

Public Policy in the United States, Fall 2018

Dr. Gregory P. Williams
PSCI 303 (14682), TR 9:30-10:45, Candelaria 1025
Office Hours: MW, 1:30-3:00, and by appointment

Books

Chemerinsky, *The Case Against the Supreme Court* (Penguin, 2015).
Luger and Waddell, *What American Government Does* (Johns Hopkins U. Press, 2017).
Mann and Ornstein, *It's Even Worse Than It Looks* (Basic Books, 2016).

Grades

Mid-term essay: 33%
Final exam essay: 33%
Oral presentations, participation: 33%

Schedule

Tuesday, 8/21: Welcome!

The American State and Economic System

Thursday, 8/23: The American State and (Mis)Perception
William Novak, "The Myth of the 'Weak' American State," *American Historical Review*, (2008), pp. 752-772.

Tuesday, 8/28: Significant, But for Whom?
Luger and Waddell, Ch. 1: "Introduction" (pp. 1-26) and Ch. 2: "The Significant State" (pp. 27-49)

Thursday, 8/30: Benjamins and Lambos
Leon Fink, "The American Ideology," in *The Long Gilded Age* (Philadelphia: University of Pennsylvania Press, 2015, pp. 12-33).

Tuesday, 9/4: Citizens and Identity Politics
Eric Foner, "Who Is an American?," in *Who Owns History?* (New York: Hill and Wang, 2002, pp. 149-156).

A Fair Deal, A New Deal

Thursday, 9/6: Taxes to Beat the Axis... and Poverty
Luger and Waddell, Ch. 3: "The Tax State" (pp. 51-78) and the first half of Ch. 4: "The Welfare State" (pp. 79-96).

Tuesday, 9/11: Johnson's War on Poverty
Luger and Waddell, the second half of Ch. 4: "The Welfare State" (pp. 96-117).

Thursday, 9/13: New Deal Regulation, and Ronald Reagan's Deregulation

Luger and Waddell, Ch. 7: “The Regulatory State” (pp. 198-229).

Tuesday, 9/18: Codes of Conduct

Luger and Waddell, Ch. 9: “The Moral State” (pp. 262-294)

If It’s Broke, Don’t Fix It

Thursday, 9/20: Institutions Come to a Halt

Mann and Ornstein, Ch. 1: “The New Politics of Hostage Taking”

Tuesday, 9/25: Dysfunction Junction

Mann and Ornstein, Ch. 2: “The Seeds of Dysfunction”

Thursday, 9/27: Even More Broken Than It Was

Mann and Ornstein, Ch. 3: “Beyond the Debt Ceiling Fiasco”

Tuesday, 10/2: Proposals for Repair

Mann and Ornstein, Ch. 4: “Bromides to Avoid”

Thursday, 10/4: Proposals for Rebuilding

Mann and Ornstein, Ch. 6: “Reforming U.S. Political Institutions”

Tuesday, 10/9: Is Rebuilding Even Necessary?

Mann and Ornstein, Ch. 7: “Navigating the Current System”

Thursday, 10/11: Mid-term Exam

War as Public Policy

Tuesday, 10/16: American Power in the World

Luger and Waddell, Ch. 11: “The Global State” (pp. 325-361)

Thursday, 10/18: National Security or National Interests?

Luger and Waddell, Ch. 5: “The National Security State” (pp. 117-157)

Tuesday, 10/23: Law and Order and All That

Luger and Waddell, Ch. 6: “The Domestic Security State” (pp. 158-197)

Capitalism and Public Policy

Thursday, 10/25: No Class

Tuesday, 10/30: TBA

Thursday, 11/1: Cultivating Profit

Luger and Waddell, Ch. 8: “The Developmental State” (pp. 230-261)

Tuesday, 11/6: Big Banks, Big League

Luger and Waddell, Ch. 10: “The Bailout State” (pp. 295-324)

Supreme Court as Policy-Maker

Thursday, 11/8:

Chemerinsky, Introduction: "Assessing the Supreme Court" (pp. 1-20) and Ch. 3: "Protecting Property and States' Rights" (pp. 90-119).

Tuesday, 11/13:

Thursday, 11/15: Complex Views About the High Court

Chemerinsky, Ch. 4: "What About the Warren Court?" (pp. 120-158)

Tuesday, 11/20: The Current Court

Chemerinsky, To Be Assigned

Thursday, 11/22: No Class

Tuesday, 11/ 27: Get Rid of Judicial Review?

Chemerinsky, Ch. 8: "The Question of Judicial Review" (pp. 267-292) and Ch. 9: "Changing the Court" (pp. 293-342).

Thursday, 11/29: Question Time

Monday, December 3rd at 8:00am: Final Exam