

AMERICAN POLITICS AND PUBLIC POLICY
POLITICS 101
Fall 2017

Class Sessions: Tuesday and Thursday 1:30-2:55 pm in Fowler 112
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 Berkus 243. 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. **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 four writing assignments during the term – three short essays, 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?
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, The Atlantic, American Spectator, Washington Monthly, The Progressive, and National Review. One of the best sources of information about American politics is Politico (www.politico.com). Another is Vox (vox.com)

Grades

Your grades will be based on three factors:

1. 33% on attendance and participation in class sessions and films.
2. 33% on the three essay assignments.
3. 33% on a final examination.

Required Books

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
5. Timothy Snyder, On Tyranny: Twenty Lessons From the Twentieth Century (Dugan Books, 2017)

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)

Weeks 1-5 – What Does Government Do? What is Democracy?

Tuesday, August 29 – Introduction – Why Should You Care?

Film: “John Q” (excerpts in class)

Thursday, August 31 -- How to Understand the 2016 Election

*”2016 Presidential Election Results”

*”How Groups Voted: 2016”

*”Exit Polls – President – 2016”

*”2016 U.S. House Election Outcome By Party”

“2016 U.S. Senate Election Outcome by Party”

*Roberts, “Everything Mattered: Lessons From 2016's Bizarre Presidential Election”
(Vox, November 30, 2016)

*Murray, “12 Days That Stunned a Nation: How Hillary Clinton Lost” (NBC News,
August 23, 2017)

*Leonhardt, “If Liberals Voted” (NYT, June 20, 2017)

*Berman, “Did Republicans Rig the Election?” (The Nation, December 5, 2016)

*Dreier, “Democrats Must Mobilize America’s Largest Political Party: Nonvoters”
(American Prospect, November 23, 2016)

*Walsh, “Did Race or Class Doom Hillary Clinton?” (The Nation, November 16, 2016)

*Bouie, “How Trump Happened” (Slate, March 13, 2016)

*Filipovic, “Donald Was a Creep. Too Bad Hillary Couldn’t Say It” (NY Times, August
24, 2017)

*Drum, “Let’s Cut the Crap About Why Hillary Clinton Lost” (Mother Jones, June 2,
2017)

*Yablon, “How the NRA Stoked the Populist Rage That Gave America President
Trump” (The Trace, November 11, 2016)

*Ornstein and Mann, “The Republicans Waged a 3-Decade War on Government. They
Got Trump” (Vox, July 18, 2016)

*Chait, “Trump’s Fledgling Presidency Has Already Collapsed” (New York, August 4,
2017)

Monday, September 4

Film: “Where To Invade Next?” 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 5 -- Is Health Care a Privilege or a Human Right? An Example of the Battle Over Government -- Ideas and Interests

- 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 video 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 90-second video before coming to class; Cong. Rep. Brooks: Sick people should pay more (May 2, 2017)
<http://www.cnn.com/videos/politics/2017/05/02/rep-mo-brooks-pre-existing-conditions-lead.cnn>
 - Watch this 13-minute video before coming to class; Jimmy Kimmel reveals details of his son's birth and heart disease (May 1, 2017)
<https://www.youtube.com/watch?v=MmWwoMcGmoo>
 - Watch this 9-minute video before coming to class: "Health Care Reform Hits Main Street" http://www.youtube.com/watch?v=3-llc5xK2_E
 - Watch this 5-minute video before coming to class: Trump, Cruz and Carson discuss health care at Republican debate, February 6, 2016
<https://www.youtube.com/watch?v=aKl3jNsi2Mg>
 - Watch this 4-minute video before coming to class: Clinton and Sanders discuss health care at Democratic debate, January 17, 2016
<https://www.youtube.com/watch?v=orlC3ieFTco>
- *Leland, "When Health Insurance is Not a Safeguard" (NYT, Oct. 23, 2005)
- *Brooks, "Going Home Again" (NYT, December 29, 2011)
- *Reid, "5 Myths About Health Care Around the World" (Washington Post, August 23, 2009)
- *Hellman, "U.S. Health Care Ranked Worst in the Developed World" (Time, June 17, 2014)
- *Ward, "Obamacare to the Rescue" (LAT, December 6, 2011)
- *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)
- *Sanger-Katz, "Obamacare Appears to Be Making People Healthier" (NYT, August 9, 2016)
- *Moore, "The Obamacare We Deserve" (NYT, December 31, 2013)
- *Dropp and Nyhan, "One-Third Don't Know Obamacare and Affordable Care Act Are the Same" (NYT, February 7, 2017)
- *Scher, "How Democrats Won the Health Care War – And How They Could Lose the Next One" (Politico, July 20, 2017)

Thursday, September 7 – Is America Unusual? What Does Government Do in Other Democratic Countries?

- Watch this 8 minute segment of the January 16, 2012 Republican presidential debate in South Carolina (from 24:35 through 33:01) before coming to class:
<http://www.youtube.com/watch?v=y66pS8gLdfg>
- Watch this 4-minute CNN video before coming to class: Bernie Sanders' American Dream is in Denmark:
<http://www.cnn.com/2016/02/17/politics/bernie-sanders-2016-denmark-democratic-socialism/>
- Watch this 30-second video before coming to class: Clinton to Sanders: "We Are

Not Denmark” <https://www.vox.com/2015/10/14/9528873/bernie-sander-hillary-clinton-socialist-debate>

- *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)
- *Abrams and Hounanian, “5 Countries That Know How to Handle Student Debt” (The Nation, August 4, 2016)
- *Kliff, “EpiPen’s 400 Percent Price Hike Tells Us a Lot About What’s Wrong With American Health Care” (Vox, August 23, 2016)
- *Greenhouse, “If the French Can Do It, Why Can't We?” (NYT, Nov. 14, 1993)
- *“Ugarte, “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)
- *Etehad and Lin, “The World is Getting Better at Paid Maternity Leave. The U.S. is Not” (Washington Post, August 13, 2016)
- *Dreier, “The U.S. in Comparative Perspective” (Contexts, Summer 2007)
- *Smeeding, “The Poverty Quagmire” (Washington Post, Dec. 21, 2003)
- *Johansen, “Scandinavia Gets Serious on Global Warming” (Progressive, July 2007)
- *Rosenthal, “In German Suburb, Life Goes On Without Cars” (NYT, May 12, 2009)

Monday, September 11

Movie: “Selma”

Tuesday, September 12 -- Elite Democracy vs. Popular Democracy: What Is Democracy? What is Freedom? What is Conservatism? What is Liberalism? Does the U.S. Have Too Much Government, Too Little, or The Wrong Kind?

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 slac, You Can't Be Neutral on a Moving Train)
- *Cohen, “Introduction” (from Nothing to Fear: FDR’s Inner Circle and the Hundred Days that Created Modern America, 2009)
- *Foner, “Confederate Statues and ‘Our’ History” (NYT, August 20, 2017)
- *Jordan, “Dreamer’ Plan That Aided 800,000 Immigrants Is Threatened” (NYT, August 27, 2017)
- *Rutten, “Treating People Like Garbage” (LAT, August 28, 2010)
- *Chait, “War on the Weak” (Newsweek, April 18, 2011)
- *Will, “In Defense of Non-Voting” (Newsweek, October 10, 1983)

- *Will, “The Case for Conservatism” (Washington Post, May 31, 2007)
- *Weigel, “What is the Alt-Right? - A Primer” (Washington Post, August 24, 2016)
- *Remnick, “One Hundred Days of Trump” (The New Yorker, May 1, 2017)
- *Dreier, “Democratic Socialism – American Style” (CNN, October 28, 2015)

Thursday, September 14 -- Are Social Movements the Great Equalizer?

Distribute Essay #1. Due September 21

- Watch this 3-minute video before coming to class: “What Have American Unions Ever Done For Us?” (U.S. version)
<https://www.youtube.com/watch?v=iObqguaNDdA>
- Watch this 2-minute video before coming to class: “What Have Unions Ever Done For Us?” (Australian version)
<https://www.youtube.com/watch?v=OoCGampOJOc>
- Watch this 8-minute video from Bill Moyers’ show before this class session:
<http://www.youtube.com/watch?v=mFlXpoA-MQY>
- Look at this graph before coming to class: Tribou and Collins, “This Is How Fast America Changes Its Mind” (Bloomberg, June 26, 2015)
<https://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)
- *Tomlinson, “Reverend Resistance” (Esquire, April 25, 2017)
- *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)
- *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, “Janitors, Long Paid Little, Demand a Larger Slice” (NYT, April 26, 2000)
- *Gross, “The Decline of Unions and the Rise of Trump” (NYT, August 12, 2016)
- *Bacon, “Braceros Strike After One Worker Dies” (American Prospect, August 9, 2017)
- *Jane Mayer, “Taking it to the Streets” (New Yorker, Nov. 28, 2011)
- *Gitlin, “Fossil Fuels Off Campus” (Dissent, Spring 2016)
- *Brecher, “Turning Climate Worriers Into Climate Warriors” (Against Doom, 2017)
- *Aronoff, “Visible and Indivisible: The Birth of a Resistance Movement” (The Progressive, August 18, 2017)
- *Jaffe, “The New Normal in U.S. Politics” (New Republic, August 18, 2017)

Monday, September 18

Film: “Hot Coffee”

Tuesday, September 19 – What Should/Does Government Do?

- 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=VXcyX8blbuo>
- Watch this 4-minute video before coming to class: Congressman Luis Guitierrez: The “food stamp President”: <https://www.youtube.com/watch?v=-AnuDkXlXoo>
- 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://www.cc.com/video-clips/v9wjc4/the-daily-show-with-jon-stewart-fox-news-welfare-academy>

Operate Public Services

- *Seib, "The Federal System: You Can Get Away from Washington -- But Not Government" (Wall Street Journal, June 21, 1995)
- *Lopez, “Buses Are Their Route to a Better Future” (LAT, December 18, 2013)
- *Drew, “A Country Breaking Down” (New York Review of Books, February 25, 2016)
- *Hacker and Pierson, “The Real Cause of the Flint Crisis” (Atlantic, March 7, 2016)

Provide Subsidies and Investment

- *Wiener, “It’s Time to End Tuition at Public Universities—and Abolish Student Debt” (The Nation, March 23, 2015)
- *Blow, “A Dangerous New Normal in College Debt” (NYT, March 9, 2013)
- *Broder, "Gramm's Life of Entitlements" (Washington Post, March 6, 1995)
- *Nazario, "Going to School Hungry" (LAT, November 20, 1994)
- *Einenkel, “Meet the Lazy Welfare Recipients Who Have Spent Millions in Food Stamps” (Daily Kos, August 17, 2016)
- *Bittman, “Welfare for the Wealthy,” (NYT, June 4, 2013)
- *Nixon, “Cost-Cutters, Except When the Spending Is Back Home” (NYT, July 19, 2011)
- *Vinik, “The Government Is Quietly Giving Way More Housing Aid To Rich People Than Poor People” (Business Insider, December 18, 2013)
- *O’Connor, “Walmart Workers Cost Taxpayers \$6.2 Billion In Public Assistance” (Forbes, April 15, 2014)
- *Buchheit, “Add It Up: The Average American Family Pays \$6,000 a Year in Subsidies to Big Business” (CommonDreams, September 23, 2013)

Protect Public Safety and National Security

- *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)
- *Follman, “More Than Half of Americans Now Have Tougher Gun Laws” (Mother Jones, December 12, 2013)

Raise Revenues

- *Alperovitz, “Tax the Plutocrats” (The Nation, Jan. 27, 2003)
- *Buffett, “Stop Coddling the Super-Rich” (NYT, August 14, 2011)
- *Williamson, “Americans Are Proud To Pay Taxes — Except When They Think Others

Are Cheating” (Washington Post, April 18, 2017)

Thursday, September 21 -- What Should/Does Government Do?

- Watch this 8-minute video before class: “Remembering the Triangle Fire”
<http://www.cbsnews.com/video/watch/?id=7360200n>
- Watch this 5-minute video before class: “Elizabeth Warren on the 5th Anniversary of Dodd-Frank”
<https://www.youtube.com/watch?v=3foBrqHVCOo>
- Watch this 3-minute video before coming to class: “What Have Human Rights Ever Done for Us?”
<https://www.facebook.com/theguardian/videos/506897629498005/?fref=nf>

Regulate Food, Drugs, and Pollution

- *Dreier, “Frances Kelsey: The Government Bureaucrat Who May Have Saved Your Life” (American Prospect, August 10, 2015)
- *Isaacs and Schroeder, “Where The Public Good Prevailed” (American Prospect, June 4, 2001)
- *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)
- *Wilson, “Coming Down on Tobacco” (NYT, January 6, 2009)
- *Barringer, “California Air is Clearer, But Troubles Remain” (NYT, Aug 3, 2005)
- *Christensen, “Opponents Vow to Overturn Vaccination Law at Santa Monica Rally” (LAT, July 3, 2015)
- *Ropeik, “Public Health: Not Vaccinated? Not Acceptable” (LAT, July 18, 2011)

Regulate Consumer Products

- *Shapiro, “Toxic Toys” (The Nation, October 18, 2007)
- *Story, “Lead Paint Prompts Mattel to Recall 967,000 Toys” (NYT, Aug. 2, 2007)
- *Vartabedian and Bensinger, “Auto Safety Legislation Scaled Back” (LAT, July 12, 2010)
- *Calabresim, “The Agency That’s Got your Back” (TIME, Aug. 13, 2015)
- *Cohen, “Liberty for Light Bulbs” (Huffington Post, January 8, 2012)

Regulate Workplaces

- *Dreier and Cohen, “The Fire Last Time” (New Republic, March 12, 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)
- *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, 2006)
- *Cohen, “Job Killers’ That Aren’t” (LAT, May 19, 2011)

Protect Human Rights and Civil Liberties

- *Dreier, “Fifty Years Ago, the Supreme Court Knocked Down Bans on Interracial Marriage. How Have Things Changed Since Then?” (CommonDreams, June 12, 2017)
- *”Freedom of Expression” (American Civil Liberties Union)
- *Bell, “Spectacle of Swastikas on Streets Tests America's Free Speech Standard” (The Guardian, August 27, 2017)
- *Palazzolo, “ACLU Will No Longer Defend Hate Groups Protesting With Firearms” (Wall Street Journal, August 18, 2017)

Monday, September 25

Film: ““With God on Our Side: George W. Bush and the Rise of the Religious Right in America”

Tuesday, September 26 – The Media: Agenda-Setting and Framing

- Watch this 9-minute video before class: “The Daily Show with John Oliver,” MSNBC, August 1, 2013 - about the minimum wage and fast food workers: <http://www.criticalcommons.org/Members/JJWooten/clips/last-week-tonight-john-oliver-discusses-minimum>
 - Watch this 5-minute video before class: “John Oliver's 97% to 3% climate change debate goes viral getting 2.5 million hits & Guardian review,” May 27, 2014 <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#>
 - Watch this 9-minute video before class: “Reporting Labor in the U.S. Media,” Al Jazeera, August 27, 2017 <https://www.youtube.com/watch?v=iNo3YHFTC6c>
- Miroff, Seidelman, Swanstrom, and Deluca, The Democratic Debate
Chapter 9: The Media: Who Sets the Political Agenda?
- *Poniewozik, “The Myth of Fact” (Time, August 23, 2010)
 - *”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)
 - *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)
 - *Cesca, “Republicans’ ‘Voter Fraud’ False Flag: Voter ID Laws Offer Imaginary Solutions To Imaginary Problems” (Salon, August 23, 2016)
 - *Aradjian, “15 Things Every Would Know If There Were a Liberal Media” (Daily Kos, August 7, 2013)
 - *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)
 - *King, “Why Trump Wants A War on the Media” (Washington Post, July 3, 2017)
 - *Gitlin, “The Media Rapture of Donald Trump” (American Prospect, November 7, 2017)
 - *Rutenberg, “Trump Is Testing the Norms of Objectivity in Journalism” (NYT, August 8, 2016)

*"Trump's Lies" (NYT)

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

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

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

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

Thursday, September 28 – Values: Religion, Gender, and Sexual Orientation

- *Silverman, "How the Bible Belt lost God and found Trump" (Financial Times, April 13, 2017)
- *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)
- *"Gay Marriage Chronology" (LAT, June 26, 2015)
- *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 5-8 – Inequality and Opportunity

Monday, October 2

Film: "Heist"

Tuesday, October 3 – Is America a Class Society?

Hacker and Pierson, Winner-Take-All Politics

Thursday, October 5 – Corporations and Democracy

Hacker and Pierson, Winner-Take-All Politics

Monday, October 9 and Tuesday, October 10 – Fall Break

Thursday, October 12 -- Is Inequality a Serious Problem?

Distribute Essay #2. Due October 19

- Watch this 4-minute video before class: "Are the Rich Getting Too Much of the Economic Pie?"

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

- Watch this 6-minute video before class: “Wealth Inequality in America”
<http://www.youtube.com/watch?v=QPKKQnijnsM>
- Watch this 3-minute video before class: Robert Reich, “It's all about Power - Who Has It and Who Doesn't” (February 17, 2016)
<https://www.youtube.com/watch?v=ggiMIqIYGKs>
- 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

- *Collins, “Introduction: Time to Come Home” (from Born on Third Base, 2016)
- *Mohan, “Though Far from Poor, A Family Struggles Daily” (LAT, May 18, 2004)
- *Samuelson, “Indifferent to Inequality?” (Newsweek, May 7, 2001)
- *”The Highest Paid CEOs” (AFL-CIO)
- *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)
- *Leopold, “As Bad as You Think Inequality Is, It's Worse!” (AlterNet, October 19, 2015)
- *Collins, “Do the Rich Rule America?” (NJ Today, September 25, 2015)
- *Reich, “And Now the Richest .01 Percent” (Huffington Post, November 18, 2014)
- *Pizzigati, “America’s Greediest” (Too Much, December 16, 2013)

Monday, October 16

Film: “Inequality for All”

Tuesday, October 17 -- Is Poverty a Serious Problem?

- Watch this 5-minute video before coming to class: (*The Daily Show*, January 28, 2014) <http://www.cc.com/video-clips/ddm404/the-daily-show-with-jon-stewart-wage-against-the-machine>
- Watch this 7-minute video before coming to class: (Colbert Report, July 22, 2013: “Minimum Wage & McDonald's Spending Journal”)
<http://www.cc.com/video-clips/8fg72p/the-colbert-report-minimum-wage---mcdonald-s-spending-journal>
- *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)

- *Sauter, “Ten Companies Paying Americans the Least” (247WallSt.Com, November 15, 2013)
- *Greenhouse, “How Costco Became the Anti-Wal-Mart” (NYT, July 15, 2005)
- *Cassidy, “Relatively Deprived” (New Yorker, April 3, 2006)
- *Buchheit, “Half of Americans Below or Near Poverty Line” (AlterNet, May 30, 2016)
- *Alpert, “Poverty’s New Address Is In Suburbs” (LAT, May 20, 2013)
- *DeParle, “Harder for Americans to Rise From Lower Rungs” (NYT, January 4, 2012)
- *Culhane, “Five Myths About Homelessness” (Washington Post, July 11, 2010)
- *Egan, “Good Poor, Bad Poor” (NYT, December 22, 2013)

Thursday, October 19 – Can We Reduce Inequality and Poverty?

- Watch this 3-minute video before class: “Time For All Workers to Stand Up” (Democracy Now, August 2, 2013)
<https://www.youtube.com/watch?v=pzllvyogd5U>
- Watch this 5-minute video before class: “Terrence Wise introduces POTUS at White House Worker Voice Summit” (October 22, 2015)
<https://www.youtube.com/watch?v=oXNPDh4Q6qc>

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

Chapter 17: Economic and Social Policy: The Democratic Connections

- *Ariely, “Americans Want to Live in a Much More Equal Country (They Just Don't Realize It)” (Atlantic, August 2, 2012)
- *Greenhouse, “How to Get Low-Wage Workers Into the Middle Class” (The Atlantic, August 19, 2015)
- *Thompson, “How the \$15 Wage Deal Came Together in Seattle” (Seattle Times, May 3, 2014)
- *Hanauer, “The Capitalist’s Case for a \$15 Minimum Wage” (Bloomberg News, June 19, 2013)
- *Matthews, “Child Poverty in the US Is a Disgrace. Experts are Embracing This Simple Plan To Cut It” (Vox, April 27, 2017)
- *Sheth, Hardin and Bhagwat, “SLAC Claims Victory as Hunger Strike Comes to a Close” (Stanford Daily, April 23, 2007)
- *Myerson, “Five Economic Reforms Millennials Should Be Fighting For” (Rolling Stone, Jan. 3, 2014)
- *Dreier, “What Is Democratic Socialism – American Style?” (CNN, October 28, 2015)
- *Aronoff, “Are the Democratic Socialists of America For Real?” (New Republic, August 7, 2017)
- *Alperovitz, “How to Democratize the American Economy” (The Nation, Oct. 28, 2013)

Monday, October 23

Film: “Children in America’s Schools”

Tuesday, October 24 – Education and Inequality

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

- *Stevens, “A Split of Haves and Have Mores” (LAT, April 28, 2013)
- *Brown, “Judge: Mostly White Southern City May Secede From School District Despite Racial Motive” (Washington Post, April 27, 2017)
- *Hanna-Jones, “Have We Lost Sight of the Promise of Public Schools?” (NYT, February

21, 2017)

Thursday, October 26 – Education and Mobility

- *Morris, “The Pencilsword: On a Plate” (The Wireless, May 22, 2015) (cartoon)
- *”Equality is Not Always Justice” (painting)
- *Frank, “Why Luck Matters More Than You Might Think” (Atlantic, May 2016)
- *Drum, “Being Smart Isn't Always Enough to Make it in America” (Mother Jones, December 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)
- *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)
- *Porter, “Education Gap Between Rich and Poor Is Growing Wider” (NYT, Sept. 22, 2015)
- *Resmovits and Kohli, “These 2 Teens With Similar Backgrounds Took Very Different Paths to College” (LAT, May 12, 2016)
- *Thompson, “Why Smart Poor Students Don't Apply to Selective Colleges (and How to Fix It)” (Atlantic, January 24, 2013)
- *Tyson, “Needed: Affirmative Action for the Poor” (Business Week, July 7, 2003)
- *Dreier, “Presidential Legacy” (American Prospect, January 27, 2003)
- *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)

Weeks 10-12 – Elections, Political Parties, the Presidency and, Congress

Monday, October 30

Film: “Recount”

Tuesday, October 31 - Who Votes? Why Do People Vote the Way They Do? What Difference Does It Make?

- 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>

Tables and Charts:

- Turnout – US and other countries

- Turnout of US eligible voters 1948-2012
- Turnout in U.S. Presidential Elections by Age
- Voter Turnout by Income
- Turnout By Race and Ethnicity
- Turnout by Gender: Men vs. Women
- Turnout by various demographic groups
- Adults without valid photo ID
- Voter preferences by group
- Age Gap in Voting Preferences

Miroff, Seidelman, Swanstrom, and Deluca, The Democratic Debate
Chapter 6: Democracy and Voting

*Staples, “The Racist Origins of Felon Disenfranchisement” (NYT, November 18, 2014)

*Tobar, “Can Latinos Swing Arizona?” (The New Yorker, August 1, 2016)

*Cooper, “After Ruling, States Rush to Enact Voting Laws” (NYT, July 6, 2013)

*Berman, “How the 2000 Election in Florida Led to a New Wave of Voter Disenfranchisement” (The Nation, July 28, 2015)

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

*Wines, “Critics See Efforts by Counties and Towns to Purge Minority Voters From Rolls” (NYT, July 31, 2016)

*Wines and Blinder, “Federal Appeals Court Strikes Down North Carolina Voter ID Requirement” (NYT, July 29, 2016)

*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)

*Berman, “Donald Trump is Wrong: Rigging an Election is Almost Impossible” (Washington Post, August 5, 2016)

Thursday, November 2 – Congress: Elections, Political Parties, and Policy Making

- Watch Hillary Clinton’s 30-minute speech accusing Trump of racism before coming to class: <https://www.youtube.com/watch?v=soeyHVrawY> (August 25, 2016)
- Watch Donald Trump’s 10-minute response to Clinton’s speech: http://www.realclearpolitics.com/video/2016/08/25/trump_pre-butts_clintons_alt-right_speech_accusation_of_racism_are_the_last_refuge_of_the_discredited_democratic_politician.html (August 25, 2016)
- Read the profile of your home state, your Senator, and your Representative in The Almanac of American Politics: 2016. (It is on reserve in the library)
- Map of current Senate
- Senate election map for 2018
- Map of current House of Representatives
- House of Representatives election map for 2018

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?

- *Domhoff, “Why Third Parties Don't Work” (March 2005)
- *Shirkey, “There’s No Such Thing As a Protest Vote” (Medium, August 6, 2016)
- *Gregory, “A History of Radicals in the Democratic Party” (New Republic, August 3, 2016)
- *Krugman, “It Takes a Party” (NYT, April 13, 2015)
- *Peters, “Two Senators Have Little but a State in Common” (NYT, January 17, 2014)
- *”Partisanship and Political Animosity” (Pew Research Center, June 22, 2016)
- *Ornstein and Mann, “The Republicans Waged a 3-Decade War on Government. They Got Trump” (Vox, July 18, 2016)
- *Bunch, “Meet the Hypocrite Who Rips Trump But Votes With Him 95.5% of the Time” (Philadelphia Inquirer, August 1, 2017)
- *Hertel-Fernandez and Skocpol, “Democrats are Losing to Republicans at the State Level, and Badly. Here's Why.” (Vox, August 3, 2016)
- *Drew, “American Democracy Betrayed” (New York Review of Books, August 18, 2016)
- *Kolbert, “Drawing the Line” (New Yorker, June 27, 2016)
- *Ingraham, ”This is the Best Explanation of Gerrymandering You Will Ever See: How to Steal an Election – a Visual Guide” (Washington Post, March 1, 2015)
- *Silver, “As Swing Districts Dwindle, Can a Divided House Stand?” (NYT, December 27, 2012)
- *Wasserman, “The Congressional Map Has A Record-Setting Bias Against Democrats” (FiveThirtyEight, August 7, 2017)
- *Meyerson, “How Maxine Waters Became a Heroine for the Trump Era” (The Nation, August 23, 2017)
- *Mai-Duc, “Jimmy Gomez on Winning the 34th District: 'Was That a Dream?'" (LAT, June 8, 2017)
- *Kuttner, “Cheer Up, Democrats” (American Prospect, June 27, 2017)
- *Walsh, “Democrats Have a Problem: Can These Women Fix It?” (The Nation, August 28, 2017)
- *Tomasky “Sorry, Liberals: There Is No Majority Without Moderates” (Daily Beast, July 25, 2017)
- *Nocera, “The Spineless Gun Vote” (NYT, April 19, 2013)
- *Dao, “NRA Leadership Rallies Members for 2014 Elections” (NYT, May 4, 2013)
- *Osnos, “Making a Killing” (New Yorker, June 27, 2016)
- *Waxman, “The Tobacco Wars” (from Waxman, The Waxman Report: How Congress Really Works, 2009)

Monday, November 6

Film: “By the People”

Tuesday, November 7 – The President: Elections, Political Parties, and Policy Making

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

Chapter 11: Presidential Leadership and Elite Democracy

- *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

- *Akerson, "I've Always Voted Republican – Until Now" (Washington Post, August 17, 2016)
- *Lemieux, "Obama's Legacy" (Lawyers, Guns & Money, March 25, 2016)
- *Bump, "What Trump Has Undone" (Washington Post, August 24, 2017)
- *Dreier, "Relax, Donald: After 100 Days, You've Already Done So Much" (The Nation, April 27, 2017)
- *Klein, "The Green Lantern Theory of the Presidency Explained" (Vox, May 20, 2014)
- *Davenport and Lipton, "Scott Pruitt Is Carrying Out His E.P.A. Agenda in Secret, Critics Say" (NYT, August 11, 2017)
- *Dreier and Cohen, "Obama Won. Now It's Time to Change the System" (The Nation, November 14, 2012)
- *Lopez, "Donald Trump's Long History of Racism, From the 1970s to 2016, Explained" (Vox, August 26, 2016)
- *Remnick, "Donald Trump's True Allegiances" (The New Yorker, August 28, 2017)
- *Chait, "'I Alone Can Fix It' Becomes 'It's Not My Fault'" (New York, August 25, 2017)

Thursday, November 9 -- Money, Interest Groups and Lobbying

- Watch before class: "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
- *Farrell, Hertel-Fernandez and Skocpol, "Trump Will Win or Lose. Either Way, the Koch Network Will Still Shape the Republican Party" (Washington Post, February 29, 2016)
 - *Mascaro, "They Snubbed Trump. But the Koch Network Has Still Exerted a Surprising Influence Over the White House" (LAT, August 15, 2017)
 - *Bhargava, "Corporate Dark Money is Keeping Millions of Americans in Poverty" (The Hill, July 24, 2015)
 - *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)
 - *Parker, "Big Donors Seek Larger Roles in Presidential Campaigns" (NYT, September 29, 2015)
 - *Sultan, "Election 2016: Trump's Free Media Helped Keep Cost Down, But Fewer Donors Provided More Of The Cash" (Open Secrets, April 13, 2017)
 - *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)

*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)

Monday, November 13

Films: “Inside Obama’s White House: Obamacare” and “Heather Booth: Changing the World”

Tuesday, November 14 - – Does It Matter Who Wins?

Elizabeth Warren, A Fighting Chance

Thursday, November 16 – Does It Matter Who Wins?

Elizabeth Warren, A Fighting Chance

Weeks 13-15 – Rights and Responsibilities

Monday, November 20

Film: “Why We Fight”

Tuesday, November 21 – The Military Industrial Complex and Foreign Policy

Miroff, Seidelman, Swanstrom, and Deluca, The Democratic Debate
Chapter 18: Foreign Policy and the National Security State

*United Nations, *Universal Declaration of Human Rights*

*Kipling, “The White Man’s Burden” (McClure’s, February 1899)

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

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

*Turley, “Big Money Behind War: The Military-Industrial Complex” (Al Jazeera, Jan. 10, 2016)

*Johnson, “Lowering the Flag on the American Century” (Tom Dispatch, August 16, 2010)

*Judis, “Imperial Amnesia” (Foreign Policy, July/August 2004)

*Sanger and Haberman, “50 G.O.P. Officials Warn Donald Trump Would Put Nation’s Security ‘at Risk’” (NYT, August 8, 2016)

*Lemire and Klapper, “Trump Advisers at Odds Over President’s Foreign Policy” (Seattle Times, August 8, 2017)

Thursday, November 23 – Thanksgiving – No Class

Monday, November 27

Film: “The Central Park Five”

Tuesday, November 28 -- 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=klSngDpTlM4>

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)
- *Ablow, “The Free Trade Myth, Explained” (BillMoyers.Com, August 16, 2016)
- *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)
- *Alperovitz , “Another World Is Possible ” (Mother Jones, January/February 2006)

Thursday, November 30 – The Cops, the Courts and the Criminal Justice System

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

Chapter 15: The Judiciary and the Democratic Debate

- *Dreier, “Caught on Camera: Police Racism” (American Prospect, July 11, 2016)
- *Spence, “Policing Class” (Jacobin, August 16, 2016)
- *Lathrop and Flagg, “Killings of Blacks by Whites Are Far More Likely to Be Ruled ‘Justifiable’” (NYT, August 14, 2017)
- *Bronner, “Right to a Lawyer Can Be Empty Promise for the Poor” (NYT, March 15, 2013)
- *O’Hear, “Racial Disparities in the Federal Death Penalty” (Marquette University Law School)
- *Dreier and Reiman, “Prisoners of Misleading Facts” (Dissent, Spring 1996)
- *Segura, “With 2.3 Million People Incarcerated in the US, Prisons Are Big Business” (The Nation, October 1, 2103)
- *Liptak, “Corporations Find a Friend in the Supreme Court” (NYT, May 5, 2013)
- *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)

*Fortunato, "Corporate Crime and Voting Rights" (Dissent, Summer 2002)

*Matthews, "How the First Liberal Supreme Court in a Generation Could Reshape America" (Vox, August 22, 2016)

Monday, December 4

Film: "Bread and Roses"

Tuesday, December 5 -- Race, Immigration, Civil Rights, and Civil Liberties

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

<https://www.youtube.com/watch?v=MgvbZ8qxTzU>

Miroff, Seidelman, Swanstrom, and Deluca, The Democratic Debate
Chapter 16: Civil Liberties and Civil Rights

*Thernstrom and Thernstrom, "We Have Overcome" (New Republic, Oct. 13, 1997)

*"Study: It Helps To Have a White Name" (Associated Press, January 14, 2003)

*Irwin, Miller, and Sanger-Katz, "America's Racial Divide, Charted" (NYT, August 19, 2014)

*Holland, "The Average Black Family Would Need 228 Years to Build the Wealth of a White Family Today" (The Nation, August 8, 2016)

*Rothstein, "Why Los Angeles is still a segregated city after all these years" (LAT, August 20, 2017)

*Bajaj and Fessenden, "What's Behind the Race Gap?" (NYT, Nov. 4, 2007)

*Peterson, "Racial Gap in Loans is High in State" (LAT, Sept. 29, 2005)

*Hernandez, "Payday Lenders Target Blacks and Latinos" (Colorlines, March, 26, 2009)

*Savage, "Wells Fargo Will Settle Mortgage Bias Charges" (NYT, July 12, 2012)

*Kristof, "Study Alleges Racial Bias in Auto Rates" (LAT, Dec. 20, 2005)

*Eligonjan, "A Question of Environmental Racism in Flint" (NYT, January 21, 2016)

*Maniam, "Sharp Differences Over Who Is Hurt, Helped By Their Race" (Pew Research Center, July 18, 2016)

*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)

*Carrasquillo, "How the Immigrant Rights Movement Got Obama To Save Millions From Deportations" (Buzzfeed, Nov. 22, 2014)

*Jordan, "Dreamer Plan That Aided 800,000 Immigrants Is Threatened" (NYT, August 27, 2017)

Thursday, December 7 – Looking Backward and Forward: Dangers and Opportunities

[This class session is voluntary because it occurs during reading period. Professor Timothy Snyder's tiny but important new book, *On Tyranny*, is getting a lot of attention and I thought it would be useful to devote an extra session to discuss it. If you'd like to participate, please read the book before class].

Snyder, On Tyranny: Twenty Lessons From the Twentieth Century

If you have time, watch this 22-minute video before coming to class:

- Robert Reich, "Into the World of Work" (May 24, 2016)
<https://www.youtube.com/watch?v=BAUU4VjeiDU>

Writing Assignments

<u>Assignment</u>	<u>Passed Out</u>	<u>Due in Class</u>
Essay #1 (Weeks 1-4)	Thurs., Sept. 14	Thurs., Sept. 21
Essay #2 (Weeks 5-8)	Thurs., Oct. 12	Thurs., Oct. 19
Essay # 3 (Weeks 9-12)	Thurs., Nov. 9	Thurs., Nov. 16
Final exam	Tues., Dec. 5	Tues., Dec. 12*

*The final exam should be handed in to my office before 4 p.m., on Tuesday, December 12

Monday Night Films

September 4	"Where To Invade Next?"
September 11	"Selma"
September 18	"Hot Coffee"
September 25	"With God on Our Side: George W. Bush and the Rise of the Religious Right in America"
October 2	"Heist"
October 16	"Inequality for All"
October 23	"Children in America's Schools"
October 30	"Recount"
November 6	"By the People"
November 13	"Inside Obama's White House: Obamacare" and "Heather Booth: Changing the World"
November 20	"Why We Fight"
November 27	"Central Park Five"
December 4	"Bread and Roses"