COURSE OUTLINE
This course is designed to help students read the newspaper better - not do it for them. It will cover not only American political institutions, such as Congress, the Judiciary, and the Executive, but also the political culture and economy in which these institutions are imbedded.

Though we tend to think of politics as something that happens "out there," there are few areas of our life it does not touch. The quality of the air we breathe, the amount of taxes we pay, and the kinds of services we receive from government are all the result of decisions made by policy makers.

Politics shapes the quality of our lives. At the same time, however, people resent politics and have little confidence in government or those who run it. If politics matters so much, why do we despise it? This course will help, with your participation, to answer why we run from something we can't afford to ignore.

COURSE REQUIREMENTS:
Three exams: 20% each
Review essay: 20%
Three Analytical Questions 20%

First draft of first analytical is due February 16.
First draft of second analytical is due March 29.
First draft of review essay is due March 17.
Third Analytical is due April 26.
No late papers are accepted.

REQUIRED BOOKS:
Katznelson, Kesselman, Draper. The Politics of Power (POP)
Dahl, How Democratic is the American Constitution?
Robert Putnam, Our Kids
Thomas Mann and Norman Ornstein, It’s Even Worse Than It Looks

Books for Review Essay
Michelle Alexander, *The New Jim Crow*
Michael Fournier, *The Black Silent Majority*

**COURSE DESCRIPTION:**

I. Methodology
    Putnam, *Our Kids*

II. Political Economy
    *The Politics of Power*, (POP) ch. 1 – 3, and 9

III. Political Participation
    POP ch. 4 and 5

IV. The Constitution
    *How Democratic is the American Constitution?*, all

**TEST**

V. Executive
    POP, ch. 6

VII. Congress
    POP, ch. 7
    Mann and Ornstein, *It’s Even Worse Than It Looks*

**Test**

VIII. Judiciary
    POP, ch. 8

IX. Foreign Policy
    POP, ch. 9

X. Domestic Policy
    POP, ch. 10

XI. Beyond Obama

**Final Exam**