

Political Science 202W

Fall 2022

Lectures on Mondays and Wednesdays (and occasional Fridays), 10:25-11:15

Recitations on Thursdays or Fridays

Argument in Political Science

Professor Gerald Gamm

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Office hours (PSCI 202W only): Monday afternoons, 1:00-2:00

Additional office hours: Monday afternoons, 2:00-3:00, and Thursday mornings, 10:00-11:00

Recitation leaders: [Adrija Bhattacharjee](#), [Garrett Briggs](#), [Alex Evert](#), [Ryan Hecker](#), [Ha Nguyen](#), and [Taylor Tyburski](#)

Books. Five books are available for purchase in the campus bookstore and at various places online, including [AbeBooks](#) and [Amazon](#). *Be certain to get the correct translation of Tocqueville; our edition is translated by George Lawrence and edited by J. P. Mayer.* Some of these books are also available as [electronic editions through Rush Rhees Library](#):

1. Alexis de Tocqueville, *Democracy in America*, translated by George Lawrence.
2. John Aldrich, *Why Parties?: A Second Look* (2011).
3. Ira Katznelson, *When Affirmative Action Was White* (2005).
4. N. E. H. Hull and Peter Charles Hoffer, *Roe v. Wade*, 3rd ed. (2021).
5. John Judis, *The Populist Explosion* (2016).

Course website. Blackboard contains lots of information essential to the course—selected student papers (for discussion in recitation), links to all required readings not in the books listed above, and folders for uploading your papers each week. To access readings off-campus, you will need to download and run VPN (so that your computer can be viewed as part of the University's network). You can install VPN [here](#). *If any link on the website does not work, please let Professor Gamm know immediately by email.*

Academic honesty. Students must conduct themselves in accordance with the University's Academic Honesty Policy. In this class, students are encouraged to discuss readings and course material with anyone they choose—including the professor, TA's, and other students. But, unless all assignments have been submitted, they may not share, receive, or discuss written work for this class, including outlines, plans, and notes for papers, except with Writing Fellows acting in their official capacity. Under no circumstances may students receive help of any sort with their papers from current or former students in this class.

Credit hours. This course follows the College credit hour policy for four-credit courses. This course meets three times weekly for three hours per week. For the fourth credit hour, students should review the student papers in advance of recitation. This course also includes substantial reading and writing assignments, as well as a final exam.

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 exam for this class is on Tuesday, December 20, at 12:30 pm. You must be in Rochester to take the exam in person, so please make your travel arrangements accordingly—taking into account that the exam could run as late as 3:30 pm that day and that you will need additional time to get to the airport or train or bus station.

You must write between five and nine papers and write them on a regular basis throughout the semester. The paper units are grouped as follows:

- Paper 1: Unit B
- Paper 2: Unit C or E
- Paper 3: Unit F or G
- Paper 4: Unit H or I
- Paper 5: Unit J or K

You must write at least one paper from each of the five groupings listed above.*

You must submit at least five papers (according to this schedule) to receive credit for the course. If you write exactly five papers, all five grades count. If you write between six and eight papers, we drop the lowest grade. If you write nine papers, we drop the two lowest grades. Should you wish to count every paper grade, you may do so if you notify your teaching assistant by e-mail before the final exam. *The number of papers you write determines the relative weight of your papers and final exam.* These are the various weightings:

- Five or six papers (five paper grades) 45% papers, 35% final exam
- Seven papers (six paper grades) 50% papers, 30% final exam
- Eight or nine papers (seven paper grades) 60% papers, 20% final exam

Keep papers short and to the point. Papers should be 700-1,000 words in length (about 2-3 pages). *No paper may exceed 1,000 words.* Double-space the papers, use 12-point font, and no funny stuff with the margins; an inch on each side is about right. Place your recitation leader's name at the top of your paper.

All papers are due

no later than 1:00 p.m. on

Tuesdays. Requests for extensions will be granted only on a rare, case-by-case basis; except in the case of a genuine and unforeseen emergency, no late papers will be accepted without prior permission. If you do need an extension, contact your recitation leader or Professor Gamm as early as possible.

In the first weeks of the semester, three anonymous student papers will be posted to the course website each Wednesday evening. You are responsible for reading those three anonymous papers as preparation for your recitation on Thursday or Friday; you should copy those papers and bring the copies with you to recitation. Although we will continue posting selected student papers in later weeks, they are intended for reference purposes only; t

Unit A—Inalienable Rights

Aug. 31 Lecture

Sept. 2 Discussion

Unit B—Institutional Design

Sept. 12 Lecture
Sept. 14 No class—Annual Meeting of the American Political Science Association
Sept. 16 No class—Annual Meeting of the American Political Science Association
Sept. 19 Lecture
Sept. 21 Lecture
Sept. 22/23 Recitation

Paper due Sept. 20. What is the greatest threat—or threats—to free government, according to *The Federalist* (Madison and Hamilton), Brutus (an Anti-Federalist), and Calhoun (a 19th-century southern politician), and what institutional features does each set of writers propose to counter these threats? Then, drawing on Rosen and on Helmke and Paine, consider whether Madison would be satisfied with the state of American politics today.

The Federalist Nos. [10](#), [48](#), [51](#), [62](#), and [63](#).

[Brutus I](#), 18 Oct. 1787.

John C. Calhoun, excerpt from [A Disquisition on Government](#).

Jeffrey Rosen, “[America Is Living James Madison’s Nightmare](#),” *The Atlantic*, Oct. 2018. [Magazine version](#)

Gretchen Helmke and Jack Paine, “[When Strong Institutions Undermine Strong Democracies](#),” working paper, July 2022.

Unit C— Social Choice and the Origins of American Political Parties

Sept. 26 No class—Rosh Hashanah
Sept. 28 Lecture
Sept. 30 Lecture
Oct. 3 Lecture
Oct. 5 No class—Yom Kippur
Oct. 7 Recitation. Note: All recitations this week are on Friday.

If you are normally in a Thursday recitation, you will be assigned to a Friday time.

Paper due Oct. 4. Why did politicians invent parties, and what advantages come from two-party competition? In answering this question, be sure to consider Sheehan and Aldrich’s different accounts of the rise of Federalists and Republicans in the 1790s, including Aldrich’s use of social choice theory, alongside the work of Gamm and Kousser.

Colleen A. Sheehan, “[Madison v. Hamilton: The Battle Over Republicanism and the Role of Public Opinion](#),” *American Political Science Review* 98 (2004), 405-24.

John Aldrich, *Why Parties?*, 3-43, 67-101.

Gerald Gamm and Thad Kousser, “[Life, Literacy, and the Pursuit of Prosperity: Party Competition and Policy Outcomes in 50 States](#),” *American Political Science Review*, forthcoming.

Unit D— Democratic Tyranny

Oct. 10 *No class—Fall Break*

Oct. 12 Lecture

Oct. 14 Lecture

No paper assignment.

Alexis de Tocqueville, *Democracy in America*, ed. J. P. Mayer and transl. George Lawrence, xiii-xiv, 9-20, 50-60, 173, 196-99, 226-35, 246-61, 433-36, 465-74, 503-9, 535-41, 667-79, 690-705.

Unit E— Democratic Liberty

Oct. 17 Lecture

Oct. 19 Lecture

Oct. 20/21 Recitation

Paper due Oct. 18. According to Tocqueville, why are order, limits, and social connectedness important to the maintenance of a free people, and in what arenas do Americans learn these values, mores, and habits? How do Putnam and Skocpol understand the changes that took

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Unit K—Populism

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

Paper due Dec. 6. How does each of these writers define populism, and what is populist about Bernie Sanders and Donald Trump? What concerns do these scholars have about the impact of populism on the political system?

John Judis, *The Populist Explosion*, 12–87.

George Packer, “The Populists,” *The New Yorker*, 7 Sept. 2015. [Text version](#)

Joshua Zeitz, “[Historians Have Long Thought Populism Was a Good Thing. Are They Wrong?](#)” *Politico Magazine*, 14 Jan. 2018.

Uri Friedman, “[What Is a Populist? And Is Donald Trump One?](#)” *The Atlantic*, 27 Feb. 2017. [PDF version](#)

William A. Galston, “[The Populist Challenge to Liberal Democracy](#),” Brookings, 17 Apr. 2018.

Frances E. Lee, “[Populism and the American Party System: Opportunities and Constraints](#),” *Perspectives on Politics* 18 (2020), 370-88.

Unit L—The Attack on American Political Institutions

Dec. 12 Lecture
Dec. 14 Lecture/Discussion

No paper assignment.

Steven Levitsky and Daniel Ziblatt, “[How Wobbly Is Our Democracy?](#)” *New York Times*, 27 Jan. 2018. [Text version](#)

