

GOV 1000

Citizenship and Representation in American Politics

Fall 2015
Hubbard 22
Tuesday, Thursday: 11:30am-12:55am

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Office Hours:

Monday, 9-10am
Wednesday, 3:30-4:30pm
Friday, 3:30-4:30pm
And by appointment

This course examines the issues of citizenship and representation in American politics by investigating a number of diverse and contemporary political debates. By discussing such controversies as rates of voter turnout and engagement with civic life, the course first considers how citizens can or should participate in American politics. Is our level of participation so low as to be worried about the health of democracy? Or is such a view overblown? The course next evaluates how the American political system reacts to citizen inputs. We consider the historical development and impact of the one person-one vote standard in American elections. We also spend a considerable amount of time debating the role of political parties in our democratic system. How have the Democratic and Republican Parties reacted to citizen pressures throughout American history? Are parties ideal forms of representing citizen interests and demands?

Course Requirements

There are 4 major components to your grade:

1. **Four papers** (60 points; 15 points each)—These will focus on the readings in a certain section of the course. Paper topics and instructions will be provided well in advance of the papers' due dates.
2. **Participation** (15 points)—this includes attendance AND class participation. Attendance is REQUIRED, and I will take regular note of who is and who is not in class. I understand that people get sick, have doctor's appointments, and so on, but I only grant excused absences in rare circumstances. Be advised, simple attendance is not sufficient.
3. **Five reading reactions** (15 points; each worth 3 points)—these are short reactions of about 2 pages (double-spaced). I will evaluate these on the basis of how well you react to the readings (namely, originality of thought and conciseness). There are no right or wrong answers, but I will challenge you to think logically. These papers are due **in class** on Tuesday or Thursday, and they should focus on the readings for that day. Because there are only 5 of them, you can choose which days you want to turn them in. *You must hand in reaction papers in class; late papers or emailed papers will NOT be accepted.*

*You cannot hand in a reaction paper on the day you present (see below).

**To get full credit, you must hand in two papers a second time, revision the paper down to one-page max.

4. **Presentation** (10 points)— Beyond regular participation in class discussions, students on specified dates will present about a 10 minute review of the readings for that day and will conclude by offering a number of discussion questions. *These questions should be turned in to your instructor and classmates at the beginning of class.* I encourage students to read up on current events and include anything relevant in your presentation. This is not an opportunity to summarize; think of this as a verbal reaction paper, following the guidelines listed above.
*We will be signing up for presentations during the week of September 15th and presentations will begin on the following week.

Readings

There are five books for this course. There is one additional article that is available on our course Blackboard page.

1. *The Good Citizen: How a Younger Generation is Reshaping American Politics.* CQ Press, by Russell Dalton.
2. *The End of Inequality: One Person, One Vote and the Transformation of American Politics.* New York: W.W. Norton & Company, by Stephen Ansolabehere and James Snyder.
3. *Engines of Change: Party Factions in American Politics, 1868-2010.* New York: Oxford University Press, by Daniel DiSalvo.
4. *Party in the Street: The Antiwar Movement and the Democratic Party after 9/11.* New York: Cambridge University Press, by Michael Heaney and Fabio Rojas.
5. *The Tea Party and the Remaking of Republican Conservatism.* New York: Oxford University Press, by Theda Skocpol and Vanessa Williamson.

Other Issues

I expect all students to abide by the Bowdoin Academic Honor Code, which can be accessed online at <http://www.bowdoin.edu/studentaffairs/forms/>. If you have any concerns or questions about how to cite work appropriately, please consult me or a reference librarian.

Part 1—Citizenship

September 3—No class (Syllabus handed out)

September 8—The Meaning of Citizenship

- Dalton, Chp 1

September 10— The Meaning of Citizenship, cont.

- Dalton, Chps 2-3

September 15—Engagement and Tolerance

- Dalton, Chps 4-5

September 17—The Role of Government

- Dalton, Chps 6-7

September 22—Looking Abroad and Forward

- Dalton, Chps 8-9 and Epilogue

September 24— A Library Tutorial

- No readings
- Students will meet me and Librarian Barbara Levergood in the lobby of the library at 11:30am. This is mandatory.

Part 2—Representation and “One Person, One Vote”

September 29—The History of Representation

- Ansolabehere and Snyder, Chps 1-4

October 1—The Origin of One Person, One Vote

- Ansolabehere and Snyder, Chps 5-6
- *Paper 1 due*

October 6— The Origin of One Person, One Vote, cont.

- Ansolabehere and Snyder, Chps 7-8

October 8— The Impact of One Person, One Vote

- Ansolabehere and Snyder, Chps 9-10

October 13— No class (Fall Vacation)

October 15— The Impact of One Person, One Vote, cont.

- Ansolabehere and Snyder, Chps 11-12

Part 3—Representation and the Party System

October 20—Parties and Popular Democracy

- Ethan Leib and Christopher Elmendorf, “Why Party Democrats Need Popular Democracy and Popular Democrats Need Parties”

October 22—Parties and Factions

- DiSalvo, Preface and Chps 1-2

October 27—Factions and Ideology

- DiSalvo, Preface and Chps 3-4
- *Paper 2 due*

October 29—Factions, Third Parties, and Congress

- DiSalvo, Preface and Chps 5-6

November 3— Factions and Governance

- DiSalvo, Preface and Chps 7-8

November 5 (Election Day!!)—Party Responsibility

- DiSalvo, Preface and Chps 9

November 10—Parties and Campaign Finance

- No readings

Part 4—A Focus on the Democratic Party

November 12 —A Party “in the street”

- Heaney and Rojas Chp 1

November 17—Parties and Foreign Policy

- Heaney and Rojas Chp 2
- *Paper 3 due*

November 19—Party “Members” and Anti-War “Activists”

- Heaney and Rojas Chp 3-4

November 24—The Future of the Democratic Party

- Heaney and Rojas Chps 5 and 8

Part 5—A Focus on the Republican Party

November 26— No class (Thanksgiving)

December 1— The Origins of the Tea Party

- Skocpol and Williamson, Introduction and Chapter 1

December 3—Tea Party Rising

- Skocpol and Williamson, Chps 2-3

December 8— The Effects on the GOP

- Skocpol and Williamson, Chps 4-5

December 10— The Future of the Republican Party

- Skocpol and Williamson, Chp 6 and Epilogue

Paper 4 due on December 18th