

Political Science
Barnard College
Fall 2006

[Prof. Judith Russell](#)

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POLS BC 1001x: Dynamics of American Politics

Class: Tue./Thurs. 10:35 – 11:50 am, 328 Milbank Hall

Office hours will be on Mon. and Wed. between 10:30 am– 1 pm and Tue. 9:30 – 10:30 am.
Distribution between Barnard (416A Lehman Hall) & Columbia (735 IAB) campuses TBA.

This course is a critical introduction to American political institutions and behavior. Attention is given to constitutional theory and principles, the constitutional system, political culture, political institutions (the presidency, congress, the judiciary, the bureaucracy), public policy (civil rights and civil liberties, economic policy, employment policy) consent and political participation (public opinion, mass media, elections and voting, parties, groups and interests) and political corruption.

REQUIREMENTS: Attendance at all classes, and completion of two take-home essays and one take-home final paper, all on assigned topics based on readings and lectures. Readings should be read *prior to* the class for which they are assigned. Take note of the comment on readings in the public policy section below. Attendance is part of your grade in this class and an attendance sheet circulates; responsibility for signing it is yours.

READINGS: All readings are required and on reserve at the Barnard Library Reserve Room. The books below are available for purchase at the Columbia University Bookstore:

Samuel Kernell and Gary C. Jacobson *The Logic of American Politics Third Edition* (Washington DC: CQ Press, 2006)

Samuel Kernell and Steven S. Smith Eds. *Principles and Practice of American Politics: Classic and Contemporary Readings Second Edition* (Washington DC: CQ Press, 2004)

Robert Goldwin and William Schambra Eds. *How Democratic is the Constitution?* (Washington DC: American Enterprise Institute for Public Policy Research, 1980)

Alexander Hamilton, James Madison and John Jay *The Federalist Papers* (any edition)

Judith Russell, *Economics, Bureaucracy and Race: How Keynesians Misguided the War on Poverty* (New York: Columbia University Press, 2003)

Alexis de Tocqueville. *Democracy in America* (Vintage edition only)

Topics and Readings

September 5 **Introduction to the course**

I. Constitutional Theory and General Principles of American Government

September 7 **The Constitution, the Articles of Confederation, and the Declaration of Independence**

Kernell and Jacobson *The Logic of American Politics* Ch. 2

Kernell and Smith *Principles and Practice of American Politics* (K&S *Principles* henceforth)

Ch. 1: Olson (1-1) Hardin (1-2)

September 12 **The Federalist Papers**

Madison, Hamilton and Jay *The Federalist Papers* Nos.10, 51, 47, 49, 58

September 14 **How Democratic is the Constitution?**

Goldwin and Shambra *How Democratic is the Constitution* Chs. 1,3,4,6

September 19 **Federalism**

Kernell and Jacobson *Logic* Ch. 3

K&S Principles Ch. 2: Burns (2-4), Ch. 3: Kettl (3-2) Wald (Ch. 3-4)

II. American Political Culture

September 21 **Political Culture in America**

Tocqueville, *Democracy in America* Vols. I and II (Vintage Edition ONLY)
VOL I Author's Intro, Ch. III, IV, VIII (pp 165 -179), Chs XIV, XV, XVII.
VOL II Second Book: Chs I-IX. Third Book: Chs V, III, XIII, XVIII, XXI.
Fourth Book: Chs I-III.

September 26 **Democratic Tensions: Liberty/Equality**

Cont. Tocqueville readings

Sept. 28, Oct. 3 **Civil Rights and Civil Liberties**

Kernell and Jacobson *Logic* Ch. 4

K&S Principles Ch.4: Glazer (4-2) and Daughtrey (4-3)

Kernell and Jacobson *Logic* Ch. 5

K&S Principles Ch.5: Scardaville and Levy(5-2) *Miranda v. Arizona*(5-3) *Roe v. Wade* (5-4)

III. Political Institutions

October 5, 10 **Congress**

Kernell and Jacobson *Logic* Ch. 6

K&S *Principles* Ch. 6: Fenno (6-1) Mayhew (6-2) Smith (6-3)

First paper handed out October 12. Due in class October 24.

October 12, 17 **The Presidency**

Kernell and Jacobson *Logic* Ch. 7

K& S *Principles* Ch. 7: Neustadt (7-1) Bumiller et. al. (7-3) TBA

October 19 **The Bureaucracy**

Kernell and Jacobson *Logic* Ch. 8

K&S *Principles* Ch. 8: Wilson (8-1) Daalder et. al (8-3)

October 24, 26 **The Judiciary**

Kernell and Jacobson *Logic* Ch.9

K&S *Principles* Ch. 9: Epstein and Knight (9-1) Lazarus (9-2), Hamilton (9-3) Sontag (9-4)

IV. Politics and Political Influence

Oct.. 31, Nov. 2 **Elections, Political Parties, Voting, Finance**

Kernell and Jacobson *Logic* Chs 11, 12

K&S *Principles* Ch. 11: Popkin (11-1) Maisel (11-2) Jacobson (11-3)

K&S *Principles* Ch. 12: Aldrich (12-1) Maisel (12-3)

November 7 **Communications and Media**

Kernell and Jacobson *Logic* Ch, 14

K&S *Principles* Ch. 14: Schudson (14-1) Edsall (14-2)

“Why We Hate the Media,” in *Breaking the News/How the Media Undermine American Democracy*, by James Fallows

November 9 **Groups, Interests and Influence**

Kernell and Jacobson *Logic* Ch. 13

K&S *Principles* Ch. 13: Schattschneider (13-1) Godwin and Seldon (13-3)

Take another look at Federalist No 10

Second paper handed out November 9. Due in class November 21.

V. The National Agenda: Public Policy in the US

Please note: Your texts do not have sections on public policy. The substantial information in this segment on public policy will be drawn from class lectures and additional readings on topics which will be assigned where necessary as we approach this section. You will be responsible for this material.

November 14 **Incrementalism**

Charles Lindblom, "The Science of Muddling Through" *Public Administration Review*, Vol. 19 (1959), 79-88

November 16 **Social Policy**

November 21 **TBA**

November 23 **Thanksgiving Holiday**

November 28 **Employment Policy**

JRussell, *Economics, Bureaucracy and Race: How Keynesians Misguided the War on Poverty*

Final paper handed out Nov. 28. Due Dec. 12 in by 3 pm in 416A Lehman Hall.

Nov. 30, Dec. 5 **Economic Policy**

James Fallows "He was Slick, Thank God" in *The Atlantic Monthly* February, 2001

December 7 **The Crisis of American Democracy and the Madisonian Model**

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