

# Political Science 10: Introduction to American Politics

## Week 1

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By the end of section today, you should:

- Understand the expectations for participation in discussion section
- Identify the problems that Madison was addressing in Federalist 51 and explain how his proposed solutions fit in to the American political system
- Explain the “politics” of the Ryan budget deal
  - Identify **who** got **what**, **when**, and **how**
  - Explain which political institutions helped shape how the budget deal worked out

# Plan for the Day

- Introduce ourselves
- Go over section participation expectations
- Answer questions from lecture this week
- Discuss Federalist 51
- Discuss “The big new budget deal, explained” (Klein, 2015)

# A Little About Me

- 3rd year PhD student
  - Focus Areas: American Politics and Methodology
  - Dissertation: How does information get distorted as it diffuses from the media to the masses? How does this distorted information impact political behavior?
- Before UCSD
  - Home: Minnesota (Go Vikings!)
  - College: College of William & Mary in Virginia
- Contact Information:
  - Email: [tfeenstr@ucsd.edu](mailto:tfeenstr@ucsd.edu)
  - Office Hours: Wednesdays 9am-11am in SSB 341, or by appointment
  - Discussion Section slides and materials can be found at <http://pages.ucsd.edu/~tfeenstr/teaching.html>

# In lieu of a quiz this week

Please take a notecard and write the following:

- Name (and preferred name you go by)
- Fun fact about yourself
- 1 thing you are looking forward to in this class
- 1 thing you are nervous about in this class
- 1 thing that I can do to be helpful to you and your learning

# Discussion Section Format and Expectations

- Begin with a quiz on the readings (graded pass/fail, lowest quiz grade dropped, overall 15 percent of final grade)
- Note the learning objectives of the week
- Go over any questions from lecture
- Class discussions and activities on the *section* readings
  - Large group (whole class) discussions
  - Small group discussions with the people around you
  - Small group activities

Note that the sections before the midterm and the final will include a review session as well.

# Discussion Section Format and Expectations

- Participation in section is 5% of your overall course grade (see participation rubric handout)
- Tips for participation and good classroom discussions:
  - Do the readings!
  - As you read, jot down questions, connections to lecture or current events, etc. and be prepared to discuss them in section
  - Follow Professor Hill's guidelines for reading and note-taking
- Week 5: Participation grade update with feedback

# Questions??

What questions do you have from lecture this week?



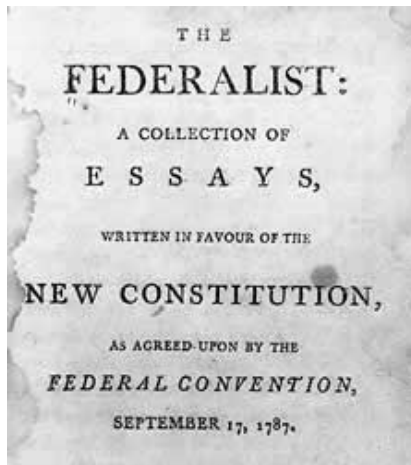


Image Source: <https://www.loc.gov/rr/program/bib/ourdocs/federalist.html>



“The Structure of the Government Must Furnish the Proper Checks and Balances Between the Different Departments” (Madison, 1788, pp. 657 of *LAP*)

- What does this mean?
- What key problem(s) does Madison address in this paper? (use the text)
- What are the remedies to this problem? (use the text)

- What do you think of his proposed remedies?
- Where do we see these remedies in the American political system?
- How would a critic respond to Madison's suggestions?

# “The Big New Budget Deal, Explained”

- What does the deal do?
- What does the author argue is the most important lesson from the deal?
- What does the author argue is the weirdest lesson from the deal?
- Who got what, when, and how in the budget deal?

# Bringing it all together

- What does the budget deal, as an example, tell us about checks and balances in American government?
- Would Madison view the budget deal process and outcome as good or bad?