Course Description:
This seminar reviews and surveys the secondary scholarly literature about American politics. First, it presents a number of competing conceptual frameworks or lens, such as new institutionalism, cultural supremacies, talk theory, and feminisms, to gain an understanding of the idea impact debates American thought leaders. Second, the historical, analytical, conceptual foundations of politics and the roots of cultures and traditions will be reviewed. Third, the seminar scrutinizes the moving parts (e.g. parties, movements, groups, and opinion or thought) as vehicles for change, either as “revolts from within” or sea changes. Fourth, it studies political institutions via legislators, executives, judges, and bureaucrats – emphasizing why, how, and what they govern. Finally, the seminar looks at policy solutions that yield inequities, inequalities, intolerances, information gaps, and supremacies.

Goals & Objectives:
This seminar helps students who are preparing for college teaching at CUNY.

This seminar also helps students prepare for the First Examination (political institutions, political processes, federalism, and American Political Thought) if they are in the Ph.D. track (or aspire to apply to the Ph.D. Program in future).

Requirements:
1. Complete assigned readings before class. Before each seminar meets, students distribute an approximately 1-page written abbreviated outline of reading. Turn in a portfolio of notes for seminars attended. No copyediting for either notes or outlines required, and abbreviations are expected. Attendance, and therefore the volume of post-seminar notes follow CUNY attendance goals. Please provide abbreviations key, if necessary.

2. Midterm Options: Select 1 Only.
   - Option A: In Class First Written Examination Question Answered
   - Option B: Turn in short abstract with a thesis statement and a bibliography for the research you hope to complete for Final Paper. This is available to M.A. students.
   - Option C: Turn in a proposal or précis explaining what three areas you hope to blog about in your final. This is available to Ph.D. and M.A. students pursuing Writing Politics Specialization.

3. Final (Select Option that corresponds with Midterm Option).
   - Option A: Final is 2 AP questions if you are preparing for First Written Examination
- Option B: 10-page paper derived from AP questions if you exercised the M.A. midterm option.

- Option C: 3 blogs of approximately 500-700 words if you took the WP option.

Weight: Participation = 25 percent; Midterm = 25 percent; and Final = 50%

**Privacy:** No taping, recording of any kind with any medium permitted without written permission by instructor and all participants each session. Printed-hard-copy notes sharing between and among students for purposes of peer-help for Ph.D. First Examination at semesters *end only* encouraged. Guests privacy should be respected also.

**GC Calendar 2016**

1M Aug 29 (No class M Sept 5)
2M Sept 12
3M Sept 19 moved to Tues Sept 20
4M Sept 26 (No class M Oct 3)
5TH Oct 6 class (TH follow M schedule)
6M Oct 17
7M Oct 24
8M Oct 31
9M Nov 7
10M Nov 14
11 M Nov 21
12 M Nov 28
13 M Dec 5
14 M Dec 12
**Final** (Course material due unless incomplete warranted)

**SUBJECT OVERVIEW**

1. **Introduction** M Aug 29 (No class M Sept 5)

2. **Abstract Lens** M Sept 12

**REQUIRED READING**


**RECOMMENDED READING:**


3. **SPECIAL 2016 ELECTION CLASS** T Sept 20
**RECOMMENDED READING**
Anything from Elections section of AP reading list; attendance encouraged.

4. **Constitutional Frame I (The Past) M Sept 26 (No class M Oct 3)**

**REQUIRED READING**
David Brian Robertson, *The Constitution and America's Destiny* (Cambridge University Press, 2005), chapters 1, 2, 3, 8

**RECOMMENDED READING**

5. **Constitutional Frameworks II – The Present (Federalism) TH Oct 6 class (TH follow M schedule)**

**REQUIRED READING**
American Legislative Exchange Council [https://www.alec.org/](https://www.alec.org/)
State Innovation Exchange [https://stateinnovation.org/](https://stateinnovation.org/)

**RECOMMENDED READING:**

6. American Political Thought, Traditions and/or Folks & Cultures? M Oct 17

**REQUIRED READING**


**RECOMMENDED READING**


7. In-Class Midterm (Depending upon Option) M Oct 24

8. Moving Parts - Movements M Oct 31

**REQUIRED READING**


**RECOMMENDED READING**

Frances Fox Piven, *Poor People’s Movements* (Any edition) Intro or Chapter 1.


9. Idea Impact & Thought Leaders? M Nov 7 Guests TBA:

REQUIRED READING
Benjamin Peters, editor, Digital Keywords: A Vocabulary of Information Society and Culture (Princeton University Press, 2016), chapters TBA.

RECOMMENDED READING

10. Groups M Nov 14

REQUIRED READING
1. Note – get final decision, not cases going up to appeal. Download federal cases: https://www.supremecourt.gov/
R.A.V. v. City of St. Paul; Citizens United v. FEC; American Booksellers Ass'n v. Hudnut; Hobby Lobby; McCutcheon v. FEC, Harris v. Quinn; Boy Scouts of America v. Dale; Elonis v. U.S. (dissent especially)

RECOMMENDED READING

11. Executives M Nov21

REQUIRED READING
Richard Neustadt, *Presidential Power* (any edition will do), chps 1-5

RECOMMENDED READING

12 Bureaucrats M Nov 28

REQUIRED READING
Cornell eRulemaking Initiative [http://www.lawschool.cornell.edu/ceri/](http://www.lawschool.cornell.edu/ceri/)

RECOMMENDED READING
13. Judges M Dec 5

REQUIRED READING
T M. Keck, *The Most Activist Supreme Court in History: The Road to Modern Judicial Conservatism* (U of Chicago, 2004), TBA.

RECOMMENDED READING

14. Review M Dec 12 #