

Proseminar: Classic Readings in American Political Science

Prof. Dr. Paul Rundquist

Montag 10-12, Rooms: 24.10: Thomasianum SRT, thereafter, Seminar Room E-A.

Office: Institut für Politik, Raum 3.

Sprechstunde: Dienstag 13-14, or other times by appointment

Telephone: uni- 24262 home 0345-279-90706

Email: paul.rundquist@politik.uni-halle.de

Course Description: This is a reading and discussion class that focuses on historical and contemporary research by American scholars on US political institutions. The course is intended to make students familiar with major authors and works on American political science. Students are expected to have read the book or articles assigned for each week prior to class in order to participate in discussions about the particular topics. After the first several class periods, a student or group of students will introduce the weeks topic by presenting a 15-minute summary of the articles and putting the articles into the context of the particular topic. Thereafter, questions-and-answers and lecture materials from the professor will enlarge upon the topic.

Course Requirements: Each student is expected to present one class presentation on a weekly topic, or to work in a group making such a presentation. In order to receive a grade for the course, students must also prepare a course paper. The course paper may either be on the topic of their presentation, or on another one of the topics covered in the course. The course paper must cover not only the course readings in their topic, but also review other articles on the topic that refer to the readings covered in the course.

READINGS

The *Federalist Papers* are available electronically:

A copy of *Congressional Government* by Woodrow Wilson is available at the Library on Emil-Abderhanden-Strasse, as is a copy of *The Making of the President 1960* by Theodore H. White.

The articles in the following weeks are available free of charge for downloading from the JSTOR academic articles data base (www.jstor.org) You can access JSTOR from an university computer, or from the computer terminals in any university library branch. Search in political science and history journals by author name or article title.

October 24	Class organization meeting and overview.
October 31	<i>The Federalist Papers</i> http://thomas.loc.gov/home/histdox/fedpapers.html
November 7	<i>Congressional Government</i> by Woodrow Wilson (on reserve at Library) Numerous old editions in print.
November 14	<i>The Making of the President 1960</i> by Theodore H. White (on reserve at Library). Numerous old editions in print.
November 21	Parties in Congress

Clarence Berdahl "Some Notes on Party Membership in Congress"
(Three articles, *American Political Science Review*, 1949).

- November 28 Presidential Power
Articles: "Presidential Power: Restoring the Balance," Theodore J. Lowi. "Organizing the White House," by Charles Walcott and Karen Hult. "The President's Cabinet," by John A. Fairlie. "The Institutionalization of the American Presidency," by Lyn Ragsdale and John J. Theis. "Presidential Power Revised and Reappraised," Thomas E. Cronin. "Choosing the Vice President," by Michael Nelson.
- December 5 Elections:
"A Theory of Critical Elections," by V.O. Key. "The Case of the Vanishing Martinals," by Morris Fiorina. "The Vanishing Marginals, 1824-1980," by Donald Gross and James Garand. "The Emergence of the Personal Vote," by Richard Herrera. "Legislative Elections and the Importance of Money," by Anthony Gieryznski and David Breaux. "The Marginals Never Vanished," by Gary C. Jacobson.
- December 12 The Bureaucracy
"A Theory of Bureaucracy," by Anthony Downs. "A Short, Ironic History of American National Bureaucracy," by Michael Nelson. "Legislative Influence v. Presidential Dominance," by William F. West and Joseph Cooper. "Congressional Oversight Overlooked," by Matthew D. McCubbins and Thomas Schwartz. "Bureaucracy in the American Constitutional Order," by Francis Rourke. "Legislatures and Statutory Control of Bureaucracy," John Huber and others.
- December 19 House of Representatives Parties and Leaders
"The Institutionalization of the House of Representatives," by Nelson Polsby. "The Speaker of the House of Representatives," by Asher Hinds. "The Emergence of Strong Leadership in the 1980s House of Representatives," by Barbara Sinclair. "Joseph G. Cannon and Howard W. Smith: An Essay on the Limits of Leadership in the House of Representatives," by Charles O. Jones.
- January 9 Local or National Oriented Politicians?
"U.S. House Members in Their Constituencies," by Richard F. Fenno. "Casework as a Technique of U.S. Congressional Oversight of the Executive," by John R. Johannes. "Party Leadership in the U.S. Senate," by Samuel C. Patterson. "The Folkways of the United States Senate: Conformity to Group Norms and Legislative Effectiveness," by Donald R. Matthews. "The Courtesy of the Senate," by Joseph P. Harris.
- January 16 Is Divided Government Good or Bad?

“The Legislative Impact of Divided Government,” by George C. Edwards and others. “Divided Government as Scapegoat,” by David Menefee-Libey. “Divided Party Control: Does it Make a Difference?” by David Mayhew. “Divided Government and Dysfunctional Politics,” by John Leonard. [Mayhew’s book, *Divided We Govern*, is also available on reserve in the Library but is merely recommended, not required, for class this week]

January 23

The Judiciary as a Political Force

“Legislatures and the Courts: The Power to Declare Statutes Unconstitutional,” by Charles B. Elliott. “Senatorial Delay in Confirming Federal Judges,” by Sarah Binder and Forrest Maltzmann. “Senatorial Discourtesy: The Senate’s Use of Delay to Shape the Federal Judiciary,” by Lauren Cohen Bell. “The Defeat of Judge Parker,” by Richard L. Watson, Jr. “LBJ and the Fortas Nomination for Chief Justice,” by John Massaro. “Advice and Consent: Senate Responses to Executive Branch Nominations,” by Nolan McCarty.

January 30

Politics and Civil Society

“Biography of a Nation of Joiners,” Arthur M. Schlesinger. “Bowling Alone,” by Robert B. Putnam. “Malaise and Resiliency,” Seymour Martin Lipset.