The Project at Hand
Politics (or political power) concerns who or what determines whom gets what, when, how, and how much. In an ideal American liberal democracy, the people determine the whom, the what, and the how much, all without violating individual rights. In this course we will explore who governs and for whose benefit.

Required Book
The Democratic Debate: American Politics in an age of Change by Bruce Miroff, Raymond Seidelman, Todd Swanstrom and Tom De Luca (2009)

Other Reading Material
I will provide other readings through Blackboard or in class.

Course Requirements and Grade Breakdown:

<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th>Requirement</th>
<th>Percentage</th>
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<tbody>
<tr>
<td>First Midterm</td>
<td>25%</td>
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<tr>
<td>Second Midterm</td>
<td>25%</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Five Quizzes – Each 5%</td>
<td>25%</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Final Exam</td>
<td>25%</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Total</td>
<td>100%</td>
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Exams and Quizzes
Make-up exams and quizzes can be taken only with a note from the dean.

Problems
Please inform me of any difficulties you might have that might impede or your performance in this course. These problems include, but are not limited to: physical disabilities, learning disabilities, medical problems, legal misfortunes, jury duty, military obligations etc.

Plagiarism
Don’t do it!!! Plagiarism means to pass off someone else’s work as your own or to pass off the work from one course for another (even if the work is your own). Any student who plagiarizes will be failed from the course and be reported to the Office of the Dean of Undergraduate where further action may be taken.

Important Note
First, I will discuss in lecture some ideas that are not found in the text and readings; you will be responsible for these ideas. If you miss class be sure to copy notes from a classmate. Second, I will not cover in lecture all the information in the text and readings; however, you are responsible for this information and they may appear on exams and quizzes.

Now sit back and enjoy the course!
# Tentative Reading Assignments and Due Dates

Note: This is subject to change

## I - Foundations

<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th>Units</th>
<th>Due Dates</th>
<th>Assignments</th>
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</thead>
</table>
| #1 & 2 – Introduction (January 27th & 29th) | | The Democratic Debate (Miroff et al. Chp. 1)  
The Revolution and the Constitution (Miroff et al. Chp. 2)  
Madison - Federalist No. 10 (Miroff Appendix-12)  
Madison – Federalist No. 51  
Anti-Federalist Papers – Oct 18, 1787 (Miroff Appendix -16) |
| | | Charles Beard – *from* Economic Interpretation of the Constitution of the United States |

## II - Institutions

<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th>Units</th>
<th>Due Dates</th>
<th>Assignments</th>
</tr>
</thead>
</table>
| #3 – Congress (February 3rd & 5th) | | Miroff et al. Chp. 11  
Fenno – Homestyle  
Mayhew - Congress: The Electoral Connection  
Ellwood and Patashink – In Praise of Pork |
| #4 – President (February 10th & 12th) | | Miroff et al. Chp. 12  
Cronin – The Paradox of the American President  
Neustadt – Presidential Power and Modern Presidents  
Kernell – Going Public |
| #5 – Bureaucracy (February 17th) | | Miroff et al. Chp. 13  
Wilson – Bureaucracy |

**First Midterm (February 19th)**

<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th>Units</th>
<th>Due Dates</th>
<th>Assignments</th>
</tr>
</thead>
</table>
| #6 - Supreme Court (February 24th) | | Miroff et al. Chp. 14  
Scalia – A Matter of Interpretation  
Breyer - Active Liberty |
| #7 – Federalism (February 26th) | | Miroff et al. Chp. 15  
Osborne – Laboratories of Democracy  
Elazar – American Federalism |

## III - Participation

<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th>Units</th>
<th>Due Dates</th>
<th>Assignments</th>
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</thead>
</table>
| #8 - The Media (March 3rd & 5th) | | Miroff et al. Chp. 6  
Hamilton – The Market and the Media  
Kurtz – Sin Cycle  
McChesney |
| #9- Public Opinion (March 10th & 12th – No Class 17th & 19th) | | Miroff et al Chp. 4  
Lipmann – The Phantom Public  
V. O. Key – Public Opinion and American Democracy |
Unit #10 – Voting (March 24th & 26th)
Miroff et al Chp. 5
Putnam – Turning in Tuning Out
V. O. Key The Responsible Electorate

Unit #11 – Campaigns (March 31st & April 2nd)
Miroff et al. Chp 8
Sorauf – Inside Campaign Finance

Second Midterm (April 7th)

Unit #12 - Political Parties (April 9th & April 16th – No Class April 14th)
Miroff et al. Chp. 7
Aldrich – Why Parties
Olson – The Logic of Collection Action

Unit #13 – Interest Groups (April 21st)
Miroff et al. Chp. 9
Schattschneider – The Scope and Bias of the Pressure System

Unit #14 - Mass Movements (April 23rd)
Miroff et al. Chp. 10

IV - Policy

Units #15 & #16 - Civil Liberties and Civil Rights (April 28th & 30th)
Miroff et al Chp.16
Kluger – Simple Justice
Lewis – Gideon’s Trumpet

Unit #17 – Economic Policy (May 5th)
Miroff et al Chp. 17
Richard Wolf

Unit #17 (Continued) – Social Policy (May 7th)
Miroff et al Chp. 17

Final Exam – Monday May 13th 5:45 – 7:45 pm Room BA 130