



Syllabus

March 14th – FULL DAY - Session 1: Overview of the American Political and Economic Landscape.

Government Study:

- The Constitution of the United States, foundations and beginnings
- The Two-Party System and the American political culture
- The Role of Faith in American politics
- The Role of the Press in a Democracy, and the modern political media
- Overview of the Free Market Democracy
- Comparative Governments

Issues Study:

- Issues Advocacy
- “Special Interests,” Lobbyists, and the First Amendment
- Domestic Issues and International Issues

Prerequisite Reading:

Part 1 of Christianity and the Constitution, John Eidsmoe
Chapter 4 of A Patriot's History of the United States, Schweikart and Allen
The Declaration of Independence
The Constitution of the United States
“Publicly Honoring God” – Justice Antonin *Scalia on the Ten Commandments*

**EXPERIENCE: Evening – 4pm – 10pm Presidential Debate watching and discussion at the Nelson's house



May 9th – FULL DAY - Session 2: The American Presidency

Government Study:

- Role of the Executive Branch
- Presidential Election Process
- Key Presidential Elections
- Historical Perspective on the Presidency
- Writing an Op-Ed piece

Issues Study:

- Faith and Values
 - Pro Life, Abortion, Terry Schaivo case, Stem Cell Research
 - Gay Marriage

Prerequisite Reading:

Read Prologue and Part 1 and Part 2, God and Government, Chuck Colson
Part I, Faith in the Halls of Power, D. Michael Lindsay
How to Write an Op-Ed, article by David Jamul, Duke University
Read Barack Obama's Keynote Speech to "Call to Renewal" on June 28, 2006

Prerequisite Writing:

Write a 750-word Opinion Editorial on Faith and in response to Barack Obama's speech



June 27th – FULL DAY- Session 3: The Congress

Government Study:

- Senate Structure and Rules
- House Structure and Rules
- Legislative Process
- Committee Structure and Process
- **EXPERIENCE – Chairing a Legislative Meeting

Issues Study:

- Budget
 - Difference between the Debt and the Deficit
 - How the Government is financed
 - Major concerns and criticisms
- Taxes
 - Economic impact of taxes
 - Progressive vs. Regressive
- Healthcare
 - How U.S. Healthcare works
- Entitlements
 - Social Security
 - Prescription Drug Plan
 - Medicare/Medicaid
 - Private Accounts
- Poverty
 - Minimum Wage
 - Class War

** EXPERIENCE - Issue Advocacy

Prerequisite Reading:

Herding Cats, Trent Lott
Part III, God and Government, Charles Colson
Federalist Paper No. 40 – Thomas Jefferson

Prerequisite Writing:

Write a 750-word Opinion Editorial on some aspect of the current Presidential campaign. The Op-Ed may be an apologetic for or against a particular candidate, or may deal the election in the context of some other event that has occurred.



July 18th – FULL DAY - Session 4: The Federal Judiciary

Government Study:

- Common Law Basics
- The Federal Court system
- The Supreme Court
- Judiciary Nomination Process

Issues Study:

- Illegal Immigration
 - Realities of America's Illegal Immigrant population
 - Solutions
 - Proposals
- Energy and Environment
 - America's Dependence on Foreign Oil
 - America's Reliance on Non-Renewable Energy Sources
 - Nuclear Power
 - Bio-Fuels
 - Alternative Fuels
 - Protected Lands
 - National Forests and National Parks

Prerequisite Reading:

Part IV, God and Government, Charles Colson
My Grandfather's Story, Clarence Thomas

**EXPERIENCE – Politics and Polling

VIDEO: Federalist Society, Judicial Confirmations, 1-31-08

VIDEO: John Roberts Confirmation Hearings

Prerequisite Audio:

Listen to Podcast from the Federalist Society: *Should Judges be Elected or Appointed?*

**EXPERIENCE – August 28th – Evening – 6pm – 10pm Nomination Acceptance Speech, Democrat National Convention

**EXPERIENCE – September 4th – Evening – 6pm – 10pm Nomination Acceptance Speech, Republican National Convention



September 19th – FULL DAY - Session 5: Economic Policy

Government Study:

- Comparative Economic Systems
- The Economic Impact of Taxes and Spending
- The Federal Reserve and Monetary Policy
- The Stock Market and the Economy

Issues Study:

- National Security
 - Global War on Terror
 - Iraq
 - Post WWII history of America's National Security Policy
 - Russia
 - The Middle East
 - Israel
 - China
- Global Concerns
 - AIDS in Africa
 - Darfur
 - Global Crises (Tsunami)
- US involvement in North and South Korea
- US involvement in the Americas
 - Illegal Drug trade in the Americas
 - NAFTA
- US involvement in Europe

****EXPERIENCE – Electoral Vote Experience – Divide into 2-3 teams, Time: 2 hours to develop a winning electoral strategy for the Republican Nominee for President. Each side will have max. 20 minutes to present their strategy and rationale for their strategy.**

Prerequisite Writing:

Write a 750-word Opinion Editorial on some facet of one or both of the major party National Conventions. The Op-Ed may deal with the nominating process, the events at the convention, the results, a comparison between the conventions, a particular speech at one of the conventions, or some other event in the context of the conventions.

Prerequisite Reading:

Faith and Politics, John Danforth

Read Part I of A Patriot's History of the United States

****EXPERIENCE - October 17th 4pm – 10pm – Election Preview**



November 14th – FULL DAY - Session 6: International Politics

Government Study:

- The Role of America as a Military Superpower
- International Trade Relations
- History of Israel and the Middle East Peace Process
- Election Review

Issues Study:

- Foreign Policy
 - America's Economic Interests
 - America's Security Interests
 - Stability
 - Security of Oil Reserves
 - Security and Stability of Nuclear Powers
 - America as the World's Most Powerful and Wealthiest Nation

Prerequisite Reading:

Read Part IV and Epilogue, God and Government, Charles Colson

Prerequisite Writing:

Write a 750-word Opinion Editorial on some facet of the Presidential Election.

****EXPERIENCE – January 20th -Watch Presidential Inauguration Speech**

****EXPERIENCE – February 26th -29th, 2009 – Washington, DC trip**

- US Capitol (House and Senate Chamber)
- Senate Office Buildings
- Supreme Court
- White House
- Monuments
- Speakers from Government

CAMPAIGN FOR AMERICA

AMERICAN GOVERNMENT EXPERIENCE

Required Readings:

[A Patriot's History of the United States](#), Larry Schweikart and Michael Allen
[Christianity and the Constitution](#), John Eidsmoe
[God and Government](#), Charles Colson
[Faith in the Halls of Power](#), D. Michael Lindsay
[Faith and Politics](#), John Danforth
[My Grandfather's Story](#), Clarence Thomas

Supplemental Readings:

[God's Politics](#), Jim Wallis
[People's Choice](#), Jeff Greenfield
[Bias](#), Bernard Goldberg
[Robert's Rules of Order](#)
[Heroic Conservatism](#), Michael Gerson

Students should be prepared to discuss the prerequisite assignments in class.