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## **Principles of American Government**

Political Science 100

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Principles of American Government examines the United States' fundamental political values and institutions. The course invites students to explore the nation's founding ideas and their applicability to understanding present politics. Readings, lectures, and discussions address theoretical questions about how political order should be structured, strategic questions about how actors pursue divergent objectives, and institutional questions about the health of the American regime. The course is a required component of a major in Political Science, but politics is not for specialists alone; the demands and promises of the ideal citizen are central themes that may illuminate studies in other fields and in one's life as a citizen.

### Course Requirements:

There will be two 6-8 page papers, and two in-class examinations. Your grade will be based on the following formula:

- 20% Paper 1, 6-8 pages (Due September 28)
- 20% Midterm examination (October 24)
- 25% Paper 2, 6-8 pages (Due November 28)
- 25% Final examination (to be held at the regularly scheduled exam time)
- 10% Participation

2. Accurate explanation of course concepts
  - Have you explained major concepts accurately and thoroughly?
  - Are the facts presented accurately?
  - Are arguments made in class and in the readings recounted accurately?
  - Where you disagree with prominent interpretations, have you explained your position persuasively?
  - Are your arguments appropriately documented; that is, have you attributed credit to all sources from which you have taken ideas?
  
3. Original thought that addresses substantive questions raised in class, but that also



news, but it is designed to help you identify specific articles that bear on subjects discussed in class.

Scheduled Events:

September 23	Agrippa, "Letter 4" (Blackboard) Federalist 16, 17, 39 (Review Federalist 47-51)
September 26	<i>McCulloch v. Maryland</i> (Blackboard) <i>U.S. v. Lopez</i> (Blackboard) Plotz, "The New New New New Federalism" (Blackboard) Ford, "The New Blue Federalists" (Blackboard) Wilson, ch. 3
September 28	<b>Paper I Due: The Founding and American Constitutionalism</b> Samuel Huntington, "The Clash of Civilizations?" (Blackboard) Niall Ferguson, "America: An Empire in Denial" (Blackboard)
September 30	<i>Government's End</i> , chas. 1, 2 Wilson, ch. 5
October 3	<i>Government's End</i> , chas. 3, 4, 5 Wilson, ch. 5
October 5	<i>Government's End</i> , chas. 6, 7 Wilson, ch. 5
October 7	<i>Government's End</i> , chas. 8, 9, 10 Wilson, ch. 5
October 10	<b><i>COLUMBUS DAY – No Class</i></b>
October 12	Federalist 52, 57, 62, 65 US Constitution, Article I Jeffrey Toobin, "Blowing Up the Senate," (Blackboard) Wilson, ch. 7
October 14	<i>Showdown at Gucci Gulch</i>

October 21     *Showdown at Gucci Gulch*, chas. 10, 11, epilogue

November 18	Theodore Lowi, "Toward a Responsible Three-Party System: Prospects and Obstacles," (Blackboard) Jeffrey Toobin, "The Great Election Grab," (Blackboard) Ralph Nader, "Open Reply to the Democratic Party" (Blackboard) Wilson, ch. 5
November 21	Federalist 84 The Bill of Rights Wilson, chas. 4 & 11
November 23	<b><i>THANKSGIVING BREAK – No Class</i></b>
November 25	<b><i>THANKSGIVING BREAK – No Class</i></b>
November 28	<b>Paper II Due: The Roberts Confirmation</b> <i>republic.com</i> Louis D. Brandeis, <i>Whitney v. California</i> , (Blackboard) Oliver Wendell Holmes, <i>Abrams v. United States</i> (Blackboard) Edward T. Sanford, <i>Gitlow v. New York</i> , (Blackboard) Wilson, chas. 4 & 11
November 30	<i>republic.com</i> Wilson, chas. 4 & 11
December 2	<i>republic.com</i> Wilson, chas. 4 & 11
December 5	<b><i>TBA</i></b>