Political Science 10: Introduction to American Politics
Week 1

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Learning Outcomes

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
  - 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
What questions do you have from lecture this week?
“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?
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?
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?