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
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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 The Federalist Papers
http://thomas.loc.gov/home/histdox/fedpapers.html
November 7 Congressional Government by Woodrow Wilson (on reserve at Library)
Numerous old editions in print.
November 14 The Making of the President 1960 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”

**November 28**

**Presidential Power**


**December 5**

**Elections:**


**December 12**

**The Bureaucracy**


**December 19**

**House of Representatives Parties and Leaders**


**January 9**

**Local or National Oriented Politicians?**


**January 16**

Is Divided Government Good or Bad?

January 23

The Judiciary as a Political Force


January 30

Politics and Civil Society