

Course Outline

• What Should We Know About American Government?

- A. The Meanings of Democracy
- B. Representative Democracy

• The Constitution

- A. The Problem of Liberty
- B. The Weaknesses of the Confederation
- C. The Constitutional Convention
- D. The Challenge
- E. The Constitution and Democracy
- F. The Constitution and Liberty
- G. The Constitution and Slavery
- H. Political Ideals or Economic Interests?
- I. Liberty and Equality
- J. A Recipe for Moderation

• Federalism

- A. Governmental Structure
- B. Federalism: Good or Bad?
- C. The Founding Fathers
- D. The Evolving Meaning of Federalism
- E. The Division of Powers: Federal and State
- F. Fiscal Federalism
- G. Federal Aid and Federal Control
- H. Federalism and Public Policy
- I. Evaluating Federalism

• Public Opinion and the Media

- A. What Is Public Opinion?
- B. The Origins of Political Attitudes
- C. Cleavages in Public Opinion
- D. Political Ideology
- E. Political Elite's and the "New Class"
- F. The Impact of the Media
- G. The Structure of the Media
- H. Rules Governing the Media
- I. Government and the News
- J. Interpreting Political News
- K. Are News Stories Slanted?

• Political Parties and Interest Groups

- A. Parties-Here and Abroad
- B. The National Party Structure Today
- C. State and Local Parties
- D. The Two-Party System
- E. Nominating a President
- F. Do the Parties Differ?
- G. Interest Groups and Political Parties
- H. Kinds of Organization
- I. Funds for Interest Groups
- J. The Problem of Bias
- K. The Activities of Interest Groups
- L. Regulating Interest Groups

• Campaigns and Elections

- A. Political Participation
- B. Historical Voting Patterns
- C. Explaining--and Improving--Turnout
- D. Political Campaigns
- E. The Effects of Campaigns
- F. How to Win an Election
- G. Election Outcomes
- H. Modern Technology and Political Campaigns
- I. Elections and Money
- J. The Effects of Elections on Policy

• Congress

- A. The Evolution of Congress
- B. Who Is in Congress?
- C. Getting Elected to Congress
- D. The Organization of Congress: Parties and Interests
- E. The Organization of Congress: Committees
- F. The Organization of Congress: Staffs and Offices
- G. How a Bill Becomes Law
- H. How Members of Congress Vote
- I. What It All Means
- J. Ethics and Congress
- K. The Power of Congress

• **The Presidency**

- A. The Powers of the President
- B. The Evolution of the Presidency
- C. The Modern Presidency
- D. Who Gets Appointed
- E. Presidential Character

- F. The Power to Say No
- G. The President's Program
- H. Presidential Transitions
- I. The President and Public Policy

• **The Bureaucracy**

- A. Distinctiveness of the American Bureaucracy
- B. The Growth of the Bureaucracy
- C. The Federal Bureaucracy Today

- D. Congressional Oversight
- E. Bureaucratic "Pathologies"
- F. Reinventing Government.

• **The Judiciary**

- A. The Development of the Federal Courts
- B. The Structure of the Federal Courts
- C. The Jurisdiction of the Federal Courts
- D. Getting to Court

- E. The Supreme Court in Action
- F. The Power of the Courts
- G. Checks on Judicial Power

• **Civil Liberties and Civil Rights**

- A. Freedom of Expression
- B. Church and State

- C. Crime and Due Process
- D. Equal Protection of the Laws

• **Politics and Public Policy**

- A. How the American System Affects Policy Making
- B. How Things Get Done

- C. Four Kinds of Political Coalitions
- D. Some Cautionary Remarks

• **American Government: Continuity and Change**

- A. Restraints on Growth
- B. Relaxing the Restraints

- C. Can or Should We Go Back to the Old Politics?
- D. Should the Constitutional System Be Changed?