

Government 30: American Government—A New Perspective (Fall 2008)

Instructor: Professor Paul E. Peterson

Course Description

This course examines the increasingly significant role that electoral pressures and the permanent campaign play in the workings of American government. Although the course serves as an introduction to American government, it also shows how well established institutions have been altered by modern politics.

Meeting Time/Location

The class meets for lectures twice weekly, Mondays and Wednesdays, from 11:00 - 12:00, in Harvard Hall 201. Discussion sections will meet once a week – section times are as follows:

Omar - Wed: 5-6pm, 8-9pm

Elena - Thurs: 3-4pm, 4-5pm

Sectioning

Sectioning will be conducted online, starting on Wednesday, September 17th and ending at 5:00 PM on Tuesday, September 23rd. Sections will start meeting on Wednesday, September 24th. Section assignments will be emailed to you and posted on the course web site. **To section, follow the directions posted at:** http://www.registrar.fas.harvard.edu/section/instructions_student.html

Readings

All readings on the syllabus are required. Students are expected to keep up to date with current political events by reading a national newspaper (e.g. the *New York Times*, *Wall Street Journal*, *Washington Post*) each day. Assigned books are on reserve at Lamont Library; assigned articles and chapters have been compiled in Course Pack [CP], a sourcebook that is available for purchase at Gnomon Copy on Mass Ave and that is on reserve at Lamont Library and Fung Library (in CGIS). The following books are available online or at the Harvard Coop:

Fiorina, Morris and Paul Peterson, *The New American Democracy, 5th Edition* (Longman, 2006).
[be sure to purchase the FIFTH EDITION because other editions do not include material that we will be covering in this course]

Hamilton, Madison, Jay, *The Federalist Papers*. *[also available online at several websites, including:*
<http://thomas.loc.gov/home/histdox/fedpapers.html>*]*

Ansolabehere, Stephen and James M. Snyder, Jr., *The End of Inequality: One Person, One Vote and the Transformation of American Politics* (Norton, 2008).

Rosenberg, Gerald, *The Hollow Hope: Can Courts Bring About Social Change?* (University of Chicago Press, 1993)

Canon, David T., John J. Coleman and Kenneth R. Mayer *The Enduring Debate: Classic and Contemporary Readings in American Politics, 5th Edition* (Norton, 2008)

Website

There is a course website: <http://www.courses.fas.harvard.edu/0263>. Materials posted on the site include the course syllabus, links to course readings in the public domain, assignments and announcements.

Course Requirements

Midterm Exam (20% of your final grade)

Final Paper (20%)

Final Exam (40%)

Section and lecture attendance; participation in section (20%)

Students are expected not to regularly arrive late to or leave early from lectures and sections, as this is disruptive. Course instructors make a note of frequent absences, late arrivals and early departures.

Instructor

Professor Paul E. Peterson

Email: ppeterso@gov.harvard.edu

Office Hours: Monday 2:00 PM to 3:30 PM or by appointment*

Office: Taubman 306, Kennedy School of Government, 79 JFK Street

Telephone: (617) 495-8312 direct

*For appointments contact Antonio Wendland (pepg_administrator@ksg.harvard.edu or 617.495.7976)

Teaching Fellows

Omar Wasow (Head of Sections)

Email: owasow@fas.harvard.edu

Office Hours: TBA

Location: TBA

Elena Llaudet

Email: ellaudet@fas.harvard.edu

Office Hours: TBA

Location: TBA

Course Outline

September 15 (M): Introduction: Elections and American Democracy

- Fiorina and Peterson, Ch. 1

September 17 (W): Creating a Constitutional Democracy

- The Declaration of Independence (in Fiorina and Peterson)
- Roche, John, "The Founding Fathers: A Reform Caucus in Action," *American Political Science Review* (December, 1961) [CP]
- Canon, Ch. 2 (pp. 51-81)
- The Constitution of the United States of America (in Fiorina and Peterson)
- *The Federalist Papers*, #10, #47, #48, #51
- Fiorina and Peterson, Ch. 2

September 22 (M): The Origins of the Modern Courts

- Canon, Ch. 8 (pp. 285-326)
- Marbury v. Madison (1803), See Canon, pp. 665-659.
- Fiorina and Peterson, Ch. 15

September 24 (W): The Modern Court System

- Canon, Ch. 8 (pp. 285-326)

September 29 (M): Federalism

- *The Federalist Papers* #39, #45, #46
- *McCulloch v. Maryland* (1819), See Canon, pp. 670-674
- *U. S. v. Lopez* (1995), See Canon, pp. 689-696
- Canon, Ch. 3 (pp. 82-126)
- Fiorina and Peterson, Ch. 3

October 1 (W): Civil Liberties

- *Barron v. Baltimore* (1833), See Canon, pp. 675-76
- *Lochner v. New York* (1905) [CP]
- *Roe v. Wade* (1973), See Canon, pp. 677-681
- *Planned Parenthood of Southeastern PA v. Casey* (1992) [CP]
- Rosenberg, Gerald, *The Hollow Hope*, Ch. 6-9
- Fiorina and Peterson, Ch. 16
- Canon, Ch. 4 (pp. 150-166)

October 6 (M): Civil Rights

- *Milliken v. Bradley* (1974) [CP]
- *Regents of the University of California v. Bakke* (1978) [CP]
- *Brown v. Board* (1954), See Canon, pp. 682-83.
- *Grutter v. Bollinger* (2003) [CP]
- Rosenberg, *The Hollow Hope*, ch. 2-5
- Fiorina and Peterson, Ch. 17 (pp. 518-541)
- Canon, Ch. 4 (pp. 127-149)

October 8 (W): Women's Rights

- Fiorina and Peterson, Ch. 17 (pp. 512-518)
- *Craig v. Boren* (1976) [CP]

October 13 (M): Columbus Day [NO LECTURE]

October 15 (W): The American Political Tradition

- Huntington, Samuel, *American Politics: The Promise of Disharmony* (1981), Ch. 2 [CP]
- Steinmo, Sven, "American Exceptionalism Reconsidered: Culture or Institutions?" in Dodd and Jillson (eds.), *The Dynamics of American Politics* (1994) [CP]
- Harrison, Lawrence, "The End of Multiculturalism," *The National Interest*. [CP]
- Fiorina and Peterson, Ch. 4.
- Canon, Ch. 1 (pp. 3-50)

October 20 (M): Public Opinion

- Popkin, Samuel, *The Reasoning Voter*, pp. 1-17 [CP]
- Page, Benjamin and Robert Shapiro, "The Rational Public and Democracy," in Marcus and Hanson (eds.), *Reconsidering the Democratic Public* (1993) [CP]
- Fiorina, *Culture War?*, Ch. 1-3 [CP]
- Fiorina and Peterson, Ch. 5
- Canon, Ch. 9 (pp. 329-342)

October 22 (W): Political Participation

- Canon, Ch. 10 (pp. 367-408)
- Fiorina and Peterson, Ch. 6

October 27 (M): Interest Groups

- Canon, Ch. 12 (pp. 462-510)
- Fiorina and Peterson, Ch. 7.

October 29 (W): MIDTERM EXAM

November 3 (M): Political Parties

- Canon, Ch. 11 (pp. 409-461)
- Fiorina and Peterson, Ch. 8

November 5 (W): Presidential and Congressional Elections

- Bartels, Larry, *Presidential Primaries* (1988), Ch. 1-2 [CP]
- *The Federalist Papers*, #68
- Kimberling, William C., "The Electoral College", *Federal Election Commission Report* [CP]
- Fiorina and Peterson, Ch. 10
- Hillygus, Sunshine. *The Persuadable Voter*, Ch. 1 [CP]

November 10 (M): State and Local Elections

- Ansolabehere and Snyder, Jr., *The End of Inequality*, Ch. 1-6, 9

November 12 (W): In-Class Screening of “Can Mr. Smith Get to Washington Anymore?”

- Rich, Wilbur, “St. Louis Blues,” *Education Next* VIII:1 (Winter 2008), pp. 30-37 [CP]

November 17 (M): The Media

- Canon, Ch. 9 (pp. 342-366)
- Fiorina and Peterson, Ch. 9

November 19 (W): Congress

- Fiorina and Peterson, Ch. 11-12
- Jacobson, *The Politics of Congressional Elections*, Ch 2-3, 5 [CP]
- Canon, Ch. 5 (pp. 169-205)

November 24 (M): The Presidency

- Fiorina and Peterson, Ch. 13
- Neustadt, Richard, *Presidential Power* (1990), Ch. 1, 3 [CP]
- Howell, William, *Power Without Persuasion: The Politics of Direct Presidential Action* (2003), Ch. 1, Conclusion [CP]
- Canon, pp. 206-244
- *U.S. v. Nixon* (1974), see Canon pp. 689-96

November 26 (W): Term Paper Preparation [NO CLASS]

December 1 (M): The Executive Branch

- Fiorina and Peterson, Ch. 14
- Canon, Ch. 7 (pp. 245-284)

December 3 (W): Foreign Policy

- *The Federalist Papers*, #70
- Howell, William and Jon Pevehouse, “When Congress Stops Wars,” *Foreign Affairs* (Sept/Oct 2007) [CP]
- Wildavsky, Aaron, “The Two Presidencies,” in Wildavsky (ed.), *The Presidency* (1969) [CP]
- Fiorina and Peterson, Ch. 20

December 8 (M): Social Policy

- Gilens, Martin, *Why Americans Hate Welfare* (1999), Ch. 1 [CP]
- Canon, pp. 602-615
- Fiorina and Peterson, Ch. 18

December 10 (W): Economic Policy

- Fiorina and Peterson, Ch. 19

December 15 (M): Conclusion [FINAL PAPER DUE]

- *The Permanent Campaign*, Ch. 1 (Hecló) [CP]
- Fiorina and Peterson, Ch. 1
- Ansolabehere and Snyder, Jr., *The End of Inequality*, Ch. 12