This course is designed as a broad survey of American national government and politics. We will begin by exploring the ideological and cultural foundations of the American political system. This exploration will highlight some of the criteria that we will use throughout the course to evaluate the performance of various political institutions (such as Congress) and actors (such as the electorate). Next, we will study how individuals, parties, and interest groups influence the political institutions that were established by the Constitution. Finally, we will study these institutions. You should emerge from this course with an understanding of the basic processes by which national public policy is made and the forces that have shaped national politics in recent years.

Current events provide a valuable perspective on the nature of the American political system. For this reason, current events will play a large role in this course. I will devote substantial time to news from Washington and elsewhere that is related to the subjects we are studying. Consequently, keeping up with the news will enhance the value of this course for you. A routine reading of daily newspapers (particularly the Washington Post and New York Times), watching television programs such as the The News Hour on the Public Broadcasting Service (channel 26), and listening to radio programs such as Morning Edition or All Things Considered on National Public Radio will put you in a position to ask informed questions and comprehend some of the classroom discussion.

**Required Texts:** All of the texts for this course are available in the bookstore in the Marvin Center. The first three texts come bundled as a package. The fourth book just went out of print. The book store was able to procure 150 copies. There are 73 additional used copies on amazon.com.

5. John Dean, *The Rehnquist Choice*

We will also make extensive use of material and resources that are available on the web (particularly, logic.cqpress.com that is associated with the text). Finally, additional readings (frequently news stories) will be distributed via an email. The email list will be based upon your @gwu.edu account associated with your class registration. It is your responsibility to check your own email and make sure there is room in your GW mailbox to receive new mail. All readings that are subsequently distributed should be considered assigned reading.
Course Organization: All students enrolled in this class should also be enrolled in a discussion section that will be led by one of the Political Science Department's Graduate Teaching Fellows. The full course will meet on Monday and Wednesday. Because of our need to cover a great deal of material in a relatively short period of time, the discussion sections will be primarily used to cover material that is not presented in the lectures. Since most the discussion sections will focus on the material contained within the readings, a special effort should be made to read the assigned material prior to the discussion sections. Participation in discussion sections is NOT optional. Passing this course without actively participating in a discussion section will be difficult (if not impossible).

Graded Assignments: The grade in this course will be based on a midterm exam (34%), a final exam (38%), a 5-6 page essay (10%), two discussion section 2 page essays (10%), leading one discussion section (3%), and general discussion section participation (5%). In addition to these assignments, we reserve the right to add additional assignments (quizzes). If we do, we will announce these in advance (and we will slightly alter the percentages associated with various assignments). You should be aware that every assignment is required. If you fail to complete any assignment, you will receive a zero for that assignment and your course grade will suffer significantly.

While a curve may be used in determining the final distribution of grades, any student who acquires at least 90% (or more) of the weighted points will not receive a grade lower than an A, 80-90% a B, 70-80% a C, and 60-70% a D. Thus, the curve will only be used to improve your grade. You should note that I do not give pluses or minuses for any grade in the D or F range. Furthermore, you should be aware that for Department of Political Science majors, grades in the D and F range do not count towards satisfying department requirements. I do not allow students to submit extra work in an attempt to raise his or her grade, unless I have specified to the entire class that such an opportunity exists.

Prior to both exams a study guide will be distributed. The exams will cover both material covered in the assigned readings and in the lecture. Since the lecture material will not necessarily be presented in the readings, missing class will put you at a disadvantage. The two discussion section activities and exercise will be discussed during the first meeting of the discussion section.

Tentative Exam/Assignment Dates:
- Two Internet Research Essays (one prior and one after the midterm; sign-up in discussion)
- Midterm Exam, March 7 or 9 (probably the 9)
- 5-6 Page Paper, April 25
- Final Exam

This is a tentative schedule. Any changes in the aforementioned schedule will be announced in class. You are responsible for being aware of such changes. Incompletes and make-up exams will not be given, except under extraordinary circumstances.
Obviously, rescheduling a final exam for this many people is not possible. Thus, you should not make plans to leave town prior to the final exam.

There will not be class on:

Monday, February 21 (President’s day)

**Teaching Fellows:**

<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th>Name</th>
<th>Email</th>
<th>Office</th>
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<tbody>
<tr>
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</tr>
</tbody>
</table>

While the teaching fellows will assist you in understanding the reading assignments and the lectures, they are not a note taking service for those who miss class.

**Week 1: The Logic of Politics (January 19)**
Reading: Kernell and Jacobson, (main text), chapter 1

**Week 2 Constitutional Framework I (January 24)**
Reading: Kernell and Jacobson, chapter 2

*The United States Constitution* (appendix 2 in Kernell)
Roche, “The Founding Fathers…” (ch. 2-1 in *Principles*)
Burns, “Showdown, the Election of 1800 (ch. 2-4 in *Principles*)
Madison, *Federalist #10* (ch. 2-2 in *Principles*)
Madison, *Federalist #51* (ch. 2-3 in *Principles*)

**Week 3 Constitutional Framework II (January 31)**
Reading: Kernell and Jacobson, chapter 5

Lazarus, “The Most Dangerous Branch?” (ch. 9-2 in *Principles*)
Hamilton, “Federalist No. 78” (ch. 9-3 in *Principles*)
Rakove, “Chaos on Tuesday” ([http://hnn.us/articles/8177.html](http://hnn.us/articles/8177.html))
Appleby, “Junk the Electoral College” ([http://hnn.us/articles/8177.html](http://hnn.us/articles/8177.html))
Rios, “Reforming the Electoral College…” ([http://hnn.us/articles/8177.html](http://hnn.us/articles/8177.html))
Bates, “What are the Arguments Made…” ([http://hnn.us/articles/8177.html](http://hnn.us/articles/8177.html))
Amar, “10 Arguments….” ([http://hnn.us/articles/8177.html](http://hnn.us/articles/8177.html))
Amar, “Why We Should Junk the…” ([http://hnn.us/articles/8177.html](http://hnn.us/articles/8177.html))
Buttons and Ballots, “Who Won the 1876 Election?”
(http://www.cresswellslist.com/ballots2/1876_who.htm)
Bouchard, “Congress Plans for…” (The Hill, 2003-Blackboard link)

**Week 4**
Federalism and Its Implications (February 7)
Reading: Kernell and Jacobson, chapter 3
Buchanan, “Federalism as an….“ (ch. 3-1 in Principles)
Kettl, “Federalism: Battles…” (ch. 3-2 in Principles)
Wald, “Clean-Air Battlefield” (ch. 3-3 in Principles)
McCluskey, “Paul Peterson Weighs ‘The Price…”’
(http://www.news.harvard.edu/gazette/1997/02.13/PaulPetersonWei.html)

**Week 5**
Pluralism and Interest Groups (February 14)
Reading: Kernell and Jacobson, chapter 13
Olson, “The Logic…” (ch. 1-1 in Principles)
Shepsle and Bonchek, “Analyzing Politics…” (ch. 1-2 in Principles)
Schattschneider, “The Scope and Bias…” (ch. 13-1 in Principles)
Wright, “The Evolution of…” (ch. 13-2 in Principles)
Goodwin, “What Corporations…” (ch. 13-3 in Principles)
Drew, “The Money Culture…” (except from The Corruption of American Politics, 1999-Blackboard link)
Schenk, “Free Riders”
(http://ingrimayne.saintjoe.edu/econ/RiskExclusion/FreeRiders.html)

**Weeks 6**
Political Parties (February 21)
Reading: Kernell and Jacobson, chapter 12
Aldrich, "Why Parties…" (ch. 12-1 in Principles)
Bartels, “Partisanship and Voting…” (ch. 12-2 in Principles)
Maisel, “American Political Parties…” (ch. 12-3 in Principles)
Cook, “Moving On” (Washington Post, 2004-Blackboard link)

**Week 7**
Elections (February 28)
Reading: Kernell and Jacobson, chapter 11
Fiorina, Culture War?
Popkin, “The Reasoning Voter…” (ch. 11-1 in Principles)
Jacobson, “Party Polarization…” (ch. 11-3 in Principles)
Abramowitz, “Terrorism, Gay Marriage, and Incumbency…”
(http://www.bepress.com/forum/vol2/iss4/art3/) [Must be entered from a computer on campus or via Aladin]
Burden, “An Alternative Account…”
(http://www.bepress.com/forum/vol2/iss4/art2/) [Must be entered from a computer on campus or via Aladin]

Polsby, “How to Spin the 2002 Elections”
(http://www.bepress.com/forum/vol1/iss3/art1/) [Must be entered from a computer on campus or via Aladin]

McDonald, “Up, Up and Away…”
(http://www.bepress.com/forum/vol2/iss4/art4/) [Must be entered from a computer on campus or via Aladin]

Week 8 Prepare for Midterm (March 7)

Spring Break March 14
During break, you should begin reading Dean’s The Rehnquist Choice

Week 9 Public Opinion and the Media (March 21)
Reading: Kernell and Jacobson, chapters 10 and 14
Asher, “Analyzing and Interpreting…” (ch. 10-1 in Principles)
Stimson, “Dynamic Representation…” (ch. 10-2 in Principles)
Hibbing, “The People’s Craving…” (ch. 10-3 in Principles)
Brody, “The American People and President Bush”
(http://www.bepress.com/forum/vol1/iss1/art5) [Must be entered from a computer on campus or via Aladin]

Week 10 Congress I (March 28)
Reading: Kernell and Jacobson, chapter 6
Fenno, “The Senate in Bicameral…” (ch. 6-1 in Principles)
Mayhew, “Congress: The Electoral…” (ch. 6-2 in Principles)
Smith, “Congressional Trends…” (ch. 6-3 in Principles)
Crabtree, “GOP Gains Strength…” (CQ Weekly Report, 11/6/04, pg 2618—Came bundled with your text).
Toobin, “The Great Election Grab”
(http://www.newyorker.com/fact/content/?031208fa_fact)

Week 11 Congress II (April 4)
VandeHei, “Using the Rules Committee…” (Washington Post, 2003-Blackboard link)
Hulse, “Republican Feuding” (New York Times, 2003-Blackboard link)
Nather, “GOP’s Support for Bush” CQ Weekly (logic.cqpress.com; CQ news).

Week 12 The Presidency (April 11)
Reading: Kernell and Jacobson, chapter 7
Dean, The Rehnquist Choice
Neudstadt, "Presidential Power" (ch. 7-1 in *Principles*)
Kernell, “Going Public” (ch. 7-2 in *Principles*)
Bumiller, “How 3 Weeks..” (ch. 7-3 in *Principles*)
Barber, "Presidential Character"
(http://spot.colorado.edu/~mcguire/BARBERSC.html)

**Week 13**  
*The Federal Bureaucracy (April 18)*
Reading: Kernell and Jacobson, chapter 8
   Wilson, “Bureaucracy...” (ch. 8-1 in *Principles*)
   Moe, “The Politics of...” (ch. 8-2 in *Principles*)

**Week 14**  
*The Courts and Civil Liberties (April 25)*
Reading: Kernell and Jacobson, chapters 4, 5, and 9
   Rosenberg, “The Real World...” (ch. 5-1 in *Principles*)
   *Roe v. Wade* (ch. 5-4 in Principles)
   Epstein and Knight, “The Choices...” (ch. 9-1 in *Principles*)
   Sontag, “The Power of the Fourth” (ch. 9-4 in *Principles*)
   Associated Press, “House Bill would Block...” (2004-Blackboard link)

**Week 15**  
*Wartime Politics 2004 (May 2)*
Reading: Jacobson and Kernell, *Logic of American Politics in Wartime*

All news stories (*New York Times, New Yorker, Washington Post, Washington Times, The Hill*) will be available as “links” in blackboard. *CQ Weekly* report stories are either from one of the two issues that came bundled with your text or are available on the webpage associated with the text.