

“The defense of constitutional forms is necessary to any lasting inspiration of activity in a democratic people. Government must withdraw from attempting to guarantee the exercise of rights to a less ambitious and less threatening policy of securing those rights in some formal manner. A formal manner permits and requires people as individuals and groups to become responsible on their own for exercising rights. *Only the formalism of constitutionalism leaves room for the voluntarism of democracy.*”

— Harvey C. Mansfield, Jr., *America's Constitutional Soul*

Political Science 2051

American Government

Intersession 2002

web address: <<http://blackboard.lsu.edu>>

Instructor: James Stoner
Stubbs 208B (tel: 578-2538)
e-mail: poston@lsu.edu

Office Hours: Monday through Friday, 12:00-12:30

Course requirements:

Class attendance and participation [penalty for unexcused absences]
Daily quizzes (open book) on the assigned reading [40%]
Five-page essay on assigned topic [20%]
Final examination (Saturday, June 8) [40%]

Books available for purchase:

James Q. Wilson, *American Government (Brief Version)*, 5th ed. (Houghton Mifflin)
William Lasser, ed., *Perspectives on American Politics*, 3rd ed. (Houghton Mifflin)
Paul K. Conkin, *The Four Foundations of American Government* (Harlan Davidson)

SYLLABUS:

I. AMERICAN CONSTITUTIONALISM

Thurs., 5/23 **The American Constitution**
Declaration of Independence
Constitution of the United States

Fri., 5/24 **Constitutional Democracy**
WILSON, *American Government*, ch. 1-2
LASSER, *Perspectives*, ch. 1:
James Madison, *The Federalist*, ## 10, 47, 48, 51
Pennsylvania Minority, “Address and Reason of Dissent”
Wendy Kaminer, “Second Thoughts on the Second Amendment”
A.E. Dick Howard, “How Ideas Travel: Rights at Home and Abroad”
John P. Roche, “The Founding Fathers: A Reform Caucus in Action”

Sat., 5/25 **Federal Republic**
WILSON, ch. 3
LASSER, *Perspectives*, ch. 2:
Herbert Storing, “What the Anti-Federalists Were For”
James Madison, *The Federalist*, ## 39, 45
Garry Wills, “The War Between the States...and Washington”
The Economist, “If You Sincerely Want to Be a United States...”

Jonathan Walters, "The Taming of Texas"

II. POLITICS AND POLITICAL INSTITUTIONS

- Mon., 5/27 **Political Culture, Public Opinion, and the Media**
WILSON, *American Government*, ch. 4
LASSER, *Perspectives*, ch. 5, 7:
 Alexis de Tocqueville, "Democracy in America"
 David S. Broder & Richard Morin, "A Question of Values"
 Seymour Martin Lipset, "American Exceptionalism: A Double-Edged Sword"
 Michael Barone, "The Power of the President's Pollsters"
 Howard Kurtz, "The Master of Spin"
- Tues., 5/28 **Parties and Interest Groups**
WILSON, *American Government*, ch. 5
LASSER, *Perspectives*, ch. 6, 8:
 E.E. Schattschneider, "The Scope and Bias of the Pressure System"
 Paul S. Herrnson, "Interest Groups, PACs, and Campaigns"
 Alison Mitchell, "New...Lobbying Puts Public Face on Private Interest"
 APSA, "Towards a More Responsible Two-Party System"
 Douglas Amy, "Breaking the Two-Party Monopoly"
- Wed., 5/29 **Campaigns and Elections**
WILSON, *American Government*, ch. 6
KIMBALL, ed., "The Exceptional Election" [supplement to Wilson textbook]
- Thurs., 5/30 **Congress**
WILSON, *American Government*, ch. 7
LASSER, *Perspectives*, ch. 9:
 James Madison, *The Federalist*, ## 55, 57
 Barbara Sinclair, "Party Leaders and the New Legislative Process"
 Leon D. Epstein, "Changing Perceptions of the British System"
 Clara Bingham, "Women on the Hill"
- Fri., 5/31 **The President**
WILSON, *American Government*, ch. 8
LASSER, *Perspectives*, ch. 10:
 Alexander Hamilton, *The Federalist*, ## 68, 70
 Richard Neustadt, "Presidential Power"
 Thomas E. Cronin & Michael Genovese, "Presidential Paradoxes"
 Richard Rose, "Presidents and Prime Ministers"
 R.D. McFadden, J. Kifner, & N.R. Kleinfield, "Public Acts, Private Moments"

III. INTERLUDE: PRINCIPLES OF GOVERNMENT

Sat., 6/1 CONKIN, *The Four Foundations of American Government*

IV. ADMINISTRATION, LAW, AND RIGHTS

- Mon., 6/3 **Bureaucracy**
WILSON, *American Government*, ch. 9
LASSER, *Perspectives*, ch. 11:
 Max Weber, "Bureaucracy"
 James Q. Wilson, "What Government Agencies Do and Why They Do It"
 G.E. Caiden et al., "The Distinctive Nature of American Public Administration"

Robert Reich, "Locked in the Cabinet"

Tues., 6/4

Courts

WILSON, *American Government*, ch. 10

LASSER, *Perspectives*, ch. 12:

Alexander Hamilton, *The Federalist*, #78

John Marshall, *Marbury v. Madison*

Kathleen M. Sullivan, "The Jurisprudence of the Rehnquist Court"

Mark C. Miller, "Judicial Activism in Canada and the United States"

Edward Lazarus, "Closed Chambers"

Wed., 6/5

Civil Rights and Liberties

WILSON, *American Government*, ch. 11

LASSER, *Perspectives*, ch. 3, 4:

John Stuart Mill, "On Liberty"

Louis Henkin, "The Universal Declaration and the U.S. Constitution"

Alan Dershowitz, "Is the Criminal Trial a Search for Truth?"

Plessy v. Ferguson

Brown v. Board of Education

Bolling v. Sharpe

Will Kymlicka, "Multicultural Citizenship"

V. POLITICS AND POLICY: ENDS AND MEANS

Thurs., 6/6

WILSON, *American Government*, ch. 12

LASSER, *Perspectives*, ch. 13:

Roger H. Davidson & Walter J. Oleszek, "Domestic Policymaking"

Dean Baker, "Nine Misconceptions About Social Security"

Anthony King, "Ideas, Institutions, and the Policies of Government"

Colin Powell, "Mr. Chairman, We've Got a Problem"

Fri., 6/7

WILSON, *American Government*, ch. 13

Sat., 6/8

FINAL EXAMINATION