

Requirements

Class participation is worth 20% of your grade. You are expected to attend lectures and recitations on a regular basis. The baseline participation grade is determined by participation in recitations, though it may be boosted by especially constructive contributions during lecture. *You must attend recitation on a regular basis to receive credit for the course.*

Short papers and the final exam are worth the remaining 80% of your grade.

To receive credit for the course, you must attend recitation on a regular basis, submit at least five papers (according to the schedule below), and take the final exam. Anyone who does not fulfill these minimal requirements will not receive credit for the course. The final exam schedule is set by the Registrar. ***The final exam for this course will be given at 12:30 pm EST on Tuesday, December 15.*** (If you will be in a time zone that makes it unreasonable to take the exam at this time, please notify Professor Gamm well in advance so we can make alternate arrangements.)

You must write between five and ten papers and write them on a regular basis throughout the semester. The paper units are grouped into pairs/triplets, as follows:

Paper 1: Unit A or C

Paper 2: Unit D or F

Paper 3: Unit G or H

Paper 4: Unit Ps 12 0 612 792 reW* nBT Tm0 g0Jorth the remai

Unit A *Parchment Barriers*

- Aug. 26 Lecture
Aug. 28 Recitation: [The Federalist No. 84](#), first twelve paragraphs
Special recitation on how to write effective, strong papers
- Aug. 31 Lecture
Sept. 2 Lecture
Sept. 3/4 Recitation

Paper due Sept. 1. As sent to the states for ratification in 1787-88, the Constitution of the United States did not include a bill of rights. Drawing on five of the readings (and just these five)—An Old Whig, Federal Farmer, [The Federalist No. 84](#), and the Madison/Jefferson letters—what were the principal arguments made for and against including a bill of rights in the federal constitution?

[Declaration of Independence](#), 4 July 1776.

Stacy Schiff, "[The Boston Tea Party Was More Than That. It Was a Riot](#)," *New York Times*, 13 Aug. 2020. [Text version](#)

Jeffrey Ostler, "[The Shameful Final Grievance of the Declaration of Independence](#)," *The Atlantic*, 8 Feb. 2020.

[Constitution of the United States](#), 1787.

[An Old Whig, No. 5](#) (an Anti-Federalist document), 1787.

[Federal Farmer, No. 16](#) (an Anti-Federalist document), 20 Jan. 1788.

[The Federalist No. 84](#), first twelve paragraphs (ending with the words ". . . entirely foreign from the substance of the thing."), 1788. Also in David Wootton, ed., *Essential Federalist*, 301-6.

James Madison to Thomas Jefferson, [Letter](#), 17 Oct. 1788.

Thomas Jefferson to James Madison, [Letter](#), 15 Mar. 1789.

Bill of Rights, 1791. [First ten amendments to the Constitution of the United States](#).

Unit B *Representation*

- Sept. 7 *No class—Labor Day*
Sept. 9 Lecture
Sept. 11 Lecture

No paper assignment.

The Federalist Nos. 35, 52, 55, and 57, in David Wootton, ed., *Essential Federalist*.

[Brutus III](#), 15 Nov. 1787.

Edmund Burke, [Speech to the Electors of Bristol, England](#), 3 Nov. 1774.

Daniel M. Butler and David E. Broockman, "[Do Politicians Racially Discriminate against Constituents? A Field Experiment on State Legislators](#)," *American Journal of Political Science* 55 (2011), 463-77.

Unit F Democratic Liberty

Oct. 5 Lecture
Oct. 7 Lecture
Oct. 8/9 Recitation

Paper due Oct. 6. If Tocqueville were an advice columnist for the *New York Times*, how would he answer questions about social distancing and masks during the Covid-19 pandemic? Your answer should come from a close reading of Tocqueville—from laying out the values, mores, and habits that Tocqueville concluded were necessary to liberty and the healthy functioning of a democracy. Where did Tocqueville believe Americans acquired these good habits, how did Americans learn these values, and how did they apply these lessons to their everyday life? Your paper should be drawn almost entirely from the material in Tocqueville and demonstrate a clear understanding of his argument in *Democracy in America*.

Alexis de Tocqueville, *Democracy in America*, ed. J. P. Mayer and transl. George Lawrence, 61-72, 87-98, 189-95, 235-45, 262-76, 286-94, 301-11, 395-400, 509-28, 604-5.

Kwame Anthony Appiah, “[The Ethicist: What Do We Do About a Neighbor Who Breaks Distancing Rules?](#)” *New York Times*, 11 Aug. 2020. [Text version](#)

Unit G Freedom, Slavery, and the Union

Oct. 12 Lecture
Oct. 14 Lecture
Oct. 15/16 Recitation

Paper due Oct. 13. Have slavery and racism been inherent in the American political system or are they instead alien to the founding principles of the country? Analyze how each of these readings answers this question.

William Lloyd Garrison, “[On the Constitution and the Union](#),” *The Liberator*, 29 Dec. 1832.

William Lloyd Garrison, “[The American Union](#),” *The Liberator*, 10 Jan. 1845.

Frederick Douglass, “[What to the Slave Is the Fourth of July?](#)” Rochester, N.Y., 5 July 1852.

Stephen A. Douglas and Abraham Lincoln, [Seventh Debate](#), Alton, Ill., 15 Oct. 1858.

State of South Carolina, [Declaration of Secession](#), 1860.

Abraham Lincoln, [Gettysburg Address](#), 19 Nov. 1863.

Gordon S. Wood, “[Battle Lines: Recovering the Profound Divisions That Led to the Civil War](#),” *The New Republic*, 28 Nov. 2018.

Nikole Hannah-Jones, “[Our Democracy’s Founding Ideals Were False When They Were Written. Black Americans Have Fought To Make Them True](#),” The 1619 Project, *New York Times*, 14 Aug. 2019, 14-26. [Text version](#)

Sean Wilentz, “[A Matter of Facts](#),” *The Atlantic*, 22 Jan. 2020.

Unit H Voters

Oct. 19 Lecture

Oct. 21 Lecture

Oct. 22/23 Recitation

Paper due Oct. 20. How have party organization and strategy, political activism, and institutional rules shaped the U.S. electorate through the years? In answering this question, be sure to draw on all assigned readings.

John Aldrich, *Why Parties?*, 43-50, 102-29.

Unit J Women and Labor

Nov. 2 Lecture
Nov. 4 Lecture
Nov. 5/6 Recitation

Paper due Nov. 3. What arguments, debates, and legal strategies culminated in the Supreme Court ruling in *Muller v. Oregon* and the passage of Title VII? How important was Title VII in challenging the gender-based discrimination embodied in *Muller v. Oregon*?

Nancy Woloch, *Muller v. Oregon*, 1-83, 93-107, 108-33 (skim), 133-50.

Jo Freeman, "[How 'Sex' Got Into Title VII: Persistent Opportunism as a Maker of Public Policy](#)," *Law and Inequality* 9 (1991), 163-84.

Ruth Bader Ginsburg, "[Muller v. Oregon: One Hundred Years Later](#)," *Willamette Law Review* 45 (2009), 359-80.

Todd S. Purdum, "[The Three-Letter Word That Triggered a Revolution](#)," *The Atlantic*, 26 Apr. 2019.

Unit K Race and Public Policy

Nov. 9 Lecture
Nov. 11 Lecture
Nov. 12/13 Recitation

Paper due Nov. 10. What were the political forces in the mid-20th-century Congress that shaped welfare policy, labor legislation, and benefits for veterans? How did governments also shape residential patterns and mass incarceration?

Ira Katznelson, *When Affirmative Action Was White*, 12-79, 113-41.

Richard Rothstein, "[The Making of Ferguson](#)," *Journal of Affordable Housing & Community Development Law* 24 (2015), 165-204.

James Forman, Jr., "[Racial Critiques of Mass Incarceration: Beyond the New Jim Crow](#)," *New York University Law Review* 87 (2012), 21-69.

Unit L Congress, Parties, and the Culture War

Nov. 16 Lecture
Nov. 18 Lecture
Nov. 19/20 Recitation

Paper due Nov. 17. How did Congress and the party system begin to change in the 1960s and 1970s, and what role did "culture war" issues play in the transformation of party allegiances?

Kenneth A. Shepsle, "[The Changing Textbook Congress](#)," 238-66 in *Can the Government Govern?*, eds. John E. Chubb and Paul E. Peterson (Washington, D.C.: Brookings, 1989).

Greg D. Adams, "[Abortion: Evidence of an Issue Evolution](#)," *American Journal of Political Science* 41 (1997), 718-37.

Geoffrey C. Layman, [“‘Culture Wars’ in the American Party System: Religious and Cultural Change among Partisan Activists since 1972.”](#)