

118 EOA

Bob Miller office

hrs 1:00-2:30 Mon

9:00-9:50 12:00-12:50 Wed

either 01/01 or 01/10 } Hoyte

home 643-7417

Political Science 234. American Government:
National, State, and Local.

fr 9:10-10:30

HHG24R

Fall, 1972
University of Houston

Mr. Lence, Instructor
Department of Political Science

Purposes of the Course

I have designed this course with three objectives in mind. (1) to emphasize some of the foundations and principles upon which our government is based; (2) to expose you to the governing structure and processes which give our political system such democratic character as it has; and, (3) to examine with you some of the unresolved, recurrent issues which face democratic governments. Let me say a few brief words about each of these objectives.

Objective 1. I predicated the first part of this course on the assumption that if we are to examine critically the enduring problems in American political theory, we must have some understanding and appreciation of the American political tradition. For that reason, therefore, we shall examine and critically analyze certain basic presumptions and intentions of our political system embodied in The Federalist.

Objective 2. The second objective of this course (Parts II-V) deals with what many call the substance of an introductory American government course. This will include a close look at the Congress, the office of the Presidency and bureaucracy, and the judicial system. The description of these specific structures and processes of the American political system will undoubtedly include an evaluation and criticism of the system's goals as well as the performance and fitness of the structures for achieving those goals.

Objective 3. Finally, I hope we shall be able to examine together some of the recurrent problems of democratic theory. Some of these problems are: (1) the question of representation and reapportionment; (2) the problems of limited government, civil liberties (especially the First Amendment) and the role of the courts in a democratic system; and (3) political obligation, protest and resistance to authority and claims of conscience. These are the kinds of concerns with which other people will expect you to deal critically and analytically; they are questions of what you can reasonably expect of other people and what other people have reason to demand of you.

Procedure

This class meets on Mondays and Wednesdays from 8:00 to 8:50 a.m. On those days your beloved instructor will lecture on the topics and materials indicated in this syllabus. Class attendance is not required. Sleeping during the lectures is allowed (for only a madman would knowingly schedule a class at such an uncivilized hour), but such distractions as snoring, reading the Cougar, etc. are not. Each week, the third hour of this class is devoted to discussion sections and attendance at these sessions is required. The purpose of these discussion sections is two-fold: (1) to provide you an opportunity to raise the questions you may be hesitant to pose in the lecture; and (2) to allow Lence to become better acquainted with the members of this class. In both the lectures and the discussions sections the readings are designed to assure a common base for discussion. If you do not do your reading

Required Material for this Course

- (1) Hamilton, Madison, Jay, The Federalist.
- (2) Lewis Froman, The Congressional Process.
- (3) Richard Neustadt, Presidential Power.
- (4) Robert G. McCloskey, The American Supreme Court.
- (5) Sidney Hook, The Paradoxes of Freedom.
- (6) Martin Shapiro, The Pentagon Papers and the Courts.
- (7) Anderson, Murray, Farley, Texas Politics.
- (8) Robert A. Dahl, "Decision-making in a Democracy: The Role of the Supreme Court as a National Policy Maker." Bobbs-Merrill Reprint PS-53.
- (9) Hugo Black, "The Bill of Rights." Bobbs-Merrill Reprint PS-26.

- (1) United States Constitution (Free copies upon request if you do not own one)
- (2) Texas Constitution (Available in the Undergraduate Reserve Room)
- (3) Marbury v. Madison (Undergraduate Reserve)
- (4) Charles S. Hyneman, "Frontiers of Judicial Power." (Undergraduate Reserve)

III. The Presidency

Objectives: To place the President in the total structure of our national government, observe what he does, and start making some judgments about the reach and impact of his influence. If we get to it, we will make some comparisons of the President and state governors.

Assignments:

Oct. 23-27:

- (1) Federalist, #67 through 77.
- (2) Neustadt, Presidential Power. ✓
- (3) Texas Constitution, Article IV.
- (4) Anderson, Texas Politics, Ch. VI.

IV. Administrative Organizations and Their Work

Objectives:

- (1) To differentiate kinds of work (tasks, assignments) that are carried on by administrative organizations;
- (2) To learn how men and women are fitted together into organizations, and note the main relationships of these organizations with the legislature, with the chief executive, and with other administrative organizations; and
- (3) To fit the great administrative organizations and the power they exercise into your general theory of democratic government.

V. The Judicial Structure

Objectives: At least we will examine the structure of our national-state court system, and maybe we will have time for comment on some main problems in administration of justice.

Assignments:

Nov. 6-10:

- (1) The Federalist, #78 through 84
- (2) Marbury V. Madison, 1 Cranch, 137 (1803)
- (3) McCloskey, The American Supreme Court, pp. 3-53. ✓
- (4) Hook, The Paradoxes of Freedom, Ch. 2. ✓

Nov. 13-17:

- (1) McCloskey, The American Supreme Court, pp. 54-235.
- (2) Dahl, Robert, "Decision-Making in a Democracy: The Supreme Court as a National Policy-Maker," Bobbs-Merrill Reprint #PS-53.
- (3) Hyneman, Charles, "Frontiers of Judicial Power" (Undergraduate Reserve)
- (4) Texas Constitution, Articles I and V.
- (5) Anderson, Texas Politics, Ch. VII.