

Political Science 10
Summer Session I, 2012
Lectures MW 11:00-1:50, Center Hall 207

Professor Childers
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Introduction to Political Science: American Politics

General Information

All assigned readings should be completed by the date listed; lectures will be based on the assumption that students have completed the reading.¹ The midterm will be given in class and the final will be a take home exam. The midterm (July 18) will account for 40%; the final exam paper (due August 3) will count for 50%; participation in class will count for the remaining 10%. **Late final exam papers will not be accepted and will receive a zero.**

Books to be purchased:

Kernell, Samuel, Gary C. Jacobson, and Thad Kousser. 2012. *The Logic of American Politics*. 5th edition. Washington, DC: CQ Press.

In addition, every student is expected to read the political news daily via a legitimate news source (The U.S. section of Google News is excellent, as well as the *New York Times*, *Washington Post*, *Los Angeles Times*, *San Diego Union-Tribune*, *The Economist*). There are politically slanted magazine sites and blogs out there too, but I would stick to more neutral sources (or at least news organizations that do their best to be).

¹ Lectures are not a substitute for the assigned readings.

Readings (Depending on the flow of lectures, etc., slight modifications may be necessary).

Date	Topic	Readings
July 2	Introduction and the Constitution	Chs. 1
July 4	No class	
July 9	Constitution and Federalism	Chs. 2, 3 (This may bleed into next week)
July 11	Congress	Ch. 6
July 16	Presidency	Ch. 7
July 18	Midterm and Bureaucracy	Ch. 8
July 23	Judiciary	Ch. 9
July 25	Public Opinion and Voting	Ch.s. 10, 11
July 30	Parties	Ch. 12
August 1	Interest Groups and Media	Chs. 13 and 14
August 3	Take Home Final Paper Due	Turn in Final Exam to Center Hall 207 by 1:50pm. We will be there during the usual class time to collect your papers. Late papers will not be accepted and will receive a zero.

Game Plan for Lectures

I realize that three hours of class time will exhaust most if not all of you. Barring something extraordinary, lectures will typically go for about two hours (with a break at the halfway mark).

Final Exam Paper

The final exam will be a take home exam, requiring a 6-8 page paper. It will be due by 1:50pm on Friday, August 3rd in our classroom, Center Hall 207. We will not accept late papers! I repeat: late papers will not be accepted and will receive a zero.

Cheating and Plagiarism: Cheating of any kind is not tolerated. Evidence of this will result in an F for the course and a report will be filed with the administration. Ignorance of UCSD's policy on academic integrity will not be an acceptable excuse in the event you are caught cheating on the midterm or final exam paper. Familiarize yourself with the policy here:

<http://students.ucsd.edu/academics/academic-integrity/index.html>

Course Materials will be posted on the course web page on TED. I will use the webpage to post lecture slides, relevant materials, and important course announcements. Make sure to check it regularly. If you are a non-UCSD student, it is your responsibility to make sure you are registered to access ted.ucsd.edu. Contact the Academic Computing Services (acs.ucsd.edu) and possibly the Registrar's office (registrar.ucsd.edu). Lecture slides will be posted after lecture is over. I am not

doing podcasts. You are responsible for anything covered or announced during lecture. If you miss class, hopefully one of your fellow students will be nice enough to offer you their notes. Neil and I will NOT give anyone our notes.

Grade Appeals must be submitted in writing with your exam. We take appeals very seriously and will strictly enforce this policy (NO EXCEPTIONS). If you want to appeal your grade, you must write a one page argument about why your exam/paper answered the prompt and also address Neil's feedback. After receiving your exam, you must wait a minimum of 24 hours before you discuss your grade with Neil or me or before you submit your appeal. I do this because I want you to take the time to absorb our feedback on your work. Just about every conversation between Profs/TAs and students immediately after getting exams back are less productive than they would be if people took the time to read through their work and feedback.

We will not consider frivolous grade appeals or arguments that may try to factor in how someone else in the class was graded (ex: "I saw my friend so-and-so's exam and my answer w.r.t. to X was much stronger than theirs.") Frivolous appeals are those that address topics unrelated to the exam. Three of the most popular ones usually given include: 1) you want to go to law school or medical school (or pick your prospective graduate program) and it's vital that you have the highest GPA possible. So, we should look the other way and give you the A, or 2) you feel that you worked really hard and studied a very long time and you believe your grade should be higher, or finally 3) you typically get As or A-'s and this is the first time you ever got a grade this low. So please raise my grade.

If you write an appeal based on either of or a combination the three above, we will not consider it. We will grade your work on how well you apply course concepts and how well you show a deeper understanding of how concepts explain political outcomes and behavior. Your appeal should address your work and how it addresses the questions in the exams as well as it should answer Neil's commentary he offered you while grading.

You are responsible for knowing what is required of you. I.E. familiarize yourself with this syllabus. You cannot claim ignorance of when things are due, what is expected of you, etc. This includes what is covered in lecture. This includes explanations of the material, announcements of any important course changes, or any material that I cover that isn't necessarily in the textbook.

Course Conduct: We expect you to behave professionally in this class, during lecture and outside of it, just like you expect us to. I think it is fine to use your computers or even your tablets to take notes (I did when I was in school), however certain behaviors are rude and I reserve the right to have you leave lecture if you do them. These include texting, taking/making phone calls, talking during lecture, and any generally disruptive behavior. If you really would rather be doing something else during lecture, feel free to leave at any time. However, remember that you are responsible for everything covered in the class (readings and lectures). Missing class will not be an excuse for not knowing something I covered in lecture that wasn't in the textbook.

Please do not use email as a substitute for attending office hours. Quick, easy to answer questions about course logistics that cannot be easily answered by reading the syllabus are welcome. However, use office hours to discuss course materials that you are having trouble with or would like extra help with, etc. This is not a power trip, it just allows us to answer everyone in a timely manner.

Rude emails of any sort will not get an answer. You expect us to treat you with dignity and respect and the feeling is mutual.