AMERICAN POLITICAL INSTITUTIONS

This course is designed to help prepare graduate students to pass the comprehensive exam in the field of American Politics. Students are required to prepare short discussion papers on the readings and to take a final examination with questions similar to those asked on comprehensive exams.

Hamilton, Madison, and Jay, The Federalist (any edition)
Herbert Weissberg, Eric S. Heberlig, and Lisa M. Campbell, Classics in Congressional Politics (Longman, 1999.)

INTRODUCTION

January 6

The Federalist, Nos. 10, 51, and 70

CONGRESS

January 13 - History and Development

Jeffrey Jenkins, “Property Rights and the Emergence of Standing Committee Dominance in the Nineteenth Century House,” Legislative Studies Quarterly 23 (November 1998): 493-519

January 20 - Elections and Constituents

* Richard F. Fenno, Jr. “U.S. House Members and their Constituencies: An Exploration,” American Political Science Review (1977):883-917; also Classics, Ch. 7. For the full account see Home Style: House Members in Their Districts;


**January 27 - Congressional Parties and Committees**


**February 3 - Making Decisions and Policy**


**THE EXECUTIVE BRANCH**

**February 10 - The Presidency**

*Richard Neustadt, Presidential Power* (any edition), chs. 1-7. These chapters include all that was in the original 1960 edition; read as much as the later stuff as you find interesting.

**February 17 - Bureaucratic Politics**


**February 24 – Executive-Congressional Relations**


**THE COURTS**

*March 3*


David M. O'Brien, *Storm Center: The Supreme Court in American Politics*.


**OVERVIEWS**

*March 10*


