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 (and not made) by policy makers. All this is self evident. Yet more people will watch the Super Bowl this year than will vote in the 2014 midterm elections that will elect a new Congress. If politics means so much to us, why don't we act like it does? This course will help, with your participation, to answer why.

COURSE REQUIREMENTS:

Three exams: 20% each
Two analytical questions 20%
Review Essay 20%

The analytical questions will be due as indicated in class. The review essay is due Thursday, April 3. No late papers are accepted. In order to pass the course students must accumulate at least 75 points.

Required Books

Katznelson, Kesselman, Draper (KKD), *The Politics of Power* (POP), 7e
Dahl, *How Democratic Is the American Constitution?*
Mann and Ornstein, *It's Even Worse than It Looks*
Sennett and Cobb, *Hidden Injuries of Class*

(Book for Review Essay)
**COURSE DESCRIPTION:**

I. Methodology  
   Foner, "The Meaning of Freedom" (on reserve)

II. Political Economy  
   KKD, *The Politics of Power*, (POP) ch. 1, pp. 1-6 and 16-28; ch. 2; ch. 3; ch. 9.

III. Ideology  
   Sennett and Cobb, *Hidden Injuries of Class*, all  
   KKD, Ch. 5

IV. Constitution  
   Dahl, *How Democratic is the Constitution?*, all  
   KKD, pp. 6-16

IV. Parties and Elections  
   KKD, ch. 4.

V. Presidency  
   KKD, Ch. 6

VI. Congress  
   KKD, ch. 7  
   Mann and Ornstein, *It's Even Worse Than It Looks*, all

VII. Courts  
   KKD, Ch. 8.

XIII. Foreign Policy  
   KKD, ch. 11.

IX. Domestic Policy  
   KKD, ch 10.

X. Conclusion