

MARQUETTE UNIVERSITY
POSC 020-1002 American Politics
Spring, 2006

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Class: MWF 11:00
Office Hours: MWF 9:25-9:55; MW 2:30-4:00; TU 2:00-3:30
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Lalumiere 392

COURSE OBJECTIVES*: This course covers the major themes, theories, and concepts appropriate to the study of American politics. We will try to understand the American democratic republic by studying the kind of government created by the Declaration of Independence and the Constitution and then by studying the changes through the course of American history that account for the kind of government we have today. While we will spend some time on the basic institutional features of American government, our primary goal will be 1) to grasp the underlying political **principles** of American government—federalism, separation of powers, constitutionalism, and the extended republic—and 2) to examine the impact on our political life of changing and controversial understandings of liberty and equality.

COURSE REQUIREMENTS:

1. Regular class attendance (see #7 below).
2. Careful and punctual reading of assignments.
3. Quizzes (on the reading for the week, unless otherwise noted) - Fridays (unexcused absences count as zero; excuses for absences on quiz days should be submitted in writing, so that I do not inadvertently penalize you) (20% of final grade)
4. First test (an essay exam based on the lectures) approximately February 24 (20% of final grade)
5. Second test (a multiple-choice/true-false test on Wilson chapters 3, 13, 14, 15, 16, 17, 19) approximately April 7 (20% of final grade)
6. Final exam (of which the first half will be on the lectures since the first test and the reading since the second test; the second half will be cumulative, a broad essay on the themes of the entire course) (40%)
7. Class performance: +/- up to one grade level (this is rarely used, but frequent absences would make class participation impossible, of course).

Teacher certification: Students in Education who wish to be certified to teach should see me for special assignments on Wisconsin state and local government. They should read *The Framework of Your Wisconsin Government* (Wisconsin Taxpayers Alliance), and the separate Wilson and DiIulio chapter on State and Local Government [both on library reserve] .

REQUIRED READINGS:

The Founding of the Democratic Republic - Martin Diamond
American Government, 10th ed. - James Q. Wilson and John J. DiIulio, Jr.

*University-mandated Statements:

- I) Course Learning Objectives: Upon completion of this course, the student will be able to:
 - 1) describe changing understandings of the purposes of American government.
 - 2) describe the fundamental constitutional principles of American government;
 - 3) describe the basic mechanics of American government.
- II) Statement on academic honesty: Do not cheat. It hurts you (you don't learn) and others too (when grades are curved).
(Further information available at: <http://www.marquette.edu/academics/regulations/acaddishonesty.html>.)

SCHEDULE:

[Note: the following class schedule is an approximation and is subject to modification as the semester progresses; some of the topics may be taken up earlier and some of them will spill over into later classes.]

DATE:	READING:	CLASS:
Jan. 18		Review Syllabus; How to Study
		THE POLITICAL PRINCIPLES OF THE ORIGINAL CONSTITUTION
20	The Declaration of Independence (entire)	Practice quiz (on the Declaration) How to Study II
23	The Constitution (Articles I-VII and Amendments 1-10)	Purposes of Government: The Declaration of Independence I
25	Diamond, chap. 1	The Declaration II: Equality
27	Wilson, chap. 1	The Declaration III: Rights Quiz (on the Constitution and Diamond, chap. 1)
30	Diamond, chap. 2	The Declaration IV: Democracy
Feb. 1	Diamond, chap. 2	The Purposes of Government: Conclusion
3	<i>Federalist</i> No. 51	Federalism I Quiz (on Diamond, chap. 2 and Fed. No. 51)
6	Diamond, chap. 3	Federalism II
8	Diamond, chap. 3	Separation of Powers I
10	<i>Federalist</i> No. 78	Separation of Powers II Quiz (on Diamond, chap. 3 and Fed. No. 78)
13	Diamond, chap. 4	Constitutionalism I
15	Diamond, chap. 4	Constitutionalism II
17	<i>Federalist</i> No. 10	The Extended Republic I Quiz (on Diamond, chap. 4 and Fed. No. 10)
20	Wilson, chap. 3	The Extended Republic II
22	Wilson, chap. 3	The Nature of the Original American Constitution
24	First test	First Test

	27	Wilson, chap. 13	Constitutional Amendments
March	1	Wilson, chap. 13	Federalism I
	3	Wilson, chap. 13	Federalism II <i>Quiz (on Wilson, chap. 13)</i>
	6	Wilson, chap. 14	Separation of Powers and the Presidency I
	8	Wilson, chap. 14	Separation of Powers and the Presidency II
	10	Wilson, chap. 14	Separation of Powers and the Presidency III <i>Quiz (on Wilson, chap. 14)</i>
	20	Wilson, chap. 16	[Guest Lecture on The Bureaucracy]
	22	Wilson, chap. 16	Constitutionalism and the Judiciary I
	24	Wilson, chap. 16	Constitutionalism and the Judiciary II <i>Quiz (on Wilson, chap. 16)</i>
	27	Wilson, chap. 15	
	29	Wilson, chap. 15, 17	AL PURPOSES
		CHANGING CONSTITUTION	Economic Equality I <i>Quiz (on Wilson, chaps. 15 and 17)</i>
	31	Wilson, chap. 17	Economic Equality II Racial Equality I <i>Second Test</i>
April	3	Wilson, chap. 19	
	5	Wilson, chap. 19	
	7	Second Test	Racial Equality II Gender Equality I
	10	Wilson, chap. 6	
	12	Wilson, chap. 6	Gender Equality II Free Speech <i>Quiz (on Wilson, chaps. 5 and 6)</i>
	19	Wilson, chap. 5	
	21	Wilson, chap. 5	Religion and Politics Religion and Politics Life and Death and Sex: Privacy I <i>Quiz (on Wilson, chap. 4)</i>
	24	Wilson, chap. 4	
	26	Wilson, chap. 4	
	28	Wilson, chap. 7	Life and Death and Sex: Privacy II Liberty, Equality, and “the Culture Wars” The Nature of the Contemporary American Constitution
May	1	Wilson, chap. 7	
	3	Wilson, chap. 1	
	5	Wilson, chap. 22	

Final Exam: Thursday, May 11, 1-3 pm

The Extended Republic and Congress I
The Extended Republic and Congress II