

This course introduces you to the study of American politics. No prior background is assumed although it is recognized class members have varied backgrounds and experiences.

To do well in this course you must attend class, be prepared to participate by having completed the assigned reading, and demonstrate the development of your understanding on the exams, quizzes, and papers. Each of the three non-cumulative analytical exams make up roughly 20 percent of your course grade. Each of the three analytical paper assignments and class participation (largely unscheduled quizzes on the assigned reading to reward those who do and understand the readings) make up roughly 10 percent of your course grade. Exams are to be taken when scheduled and assignments completed when due. No make-ups, no extensions. You may submit a draft for comment before the papers are due but no rewriting is possible once the papers have been turned in for grading. Class attendance is expected and required. (After your sixth absence you will be dropped from the course.) Consistent, informed participation in class discussion is expected and required. Do not arrive late to class. Do not leave class early. Attendance for only part of a class counts as an absence. If your cell phone or beeper goes off in class, leave class and do not return before we have talked in my office. If you wish to check text messages, e-mail, and the like during class, do not take this class. Schedule your eating, drinking, and restroom visits for some time other than class time.

Absences for religious reasons or for university extracurricular activities necessitate discussion with me well in advance. If you have a disability that requires an accommodation, see me well in advance.

Each of you must meet with me for 15 minutes in the first two weeks of the semester. Sign up for an appointment time. The day before the appointment, complete and e-mail to me a background sheet on yourself. This sheet can be found at this course on Blackboard.

All readings should be on reserve in Fondren. The books ordered through the bookstore include Bianco, *American Politics: Strategy and Choice*; Kernell and Jacobson, *The Logic of American Politics*; and Machiavelli, *The Prince* (U. Chicago Press edition). There may be additional readings and assignments. This course requires use of Blackboard at <http://courses.smu.edu>.

Office: 220 Carr Collins, x8-2529; HStanley@SMU.edu (e-mail works best); office hours W 10-11:30; W 2:30-4; and by appointment

Th, Jan 13 * Introduction & Overview
F, Jan 14 * 9-11 am, 2-4 pm appointment meetings
M, Jan 17 * 10-11 am, 3-4 pm appointment meetings
T, Jan 18 * "Virtù" & "Fortuna" & 9/11:
Machiavelli, *The Prince*
W, Jan 19 * 9-11 am, 2-3 pm appointment meetings
Th, Jan 20 * Machiavelli II
F, Jan 21 * 10-11 am, 2-4 pm appointment meetings
M, Jan 24 * 9-11 am, 2-4 pm appointment meetings
T, Jan 25 * Machiavelli III & assessments of Bush's leadership
W, Jan 26 * 9-11 am, 2-4 pm appointment meetings
Th, Jan 27 * Rational? So what? Bianco, cc. 1 & 9
F, Jan 28 * office hours, 9-11.30, 1.30-3
4pm >>> 1,000 word paper analyzing Bush's presidential leadership in terms of the Machiavellian concepts of virtù and fortuna due by e-mail (HStanley@SMU.edu)
T, Feb 1 * Do Rules Matter? Why? When? How?
Bianco, c. 2
W, Feb 2 * office hours, 9-11, 2-4
Th, Feb 3 * Logic of Collective Action I: Bianco, c. 3
T, Feb 8 * Logic of Collective Action II:
Kernell & Jacobson, c.1
Th, Feb 10 * Constitution, Kernell & Jacobson, c. 2
T, Feb 15 * Voting—Why Bother? and If You Must, How Do You Choose? Bianco, c. 4
Th, Feb 17 * First Exam

T, Feb 22 * Public Opinion: Kernell & Jacobson, c. 10
Th, Feb 24 * Campaigning; Political Trust—Oxymoron?
Bianco, c. 5
T, Mar 1 * Voting, Campaigns, & Elections:
Kernell & Jacobson, c. 11
Th, Mar 3 * Congress I: Kernell & Jacobson, c. 6
T, Mar 8 * Congress II: Bianco, c. 6
Th, Mar 10 * Congress III: Seeking Election: Mayhew,

Congress: The Electoral Connection, selections
F, Mar 11 4pm >>> 1,000 word analytical condensation of Roger Simon's 19-page account of why Kerry won Iowa due by e-mail (HStanley@SMU.edu)
T, Mar 15, & Th, Mar 17 * no class meetings (Spring Break)
T, Mar 22 * President I: Kernell & Jacobson, c. 7
Th, Mar 24 * President II: Bianco, c. 7
T, Mar 29 * 2004 Presidential Election
Th, Mar 31 * Second Exam
T, Apr 5 * Supreme Court: Strategic Behavior; Judicial Review: Bianco, c. 8; Kernell & Jacobson, c. 9
Th, Apr 7 * Federalism: Kernell & Jacobson, c. 3
T, Apr 12 * Rights: Kernell & Jacobson, c. 4
Th, Apr 14 * Liberties: Kernell & Jacobson, c. 5
T, Apr 19 * Political Parties: Kernell & Jacobson, c. 12
Th, Apr 21 * Media & Politics: Kernell & Jacobson, c. 14
F, Apr 22 4pm >>> 1,000 word analytical condensation of to-be-assigned account of why Bush won in 2004 due by e-mail (HStanley@SMU.edu)
T, Apr 26 * Interest Groups: Kernell & Jacobson, c. 13
Th, Apr 28 * Reform? Kernell & Jacobson, c. 15
F, May 6, 11:30am * Third exam