rather than according to the content of lectures in class.

DATES	TOPICS WITH READINGS	PAGE COUNT	
		DAILY	WEEKLY
Wednesday, Jan. 12	AMERICA'S LAST SUICIDE ATTEMPT		
Friday, Jan. 14	THE PERMANENT CAMPAIGN		
FPV, pp. 3-25	Chap. 1 (all)	23	31
SL, pp. 450-457	Cronin, "Direct Democracy"	8	
Monday, Jan. 17	Martin Luther King, Jr., Day - NO CLASS		

## PART I - FOUNDATIONS OF THE AMERICAN POLITICAL SYSTEM

Week 1 (1/19-1/21)	THE TWO REVOLUTIONS		
FPV, pp. A-3 thru A-6	Declaration of Independence	4	30
FPV, pp. 28-40	Chap. 2	13	
SL, pp. 59-64	Hofstadter, "The American Political Tradition"	6	
SL, pp. 676-682	Friedman, "Free to Choose"	7	
Week 2 (1/24-1/28)	THE CONSTITUTION		
FPV, pp. 40-54	Chap. 2	15	70
SL, pp. 105-109	Madison, "Federalist #51"	5	
FPV, pp. 57-74, 82-85	Chap. 3 (skip "State and Local Government" section)	21	
SL, pp. 138-141	Osborne, "Laboratories of Democracy" (end: ...new national agenda)	4	
SL, pp. 691-693	Thompson, "Power to the People" (end: ...out closer to home)	3	
FPV, pp. A-7 thru A-24	U.S. Constitution (skim)	22	
Week 3 (1/31-2/4)	AMERICAN POLITICAL CULTURE		
FPV, pp. 89-118	Chap. 4 (all)	30	62
SL, pp. 3-6	Tocqueville, "Democracy in America"	4	
SL, pp. 7-10	Bryce, "The American Commonwealth"	4	
SL, pp. 17-26	Putnam, "Bowling Alone"	10	
SL, pp. 26-39	Ladd, "The Ladd Report"	14	

## PART II - COMPONENTS OF THE AMERICAN POLITICAL SYSTEM

Week 4 (2/7-2/11)	CONGRESS		
FPV, pp. 279-309	Chap. 9 (all)	30	60
SL, pp. 183-185	Starobin, "Pork: A Time-Honored Tradition..."	3	
SL, pp. 185-190	Ellwood/Patashnik, "In Praise of Pork"	6	
SL, pp. 190-203	Sinclair, "Unorthodox Lawmaking"	14	
SL, pp. 158-164	Fenno, "Home Style"	7	

**February 14**      **First Examination (covers material up through Week 4)**

Week 5 (2/16-2/18)	THE PRESIDENCY		
FPV, pp. 312-347	Chap. 10 (skip "The Two Presidencies")	36	48
SL, pp. 253-262	Gergen, "Eyewitness to Power"	10	
FPV, pp. 496-497	Chap. 14 (Aftershock only)	2	
Week 6 (2/21-2/25)	THE BUREAUCRACY		
FPV, pp. 350-378, 387-392	Chap. 11 (skip Monetary Policy and Foreign Policy parts)	35	64
SL, pp. 280-295	Reich, "Locked in the Cabinet"	16	
SL, pp. 305-312	Osborne/Gaebler, "Reinventing Government"	8	
SL, pp. 395-399	SCOTUS, <i>PGA Tour v. Casey Martin</i> (start: As we have noted...)	5	
Week 7 (2/28-3/4)	POLITICAL PARTIES		
SL, pp. 65-71	Madison, "Federalist #10"	7	43
SL, pp. 573-582	Guinier, "Tyranny of the Majority"	10	
FPV, pp. 237-256	Chap. 8 (end before "Parties versus Interest Groups")	20	
SL, pp. 595-600	Baer, "Reinventing Democrats" (end: ...Clinton's second term)	6	
Monday, March 7	MIDTERM OF SEMESTER		
Week 8 (3/7-3/11)	INDIVIDUAL AND GROUP PARTICIPATION		
FPV, pp. 256-276	Chap. 8 (starting with "Parties versus Interest Groups")	21	57
SL, pp. 482-491	Greider, "Who Will Tell the People"	10	
SL, pp. 499-503	Balz/Brownstein, "Storming the Gates"	5	
SL, pp. 474-482	Birnbaum, "The Lobbyists"	9	
FPV, pp. 176-187	Chap. 6 (all)	12	
Week 9 (3/14-3/18)	SPRING BREAK! NO CLASS!!!		
<b>PART III - INPUTS INTO THE AMERICAN POLITICAL SYSTEM</b>			
Week 10 (3/21-3/25)	NATIONAL ELECTIONS		
FPV, pp. 196-233	Chap. 7 (all)	38	62
SL, pp. 541-550	Johnson, "No Place for Amateurs"	10	
SL, pp. 535-540	Cressman, "The Constitution and Campaign Reform"	6	
SL, pp. 557-564	Ansolahehere/Iyengar, "Going Negative"	8	

**Monday, March 28      Second Examination (covers material for weeks 5 though 10)**

Week 11 (3/30-4/1)	FOCUS ON AMERICAN CYNICISM		
SL, pp. 79-86	Mills, "The Power Elite"	8	23
	Voss, "The Story of the Two Ivans" (on course Web page)	8	
SL, pp. 611-618	Ventura, "I Ain't Got Time to Bleed"	7	
Week 12 (4/4-4/8)	PUBLIC OPINION AND THE MEDIA		
FPV, pp. 121-167	Chap. 5 (skip "Mass Media and the Election Connection")	47	87
SL, pp. 659-670	Patterson, "The White House Staff: The Advance Office"	12	
SL, pp. 642-649	Sabato, "Feeding Frenzy"	8	
SL, pp. 434-438	Lippmann, "The Phantom Public"	5	
SL, pp. 444-449	Jacobs/Shapiro, "Politicians Don't Pander"	6	
SL, pp. 621-29	Salisbury, "A Time of Change"	9	

#### **PART IV - OUTPUTS FROM THE AMERICAN POLITICAL SYSTEM**

Week 13 (4/11-4/15)	THE JUDICIARY		
FPV, pp. 395-427	Chap. 12 (all)	33	46
SL, pp. 341-347	Yalof, "Pursuit of Justices" (start: These changes in the political...)	7	
SL, pp. 328-333	Irons, "Brennan vs. Rehnquist"	6	
Week 14 (4/18-4/22)	CIVIL LIBERTIES AND CIVIL RIGHTS		
FPV, pp. 431-436, 451-461	Chap. 13 (intro, Criminal Justice, Aftershock sections)	17	71
FPV, pp. 465-487, 494-500	Chap. 14 (skip after "Hispanics" to "Rights of Americans...")	30	
SL, pp. 39-46	West, "Race Matters"	8	
SL, pp. 368-375	Kluger, "Simple Justice"	8	
SL, pp. 550-557	Jamieson, "Dirty Politics"	8	
Week 15 (4/25-4/29)	PUBLIC POLICY		
FPV, pp. 502-515, 529-534	Chap. 15 (skips parts of Economic Policy)	20	43
SL, pp. 365-368	Posner, "Security versus Civil Liberties"	4	
SL, pp. 717-727	Huntington, "The Clash of Civilizations"	11	
SL, pp. 699-706	Funciello, "Tyranny of Kindness"	8	

**Wednesday, 4 May 2005, at 10:30 am in regular classroom**

***Final Exam!!!***