

BRADLEY UNIVERSITY
DEPARTMENT OF POLITICAL SCIENCE

Political science 105
Reading assignments

January, 2005

Mr. Lermack

Teaching goals: In this brief introductory course, I hope to accomplish two things: 1) to give you some basic nuts-and-bolts information about how our national government is organized and how it works; and 2) to encourage you to think a bit about the place of government and politics in our lives.

Texts: Kernell and Jacobson, The Logic of American Politics, 2d. ed., ISBN 1-56802-621-8
News coverage at www.cnn.com/allpolitics/
Additional texts as assigned

Method of instruction: will be lecture-discussion. Some nuts and bolts information about how the government is organized has to be provided by lecture. But because I expect extensive discussion to develop, I expect you to read each day's reading assignment **before** the date on which we will take it up in class, and to come to class prepared to discuss it. I also expect you to keep track of current events, as discussed

Study materials: The publisher has made available some study materials on a Web site at Logic.cqpress.com. There are checklists, practice questions, and the like. I encourage you to make use of this valuable resource. Details are in your book, at page xxviii.

Grading will be on the basis of four exams and a class grade. The first exam will count 15% of the semester grade. The last three will count 25% each. I will give you some information about the types of questions and specific coverage of each exam later in the semester. At the end of the semester I will assign you a class grade, based on your interest, diligence and participation in class. It will count the remaining 10% of the semester grade.

Attendance policy: regular attendance and participation in classroom discussions are both essential to progress, and are required. **I will reduce the semester grade of any student with excessive unexcused absences (normally four or more) by one full letter grade.**

Office hours (in Bradley Hall, room 488): M, 11-12; W, 9-10; and Th 1-2 PM, and by appointment: 677-2494 or pnl@bradley.edu.

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ASSIGNMENTS

(We will begin our discussion of the topic shown on the date next to it.)

Date	Topic	Chapters in Kernell And Jacobson text
25 Jan	Some political concepts	1
8 Feb	Constitutional ground rules	2
----- First exam 24 Feb.; covers all material above -----		
1 Mar	Federalism	3
8 Mar	Public opinion	10
----- Second exam 22 Mar.; coverage to be announced later -----		
24 Mar	Congress	6
7 Apr	Voting and elections	11
----- Third exam 12 April; coverage to be announced later -----		
14 Apr	President	7
21 Apr	Bureaucracy	8
----- Final exam, coverage to be announced later, Wednesday 11 May 12-2 PM In BR Room 30 -----		