

Syllabus: Political Science 113: Honors American Government

September 5-December 12, 2012

Dr. Joanna Vecchiarelli Scott

601 PH: Office Hours: M,W 3:15-5:15 in office + M,W 5-8 online



This course examines three broad themes:

1. The evolution of American Political **Culture and Values**: liberty, equality, democracy and justice.
2. The development of **American Institutions**: Congress, Presidency, Supreme Court
3. **This year's Presidential Election**: from the election of 2008 through the mid-term election of 2010 to the current election of 2012 (**Are you all registered to Vote???**)

Required Reading:

Ginsberg, Lowi, Weir, Spitzer, We the People, 8th Essentials Edition, 2011, W. W. Norton & Co., New York

Hofstadter, Richard, The American Political Tradition, Vintage books (paperback), 1989, New York

Class Assignments/Exams:

There will be 5 graded activities: 2 'Team' presentations, 2 multiple choice exams, 1 3-page paper. Each will be worth 20 points toward your final grade.

1. *Team Presentations (2)*: Groups of five students will gather election information on these sectors of the electorate: Latino voters; women voters; generational cohorts-- Gen Y (under age 30) and Traditionals (65+), Catholic voters – and make a 15 minutes presentation to the class on Oct. 3 and Nov. 5
2. *Multiple Choice Exams (2)* on the readings: in class October 22 and the Final Exam, Dec. 19 at 1:30-3:00 PM
3. *3-page paper* on the overall themes of the course as they relate to: 1) the election or 2) your Hofstadter readings on a particular President, as assigned

Note: I may be away from campus from time to time on research trips during the term. The schedule will change accordingly. The schedule may also be adjusted to reflect my assessment of the progress of the class

Schedule of Reading Assignment, testing and presentations:

September 5 (Wednesday)

Ginsberg, We the People, Chapter 7: Political Parties and Elections, pp. 196-235

September 10 (Monday)

Ginsberg, Chapter 1: Introduction...The Citizen and Government, pp. 2-25

Hofstadter, The American Political Tradition, Chapter 1: The Founding Fathers – the Age of Realism, pp. 3-21

September 17 (Monday)

Ginsberg, Chapter 2: The Founding and the Constitution, pp. 27-61

Hofstadter, Chapter 2: Thomas Jefferson: The Aristocrat as Democrat, pp. 23-56

September 24 (Monday)

Ginsberg, Chapter 3: Federalism, pp. 63-89

Hofstadter, Chapter 3: Andrew Jackson and the Rise of Liberal Capitalism, pp. 57-86

Chapter 4: John C. Calhoun: The Marx of the Master Class, pp. 87-118

October 1 (Monday)

Ginsberg, Chapter 9: Congress, pp. 264-301

Chapter 8: Interests Groups, 236-263

October 3 (Wednesday): 1st Presentation by Each Team – 15 minutes each

October 8 (Monday)

Ginsberg, Chapter 10: The Presidency, pp. 302-331

Hofstadter, Chapter 5: Abraham Lincoln and the Self-Made Myth, pp. 119-173

October 15 (Monday)

Ginsberg, Chapter 5: Public Opinion, pp. 138-165

Hofstadter, Chapter 6: Wendell Phillips – The Patrician as Agitator, pp. 175-210

October 22 (Monday) 1st in-class Exam

Ginsberg, Chapter 6: The Media, pp. 166-193

October 29 (Monday)

Hofstadter, Chapter 7: The Spoilsmen – An Age of Cynicism, pp. 211-238

Chapter 8: William Jennings Bryan – The Democrat as Revivalist, pp. 239-264

November 5 (Monday) 2nd Presentation by Each Team – 15 minutes each

Hofstadter, Chapter 9: Theodore Roosevelt – The Conservative as Progressive, pp. 265-305

*****November 6 (Tuesday) Election Day – you all must vote!!! *****

November 12 (Monday)

Hofstadter, Chapter 10: Woodrow Wilson – The Conservative as Liberal, pp. 307-365

Hofstadter, Chapter 11: Herbert Hoover and the Crisis of American Individualism, pp. 367-407

[November 19 \(Monday\)](#)

Hofstadter, Chapter 12: Franklin D. Roosevelt - The Patrician as Opportunist, pp. 409-456

[November 26 \(Monday\)](#)

Ginsberg, Chapter 12: The Federal Courts, pp. 362-293

Ginsberg, Chapter 4: Civil Liberties and Civil Rights, pp. 90-137

[December 3 \(Monday\)](#)

Ginsberg, Chapter 13: Domestic Policy, pp. 394-427

[December 10 \(Monday\)](#)

Ginsberg, Chapter 14: Foreign Policy, pp. 428-453

December 12 (Wednesday) Last day of classes—Short Essay Due.

December 19 (Wednesday) Final Exam at 1:30

Note: This course qualifies as a General Education Course in the Social Sciences category. It also contributes to the requirements for Social Science teacher preparation in the COE.

Standard Academic Rules of the Game:

***The use of laptop computers in class is at my discretion, and is for taking notes only. If other uses are being made of them, computers will be banned from class.**

***No Smart-phones; Tablets or other messaging, listening and/or viewing devices may be used in this class for any reason.**

***There will be no unscheduled make-up examinations in this class. Missing an exam without my specific prior permission (for an emergency which I think warrants your absence) will result in a “0” for the exam. Take-home essay exams MUST be submitted in hard copy and electronically.**

***Cheating in any form (including un-footnoted internet sources) on any exam will be severely punished. I will use specialized software, and my own observation of classroom behavior, to verify suspected plagiarism. Penalties include: 0 for the exam, and E for your final grade**

***Do not arrive late and do not leave while class is in session: f you can’t avoid lateness or leaving early, take a seat in the back of class, not in the front.**

