This course provides an introduction to unique aspects of the U.S. political system. It is vital for students to understand that the institutional framework of three separated and co-equal branches (legislative, executive and judicial) sets the stage on which the drama of U.S. politics gets played out daily. We look at both the U.S. Constitution and its evolution in the eyes of the Supreme Court to understand the constitutional bases of the separation of powers and checks and balances. This is vital to understanding that certain branches are allowed to do certain things and others are not. This course uses the institutional division of powers both “horizontally” (at one level) and vertically, through federalism (dividing powers between national, state and city levels) as a backdrop to examining current controversial issues.

We start from one of the original "sins" in US politics, that of slavery and its accommodation in three places in the first seven Articles of the original Constitution (Article I, Sections 4 and 5, and Article IV, Section 2). In certain ways, the overrepresentation of the South in the House and/or Senate from bargains made in 1787 has continued fractiousness in US politics, most recently exemplified by resistance to the election of President Obama in 2008 and the backlash under the Trump presidency. Part of our work this term will involve watching Professor Louis Gates' and PBS' fine documentary on Reconstruction politics beginning after the end of the Civil War in 1865, while state-based resistance to national racial equality has continued to the present day.

Also, the Founding Fathers who wrote the Constitution in 1787 would not recognize the current institutional framework of US politics, given that in so many ways, the fundamentals of the system have been changed to accommodate the wealthy. We will ponder the many significant
changes that have been brought to the system and their implications for the US democratic process.

One text, Sabato and O'Connor's Roots and Reform: 2018 Presidential Edition (Pearson) has been ordered at the bookstore. It is a digital-only version.

At times, I will add readings to supplement the text. I will indicate if they are required, and they will either be added via the CU Learn website or through the Library (Ares) which also connects to the website.

In terms of fulfilling course requirements below, you must notify me in advance if you plan to miss class or TA group. Only two undocumented absences are allowed per term from the TA groups and lectures. Late papers/exams are assessed at 1/3 of a grade per day. Following Carleton policy, all emails must be through CU Learn.

Requirements:

Attendance in class 15%

Attendance and informed participation in TA groups- 20%

Short paper (5 pages, single-spaced) and presentation in class. Suggestions for focusing themes for your papers will be given out September 25 via CU Learn Email. The themes will generally follow issues related to federalism, South vs. North divisions and racial inequalities. The papers are due October 9 and you will do presentations in class on October 9 and 16-grouped by your TA groups, with TA’s present-on the papers. There will be no TA groups during the weeks of October 9 and 16.

- short paper due October 9 20%
- presentations October 9 and 16 15%

Final, non-cumulative- 30% (short answers and essays)

Outline of Classes:

Part 1: Structural Foundations

Sept. 4 Introduction to the course, and to the study of US politics

Read: Roots and Reform (R & R), Ch. 1

Sept. 11 US Constitution and Federalism

Read: R & R, Chs. 2, 3

Sept. 18 Race in the US, part 1-Civil Rights

Read: R & R, Ch. 5
Sept. 25 Race in the US, part 2-Louis Gates, Reconstruction, #'s 1,2 *Attendance Mandatory
Oct. 2 Race in the US, part 3-Louis Gates, Reconstruction, #'s 3, 4
**Attendance mandatory

Oct. 9 Short papers due online in CU learn to your TA’s First week of presentations in class with TA’s present

Oct. 16 Second week of presentations in class with TA’s present

October 21-25 Fall break

October 30 Civil Liberties
Read: R & R, Ch. 4

November 6 Supreme Court
Read: R & R, Ch. 9

November 13 Congress
Read: R & R, Ch. 6

November 20 Presidency
Read: R & R, Ch. 7

November 27 Political Parties & Campaigns
Read: R & R, Chs. 11, 12

December 4 Last class Interest Groups and Review for Final
Read: R & R, Ch. 14

Academic Accommodations

Requests for Academic Accommodation

You may need special arrangements to meet your academic obligations during the term. For an accommodation request, the processes are as follows:

Pregnancy obligation
Please contact your instructor with any requests for academic accommodation during the first two weeks of class, or as soon as possible after the need for accommodation is known to exist. For more details, visit the Equity Services website: [carleton.ca/equity/wp-content/uploads/Student-Guide-to-Academic-Accommodation.pdf](http://carleton.ca/equity/wp-content/uploads/Student-Guide-to-Academic-Accommodation.pdf)

**Religious obligation**
Please contact your instructor with any requests for academic accommodation during the first two weeks of class, or as soon as possible after the need for accommodation is known to exist. For more details, visit the Equity Services website: [carleton.ca/equity/wp-content/uploads/Student-Guide-to-Academic-Accommodation.pdf](http://carleton.ca/equity/wp-content/uploads/Student-Guide-to-Academic-Accommodation.pdf)

**Academic Accommodations for Students with Disabilities**
If you have a documented disability requiring academic accommodations in this course, please contact the Paul Menton Centre for Students with Disabilities (PMC) at 613-520-6608 or [pmc@carleton.ca](mailto:pmc@carleton.ca) for a formal evaluation or contact your PMC coordinator to send your instructor your Letter of Accommodation at the beginning of the term. You must also contact the PMC no later than two weeks before the first in-class scheduled test or exam requiring accommodation (if applicable). After requesting accommodation from PMC, meet with your instructor as soon as possible to ensure accommodation arrangements are made. [carleton.ca/pmc](http://carleton.ca/pmc)

**Survivors of Sexual Violence**
As a community, Carleton University is committed to maintaining a positive learning, working and living environment where sexual violence will not be tolerated, and is survivors are supported through academic accommodations as per Carleton's Sexual Violence Policy. For more information about the services available at the university and to obtain information about sexual violence and/or support, visit: [carleton.ca/sexual-violence-support](http://carleton.ca/sexual-violence-support)

**Accommodation for Student Activities**
Carleton University recognizes the substantial benefits, both to the individual student and for the university, that result from a student participating in activities beyond the classroom experience. Reasonable accommodation must be provided to students who compete or perform at the national or international level. Please contact your instructor with any requests for academic accommodation during the first two weeks of class, or as soon as possible after the need for accommodation is known to exist. [https://carleton.ca/senate/wp-content/uploads/Accommodation-for-Student-Activities-1.pdf](https://carleton.ca/senate/wp-content/uploads/Accommodation-for-Student-Activities-1.pdf)
For more information on academic accommodation, please contact the departmental administrator or visit: students.carleton.ca/course-outline

Plagiarism
The University Senate defines plagiarism as “presenting, whether intentional or not, the ideas, expression of ideas or work of others as one’s own.” This can include:

- reproducing or paraphrasing portions of someone else’s published or unpublished material, regardless of the source, and presenting these as one’s own without proper citation or reference to the original source;
- submitting a take-home examination, essay, laboratory report or other assignment written, in whole or in part, by someone else;
- using ideas or direct, verbatim quotations, or paraphrased material, concepts, or ideas without appropriate acknowledgment in any academic assignment;
- using another’s data or research findings;
- failing to acknowledge sources through the use of proper citations when using another’s works and/or failing to use quotation marks;
- handing in "substantially the same piece of work for academic credit more than once without prior written permission of the course instructor in which the submission occurs.

Plagiarism is a serious offence which cannot be resolved directly with the course’s instructor. The Associate Deans of the Faculty conduct a rigorous investigation, including an interview with the student, when an instructor suspects a piece of work has been plagiarized. Penalties are not trivial. They may include a mark of zero for the plagiarized work or a final grade of "F" for the course.

Student or professor materials created for this course (including presentations and posted notes, labs, case studies, assignments and exams) remain the intellectual property of the author(s). They are intended for personal use and may not be reproduced or redistributed without prior written consent of the author(s).

Submission and Return of Term Work
Papers must be submitted directly to the instructor according to the instructions in the course outline and will not be date-stamped in the departmental office. Late assignments may be submitted to the drop box in the corridor outside B640 Loeb. Assignments will be retrieved every business day at 4 p.m., stamped with that day's date, and then distributed to the instructor.
For essays not returned in class please attach a stamped, self-addressed envelope if you wish to have your assignment returned by mail. Final exams are intended solely for the purpose of evaluation and will not be returned.

**Grading**
Standing in a course is determined by the course instructor, subject to the approval of the faculty Dean. Final standing in courses will be shown by alphabetical grades. The system of grades used, with corresponding grade points is:

<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th>Percentage</th>
<th>Letter grade</th>
<th>12-point scale</th>
<th>Percentage</th>
<th>Letter grade</th>
<th>12-point scale</th>
</tr>
</thead>
<tbody>
<tr>
<td>90-100</td>
<td>A+</td>
<td>12</td>
<td>67-69</td>
<td>C+</td>
<td>6</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>85-89</td>
<td>A</td>
<td>11</td>
<td>63-66</td>
<td>C</td>
<td>5</td>
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<tr>
<td>80-84</td>
<td>A-</td>
<td>10</td>
<td>60-62</td>
<td>C-</td>
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<td>77-79</td>
<td>B+</td>
<td>9</td>
<td>57-59</td>
<td>D+</td>
<td>3</td>
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<tr>
<td>73-76</td>
<td>B</td>
<td>8</td>
<td>53-56</td>
<td>D</td>
<td>2</td>
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<tr>
<td>70-72</td>
<td>B-</td>
<td>7</td>
<td>50-52</td>
<td>D-</td>
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</tbody>
</table>

**Approval of final grades**
Standing in a course is determined by the course instructor subject to the approval of the Faculty Dean. This means that grades submitted by an instructor may be subject to revision. No grades are final until they have been approved by the Dean.

**Carleton E-mail Accounts**
All email communication to students from the Department of Political Science will be via official Carleton university e-mail accounts and/or cuLearn. As important course and University information is distributed this way, it is the student’s responsibility to monitor their Carleton and cuLearn accounts.

**Carleton Political Science Society**
"The Carleton Political Science Society (CPSS) has made its mission to provide a social environment for politically inclined students and faculty. By hosting social events, including
Model Parliament, debates, professional development sessions and more, CPSS aims to involve all political science students at Carleton University. Our mandate is to arrange social and academic activities in order to instill a sense of belonging within the Department and the larger University community. Members can benefit through our networking opportunities, academic engagement initiatives and numerous events which aim to complement both academic and social life at Carleton University. To find out more, visit us on Facebook https://www.facebook.com/CarletonPoliticalScienceSociety/ and our website https://carletonpss.com/, or stop by our office in Loeb D688!

Official Course Outline

The course outline posted to the Political Science website is the official course outline.