

AMERICAN POLITICS AND PUBLIC POLICY
POLITICS 101
Fall 2015

Class Sessions: Tuesday and Thursday 1:30-2:55 pm in Weingart 209
Films: Monday 7-9 pm in Weingart 117

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What This Course is About

Many Americans have become cynical about politics and government. They associate these words with “dirty” election campaigns, broken promises, corruption and scandals, or wars. But politics and government are about much more than that. They shape how we live. Almost every aspect of your life is in some way shaped by the outcome of politics and government, which is public policy. These include: Where you live, what you learn (or don't learn) in school, the kind of car you drive (or whether you take public transportation), your career ambitions, the kind of job(s) you take, the quality of the food you eat, and the quality of the air you breathe, whether you attend college and which one you go to. They are also about what role the U.S. should play in the world, including when and whether the U.S. should go to war.

Politics and government can be a force for good or evil, for justice or injustice. Politics and government can be competent or incompetent. This course looks at the major institutions and ideas of American government, how policy is made, and what impact it has on society.

This course is intended to help you understand the workings of American government, to evaluate its strengths and weaknesses, and to help you decide how to participate in making government work better.

Government policies are made up of a series of decisions or choices over a period of time. These choices involve (a) whether to do anything at all about a problem or issue and (b) what to do. These choices involve actions such as passing laws, raising and spending money, creating regulations, enforcing (or not enforcing) laws and regulations, and adjudicating disputes.

All politics and public policy involves values and ideologies-- what people think is good or bad, the proper role of government, and how society should be organized.

Public policy involves political conflict -- differences between organized groups about what should and shouldn't be in the law and regulations.

A key to understanding American government, politics, and public policy is to compare our own political institutions to those of other countries, including other democracies. For example:

- How does voter turnout in the U.S. compare with that in other countries?
- How do tax rates in the U.S. compare with tax rates elsewhere?
- Is the level of poverty in the U.S. higher or lower than in other countries? Why?
- How does the relationship between the press and the government in the U.S. compare with the relationship in other democracies?
- What is the responsibility of the American government to promote and protect human rights, American business, the environment and public health in the U.S. and

around the world?

This course will focus on a number of themes:

- What is democracy? What are the major political views (sometimes called ideologies) about the appropriate role of government and citizenship in American society? How much of a voice should “ordinary” people have in their government - and other institutions? We will explore the different views of the “founding fathers” and how these views have evolved since then. We will also look at different views about what kinds of “rights” people have or assume they have and the ways that government protects and/or violates these “rights.” We will look at the differences between conservatism, liberalism, and other ideologies.
- What are the major problems and issues facing our country? We will focus on the various forms of economic, social and environmental problems in our society. We will look at how class, race, and gender inequalities shape our political system and on the ways that government and politics promotes or discourages equality, fairness, and opportunity for people. We will also examine the relationship between the private sector (business and the labor market), the public sector (government), and individual citizens.
- How do people participate in our political system? We will look at the different ways that citizens, individually and as part of groups, take part in their government. We will examine the impact of the mass media, interest groups and their various resources, voting and election campaigns, political parties, electoral systems, and mass movements. We will look at the role that money plays in influencing politics and government. We will also look at how organized citizens can influence politics and government through interest groups and grassroots movements, including movements to address such issues as racism, sexism, economic inequality, the environment, and human rights and civil liberties.

Through the semester, we will look at recent and current debates over issues like health care, the financial crisis, gay marriage, voting rights, gun violence, and immigration, as case studies to illustrate and help us understand the concepts and issues.

Course Format and Requirements

The course will meet twice a week -- on Tuesdays and Thursdays from 1:30 -2:55 p.m. – in Weingart 209. Every student is expected to attend every lecture and to arrive promptly at 1:30 p. m.

Films will be shown on Mondays at 7 p.m. in Weingart 117. These are required.

The basic elements of this course include:

Reading. Readings (books, articles, reports, tables and charts) will be assigned for each week, as specified below. Students are expected to do the reading before each class and be prepared to discuss the readings in class. You should expect to read about 200 pages a week, on average, although the number of pages will vary from week to week. Most of the readings are not technical, but written for a general audience, published in newspapers and magazines. The readings are mainly intended to illustrate key concepts.

In addition to four books, all readings with an asterisk (*) will be found on the Moodle site this course, which you get by first going to "My Oxy" on the library webpage. **I strongly recommend that you print these readings and keep them in a loose-leaf binder.** This will help you prepare for class discussions, papers, and exams. **Bring the readings to class with you.**

I may make some changes to the readings during the semester to keep abreast of current events and breaking news. In addition, I will distribute various tables and charts in class, or add them to the course website, throughout the semester. I have also included some videos on the syllabus, linked to their URLs. You should watch these videos before coming to class, just like the readings. Students should also regularly bring to class articles from newspapers or magazines that relate to the topics discussed in the course.

Films. During the semester, we will screen and discuss films each **Monday night.** I expect every student to see each film. The names and dates of the films are listed in the syllabus.

Class Discussion. Class discussions will center on the readings and films. Many of these sessions will involve discussions about public policy issues. Students are encouraged to debate these and disagree -- but to do so based on information and evidence as well as their own values.

Writing. Each student will have five writing assignments during the term – three short essays, a profile of your congressional district, and a final exam. The schedule of writing assignments is at the end of the syllabus. In grading your written work, I will look not only at the content, but also at the style. Be sure to proofread your papers before handing them in. Look for spelling, punctuation, and grammatical errors. Be clear and concise. Don't repeat yourself. Cite your sources. Make sure you understand the assignment. It helps to do an outline before you begin writing. Show it to your discussion section professor and discuss it with him/her before revising. Students are also urged to take advantage of the college's Center for Academic Excellence to get help with their essays. Don't be hesitant. The Center staff is eager to assist you and can help you improve your writing significantly. For most essays and both exams the following eight criteria will be used:

1. Do you have a clear thesis? This should be a sentence or two early in your essay.
2. Have you employed appropriate concepts?
3. Have you presented persuasive evidence to support your thesis or arguments?
4. Have you made appropriate reference to the assigned readings?
5. Have you made a tie-in to current events? Refer to items in the daily newspapers when appropriate.
6. Have you sought to find a creative twist -- a different viewpoint, a distinctive argument, unusual evidence?
7. Is your prose readable? Read your prose aloud to check on this.
8. Is your essay mechanically flawless? Typos, misspellings, and punctuation errors are inexcusable.

Keeping Up With the News

I encourage students in Politics 101 to get in the habit of reading a daily newspaper. The most useful papers are the New York Times, the Los Angeles Times, Washington Post, and the Wall Street Journal. You can get a subscription to any of these publications, buy some of them in the bookstore, read them in the library, or read them on-line. Our library also subscribes to many "opinion magazines," most of which also have websites. These are weekly, bi-weekly, and

monthly publications that look at politics and policy from a particular perspective -- conservative, moderate, liberal, progressive, libertarian, religious, feminist, environmental, and others. Among the more interesting are the Nation, American Prospect, Weekly Standard, New Republic, In These Times, American Spectator, Washington Monthly, The Progressive, and National Review.

One of the best sources of information about American politics is a weekly magazine called National Journal. It is available in the library. (You need a subscription to get it on-line, unfortunately). One of the best on-line sources of information is Politico (www.politico.com).

Grades

Your grades will be based on four factors:

1. 25% on attendance and participation in class sessions and films.
2. 25% on the three essay assignments.
3. 25% on your profile of your Congressional district and your Congressperson.
4. 25% on a final examination.

Required Books to Purchase

1. Bruce Miroff, Raymond Seidelman, Todd Swanstrom, and Tom De Luca, The Democratic Debate: American Politics in an Age of Change, Cengage, 6th edition, 2014
2. Jonathan Kozol, Savage Inequalities: Children in America's Schools, Harper Perennial, 1991
3. Jacob Hacker and Paul Pierson, Winner-Take-All Politics, Simon & Schuster, 2010
4. Elizabeth Warren, A Fighting Chance, Metropolitan Books, 2014

Helpful Materials on Library Reserve

I will place examples of very good writing assignments in a folder on reserve in the Library for those who are interested in seeing what constitutes good responses to the writing assignments. (The names of the student authors are removed but the instructor's comments on the essays do appear as well as the grade assigned). It will be at the circulation desk.

Speakers on Campus

There will be a number of speakers on campus this semester discussing topics related to this course. I will alert you to these events and strongly encourage you to attend.

Academic Honesty

You should be familiar with the college's policies regarding academic honesty and plagiarism. I take these issues very seriously and so should you.

Laptops and Cellphones

Cell phones and all other electronic devices are to be turned off or put on silent during class. Additionally, they are to be put away to avoid distraction. Laptops are allowed to be used only for taking notes and related classroom assignments

Students with Disabilities

Accommodation of disability-related needs is available. Please let me know if you need some kind of accommodation.

Discussion Topics and Reading Schedule

(LAT = LA Times; NYT = New York Times; NJ=National Journal)

Weeks 1-6 – What Does Government Do? What is Democracy?

Thursday, August 27 – What Government Does and Why Politics Matters – Ideas, Interests, Politics, Government

Film: “John Q.”

Monday, August 31

Film: “Sicko”

Tuesday, September 1 – What Does Government Do? – Is Health Care a Right or a Privilege?

Watch this 5-minute video before coming to class: Senator Bernie Sanders vs Senator Rand Paul (May 11, 2011) <http://www.youtube.com/watch?v=YUXwDMqjC-A>

Watch this 2-minute before coming to class; Cong. Ron Paul on health care at the Republican presidential debate, September 13, 2011)
<https://www.youtube.com/watch?v=8T9fk7NpgIU>

Watch this 9-minute video before coming to class: “Health Care Reform Hits Main Street”
http://www.youtube.com/watch?v=3-llc5xK2_E

*Leland, “When Health Insurance is Not a Safeguard” (NYT, Oct. 23, 2005)

*Begley, “The Myth of ‘Best in the World’” (Newsweek, March 22, 2008)

*Gladwell, “The Moral-Hazard Myth” (The New Yorker, Aug. 29, 2005)

*Brooks, “Going Home Again” (NYT, December 29, 2011)

*Pear and Herszenhorn, “Obama Hails Vote on Health Care as Answering ‘the Call of History’” (NYT, March 21, 2010)

*“House Vote 167 Approves Health Care Reform” (NYT, March 22, 2010). (Look at this webpage, find out how the Congressperson from your district voted)

*Dreier, “Lessons from the Health Care Wars” (American Prospect, May 2010)

*Ward, “Obamacare to the Rescue” (LAT, December 6, 2011)

*Gawande, “States of Health” (New Yorker, October 7, 2013)

*Gabriel, “A Governor’s Last Campaign: To Prove Health Law Works” (NYT, October 19, 2013)

*Lapidos, “Sabotaging Health Care, One Lie at a Time” (NYT, September 23, 2013)

*Lauter, “Two Years into Obamacare, Only One State Still Has More Than 20% Uninsured” (LAT, August 10, 2015)

*Ferris, “GOP Struggles To Replace ObamaCare Without Losing Voters” (The Hill, August 23, 2015)

*Moore, “The Obamacare We Deserve” (NYT, December 31, 2013)

Thursday, September 3 – Is America Unusual? What Does Government Do in Other Democratic Countries?

*Kingdon, *America the Unusual, 1999*. (“Introduction” and “Public Policy”)

*Khazan, “The Secret to Finland’s Success With Schools, Moms, Kids—and Everything” (Atlantic, July 11, 2013)

*Sanders, “What Can We Learn From Denmark?” (Huffington Post, May 26, 2013)

*Williams, “So, This is Heaven: Norway” (LAT, Nov. 8, 2001)

- *Greenhouse, "If the French Can Do It, Why Can't We?" (NYT, Nov. 14, 1993)
- *"Mondragon Corporation: A Manufacturer of Equality" (Too Much, June 30, 2015)
- *Wilgoren, "Education Study Finds U.S. Falling Short" (NYT, June 13, 2001)
- *Walsh, "Where Women's Work is Job No. 1" (LAT, Sept. 28, 1996)
- *Dreier, "The U.S. in Comparative Perspective" (Contexts, Summer 2007)
- *Smeeding, "The Poverty Quagmire" (Washington Post, Dec. 21, 2003)
- *Reid, "5 Myths About Health Care Around the World" (Washington Post, August 23, 2009)
- *Johansen, "Scandinavia Gets Serious on Global Warming" (Progressive, July 2007)
- *Rosenthal, "In German Suburb, Life Goes On Without Cars" (NYT, May 12, 2009)
- *Mandelbaum, "Shrinking the Middle East" (Time, August 23, 2010)
- *Beinart, "The End of American Exceptionalism" (National Journal, February 3, 2014)

Monday, September 7

Film: "With God on Our Side: George W. Bush and the Rise of the Religious Right in America"
 Because this is Labor Day, there are no official classes. I'll be showing this film in class tonight in Weingart 117 and we'll discuss the film afterwards. If you don't come to class, that's OK. You have the option of watching the film on your own, so long as you watch it before Tuesday's class.

Tuesday, September 8 -- What Is Democracy? What is Freedom? Elite Democracy vs. Popular Democracy

Miroff, Seidelman, Swanstrom, and Deluca, The Democratic Debate

Chapter 1, "Introduction: The Democratic Debate"

Chapter 2, "The Revolution and the Constitution: Origins of the Democratic Debate"

*"The Declaration of Independence"

*Young, "George Robert Twelves Hewes, A Patriot Shoemaker of Boston" (in The Way We Lived)

*Zinn, "Young Ladies Who Can Picket" (from Zinn, You Can't Be Neutral on a Moving Train)

*Sheth, Hardin and Bhagwat, "SLAC Claims Victory as Hunger Strike Comes to a Close" (Stanford Daily, April 23, 2007)

*Rutten, "Treating People Like Garbage" (LAT, August 28, 2010)

*Will, "In Defense of Non-Voting" (Newsweek, October 10, 1983)

*Berman, "The GOP War on Voting" (Rolling Stone, August 30, 2011)

*Shaw and Agraharkar, "50 Years Later, Voting Rights Act Under Unprecedented Assault" (NY Daily News, August 2, 2015)

*Raskin and Samples, "Debate: Resolved, the Constitution Should be Amended to Overturn the Supreme Court's Ruling in *Citizens United*" (in Ellis and Nelson, eds., Debating Reform, 2014)

*Rich, "The Billionaires Bankrolling the Tea Party" (NYT, August 29, 2010)

*Liptak, "Corporations Find a Friend in the Supreme Court" (NYT, May 5, 2013)

*White and Haberman, "Wall Street Nightmare: President Elizabeth Warren" (Politico, November 12, 2013)

Thursday, September 10 – Public Opinion and Ideology: Conservatism, Liberalism, and Other Values – Too Much Government, Too Little, or The Wrong Kind?

Watch these videos before class:

http://www.realclearpolitics.com/video/2011/09/12/ron_paul_freedom_is_all_about_taking_your_own_risks.html (Cong. Ron Paul on health care at Republican debate)

http://www.youtube.com/watch?v=JM8d_Arjz6g – (Cong. Ron Paul speech at Conservative

Political Action Committee convention – 21 minutes, Feb 2011)

<http://www.youtube.com/watch?v=y66pS8gLdfg> (Just look at the 5 minute portion of the January 16, 2012 Republican presidential debate in South Carolina from 24:35 through 33:01)

<http://www.youtube.com/watch?v=YUXwDMqjC-A> – Senator Bernie Sanders vs Senator Rand Paul – 5 minutes, May 11, 2011)

Miroff, Seidelman, Swanstrom, and Deluca, The Democratic Debate

Chapter 5: Public Opinion and Political Culture: Can the People be Fooled?

*Cohen, “Introduction” (from Nothing to Fear: FDR’s Inner Circle and the Hundred Days that Created Modern America, 2009)

*Will, “The Case for Conservatism” (Washington Post, May 31, 2007)

*Wilentz, “Confounding Fathers: The Tea Party’s Cold War Roots” (New Yorker, Oct. 18, 2010)

*Cohen, “Liberty for Light Bulbs” (Huffington Post, January 8, 2012)

*Krugman, “It Takes a Party” (NYT, April 13, 2015)

*Peters, “Two Senators Have Little but a State in Common” (NYT, January 17, 2014)

*Parlapiano, “Canceling Each Other’s Votes” (NYT, January 17, 2014)

*Dreier, “Is Bernie Sanders Too Radical for America?” (American Prospect, June 30, 2015)

*Bartels, “Americans Are More Conservative Than They Have Been in Decades” (Washington Post, September 30, 2014)

*Miller, “Can Jeb Bush Woo Republican Conservatives in the 2016 election?” (CBS News, June 12, 2015)

*Goldberg, “Can Hillary Clinton Win Over the Left?” (The Nation, August 24, 2015)

*Markusen, “The High Road Wins: How and Why Minnesota is Outpacing Wisconsin” (American Prospect, Spring 2015)

*Chait, “War on the Weak” (Newsweek, April 18, 2011)

*Ariely, “Americans Want to Live in a Much More Equal Country (They Just Don’t Realize It)” (The Atlantic, August 2, 2012)

*Alperovitz, “Tax the Plutocrats” (The Nation, Jan. 27, 2003)

Monday, September 14

Film: “Hot Coffee” or “Trade Secrets”

Tuesday, September 15 – What Does Government Do? – Protect Consumers, Workers, the Environment, and Public Safety

Watch this video before class: “Remembering the Triangle Fire” (8 minutes):

<http://www.cbsnews.com/video/watch/?id=7360200n>

Watch this video before class: “Elizabeth Warren on the 5th Anniversary of Dodd-Frank” (5 minutes):

http://action.civilrights.org/site/Survey?ACTION_REQUIRED=URI ACTION_USER_REQUESTS&SURVEY_ID=4761&s_src=domain

*Mintz, “Remembering Thalidomide” (Washington Post, July 22-28, 1996)

*Ropeik, “Public Health: Not Vaccinated? Not Acceptable” (LAT, July 18, 2011)

*Shapiro, “Toxic Toys” (The Nation, October 18, 2007)

*Calabresim, “The Agency that’s Got your Back” (TIME, Aug. 13, 2015)

*Story, “Lead Paint Prompts Mattel to Recall 967,000 Toys” (NYT, Aug. 2, 2007)*Dreier and

Cohen, “The Fire Last Time” (New Republic, March 12, 2011)

*Cohen, “‘Job Killers’ That Aren’t” (LAT, May 19, 2011)

*Greenhouse, “Battle Lines Drawn Over Ergonomic Rules” (NYT, Nov. 18, 2000)

*Greenhouse, “Bush Plan to Avert Work Injuries Seeks Voluntary Steps By Industry” (NYT, April 6, 2002)

- *Dreier, "Mine Deaths Follow Weak Regulations" (National Catholic Reporter, Feb. 16, 2007)
- *Labaton, "OSHA Leaves Worker Safety Largely in Hands of Industry" (NYT, April 25, 2007)
- *Lafer, "One by One, States Are Pushing Bans on Sick Leave Legislation" (Economic Policy Institute, November 6, 2013)
- *Greenhouse, "Hotel Rooms Get Plusher, Adding to Maids' Injuries" (NYT, April 21, 2001)
- *Isaacs and Schroeder, "Where The Public Good Prevailed" (American Prospect, June 4, 2001)
- *Barringer, "California Air is Clearer, But Troubles Remain" (NYT, Aug 3, 2005)
- *Wilson, "Coming Down on Tobacco" (NYT, January 6, 2009)
- *Vartabedian and Bensinger, "Auto Safety Legislation Scaled Back" (LAT, July 12, 2010)
- *Warrick, "Is U.S. Beef Safe to Eat?" (Washington Post, April 16, 2001)
- *Harris, "President Plans Team to Overhaul Food Safety" (NYT, March 14, 2009)
- *Hamberger, "EPA Puts Mandated Lead-Paint Rules on Hold" (LAT, May 10, 2005)
- *Follman, "More Than Half of Americans Now Have Tougher Gun Laws" (Mother Jones, December 12, 2013)
- *West, "Washington Shows Off its Progress in Hurricane Response" (LAT, August 28, 2011)
- *Perry, Pfeifer & Oldham, "San Diego Was In No Shape for This Fight" (LAT, Oct. 31, 2003)

Thursday, September 17 – What Does Government Do? – Raise Money, Distribute Money, and Provide Services

Watch this 9-minute video before coming to class:

"Newt and Mike Save America" (from "TV Nation" – 1994)

<https://www.youtube.com/watch?v=uJWemnpvrSM>

Watch this 2-minute video before coming to class: Gingrich: Food stamps vs. paychecks:

<https://www.youtube.com/watch?v=VXcyX8blbu0>

Watch this 4-minute video before coming to class: Congressman Luis Guitierrez: The "food stamp President": <https://www.youtube.com/watch?v=-AnuDkXIX0o>

Watch this 3-minute video before coming to class: "Life for 46M American on food stamps" (CBS News) <https://www.youtube.com/watch?v=dut-YuNx5A4>

Watch this 5-minute video before coming to class: "The Daily Show" – food stamps

<http://thedailyshow.cc.com/videos/v9wjc4/fox-news-welfare-academy>

*Seib, "The Federal System: You Can Get Away from Washington -- But Not Government" (Wall Street Journal, June 21, 1995)

*Broder, "Gramm's Life of Entitlements" (Washington Post, March 6, 1995)

*Lopez, "Buses Are Their Route to a Better Future" (LAT, December 18, 2013)

*Grunwald, "All Aboard?" (Time, July 19, 2010)

*Nazario, "Going to School Hungry" (LAT, November 20, 1994)

*Drew, "The Republicans' War on Food Stamps" (Rolling Stone, October 23, 2013)

*Reinhard, "Return of the Welfare Queen" (National Journal, December 14, 2013)

*Nixon, "Cost-Cutters, Except When the Spending Is Back Home" (NYT, July 19, 2011)

*Baker and Herszenhorn, "Obama Signs Overhaul of Student Loan Program" (NYT, March 30, 2010)

*Potts, "Paying It Forward On Student Debt" (American Prospect, August 13, 2013)

*Vinik, "The Government Is Quietly Giving Way More Housing Aid To Rich People Than Poor People" (Business Insider, December 18, 2013)

*Buffett, "Stop Coddling the Super-Rich" (NYT, August 14, 2011)

*Rivlin, "An Empty Offer From the Super Rich" (Newsweek, May 9, 2011)

Monday, September 21

Film: "Brother Outsider"

Tuesday, September 22 – The Media: Agenda-Setting and Framing

Watch this video before class: “The Daily Show with John Olver,” MSNBC, August 1, 2013 - about the minimum wage and fast food workers:

<http://www.youtube.com/watch?v=D8wiudhAhaA>

Watch this video before class: “John Oliver's 97% to 3% climate change debate goes viral getting 2.5 million hits & Guardian review,” May 27, 2014 - 5 minutes

<http://www.dailykos.com/story/2014/05/27/1302445/-John-Oliver-s-97-to-3-climate-change-debate-goes-viral-getting-2-5-million-hits-Guardian-review#>

Miroff, Seidelman, Swanstrom, and Deluca, The Democratic Debate
Chapter 9: The Media: Who Sets the Political Agenda?

*“Media/Political Bias” (Rhetorica)

*“What is Framing? Why Is It Important?” (Community Change, Spring 1998)

*Moody, “How Republicans Are Being Taught to Talk About Occupy Wall Street” (The Ticket, Dec. 1, 2011)

*Witt, “We Rarely See Those Who Labor” (Baltimore Sun, Aug 22, 1999).

*Holland, “What’s Missing in the American Media: Working People” (American Prospect, September 5, 2014)

*Boykoff and Boykoff, “Journalistic Balance as Global Warming Bias” (Extra, November/December 2004)

*Aradjian, “15 Things Every Would Know If There Were a Liberal Media” (Daily Kos, August 7, 2013)

*Gilens, “Race and Poverty in America” (Public Opinion Quarterly, Winter 1996)

*Poniewozik, “The Myth of Fact” (Time, August 23, 2010)

*Dreier and Gitlin, “Demonstrations at CEO Mansions? Ho Hum: Can the Media Cover a Movement That Plays Nice?” (Columbia Journalism Review, October 5, 2009)

*Ehrenreich, “Too Poor to Make the News” (NYT, June 14, 2009)

*Dolny, “Think Tank Sources Fall, But Left Gains Slightly” (Extra, March/April 2007)

*Howard, “Power Sources” (Extra, March/June 2002)

Assignment: Check out these three websites, spend at least 15 minutes on each, and figure out how they are similar and different. Write this up in one page, use examples to illustrate your points, and bring it to class today (Sept. 22)

Media Matters for America: <http://mediamatters.org>

Accuracy in Media: <http://www.aim.org>

FactCheck: <http://www.factcheck.org>

Thursday, September 24 -- Are Social Movements the Great Equalizer?

Watch: “What Have Unions Ever Done For Us?”

http://www.youtube.com/watch?v=184NTV2CE_c (2 minutes)

Watch: “What Have American Unions Ever Done For Us?”

<http://www.youtube.com/watch?v=iObqquaNDdA> (3 minutes)

Watch: “Obama and Project Vote”

<http://www.youtube.com/watch?v=Px1Ut433xPU> (6 minutes)

Watch and read:

*Tribou and Collins, “This Is How Fast America Changes Its Mind” (Bloomberg, June 26, 2015)

<http://www.bloomberg.com/graphics/2015-pace-of-social-change>

Seidelman, Swanstrom, and Deluca, The Democratic Debate

Chapter 11: Mass Movement Politics: The Great Equalizer?

*Kelley, “How Long Will This Take?” (Newsweek, August 16, 2010)

- *Dreier, "What Would King March for Today?" (Washington Post, August 25, 2013)
- *Dreier, "Rosa Parks: Angry, Not Tired" (Dissent, Winter 2006)
- *Altman, "Where Black Lives Matter Goes from Here" (TIME, August 20, 2015)
- *"Women's Suffrage," (from Robert Cooney and Helen Michalowski, The Power of The People, 1977)
- *Moberg, "Republic's Battle Cry" (In These Times, Dec. 10, 2008)
- *Williams, "Work for Burger King at \$7.40 an Hour -- Here's What It's Like and Why Fast Food Workers Are on Strike" (Alternet, August 6, 2013)
- *Greenhouse, "Priest vs. Big Chicken In Fight for Labor Rights" (NYT, Oct. 6, 1999)
- *Greenhouse, "Janitors, Long Paid Little, Demand a Larger Slice" (NYT, April 26, 2000)
- *Gandel, "Why Walmart Can Afford to Give Its Workers a 50% Raise" (Fortune, November 12, 2013)
- *Sherter, "Black Friday: Walmart Employees Stage Protests to Demand Higher Pay" (CBS Moneywatch, November 29, 2013)
- *DePillis, "Under Pressure, Walmart Upgrades Its Policy for Helping Pregnant Workers" (Washington Post, April 5, 2014)
- *Dreier, "Occupying the GOP" (Huffington Post, January 18, 2012)
- *McKibben, "Fossil Fuel Resistance" (Rolling Stone, April 25, 2013)
- *Gordon, "For Students, Fossil Fuels Become an Issue of Conscience" (LAT, August 26, 2013)
- *Jane Mayer, "Taking it to the Streets" (New Yorker, Nov. 28, 2011)

Monday, September 28

Film: "Selma"

Tuesday, September 29 – Race, Immigration, Civil Rights, and Civil Liberties

Watch this 30-minute video, "The Dream Is Now," before coming to class:

<http://www.youtube.com/watch?v=zfilnvpjPtI>

Miroff, Seidelman, Swanstrom, and Deluca, The Democratic Debate

Chapter 16: Civil Liberties and Civil Rights

- *"Study: It Helps To Have a White Name" (Associated Press, January 14, 2003)
- *Alpert, "Stark Gap in Views on Racial Equality" (LAT, August 23, 2013)
- *O'Hear, "Racial Disparities in the Federal Death Penalty" (Marquette University Law School)
- *Dreier and Reiman, "Prisoners of Misleading Facts" (Dissent, Spring 1996)
- *Bronner, "Right to a Lawyer Can Be Empty Promise for the Poor" (NYT, March 15, 2013)
- *LeDuff, "At a Slaughterhouse, Some Things Never Die: Who Kills, Who Cuts, Who Bosses Can Depend on Race" (NYT, June 16, 2000)
- *Fortunato, "Corporate Crime and Voting Rights" (Dissent, Summer 2002)
- *Irwin, Miller, and Sanger-Katz, "America's Racial Divide, Charted" (NYT, August 19, 2014)
- *Kristof, "Study Alleges Racial Bias in Auto Rates" (LAT, Dec. 20, 2005)
- *Kelley, "Statistics Lend Support to Claims of Profiling" (LAT, Sept. 23, 2001)
- *Leonhardt, "Blacks' Mortgage Costs Exceed Whites' of Like Pay" (NYT, May 1, 2002)
- *Savage, "Wells Fargo Will Settle Mortgage Bias Charges" (NYT, July 12, 2012)
- *Thernstrom and Thernstrom, "We Have Overcome" (New Republic, Oct. 13, 1997)
- *Winerip, "Dream Act Advocate Turns Failure Into Hope" (NYT, February 20, 2011)
- *Preston, "Advocates for Immigrants Up the Ante in a Capitol Sit-In That Brings Arrests" (NYT, August 1, 2013)
- *Werner, "Immigration Shaping Up as Leading Election Issue" (Associated Press, Aug. 25, 2014)

Thursday, October 1 – Religion, Gender, and Sexual Orientation

- *Peters and Shear, “A Ruling That Both Sides Can Run With: Hobby Lobby Decision Highlights Parties’ Divide” (NYT, June 30, 2014)
- *Appelbaum, “What the Hobby Lobby Ruling Means for America” (NYT, July 22, 2014)
- *Weinbaum and Roth, “Beyond Suffrage” (LAT, August 26, 2011)
- *Conway, “Women and Political Participation” (PS, June 2001)
- *Reed, “Sisterhood Was Powerful” (American Prospect, July 17, 2000)
- *Chesler, “Public Triumphs, Private Rights” (MS, Summer 2005)
- *Eckholm, “Access to Abortion Falling as States Pass Restrictions” (NYT, January 3, 2014)
- *Waldman, “On Abortion, a Tale of Two Countries” (American Prospect, July 30, 2013)
- *Havemann, “Great Expectations” (Wilson Quarterly, Summer 2007)
- *Friedman, “The Real Stonewall Legacy” (American Prospect, June 26, 2009)
- *Calmes and Baker, “Obama Says Same-Sex Marriage Should Be Legal” (NYT, May 9, 2012)
- *“Gay Marriage Chronology” (LAT, June 26, 2015)
- *Dreier, “Same-Sex Marriage: the Supreme Court Chose States Rights Over Equal Rights” (Poverty and Race, September/October 2013)
- *Kim, “Close Down the Gay Movement?” (The Nation, April 16, 2014)
- *Eckholm, “Next Fight for Gay Rights: Bias in Jobs and Housing” (NYT, June 28, 2015)

Weeks 7 - 10 – Inequality and Opportunity

Monday, October 5

Film: “Heist”

Tuesday, October 6 – Is America a Class Society?

Hacker and Pierson, Winner-Take-All Politics

Thursday, October 8– Corporations and Democracy

Hacker and Pierson, Winner-Take-All Politics

Monday, October 12 and Tuesday, October 13 – FALL BREAK

Thursday, October 14: Interest Groups, Lobbying, and Money

Watch before class: Film: “Gunned Down: The Power of the NRA” (50 minutes)

<http://www.pbs.org/wgbh/pages/frontline/gunned-down/>

Watch before class: “Clean Elections, Changing the Face of America” (14 minutes)

<http://www.publiccampaign.org/video>

Miroff, Seidelman, Swanstrom, and Deluca, The Democratic Debate

Chapter 7: Campaigns: Organized Money versus Organized People

Chapter 10: Interest Group Politics

- *Nocera, “The Spineless Gun Vote” (NYT, April 19, 2013)
- *Dao, “NRA. Leadership Rallies Members for 2014 Elections” (NYT, May 4, 2013)
- *Goode, “In Gun Debate, Divide Grows as Both Sides Dig In for Battle” (NYT, Sept. 15, 2013)
- *Waxman, “The Tobacco Wars” (from Waxman, The Waxman Report: How Congress Really Works, 2009)
- *Katz, “How the U.S. Chamber of Commerce Keeps Working People Poor and Destroys the

Environment" ([In These Times](#), August 19, 2015)

*Murray, "The Other NRA: This Influential Restaurant Lobby" ([Capital & Main](#), July 3, 2015)

*Ludwig, "Monsanto Spends Millions to Defeat Washington GMO Labeling Initiative" ([Truth-out](#), September 21, 2013)

*Olsen-Phillips, Choma, Bryner and Weber, "The Political One Percent of the One Percent in 2014: Mega Donors Fuel Rising Cost of Elections" ([Open Secrets](#), April 30, 2015)

*Bhargava, "Corporate Dark Money is Keeping Millions of Americans in Poverty" ([The Hill](#), July 24, 2015)

*Lichtblau, "Bernie Sanders's Success in Attracting Small Donors Tests Importance of 'Super PACs'" ([NYT](#), August 25, 2015)

*Eggen, "Gulf State Lawmakers Juggle Oil Industry Interests With Climate, Safety Concerns" ([Washington Post](#), May 14, 2010)

*Dreier, "Bush's Class Warfare" ([Huffington Post](#), December 21, 2007)

*Rosenfeld, "Watch Out Plutocrats, the Progressive Pro-Democracy Movement Is Savvy and Gearing Up to Take on Citizens United" ([AlterNet](#), November 23, 2013)

Monday, October 19

Film: "Inequality for All"

Tuesday, October 20-- Is Inequality a Serious Problem?

Watch this video before class: "Are the Rich Getting Too Much of the Economic Pie?" (4 minutes)

<http://www.theatlantic.com/video/archive/2013/08/are-the-rich-getting-too-much-of-the-economic-pie/278807>

Watch this video before class: "Wealth Inequality in America" (6 minutes)

<http://www.youtube.com/watch?v=QPKKQnijnsM>

Go to this website ("What Percent Are You?") and plug in your family's household income to discover where your family fits in the class system:

<http://www.nytimes.com/interactive/2012/01/15/business/one-percent-map.html?ref=business>

Go to this website ("Family Budget Calculator") and plug in your family type, state, and location to discover how much a family in your area needs to make ends meet:

<http://www.epi.org/resources/budget>

Miroff, Seidelman, Swanstrom, and Deluca, [The Democratic Debate](#)

Chapter 4: The American Political Economy

Chapter 17: Economic and Social Policy: The Democratic Connections

*Mohan, "Though Far from Poor, A Family Struggles Daily" ([LAT](#), May 18, 2004)

*Greenhouse, "On Register's Other Side, Little to Spend" ([NYT](#), November 28, 2013)

*Anderson and Ross, "California's Wealth Pyramid" ([LAT](#), November 23, 2011)

*Zuznia, "Rich Californians Balk at Limits: 'We're Not All Equal When It Comes to Water'" ([Washington Post](#), June 13, 2015)

*Cooper, "The Two Worlds of Los Angeles" ([The Nation](#), August 21/28, 2000)

*Thompson, "Meet the Wealth Gap" ([The Nation](#), June 30, 2008)

*Barack Obama, "Remarks by the President on Economic Mobility" (December 4, 2013)

*Samuelson, "Indifferent to Inequality?" ([Newsweek](#), May 7, 2001)

*Collins, "Do the Rich Rule America?" ([NJ Today](#), September 25, 2015)

*Reich, "And Now the Richest .01 Percent" ([Huffington Post](#), November 18, 2014)

*Parker, "Big Donors Seek Larger Roles in Presidential Campaigns" ([NYT](#), September 29, 2015)

*Pizzigati, "America's Greediest" ([Inequality.Org](#), December 17, 2013)

*Sauter, "Ten Companies Paying Americans the Least" ([247WallSt.Com](#), November 15, 2013)

*Surowiecki, "Soak the Very Very Rich" (New Yorker, August 16, 2010)

Thursday, October 22 -- Is Poverty a Serious Problem?

Watch this video before coming to class: (*The Daily Show*, January 28, 2014) – 5 minutes
<http://www.cc.com/video-clips/ddm404/the-daily-show-with-jon-stewart-wage-against-the-machine>

Watch this video before coming to class: (Colbert Report, July 22, 2013: "Minimum Wage & McDonald's Spending Journal" – 7 minutes) <http://www.cc.com/video-clips/8fg72p/the-colbert-report-minimum-wage---mcdonald-s-spending-journal>

Watch this 3-minute video before coming to class: "Life for 46M American on food stamps" (CBS News) <https://www.youtube.com/watch?v=dut-YuNx5A4>

*Epstein, "Enough to Make You Sick?" (NYT, October 12, 2003)

*Rosen, "Who Gets Polluted? The Movement for Environmental Justice" (Dissent, Spring 1994)

*Dreier, "This Economy is a Real Killer" (Huffington Post, March 10, 2009)

*Cassidy, "Relatively Deprived" (New Yorker, April 3, 2006)

*DeParle, "Harder for Americans to Rise From Lower Rungs" (NYT, January 4, 2012)

*Spriggs, "The Changing Face of Poverty in America" (American Prospect, April 2007)

*Culhane, "Five Myths About Homelessness" (Washington Post, July 11, 2010)

*Conlin and Bernstein, "Working and Poor" (Business Week, May 31, 2004)

*Egan, "Good Poor, Bad Poor" (NYT, December 22, 2013)

*Krugman, "A War on the Poor" (NYT, October 31, 2013)

*Greenhouse, "How Costco Became the Anti-Wal-Mart" (NYT, July 15, 2005)

*Alpert, "Poverty's New Address Is In Suburbs" (LAT, May 20, 2013)

*Mikulan, "7.6 Billion Reasons to Raise L.A.'s Minimum Wage" (Capital & Main, Jan.15, 2014)

*Hanauer, "The Capitalist's Case for a \$15 Minimum Wage" (Bloomberg News, June 19, 2013)

*Zorn, "Obama's Minimum Wage Hike: A Case Of Zombie Economics" (Forbes, Feb.20, 2013)

Monday, October 26

Film: "Children In America's Schools"

Tuesday, October 27 - Education and Poverty

Kozol, Savage Inequalities (Introduction and Chapters 1-4)

Thursday, October 29 – Education and Mobility

*"Equality is Not Always Justice" (painting)

*Stevens, "A Split of Haves and Have Mores" (LAT, April 28, 2013)

*Drum, "Being Smart Isn't Always Enough to Make it in America" (Mother Jones, Dec. 12, 2013)

*Rich, "Language-Gap Study Bolsters a Push for Pre-K" (NYT, October 22, 2013)

*Harris, "State's Separate Systems for Rich and Poor" (LAT, May 19, 2002)

*Reardon, "No Rich Child Left Behind," (NYT, April 27, 2013)

*Helfand, "Teacher Shortage Hitting Inner Cities Hardest, Study Says" (NYT, Dec. 8, 2000)

*Anderson, "Smaller Classes Aid Test Scores, Results Show" (LAT, Dec. 29, 1998)

*Symonds, "Closing the School Gap" (Business Week, Oct. 14, 2002)

*Siders, "Jerry Brown Pledges Foes 'Battle of Their Lives' Over Education Funding"
(Sacramento Bee, April 23, 2013)

*Halstead and Lind, "The National Debate Over School Funding Needs a Federal Focus" (LAT, Oct. 8, 2000)

*Ravitch, "The Myth of Charter Schools," (New York Review of Books, Nov. 11, 2010)

- *Porter, "Education Gap Between Rich and Poor Is Growing Wider" (NYT, Sept. 22, 2015)
- *Thompson, "Why Smart Poor Students Don't Apply to Selective Colleges (and How to Fix It)" (Atlantic, January 24, 2013)
- *DeParle, "For Poor, Leap to College Often Ends in a Hard Fall" (NYT, Dec. 22, 2012)
- *Blow, "A Dangerous New Normal in College Debt" (NYT, March 9, 2013)
- *Perez-Pena, "Oregon Looks at Way to Attend College Now and Repay State Later" (NYT, July 4, 2013)
- *Tyson, "Needed: Affirmative Action for the Poor" (Business Week, July 7, 2003)
- *Dreier, "Presidential Legacy" (American Prospect, January 27, 2003)

Weeks 11 - 13 – Elections, Political Parties, and Campaigns

Monday, November 2

"Recount"

Tuesday, November 3 -- Who Votes? Why Do People Vote the Way They Do?

Miroff, Seidelman, Swanstrom, and Deluca, The Democratic Debate

Chapter 6: Democracy and Voting

Optional: Listen to this radio interview of Ari Berman by NPR's Terry Gross, "Block The Vote: A Journalist Discusses Voting Rights And Restrictions" (August 10, 2015)

<http://www.npr.org/2015/08/10/431238980/block-the-vote-a-journalist-discusses-voting-rights-and-restrictions> OR read the transcript of the interview:

<http://www.npr.org/templates/transcript/transcript.php?storyId=431238980>

- *Berman, "How the 2000 Election in Florida Led to a New Wave of Voter Disenfranchisement" (The Nation, July 28, 2015)
- *Schultz, "Republicans Use Vote Suppression as Electoral Strategy" (Aljazeera, October 29, 2014)
- *Cooper, "After Ruling, States Rush to Enact Voting Laws" (NYT, July 6, 2013)
- *Green and Mach, "Does Same-Day Registration Affect Voter Turnout in the U.S.?" (PBS Newshour, October 4, 2015)
- *Prokop, "California Governor Signs Bill to Automatically Register People to Vote" (Vox, October 10, 2015)
- *Lopez and Taylor, "Latino Voters in the 2012 Election" (Pew Research Center, November 7, 2012)
- *Wasserman, "Mapping the 2016 Electorate: Demographics Don't Guarantee a Democratic White House" (Cook Political Report, June 19, 2015)
- *Linksey, "In Swing States, Clinton May Face Gender Bias" (Boston Globe, September 9, 2015)

Thursday, November 5 – Congress and Political Parties

Miroff, Seidelman, Swanstrom, and Deluca, The Democratic Debate

Chapter 8: U.S. Parties: Who Has a Voice?

Chapter 12: Congress: A Vehicle for Popular Democracy?

***2016 Senate Election Interactive Map** <http://www.270towin.com/2016-senate-election>

***2014 House Election Live Results** <http://www.270towin.com/2014-house-election-results-live>

***2016 House Election Interactive Map** <http://www.270towin.com/2016-house-election>

*Gerth, "Millions Spent to Sway Kentucky Voters in 2014 Senate Race" (USA Today, October 23, 2013)

- *Cunningham, “Planned Parenthood Runs Ads in Senate Battleground States” (Washington Examiner, August 18, 2015)
- *Silver, “As Swing Districts Dwindle, Can a Divided House Stand?” (NYT, December 27, 2012)
- *Romano, “Bipartisanship is Bad” (Newsweek, August 31, 2009)
- *Drew, “The Stranglehold on Our Politics” (New York Review of Books, September 26, 2013)
- *Mann and Ornstein, “Let’s Just Say It: The Republicans are the Problem” (Washington Post, April 27, 2012)
- *Memoli, “Swing Seat Republicans More Likely to Support Debt Deal” (LAT, October 17, 2013)
- *“Paul Ryan: A Speaker for the Freedom Caucus” (NYT, October 23, 2015, editorial)
- *Stamm, “Paul Ryan Would Be the Most Conservative House Speaker in Recent History” (National Journal, October 21, 2015)
- *Steinhauer, “Latest Unease on the Right: Ryan is Too Far Left” (NYT, October 12, 2015)
- *Moats, “What Aiken Said” (Rutland Herald, August 24, 2015)
- *Sheiber, “Elizabeth Warren: Hillary Clinton’s Nightmare” (New Republic, November 25, 2013)
- *Taibbi, “Trey Gowdy Just Elected Hillary Clinton President” (Rolling Stone, October 23, 2015)
- *Witkin, “After 8 Unsuccessful Benghazi Investigations, GOP Launches Select Committee On Planned Parenthood” (NCRM, October 24, 2015)
- *Davey, “Twinned Cities Now Following Different Paths” (NYT, January 13, 2014)

Monday, November 9

Film: “By the People: The Election of Barack Obama”

Tuesday, November 10 – The Presidency and Presidential Elections

Miroff, Seidelman, Swanstrom, and Deluca, The Democratic Debate

Chapter 11: Presidential Leadership and Elite Democracy

2012 Election Map: <http://www.270towin.com/historical-presidential-elections/timeline>

2012 Presidential Election Exit Polls

<http://www.cnn.com/election/2012/results/race/president>

(These exit polls show how Americans voted based on a variety of social, economic, demographic, and ideological factors)

- *Gore, “Presidents Winning Without Popular Vote” (Factcheck, March 24, 2008)
- *Richie and Hill, “Outmoded Electoral College Betrays Democratic Process” (Pasadena Star-News, July 22, 2004)
- *Littlefield, “Nader Republicans” (Atlantic Monthly, September 2004)
- *Pomper, “The Presidential Election: Voting for Parties and Principles” (in Crotty, ed., Winning the Presidency: 2012)
- *Crotty, “The Obama Re-election Campaign” (in Crotty, ed., Winning the Presidency: 2012)
- *Kranish, “The Story Behind Mitt Romney’s Loss in the Presidential Campaign to President Obama” (Boston Globe, December 22, 2012)
- Klein, “The Green Lantern Theory of the Presidency Explained” (Vox, May 20, 2014)

Thursday, November 12 – The 2016 Elections

*“**Maps of 2012 Presidential Election**” <http://www-personal.umich.edu/~mejn/election/2012/>

*“**2016 Presidential Election Map**” <http://www.270towin.com/>

- *Krugman, “It Takes a Party” (NYT, April 15, 2015)
- *Suson, “Swing States to Watch in the 2016 Election” (POTUS 2016, June 16, 2015)
- *Kondik, Skelley and Sabato, “The 2016 Results We Can Already Predict” (National Journal,

May 03, 2015)

- *Sabato, Kondik and Skelley, "Republicans 2016: Where the Race Stands Now" (Sabato's Crystal Ball, October 27, 2015)
- *McManus, "The GOP Has Two Contests Going On" (LAT, October 28, 2015)
- *Lizza, "The Real Kingmakers in the GOP" (New Yorker, October 28, 2015)
- *Cassidy, "Five Theories of Donald Trump" (New Yorker, August 22, 2015)
- *Martin and Thee-Brenan, "Deeply Divided Republican Electorate Drifts Toward Ben Carson, Poll Shows" (NYT, October 27, 2015)
- *Isenstadt and Thrush, "Billionaire to Rubio: Time to Step it Up" (Politico, October 27, 2015)
- *Von Drehle, "Can Anyone Stop Hillary?" (Time, January 27, 2014)
- *Skelley, "Democrats 2016: The Primary Map Still Favors Clinton" (Sabato's Crystal Ball, August 17, 2015)
- *Meyerson, "Why Democrats Need Both Clinton and Sanders" (Washington Post, October 14, 2015)
- *Talbot, "The Populist Prophet" (The New Yorker, October 12, 2015)
- *Heilemann, "The Sanders' Brain Trust's Plan to Beat Hillary Clinton" (Bloomberg, October 28, 2015)

Monday, November 16

Film: "The Times of Harvey Milk"

Tuesday, November 17 -- Does It Matter Who Is In Office?

Elizabeth Warren, A Fighting Chance

Thursday, November 19

Elizabeth Warren, A Fighting Chance

Weeks 14 to 15 –America's Role in the World: Rights and Responsibilities

Monday, November 23

Film: "Why We Fight"

Tuesday, November 24 – The Military Industrial Complex and Foreign Policy

Miroff, Seidelman, Swanstrom, and Deluca, The Democratic Debate

Chapter 18: Foreign Policy and the National Security State

Before class, listen to this six-minute NPR segment: "Don Obama? The Surprising Ways the President is like the Godfather" Go to this link and hit "Listen Now":

<http://www.scpr.org/programs/take-two/2014/08/22/38991/what-president-obama-shares-with-the-godfather>

*United Nations, *Universal Declaration of Human Rights*

*Leonard, "Violence Is the American Way" (AlterNet, April 22, 2003)

*Wittner, "How Much Is Enough? America's Runaway Military Spending" (History News Network, August 16, 2010)

*Lepore, "The Force: How Much Military is Enough" (The New Yorker, Jan 28, 2013)

*Barstow, "One Man's Military-Industrial-Media Complex" (NYT, Nov. 30, 2008)

- *Johnson, "Lowering the Flag on the American Century" (Tom Dispatch, August 16, 2010)
- *Johnson, "The Sorrows of Empire" (excerpt from The Sorrows of Empire, 2004)
- *Judis, "Imperial Amnesia" (Foreign Policy, July/August 2004)
- *Lalami, "To Defeat ISIS, We Must Call Both Western and Muslim Leaders to Account" (The Nation, December 7, 2015)
- *Montanaro, "U.S. Political Reaction To Paris Attacks Split Along Party Lines" (NPR, Nov. 14, 2015)
- *Beinart, "A Beautiful Lie" (NJ, July 3, 2010)

Thursday, November 26 – HAPPY THANKSGIVING – NO CLASS

Monday, November 30

Film: "Bread and Roses"

Tuesday, December 1 – Human Rights and Global Sweatshops

Watch this 6-minute video before coming to class: "The Other Side of Apple"

<http://www.youtube.com/watch?v=DUtT2ZZP4EA&feature=related>

Watch this 3-minute video before coming to class: "Wal-Mart: The Real Story"

<http://www.youtube.com/watch?v=ATu-WhQ8IsY>

Watch this 4-minute video before coming to class: "Global Wealth Inequality"

<http://www.youtube.com/watch?v=uWSxzjyMNpU>

Watch "Zoned for Slavery" in three parts (total: 23 minutes)

Part 1: <http://www.youtube.com/watch?v=1XtYhfcEZ9A>

Part 2: <http://www.youtube.com/watch?v=2QOwNHeAqBE>

Part 3: <http://www.youtube.com/watch?v=klSngDpTIM4>

Film: "Rana Plaza Factory Disaster" (BBC)

*Weiner, "Low-Wage Costa Ricans Make Baseballs for Millionaires" (NYT, January 25, 2004)

*Alterman, "Rotten at the Core" (The Nation, November 2, 2015)

*Cleeland, Iritani and Marshall, "Scouring the Globe to Give Shoppers an \$8.63 Polo Shirt" (LAT, Nov. 24, 2003)

*Barboza, "In Chinese Factories, Lost Fingers and Low Pay" (NYT, Jan.5, 2008)

*North, "Bangladeshi Garment Workers Fight Back" (The Nation, November 15, 2013)

*Greenhouse and Yardley, "As Walmart Makes Safety Vows, It's Seen as Obstacle to Change" (NYT, December 28, 2013)

*Rosenbloom, "Wal-Mart to Toughen Standards" (NYT, Oct. 22, 2008)

*Greenhouse, "Labor Fight Ends in Win for Students" (NYT, Nov. 18, 2009)

*Strain, "Students Demand College-Logo Brands Join Fire and Safety Agreement" (The Nation, October 24, 2013)

*Blanding, "The Case Against Coca Cola" (The Nation, May 1, 2006)

*Kristof, "Let Them Sweat" (NYT, June 25, 2002)

*Hayden and Kernaghan, "Pennies an Hour, and No Way Up" (NYT, July 6, 2002)

*Dreier, "Another Factory is Possible" (The Nation, November 7, 2011)

* Ugarte, "Mondragon Corporation: A Manufacturer of Equality" (Too Much, June 30, 2015)

*Alperovitz, "Another World Is Possible" (Mother Jones, January/February 2006)

Thursday, December 3 – Who Will Make Change?

Readings to be selected

Writing Assignments

<u>Assignment</u>	<u>Passed Out</u>	<u>Due in Class</u>
Essay #1: Weeks 1-4	Thurs., Sept. 10	Thurs., Sept. 17
Essay #2: Weeks 5-8 Congressional Profile	Thurs., Oct. 15	Thurs., Oct. 22 Thurs., Nov. 5
Essay #3: Weeks 9-13	Thurs., Nov. 12	Thurs., Nov. 29
Final Exam*	Tuesday, Dec. 1	Tues. Dec. 8

*The final exam should be handed in to my office before 4 p.m., on Tuesday, December 8

Monday Night Films

August 31:	“Sicko”
September 7:	“With God on Our Side: George W. Bush & the Rise of the Religious Right”
September 14:	“Hot Coffee” or “Trade Secrets”
September 21:	“Brother Outsider”
September 28:	“Selma”
October 5:	“Heist”
October 19:	“Inequality for All”
October 26:	“Children in America’s Schools”
November 2:	“Recount”
November 9 :	“By the People: The Election of Barack Obama”
November 16:	“The Times of Harvey Milk”
November 23:	“Why We Fight”
November 30:	“Bread & Roses”