

**AMERICAN POLITICS AND PUBLIC POLICY**  
**POLITICS 101**  
**Fall 2019**

**Class Sessions: Tuesday and Thursday 8:30-9:55 pm in Johnson 203**  
**Films: Monday 7-9 pm in Weingart 117**

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**Office Hours: Tuesday and Thursday, 11:30 am to 1 pm**  
**and by appointment.**  
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**What This Course is About**

Many Americans have become cynical about politics and government. They associate these words with “dirty” election campaigns, broken promises, corruption and scandals, or wars. But politics and government are about much more than that. They shape how we live. Almost every aspect of your life is in some way shaped by the outcome of politics and government, which is public policy. These include: Where you live, what you learn (or don't learn) in school, the kind of car you drive (or whether you take public transportation), your career ambitions, the kind of job(s) you take, the quality of the food you eat, and the quality of the air you breathe, whether you attend college and which one you go to. They are also about what role the U.S. should play in the world, including when and whether the U.S. should go to war.

Politics and government can be a force for good or evil, for justice or injustice. Politics and government can be competent or incompetent. This course looks at the major institutions and ideas of American government, how policy is made, and what impact it has on society.

This course is intended to help you understand the workings of American government, to evaluate its strengths and weaknesses, and to help you decide how to participate in making government work better.

Government policies are made up of a series of decisions or choices over a period of time. These choices involve (a) whether to do anything at all about a problem or issue and (b) what to do. These choices involve actions such as passing laws, raising and spending money, creating regulations, enforcing (or not enforcing) laws and regulations, and adjudicating disputes.

All politics and public policy involves values and ideologies-- what people think is good or bad, the proper role of government, and how society should be organized.

Public policy involves political conflict -- differences between organized groups about what should and shouldn't be in the law and regulations.

A key to understanding American government, politics, and public policy is to compare our own political institutions to those of other countries, including other democracies. For example:

- How does voter turnout in the U.S. compare with that in other countries?
- How do tax rates in the U.S. compare with tax rates elsewhere?
- Is the level of poverty in the U.S. higher or lower than in other countries? Why?
- How does the relationship between the press and the government in the U.S. compare with the relationship in other democracies?
- What is the responsibility of the American government to promote and protect human rights, American business, the environment and public health in the U.S. and around the world?

This course will focus on a number of themes:

- What is democracy? What are the major political views (sometimes called ideologies) about the appropriate role of government and citizenship in American society? How much of a voice should “ordinary” people have in their government - and other institutions? We will explore the different views of the “founding fathers” and how these views have evolved since then. We will also look at different views about what kinds of “rights” people have or assume they have and the ways that government protects and/or violates these “rights.” We will look at the differences between conservatism, liberalism, and other ideologies.
- What are the major problems and issues facing our country? We will focus on the various forms of economic, social and environmental problems in our society. We will look at how class, race, and gender inequalities shape our political system and on the ways that government and politics promotes or discourages equality, fairness, and opportunity for people. We will also examine the relationship between the private sector (business and the labor market), the public sector (government), and individual citizens.
- How do people participate in our political system? We will look at the different ways that citizens, individually and as part of groups, take part in their government. We will examine the impact of the mass media, interest groups and their various resources, voting and election campaigns, political parties, electoral systems, and mass movements. We will look at the role that money plays in influencing politics and government. We will also look at how organized citizens can influence politics and government through interest groups and grassroots movements, including movements to address such issues as racism, sexism, economic inequality, the environment, and human rights and civil liberties.

Through the semester, we will look at recent and current debates over issues like health care, the financial crisis, gay marriage, voting rights, gun violence, and immigration, as case studies to illustrate and help us understand the concepts and

issues.

### **Course Format and Requirements**

The course will meet twice a week -- on Tuesdays and Thursdays from 8:30 - 9:55 a.m. - in Johnson 203. Every student is expected to attend every discussion session and to arrive promptly at 8:30 a.m. Films will be shown on Mondays at 7 p.m. in Weingart 117 (with two exceptions). These are required.

The basic elements of this course include:

**Reading.** Readings (books, articles, reports, tables and charts) will be assigned for each week, as specified below. Students are expected to do the reading before each class and be prepared to discuss the readings in class. You should expect to read about 100 pages a week, on average, although the number of pages will vary from week to week. Most of the readings are not technical, but written for a general audience, published in newspapers and magazines. The readings are mainly intended to illustrate key concepts. I have also included some videos on the syllabus, linked to their URLs. You should watch these videos before coming to class, just like the readings.

In addition to the books, all readings with an asterisk (\*) will be found on the Moodle site this course. **I strongly recommend that you print these readings and keep them in a loose-leaf binder.** This will help you prepare for class discussions, papers, and exams. **Bring the readings to class with you.**

I may make some changes to the readings during the semester to keep abreast of current events and breaking news. In addition, I will distribute various tables and charts in class, or add them to the course website, throughout the semester. Students should also regularly bring to class articles from newspapers or magazines that relate to the topics discussed in the course.

**Films.** During the semester, we will screen and discuss films each **Monday night.** I expect every student to see each film. The names and dates of the films are listed in the syllabus.

**Class Discussion.** Class discussions will center on the readings and films. Many of these sessions will involve discussions about public policy issues. Students are encouraged to debate these and disagree -- but to do so based on information and evidence as well as their own values.

**Writing.** Each student will have four writing assignments during the term - three short essays, and a final exam. The schedule of writing assignments is at the end of the syllabus. In grading your written work, I will look not only at the content, but also at

the style. Be sure to proofread your papers before handing them in. Look for spelling, punctuation, and grammatical errors. Be clear and concise. Don't repeat yourself. Cite your sources. Make sure you understand the assignment. It helps to do an outline before you begin writing. Show it to your discussion section professor and discuss it with him/her before revising. Students are also urged to take advantage of the college's Writing Center to get help with their essays. Don't be hesitant. The Center staff is eager to assist you and can help you improve your writing significantly. For most essays and both exams the following eight criteria will be used:

- Do you have a clear thesis? This should be a sentence or two early in your essay
- Have you employed appropriate concepts?
- Have you presented persuasive evidence to support your thesis or arguments?
- Have you made appropriate reference to the assigned readings?
- Have you made a tie-in to current events? \
- Have you sought to find a creative twist -- a different viewpoint, a distinctive argument, unusual evidence?
- Is your prose readable? Read your prose aloud to check on this.
- Is your essay mechanically flawless? Typos, misspellings, and punctuation errors are inexcusable.

### **Grades**

Your grades will be based on three factors:

1. 33% on attendance and participation in class sessions and films.
2. 33% on the three essay assignments.
3. 33% on a final examination.

### **Required Books** (all paperbacks)

1. Jonathan Kozol, Savage Inequalities: Children in America's Schools, Harper Perennial, 1991
2. Jacob Hacker and Paul Pierson, Winner-Take-All Politics, Simon & Schuster, 2010
3. Elizabeth Warren, A Fighting Chance, Metropolitan Books, 2014

### **Helpful Materials on Library Reserve**

I will place examples of very good writing assignments in a folder on reserve in the Library for those who are interested in seeing what constitutes good responses to the writing assignments. (The names of the student authors are removed but the instructor's comments on the essays do appear as well as the grade assigned). It will be at the circulation desk.

### **Speakers on Campus**

There will be a number of speakers on campus this semester discussing topics related to this course. I will alert you to these events and strongly encourage you to attend.

### **Academic Honesty**

You should be familiar with the college's policies regarding academic honesty and plagiarism. I take these issues very seriously and so should you.

### **Laptops and Cellphones**

Cell phones and all other electronic devices are to be turned off or put on silent during class. Laptops are allowed to be used only for taking notes and related classroom assignments

### **Students with Disabilities**

Accommodation of disability-related needs is available. Please let me know if you need some kind of accommodation. Students with documented disabilities and learning differences who are registered with Disability Services are required to present their accommodation letter to the instructor at the beginning of the semester or as soon as possible thereafter. Any student who has, or thinks, they may have a physical, learning, or psychological disability may contact Disability Services at (323) 259-2969 to learn about available services and support. More information is available at <http://www.oxy.edu/disability-services>.

### **Keeping Up With the News**

I encourage students in Politics 101 to get in the habit of reading a daily newspaper. The most useful papers are the New York Times, the Los Angeles Times, Washington Post, and the Wall Street Journal. You can get a subscription to any of these publications, buy some of them in the bookstore, read them in the library, or read them on-line. Our library also subscribes to many "opinion magazines," most of which also have websites. These are weekly, bi-weekly, and monthly publications that look at politics and policy from a particular perspective -- conservative, moderate, liberal, progressive, libertarian, religious, feminist, environmental, and others. Among the more interesting are the Nation, American Prospect, Weekly Standard, New Republic, In These Times, Mother Jones, The Atlantic, American Spectator, Washington Monthly, The Progressive, YES!, and National Review. One of the best sources of analysis about politics from a progressive perspective is Teen Vogue - no kidding! One of the best sources of information about American politics is Politico ([www.politico.com](http://www.politico.com)). Another is Vox ([vox.com](http://vox.com)). There's a great politically-neutral website called Politifact that fact-checks things said by politicians and in the media: <https://www.politifact.com/>

**Discussion Topics and Reading Schedule**  
(LAT = LA Times; NYT = New York Times)

**What Does Government Do? What is Democracy?**

**Thursday, August 28 - Introduction and Overview: The 2020 Elections: What's At Stake? Why Should We Care?**

- Watch: Stephen Colbert's interview with Congressional candidate Alexandria Ocasio-Cortez (CBS, June 29, 2018):  
[https://www.youtube.com/watch?v=Y\\_1G4\\_oPt\\_o](https://www.youtube.com/watch?v=Y_1G4_oPt_o) (5 minutes)
- Watch: "The Courage To Change"  
<https://www.youtube.com/watch?v=rq3QXIVR0bs> (2 minutes)
- Watch: Kennedy discusses Alexandria Ocasio-Cortez (Fox News, Aug. 22, 2018)  
[https://archive.org/details/FBC\\_20180822\\_040000\\_Kennedy/start/3420/end/3480](https://archive.org/details/FBC_20180822_040000_Kennedy/start/3420/end/3480) or [12:54](#), [12:55](#), and [12:56](#) (3 minutes)
- Watch: Cong. Ron Paul on health care at the Republican presidential debate, September 13, 2011) <https://www.youtube.com/watch?v=8T9fk7NpgIU> (2 minutes)

**Tuesday, September 3**

Film: "Where To Invade Next?" Because Monday is Labor Day, there are no official classes. I'll be showing this film on Tuesday in Weingart 117 and we'll discuss the film afterwards.

**Tuesday, September 3 -- Is Health Care a Privilege or a Human Right? An Example of the Battle Over Government -- Ideas and Interests**

- Watch this 5-minute video before coming to class: Senator Bernie Sanders vs Senator Rand Paul (May 11, 2011)  
<http://www.youtube.com/watch?v=YUXwDMqjC-A>
- Watch this 2-minute video before coming to class; Cong. Ron Paul on health care at the Republican presidential debate, September 13, 2011)  
<https://www.youtube.com/watch?v=8T9fk7NpgIU>
- Watch this 90-second video before coming to class; Cong. Rep. Brooks: Sick people should pay more (May 2, 2017)  
<http://www.cnn.com/videos/politics/2017/05/02/rep-mo-brooks-pre-existing-conditions-lead.cnn>
- Watch this 13-minute video before coming to class; Jimmy Kimmel reveals details of his son's birth and heart disease (May 1, 2017)  
<https://www.youtube.com/watch?v=MmWWoMcGmo0>
- Watch this 9-minute video before coming to class: "Health Care Reform Hits Main Street" [http://www.youtube.com/watch?v=3-llc5xK2\\_E](http://www.youtube.com/watch?v=3-llc5xK2_E)
- Watch this 5-minute video before coming to class: Trump, Cruz and Carson discuss health care at Republican debate, February 6, 2016

<https://www.youtube.com/watch?v=aKl3jNsi2Mg>

- Watch this 4-minute video before coming to class: Clinton and Sanders discuss health care at Democratic debate, January 17, 2016  
<https://www.youtube.com/watch?v=orlC31eFTc0>
- Watch this video and read the article: \*Luhby, “Health Care Explained: Medicare For All Vs Public Option Vs the ACA,” (CNN, July 30, 2019)  
<https://www.cnn.com/2019/07/30/politics/health-care-explainer/index.html>

\*Leland, “When Health Insurance is Not a Safeguard” (NYT, Oct. 23, 2005)

\*Brooks, “Going Home Again” (NYT, December 29, 2011)

\*Reid, “5 Myths About Health Care Around the World” (Washington Post, August 23, 2009)

\*Hellman, “U.S. Health Care Ranked Worst in the Developed World” (Time, June 17, 2014)

\*Ward, “Obamacare to the Rescue” (LAT, December 6, 2011)

\*Lauter, “Two Years into Obamacare, Only One State Still Has More Than 20% Uninsured” (LAT, August 10, 2015)

\*Sanger-Katz, “Obamacare Appears to Be Making People Healthier” (NYT, August 9, 2016)

\*Dropp and Nyhan, “One-Third Don’t Know Obamacare and Affordable Care Act Are the Same” (NYT, February 7, 2017)

\*Badash, “The GOP is Attacking Progressives for ‘Extremist’ Views Like Medicare for All - Guess Who Supports It?” (Raw Story, August 23, 2018)

\*Pear, “Health Care and Insurance Industries Mobilize to Kill ‘Medicare for All’” (NYT, February 23, 2019)

\*Baker, Tackett, and Qiu, “Trump Wants to Neutralize Democrats on Health Care. Republicans Say Let It Go” (NYT, June 16, 2019)

### **Thursday, September 5 - Is America Unusual? What Does Government Do in Other Democratic Countries?**

- Watch this 8 minute segment of the January 16, 2012 Republican presidential debate in South Carolina (from 24:35 through 33:01) before coming to class:  
<http://www.youtube.com/watch?v=y66pS8gLdfg>
- Watch this 4-minute CNN video before coming to class: Bernie Sanders' American Dream is in Denmark:  
<http://www.cnn.com/2016/02/17/politics/bernie-sanders-2016-denmark-democratic-socialism/>
- Watch this 30-second video before coming to class: Clinton to Sanders: “We Are Not Denmark” <https://www.youtube.com/watch?v=5wQpAIXAX2k>

\*Kingdon, *America the Unusual*, 1999. (“Introduction” and “Public Policy”)

\*Khazan, “The Secret to Finland’s Success With Schools, Moms, Kids—and Everything” (Atlantic, July 11, 2013)

\*Sanders, “What Can We Learn From Denmark?” (Huffington Post, May 26, 2013)

\*Williams, “So, This is Heaven: Norway” (LAT, Nov. 8, 2001)

- \*Abrams and Hounanian, “5 Countries That Know How to Handle Student Debt” (The Nation, August 4, 2016)
- \*Wilgoren, “Education Study Finds U.S. Falling Short” (NYT, June 13, 2001)
- \*Kliff, “EpiPen’s 400 Percent Price Hike Tells Us a Lot About What’s Wrong With American Health Care” (Vox, August 23, 2016)
- \*Greenhouse, “If the French Can Do It, Why Can’t We?” (NYT, Nov. 14, 1993)
- \*Ugarte, “Mondragon Corporation: A Manufacturer of Equality” (Too Much, June 30, 2015)
- \*Etehad and Lin, “The World is Getting Better at Paid Maternity Leave. The U.S. is Not” (Washington Post, August 13, 2016)
- \*Dreier, “The U.S. in Comparative Perspective” (Contexts, Summer 2007)
- \*Smeeding, “The Poverty Quagmire” (Washington Post, Dec. 21, 2003)
- \*Johansen, “Scandinavia Gets Serious on Global Warming” (Progressive, July 2007)
- \*Rosenthal, “In German Suburb, Life Goes On Without Cars” (NYT, May 12, 2009)

### Monday, September 9

Film: “Knock Down the House”

### Tuesday, September 10 -- Elite Democracy vs. Popular Democracy: What Is Democracy? What is Freedom? What is Conservatism? What is Liberalism? What Is Socialism? Does the U.S. Have Too Much Government, Too Little, or The Wrong Kind?

#### **Distribute Essay #1. Due September 17**

- Watch before class: “What is Conservatism?” Politico, February 24, 2018 <https://www.politico.com/video/2018/02/25/what-is-conservatism-065133> (4 minutes)
- Watch before class: “Here’s how socialism went mainstream in American politics,” CNBC, July 31, 2019 <https://www.cnn.com/2019/07/31/heres-how-socialism-went-mainstream-in-american-politics.html> (25 minutes)
- \*Miroff, Seidelman, Swanstrom, and Deluca, “The Democratic Debate” (from The Democratic Debate)
- \*“The Declaration of Independence”
- \*Young, “George Robert Twelves Hewes, A Patriot Shoemaker of Boston” (in The Way We Lived)
- \*Zinn, “Young Ladies Who Can Picket” (from Zinn, You Can’t Be Neutral on a Moving Train)
- \*Cohen, “Introduction” (from Nothing to Fear: FDR’s Inner Circle and the Hundred Days that Created Modern America, 2009)
- \*Rutten, “Treating People Like Garbage” (LAT, August 28, 2010)
- \*Will, “In Defense of Non-Voting” (Newsweek, October 10, 1983)
- \*Will, “The Case for Conservatism” (Washington Post, May 31, 2007)
- \*Sykes, “As a Conservative, I Despair at Republicans’ Support for Trump” (The Guardian, July 22, 2018)
- \*Weigel, “What is the Alt-Right? - A Primer” (Washington Post, August 24, 2016)



- \*Yglesias, "Elizabeth Warren Has a Plan to Save Capitalism" (Vox, August 15, 2018)
- \*Dreier, "Most Americans Are Liberals - Even If They Don't Know It" (American Prospect, November 10, 2017)
- \*Newport, "Democrats More Positive About Socialism Than Capitalism" (Gallup Poll, August 13, 2018)
- \*Dreier, "Democratic Socialism - American Style" (CNN, October 28, 2015)
- \*Kuttner, "Democracy: A Damage Assessment" (from The Stakes: 2020 and the Survival of American Democracy, 2019)

### **Thursday, September 12 - What Does/Should Government Do? -- Part 1**

- Watch this 9-minute video before coming to class: "Newt and Mike Save America" (from "TV Nation" - 1994)  
<https://www.youtube.com/watch?v=uJWemnpvrSM>
- Watch this 2-minute video before coming to class: Gingrich: Food stamps vs. paychecks: <https://www.youtube.com/watch?v=VXcyX8blbu0>
- Watch this 4-minute video before coming to class: Congressman Luis Guitierrez: "The Food Stamp President": <https://www.youtube.com/watch?v=-AnuDkXlX0o>
- Watch this 3-minute video before coming to class: "Life for 46M American on food stamps" (CBS News) <https://www.youtube.com/watch?v=dut-YuNx5A4>
- Watch this 5-minute video before coming to class: "The Daily Show" - food stamps <http://www.cc.com/video-clips/v9wjc4/the-daily-show-with-jon-stewart-fox-news-welfare-academy>
- Watch this 3-minute video before coming to class: "What Have Human Rights Ever Done for Us?"  
<https://www.facebook.com/theguardian/videos/506897629498005/?fref=nf>

### **Operate Public Services**

- \*Seib, "The Federal System: You Can Get Away from Washington -- But Not Government" (Wall Street Journal, June 21, 1995)
- \*Lopez, "Buses Are Their Route to a Better Future" (LAT, December 18, 2013)
- \*Thompson and Matousek, "America's Infrastructure Is Decaying" (Business Insider, February 5, 2019)
- \*Hacker and Pierson, "The Real Cause of the Flint Crisis" (Atlantic, March 7, 2016)

### **Provide Subsidies and Investment**

- \*Wiener, "It's Time to End Tuition at Public Universities—and Abolish Student Debt" (The Nation, March 23, 2015)
- \*Blow, "A Dangerous New Normal in College Debt" (NYT, March 9, 2013)
- \*Broder, "Gramm's Life of Entitlements" (Washington Post, March 6, 1995)
- \*Nazario, "Going to School Hungry" (LAT, November 20, 1994)
- \*Einenkel, "Meet the Lazy Welfare Recipients Who Have Spent Millions in Food Stamps" (Daily Kos, August 17, 2016)
- \*Bittman, "Welfare for the Wealthy," (NYT, June 4, 2013)

- \*Nixon, “Cost-Cutters, Except When the Spending Is Back Home” (NYT, July 19, 2011)
- \*Vinik, “The Government Is Quietly Giving Way More Housing Aid To Rich People Than Poor People” (Business Insider, December 18, 2013)
- \*O’Connor, “Walmart Workers Cost Taxpayers \$6.2 Billion in Public Assistance” (Forbes, April 15, 2014)
- \*Buchheit, “Add It Up: The Average American Family Pays \$6,000 a Year in Subsidies to Big Business” (CommonDreams, September 23, 2013)

### **Protect Public Safety and National Security**

- \*West, “Washington Shows Off its Progress in Hurricane Response” (LAT, August 28, 2011)
- \*Perry, Pfeifer & Oldham, “San Diego Was In No Shape for This Fight” (LAT, Oct. 31, 2003)
- \*Dreier, “We’re Raising a Generation That Views Mass Murder as Normal” (The Nation, August 9, 2019)
- \*Greenberg and Walker, “America Is Turning Against Guns” (Washington Post, August 9, 2019)

### **Protect Human Rights and Civil Liberties**

- \*Dreier, “Fifty Years Ago, the Supreme Court Knocked Down Bans on Interracial Marriage. How Have Things Changed Since Then?” (CommonDreams, June 12, 2017)
- \*\*Freedom of Expression” (American Civil Liberties Union)
- \*Bell, “Spectacle of Swastikas on Streets Tests America’s Free Speech Standard” (The Guardian, August 27, 2017)
- \*Palazzolo, “ACLU Will No Longer Defend Hate Groups Protesting With Firearms” (Wall Street Journal, August 18, 2017)

### **Monday, September 16**

Film: “Hot Coffee”

### **Tuesday, September 17 -- What Does/Should Government Do? - Part 2**

- Watch this 8-minute video before class: “Remembering the Triangle Fire” <http://www.cbsnews.com/video/watch/?id=7360200n>
- Watch this 5-minute video before class: “Elizabeth Warren on the 5th Anniversary of Dodd-Frank” [http://action.civilrights.org/site/Survey?ACTION\\_REQUIRED=URI\\_ACTION\\_USER\\_REQUESTS&SURVEY\\_ID=4761&s\\_src=domain](http://action.civilrights.org/site/Survey?ACTION_REQUIRED=URI_ACTION_USER_REQUESTS&SURVEY_ID=4761&s_src=domain)

### **Regulate Food, Drugs, and Pollution**

- \*Dreier, “Frances Kelsey: The Government Bureaucrat Who May Have Saved Your Life” (American Prospect, August 10, 2015)
- \*Isaacs and Schroeder, “Where the Public Good Prevailed” (American Prospect, June

4, 2001)

- \*Warrick, "Is U.S. Beef Safe to Eat?" (Washington Post, April 16, 2001)
- \*Harris, "President Plans Team to Overhaul Food Safety" (NYT, March 14, 2009)
- \*Wilson, "Coming Down on Tobacco" (NYT, January 6, 2009)
- \*Christensen, "Opponents Vow to Overturn Vaccination Law at Santa Monica Rally" (LAT, July 3, 2015)
- \*Ropeik, "Public Health: Not Vaccinated? Not Acceptable" (LAT, July 18, 2011)
- \*Barringer, "California Air is Clearer, But Troubles Remain" (NYT, Aug 3, 2005)
- \*Davenport, "Trump Administration Unveils Its Plan to Relax Car Pollution Rules" (NYT, August 2, 2018)
- \*Friedman, "States Sue Trump Administration Over Rollback of Obama-Era Climate Rule" (NYT, August 13, 2019)

### **Regulate Consumer Products**

- \*Milman, "US Cosmetics are Full of Chemicals Banned By Europe - Why?" (The Guardian, May 22, 2019)
- \*Story, "Lead Paint Prompts Mattel to Recall 967,000 Toys" (NYT, Aug. 2, 2007)
- \*Vartabedian and Bensinger, "Auto Safety Legislation Scaled Back" (LAT, July 12, 2010)
- \*Calabresim, "The Agency That's Got Your Back" (TIME, Aug. 13, 2015)
- \*Cohen, "Liberty for Light Bulbs" (Huffington Post, January 8, 2012)

### **Regulate Workplaces**

- \*Dreier and Cohen, "The Fire Last Time" (New Republic, March 12, 2011)
- \*Greenhouse, "Battle Lines Drawn Over Ergonomic Rules" (NYT, Nov. 18, 2000)
- \*Greenhouse, "Bush Plan to Avert Work Injuries Seeks Voluntary Steps By Industry" (NYT, April 6, 2002)
- \*Dreier, "Mine Deaths Follow Weak Regulations" (National Catholic Reporter, Feb. 16, 2007)
- \*Lafer, "One by One, States Are Pushing Bans on Sick Leave Legislation" (Economic Policy Institute, November 6, 2013)
- \*Greenhouse, "Hotel Rooms Get Plusher, Adding to Maids' Injuries" (NYT, April 21, 2006)
- \*Cohen, "'Job Killers' That Aren't" (LAT, May 19, 2011)

### **Raise Revenues**

- \*Buffett, "Stop Coddling the Super-Rich" (NYT, August 14, 2011)
- \*Williamson, "Americans Are Proud To Pay Taxes – Except When They Think Others Are Cheating" (Washington Post, April 18, 2017)
- \*Jacobson, "Explaining Alexandria Ocasio-Cortez's 70 Percent Marginal Tax Rate Idea" (Politifact, January 8, 2019)
- \*Kilgore, "California Is Headed Toward a Titanic Battle Over Raising Property Taxes" (New York, August 15, 2019)

## Inequality and Opportunity

### Thursday, September 19

Film: "Inequality for All" (in class)

### Monday, September 23 - Are Social Movements the Great Equalizer? (instead of film) - meet in Johnson 203

- Watch this 2-minute video before coming to class: "What Have Unions Ever Done For Us?" [http://www.youtube.com/watch?v=184NTV2CE\\_c](http://www.youtube.com/watch?v=184NTV2CE_c)
  - Watch this 3-minute video before coming to class: "What Have American Unions Ever Done For Us?" <http://www.youtube.com/watch?v=iObqguaNDdA>
  - Watch this 8-minute video from Bill Moyers' show before coming to class: <http://www.youtube.com/watch?v=mFLXpoA-MQY>
  - Watch this 13-minute video before coming to class: "Indivisible" <https://www.youtube.com/watch?v=oAXwXwp7KaU> (13 minutes)
  - Watch Rev. William Barber's speech to the DNC: <https://www.youtube.com/watch?v=aw3PUghqlAA> (10 minutes)
  - Look at this moving graph before coming to class: Tribou and Collins, "This Is How Fast America Changes Its Mind" (Bloomberg, June 26, 2015) <https://www.bloomberg.com/graphics/2015-pace-of-social-change/>
- \*Miroff, Seidelman, Swanstrom, and Deluca, "Mass Movement Politics: The Great Equalizer?" (from The Democratic Debate)
- \*Kelley, "How Long Will This Take?" (Newsweek, August 16, 2010)
- \*Tomlinson, "Reverend Resistance" (Esquire, April 25, 2017)
- \*Dreier, "What Would King March for Today?" (Washington Post, August 25, 2013)
- \*Dreier, "50 Years After the March on Washington, John Lewis Is Still Marching for Justice" (Truthout, August 20, 2013)
- \*"Women's Suffrage," (from Robert Cooney and Helen Michalowski, The Power of The People, 1977)
- \*Williams, "Work for Burger King at \$7.40 an Hour -- Here's What It's Like and Why Fast Food Workers Are on Strike" (Alternet, August 6, 2013)
- \*Greenhouse, "Janitors, Long Paid Little, Demand a Larger Slice" (NYT, April 26, 2000)
- \*Gross, "The Decline of Unions and the Rise of Trump" (NYT, August 12, 2016)
- \*Bacon, "Braceros Strike After One Worker Dies" (American Prospect, August 9, 2017)
- \*Greenhouse, "California is Leading a Pro-Worker Resistance" (LAT, August 15, 2019)
- \*Jane Mayer, "Taking it to the Streets" (New Yorker, Nov. 28, 2011)
- \*Gitlin, "Fossil Fuels Off Campus" (Dissent, Spring 2016)
- \*Aronoff, "Visible and Indivisible: The Birth of a Resistance Movement" (The Progressive, August 18, 2017)
- \*Jordan and Clement, "Rallying Nation: In Reaction to Trump, Millions of Americans Are Joining Protests and Getting Political" (Washington Post, April 6, 2018)

## Tuesday, September 24 - Is America a Class Society?

- Watch this one-hour film, “Heist: Who Stole the American Dream?” before the class on Thursday, September 26.

<https://www.youtube.com/watch?v=lcBuBgz6RAY>

Hacker and Pierson, Winner-Take-All Politics

## Thursday September 26 - Corporations and Democracy

Hacker and Pierson, Winner-Take-All Politics

## Monday, September 30

Film: “Selma”

## Tuesday, October 1 -- Civil Rights and Civil Liberties: Race and Immigration

- Watch this 20-minute video, “Immigration History in the United States,” before coming to class: <https://www.youtube.com/watch?v=lBJcqxl7kas>
- Watch this 30-minute video, “The Dream Is Now,” before coming to class: <http://www.youtube.com/watch?v=zfilnvpjPtI>
- Watch this 15-minute video: “A Year Ago, the Charlottesville Rally Shined a Light on White Supremacists and Sparked Overdue Conversations” (PBS, August 10, 2018) <https://www.pbs.org/newshour/show/a-year-ago-the-charlottesville-rally-shined-a-light-on-white-supremacists-and-sparked-overdue-conversations>

\*Miroff, Seidelman, Swanstrom, and Deluca, “Civil Liberties and Civil Rights” (from The Democratic Debate)

\*Langer, “Unita Blackwell, Mississippi Mayor Who Turned Bation’s Eyes on Her Forgotten Hamlet, Dies at 86” (Washington Post, May 15, 2019)

\*Thernstrom and Thernstrom, “We Have Overcome” (New Republic, Oct. 13, 1997)

\*Keough, “The 116th Congress Has More Women and People of Color Than Ever - But There’s Still Room To Improve” (The Conversation, November 8, 2018)

\*”Study: It Helps To Have a White Name” (Associated Press, January 14, 2003)

\*Irwin, Miller, and Sanger-Katz, “America’s Racial Divide, Charted” (NYT, August 19, 2014)

\*Rothstein, “Why Los Angeles is Still a Segregated City After All These Years” (LAT, August 20, 2017)

\*Savage, “Wells Fargo Will Settle Mortgage Bias Charges” (NYT, July 12, 2012)

\*Holland, “The Average Black Family Would Need 228 Years to Build the Wealth of a White Family Today” (The Nation, August 8, 2016)

\*Akin, “Black Voters Propelled Blue Wave” (Roll Call, November 19, 2018)

\*Healy, “Amid the Kale and Corn, Fears of White Supremacy at the Farmers’ Market” (NYT, August 18, 2019)

\*Dugdale, “What Happens To The Maids And Gardeners Of Malibu When The Houses Are Gone?” (LA-ist, November 19, 2018)

\*Young, “Poor Huddled Masses Not Welcome: A Very Brief History of U.S. Immigration Policy” (Pioneer Valley Workers Center, May 2017)

\*Jordan, “Dreamer Plan That Aided 800,000 Immigrants Is Threatened” (NYT, August

27, 2017)

- \*Davis, "G.O.P. Finds an Unexpectedly Potent Line of Attack, Immigration" (NYT, October 14, 2018)
- \*Washington, "The Trump Administration Just Unleashed a New Attack on Asylum Seekers" (The Nation, November 9, 2018)
- \*Nakamura and Kim, "Democrats Plot Response to Trump on Immigration Amid Fears They Could Go Too Far" (Washington Post, November 17, 2018)
- \*Chen, "Immigrants Will Be Vital to the Future of American Democracy" (The Nation, Nov. 20, 2018) <https://www.thenation.com/article/immigrants-democracy-civic-engagement-trump/>

### **Thursday October 3 -- Is Inequality a Serious Problem?**

#### **Distribute Essay #2. Due October 10**

- Watch this 4-minute video before class: "Are the Rich Getting Too Much of the Economic Pie?"  
<http://www.theatlantic.com/video/archive/2013/08/are-the-rich-getting-too-much-of-the-economic-pie/278807>
  - Watch this 6-minute video before class: "Wealth Inequality in America"  
<http://www.youtube.com/watch?v=QPKKQnijnsM>
  - Watch this 3-minute video before class: Robert Reich, "It's all about Power - Who Has It and Who Doesn't" (February 17, 2016)  
<https://www.youtube.com/watch?v=ggiMlqlYGKs>
  - Go to this website ("What Percent Are You?") and plug in your family's household income to discover where your family fits in the class system:  
<http://www.nytimes.com/interactive/2012/01/15/business/one-percent-map.html?ref=business>
  - Go to this website ("Family Budget Calculator") and plug in your family type, state, and location to discover how much a family in your area needs to make ends meet: <http://www.epi.org/resources/budget>
- \*Mohan, "Though Far from Poor, A Family Struggles Daily" (LAT, May 18, 2004)
- \*Jacobs, "Just Nine of the World's Richest Men Have More Combined Wealth Than the Poorest 4 Billion People" (Independent, July 17, 2018)
- \*"The World's Wealthiest Family Gets \$4 Million Richer Every Hour," Bloomberg, August 10, 2019
- \*Krugman, "Bernie Sanders and the Myth of the 1 Percent" (NYT, April 18, 2019)
- \*Samuelson, "Indifferent to Inequality?" (Newsweek, May 7, 2001)
- \*Ariely, "Americans Want to Live in a Much More Equal Country (They Just Don't Realize It)" (Atlantic, August 2, 2012)
- \*Tomasky, "What Are Capitalists Thinking?" (NYT, August 5, 2018)
- \*Gelles and Yaffe-Bellane, "Shareholder Value Is No Longer Everything, Top C.E.O.s Say" (NYT, August 19, 2019)
- \*"The Highest Paid CEOs" (AFL-CIO)
- \*Reich, "And Now the Richest .01 Percent" (Huffington Post, November 18, 2014)

- \*Anderson and Ross, “California’s Wealth Pyramid” (LAT, November 23, 2011)
- \*Zuznia, “Rich Californians Balk at Limits: ‘We’re Not All Equal When It Comes to Water’” (Washington Post, June 13, 2015)
- \*Cooper, “The Two Worlds of Los Angeles” (The Nation, August 21/28, 2000)
- \*Smarsh, “Liberal Blind Spots Are Hiding the Truth About ‘Trump Country’” (NYT, July 9, 2018)

## Monday, October 7

Film: “RBG”

## Tuesday, October 8 - Gender, Sexual Orientation, and Religion

- Watch this “Gay Marriage Chronology” (LAT, June 26, 2015) to see which states legalized or banned same-sex marriage <http://graphics.latimes.com/usmap-gay-marriage-chronology/>
  - \*Visit Title IX website and read its history: <http://titleix.info/History/The-Living-Law.aspx>
- \*Weinbaum and Roth, “Beyond Suffrage: How Far Have Women Come?” (LAT, August 26, 2011)
  - \*Chesler, “Public Triumphs, Private Rights” (MS, Summer 2005)
  - \*Waldman, “On Abortion, a Tale of Two Countries” (American Prospect, July 30, 2013)
  - \*Eckholm, “Access to Abortion Falling as States Pass Restrictions” (NYT, January 3, 2014)
  - \*Baker, “How Local Activists are Organizing for Reproductive Rights” (Ms, June 14, 2019)
  - \*Institute for Women’s Policy Research, “The Union Advantage for Women” (February 2018)
  - \*Yetzel, “Rapinoe, Morgan and USWNT Unleash Ultimate Equal Pay Battle Cry” (Yahoo Sports, July 7, 2019)
  - \*Martin, “Giant Hotel Chains to Give Workers ‘Panic Buttons’ To Help Prevent Sexual Assaults” (LAT, September 6, 2018)
  - \*Haas, “One year on from the #MeToo movement, what exactly has changed?” (World Economic Forum, November 26, 2018)
  - \*Vincenty, “What Happened at Stonewall?” O: The Oprah Magazine, May 31, 2019
  - \*Peters and Shear, “A Ruling That Both Sides Can Run With: Hobby Lobby Decision Highlights Parties’ Divide” (NYT, June 30, 2014)
  - \*Appelbaum, “What the Hobby Lobby Ruling Means for America” (NYT, July 22, 2014)
  - \*Silverman, “How the Bible Belt lost God and Found Trump” (Financial Times, April 13, 2017)
  - \*Liptak, “Supreme Court Ruling Makes Same-Sex Marriage a Right Nationwide,” NYT, June 26, 2015
  - \*Eckholm, “Next Fight for Gay Rights: Bias in Jobs and Housing” (NYT, June 28, 2015)

### **Thursday, October 10 -- Is Poverty a Serious Problem?**

- Watch this 5-minute video before coming to class: (*The Daily Show*, January 28, 2014) <http://www.cc.com/video-clips/ddm404/the-daily-show-with-jon-stewart-wage-against-the-machine>
  - Watch this 7-minute video before coming to class: (Colbert Report, July 22, 2013: “Minimum Wage & McDonald's Spending Journal”) <http://www.cc.com/video-clips/8fg72p/the-colbert-report-minimum-wage---mcdonald-s-spending-journal>
  - Watch this 3-minute video before class: “Time For All Workers to Stand Up” (Democracy Now, August 2, 2013) <https://www.youtube.com/watch?v=pzllvy0gd5U>
  - Watch this 5-minute video before class: “Terrence Wise introduces POTUS at White House Worker Voice Summit” (October 22, 2015) <https://www.youtube.com/watch?v=oXNPDh4Q6gc>
- \*Matthews, “Child Poverty in the US Is a Disgrace. Experts are Embracing This Simple Plan To Cut It” (*Vox*, April 27, 2017)
- \*Epstein, “Enough to Make You Sick?” (*NYT*, October 12, 2003)
- \*Rosen, “Who Gets Polluted? The Movement for Environmental Justice” (*Dissent*, Spring 1994)
- \*Dreier, “This Economy is a Real Killer” (*Huffington Post*, March 10, 2009)
- \*Sauter, “Ten Companies Paying Americans the Least” (*247WallSt.Com*, November 15, 2013)
- \*Dreier and Flaming, “Disneyland's Workers are Undervalued, Disrespected and Underpaid” (*LAT*, February 28, 2018)
- \*Cassidy, “Relatively Deprived” (*New Yorker*, April 3, 2006)
- \*Buchheit, “Half of Americans Below or Near Poverty Line” (*AlterNet*, May 30, 2016)
- \*DeParle, “Harder for Americans to Rise From Lower Rungs” (*NYT*, January 4, 2012)
- \*Culhane, “Five Myths About Homelessness” (*Washington Post*, July 11, 2010)
- \*Egan, “Good Poor, Bad Poor” (*NYT*, December 22, 2013)
- \*Greenhouse, “How to Get Low-Wage Workers Into the Middle Class” (*The Atlantic*, August 19, 2015)
- \*Mourdoukoutas, “The \$15 Minimum Wage Movement Is Winning, And That's Bad News” (*Forbes*, January 1, 2018)
- \*Hanauer, “The Capitalist's Case for a \$15 Minimum Wage” (*Bloomberg News*, June 19, 2013)

### **Thursday, October 10 - 11:30 am**

Speaker: Steve Greenhouse, former *NY Times* labor reporter; author of *Beaten Down, Worked Up: The Past, Present and Future of American Labor* (2019) - Choi Auditorium

### **Monday and Tuesday - October 14 and 15 - Fall Break**



## Thursday, October 17 - The Media: Agenda-Setting and Framing

- Watch this 9-minute video before class: “The Daily Show with John Oliver,” MSNBC, August 1, 2013 - about the minimum wage and fast food workers: <http://www.criticalcommons.org/Members/JJWooten/clips/last-week-tonight-johnoliver-discusses-minimum>
  - Watch this 5-minute video before class: “John Oliver's 97% to 3% climate change debate goes viral getting 2.5 million hits & Guardian review,” May 27, 2014 <http://www.dailykos.com/story/2014/05/27/1302445/-John-Oliver-s-97-to-3-climate-change-debate-goes-viral-getting-2-5-million-hits-Guardian-review#>
  - Watch this 9-minute video before class: “Reporting Labor in the U.S. Media,” Al Jazeera, August 27, 2017 <https://www.youtube.com/watch?v=iN03YHFTC6c>
- \*Vernon, “Puerto Rico’s Devastation Takes a Backseat to *Roseanne* Coverage” (Columbia Journalism Review, May 31, 2018)
- \*Poniewozik, “The Myth of Fact” (Time, August 23, 2010)
- \*”What is Framing? Why Is It Important?” (Community Change, Spring 1998)
- \*Moody, ”How Republicans Are Being Taught to Talk About Occupy Wall Street” (The Ticket, December 1, 2011)
- \*Boykoff and Boykoff, “Journalistic Balance as Global Warming Bias” (Extra, Nov./Dec. 2004)
- \*Aradjian, “15 Things Every Would Know If There Were a Liberal Media” (Daily Kos, August 7, 2013)
- \*Holland, “What’s Missing in the American Media: Working People” (American Prospect, September 5, 2014)
- \*Ehrenreich, “Too Poor to Make the News” (NYT, June 14, 2009)
- \*Hart, “Who Gets to Speak on Cable News?” (Extra, July 2014)
- JULY 1, 2013
- \*Dolny, “Think Tank Spectrum 2012” (Fair, July 1, 2013)
- \*Dionne, Ornstein, and Mann, “When the Truth Doesn’t Matter” (from One Nation After Trump, 2018, pages 36-47)
- \*Kessler, “President Trump Has Made 4,229 False or Misleading Claims in 558 Days” (Washington Post, August 1, 2018)
- \*Sullivan, “Fact-Checking President Trump Isn’t Enough” (Washington Post, May 1, 2019)
- \*Marcotte, “How Trump and Fox News Work With Fascists To Spread Hateful Propaganda” (Salon, April 13, 2019)

Assignment: Check out these three websites, spend at least 15 minutes on each, and figure out how they are similar and different. Write this up in one page, use examples to illustrate your points, and bring it to class today

Media Matters for America: <http://mediamatters.org>

Accuracy in Media: <http://www.aim.org>

FactCheck: <http://www.factcheck.org>

## **Monday, October 21**

Film: "Children in America's Schools"

## **Tuesday October 22 - Education and Inequality**

Kozol, Savage Inequalities (Introduction and Chapters 1-4)

## **Thursday, October 24 - Education and Mobility**

\*Morris, "The Pencilword: On a Plate" (The Wireless, May 22, 2015) (cartoon)

\*"Equality is Not Always Justice" (painting)

\*Hanna-Jones, "Have We Lost Sight of the Promise of Public Schools?" (NYT, February 21, 2017)

\*Stevens, "A Split of Haves and Have Mores" (LAT, April 28, 2013)

\*Brown, "Judge: Mostly White Southern City May Secede From School District Despite Racial Motive" (Washington Post, April 27, 2017)

\*Keogh, "What School Segregation Looks Like Today in Four Charts" (The Conversation, July 19, 2019)

\*Rich, "Language-Gap Study Bolsters a Push for Pre-K" (NYT, October 22, 2013)

\*Harris, "State's Separate Systems for Rich and Poor" (LAT, May 19, 2002)

\*Helfand, "Teacher Shortage Hitting Inner Cities Hardest, Study Says" (NYT, Dec. 8, 2000)

\*Porter, "Education Gap Between Rich and Poor Is Growing Wider" (NYT, Sept. 22, 2015)

\*Drum, "Being Smart Isn't Always Enough to Make it in America" (Mother Jones, December 12, 2013)

\*Anderson, "Smaller Classes Aid Test Scores, Results Show" (LAT, Dec. 29, 1998)

\*Symonds, "Closing the School Gap" (Business Week, Oct. 14, 2002)

\*Halstead and Lind, "The National Debate Over School Funding Needs a Federal Focus" (LAT, Oct. 8, 2000)

\*Resmovits and Kohli, "These 2 Teens With Similar Backgrounds Took Very Different Paths to College" (LAT, May 12, 2016)

\*Jemmott, "The Implicit Punishment of Daring to Go to College When Poor" (NYT, March 28, 2019)

\*Thompson, "Why Smart Poor Students Don't Apply to Selective Colleges (and How to Fix It)" (Atlantic, January 24, 2013)

\*Bernard and Russell, "The New Toll of American Student Debt in 3 Charts" (NYT, July 11, 2018)

\*Tyson, "Needed: Affirmative Action for the Poor" (Business Week, July 7, 2003)

\*Dreier, "Presidential Legacy" (American Prospect, January 27, 2003)

## Elections, Political Parties, the Presidency, Congress, Money

### Monday, October 28

Film: "Recount"

### Tuesday, October 29 - Who Votes? Why Do People Vote the Way They Do?

- Watch before class: "Trumpland: The Naked Truth" (30 minutes) <http://fusion.net/video/360796/the-naked-truth-trumpland>
- Explore these Exit Polls and consider who voted for Trump and who voted for Clinton based on different groups (age, race, income, education, gender, etc) <https://www.cnn.com/election/2016/results/exit-polls>

Video: "Suppressed"

- \*Exit Poll Data, 2016" (from Michael Nelson, The Elections of 2016, 2018)
- \*Gore, "Presidents Winning Without Popular Vote" (Factcheck, March 24, 2008)
- \*Ben-Shahar, "The Non-Voters Who Decided The Election: Trump Won Because Of Lower Democratic Turnout" (Forbes, Nov. 17, 2016)
- \*Leonhardt, "If Liberals Voted" (NYT, June 20, 2017)
- \*Shirkey, "There's No Such Thing As a Protest Vote" (Medium, August 6, 2016)
- \*"Voting Should Be Easy. Why Isn't It?" (NYT, October 18, 2018)
- \*Berman, "The GOP's Attack on Voting Rights Was the Most Under-Covered Story of 2016" (The Nation, November 9, 2016)
- \*Cobb, "Voter Suppression Tactics in the Age of Trump" (New Yorker, October 29, 2018)
- \*"Why Are Florida Republicans So Afraid of People Voting?" (NYT, August 11, 2019)
- \*Levy, "The 200-Year History of Using Voter Fraud Fears to Block Access to the Ballot" (Mother Jones, January 3, 2019)
- \*Staples, "The Racist Origins of Felon Disenfranchisement" (NYT, November 18, 2014)
- \*Wines and Blinder, "Federal Appeals Court Strikes Down North Carolina Voter ID Requirement" (NYT, July 29, 2016)
- \*Daugherty, "Youth Voter Registration Went Up 41 Percent After Parkland Shooting" (Miami Herald, July 20, 2018)
- \*Green and Mach, "Does Same-Day Registration Affect Voter Turnout in the U.S.?" (PBS Newshour, October 4, 2015)
- \*Prokop, "California Governor Signs Bill to Automatically Register People to Vote" (Vox, October 10, 2015)
- \*Gorenberg, "What if Election Day Were a Holiday and Everyone Was Registered?" (American Prospect, November 7, 2016)

### Thursday, October 31 - The Presidency and Political Parties

- Watch Bill Maher's 30-minute interview with President Obama on Nov. 4, 2016

<https://www.youtube.com/watch?v=xXH5agV7skw>

- Here's a fun 3-minute video from the 2016 election from Rachel Bloom, Elizabeth Banks, Moby, and other stars:  
<https://www.youtube.com/watch?v=NGGACRwYDo8&feature=youtu>
- Watch Hillary Clinton's 30-minute speech accusing Trump of racism before coming to class:  
[https://www.youtube.com/watch?v=\\_soeyHVrawY](https://www.youtube.com/watch?v=_soeyHVrawY) (August 25, 2016)
- Watch Donald Trump's 10-minute response to Clinton's speech:  
[http://www.realclearpolitics.com/video/2016/08/25/trump\\_pre-butts\\_clintons\\_alt-right\\_speech\\_accusation\\_of\\_racism\\_are\\_the\\_last\\_refuge\\_of\\_the\\_discredited\\_democratic\\_politician.html](http://www.realclearpolitics.com/video/2016/08/25/trump_pre-butts_clintons_alt-right_speech_accusation_of_racism_are_the_last_refuge_of_the_discredited_democratic_politician.html) (August 25, 2016)

\*Eichen, "The Case Against the Electoral College Is Strong Than Ever" (New Republic, August 2, 2019)

\*Roberts, "Everything Mattered: Lessons From 2016's Bizarre Presidential Election" (Vox, November 30, 2016)

\*Murray, "12 Days That Stunned a Nation: How Hillary Clinton Lost" (NBC News, August 23, 2017)

\*Klein, "The Green Lantern Theory of the Presidency Explained" (Vox, May 20, 2014)

\*Lemieux, "Obama's Legacy" (Lawyers, Guns & Money, March 25, 2016)

\*Bump, "What Trump Has Undone" (Washington Post, August 24, 2017)

\*Dreier, "Is Donald Trump Dangerous?" (Le 1, November 8, 2017)

\*Sykes, "How the GOP Became Trump's Party" (Weekly Standard, October 1, 2018)

\*Bunch, "Meet the Hypocrite Who Rips Trump But Votes With Him 95.5% of the Time" (Philadelphia Inquirer, August 1, 2017)

\*Sabato, "Trump at Midterm" (from Sabato and Kondix, eds., The Blue Wave: The 2018 Midterms and What They Mean for the 2020 Election, 2019)

\*\*"2020 Presidential Election Map," 270-to-Win <https://www.270towin.com/>

\*\*"Another Look at the 2020 Battleground States" (Electoral Vote Map)  
<https://electoralvotemap.com/2020-battleground-states-2/>

### **Monday, November 4**

Film: "By the People"

### **Tuesday, November 5 - Congress and Political Parties**

- Watch before class: "Gerrymandering Explained" (Washington Post, March 1, 2015) <https://www.youtube.com/watch?v=bGLRJ12uqmk> (3 minutes)

\*Bacon, "The Five Wings Of the Republican Party" (Five Thirty Eight, March 27, 2019)

- \*Silver, “The 5 Corners Of The 2020 Democratic Primary” (Five Thirty Eight, January 10, 2019)
- \*Kolbert, “Drawing the Line” (New Yorker, June 27, 2016)
- \*Ingraham, “This is the Best Explanation of Gerrymandering You Will Ever See: How to Steal an Election - a Visual Guide” (Washington Post, March 1, 2015)
- \*Drew, “American Democracy Betrayed” (New York Review of Books, August 18, 2016)
- \*Wines, “Drive Against Gerrymandering Finds New Life in Ballot Initiatives” (NYT, July 23, 2018)
- \*Horton, McCarthy, and Glenza, “How Gerrymandering Paved the Way for the US's Anti-Abortion Movement” (The Guardian, June 18, 2019)
- \*Daley, “New poll: Everybody Hates Gerrymandering” (Fair Vote, September 12, 2017)
- \*Mai-Duc, “Jimmy Gomez on Winning the 34th District: 'Was That a Dream?'" (LAT, June 8, 2017)
- \*Tomasky “Sorry, Liberals: There Is No Majority Without Moderates” (Daily Beast, July 25, 2017)
- \*Mulroy, “Adopting Proportional Representation Would Unskew US Elections” (LSE, US Centre)
- \*Geoghegan “The Infernal Senate” (New Republic, November 20, 1994)
- \*Feldman, “Revamping the Senate Is a Fantasy” (Bloomberg News, October 10, 2018)
- \*Liptak, “Smaller States Find Outsize Clout Growing in Senate” (NYT, April 17, 2013)
- \*Hertel-Fernandez and Skocpol, “Democrats are Losing to Republicans at the State Level, and Badly. Here's Why.” (Vox, August 3, 2016)
- \*Gregory, “A History of Radicals in the Democratic Party” (New Republic, August 3, 2016)
- \*Dreier, “Progressive Victories Lay the Groundwork for 2020” (Public Seminar, November 21, 2018)
- \*Remnick, “Alexandria Ocasio-Cortez’s Dramatic Win and the Future of the Democratic Party” (The New Yorker, July 23, 2018)
- \*Caldera, Elbeshbishi, and Cummings, “We Don't Have That Many Differences': Pelosi Minimizes Differences With Ocasio-Cortez” (USA Today, July 26, 2019)
- \*Prokopandrew, “The Democratic Divide Over Impeaching Trump, Explained” (Vox, July 26, 2019)
- \*Phillips, “The 10 Senate Seats Most Likely to Flip in 2020” (Washington Post, July 12, 2019) <https://beta.washingtonpost.com/politics/2019/07/12/senate-seats-most-likely-flip/?outputType=amp>
- \*\*“Super State Strategy for 2020,” SwingLeft  
<https://swingleft.org/p/super-state-strategy>
- \*\*“2020 Senate Election Interactive Map,” 270-to-Win  
<https://www.270towin.com/2020-senate-election/>
- \*\*“2020 House Election Interactive Map,” 270-to-Win  
<https://www.270towin.com/2020-house-election/>

## Thursday, November 7 -- Money, Interest Groups and Lobbying

### Distribute Essay #3. Due November 14

- Watch before class: "Gunned Down: The Power of the NRA" (50 minutes) <http://www.pbs.org/wgbh/pages/frontline/gunned-down>
  - Watch before class: "Clean Elections, Changing the Face of America" (14 minutes) <https://www.youtube.com/watch?v=BtwC67DCfPg>
  - Watch before class: "Exploring The Koch Brothers' Political Influence" (MSNBC, August 20, 2019) (5 minutes) <https://www.youtube.com/watch?v=agll5Qrkwlc>
- \*Toner and Trainer, "The \$7 Billion Election" (from Sabato, Kondik, and Skelley, Trumped: The 2016 Election That Broke All the Rules, 2017)
- \*Lichtblau, "Bernie Sanders's Success in Attracting Small Donors Tests Importance of 'Super PACs'" (NYT, August 25, 2015)
- \*Raskin and Samples, "Debate: Resolved, the Constitution Should be Amended to Overturn the Supreme Court's Ruling in *Citizens United*" (in Ellis and Nelson, eds., Debating Reform, 2014)
- \*Hertel-Fernandez, Tervo, and Skocpol, "How the Koch Brothers Build the Most Powerful Right-Wing Group You've Never Heard Of," Guardian, September 26 2018
- \*Timmons, "The Three Ultra-Rich Families Battling for Control of the Republican Party" (Quartz, December 5, 2017)
- \*Nocera, "The Spineless Gun Vote" (NYT, April 19, 2013)
- \*Dao, "NRA Leadership Rallies Members for 2014 Elections" (NYT, May 4, 2013)
- \*Osnos, "Making a Killing" (New Yorker, June 27, 2016)
- \*Zornick, "How the #NeverAgain Movement Is Disrupting Gun Politics" (The Nation, April 3, 2018)
- \*Haberaman, Karni, and Hakim, "N.R.A. Gets Results on Gun Laws in One Phone Call With Trump" (NYT, August 20, 2019)
- \*Waxman, "The Tobacco Wars" (from Waxman, The Waxman Report: How Congress Really Works, 2009)
- \*Michaels, "Rick Scott Is Getting a Boost From a Private Prison Company. Too Bad It Might Be Illegal" (Mother Jones, July 27, 2018)
- \*Sandler, "Fever Pitch: Surge in Opposition Lobbying and Advocacy Validates the Credibility of the Medicare for All Movement" (Public Citizen, June 28, 2019)
- \*Lipton, "Why Has the E.P.A. Shifted on Toxic Chemicals? An Industry Insider Helps Call the Shots" (NYT, Oct. 21, 2017)
- \*Ludwig, "Monsanto Spends Millions to Defeat Washington GMO Labeling Initiative" (Truth-out, September 21, 2013)
- \*Eggen, "Gulf State Lawmakers Juggle Oil Industry Interests With Climate, Safety Concerns" (Washington Post, May 14, 2010)
- \*Katz, "How the U.S. Chamber of Commerce Keeps Working People Poor and Destroys the Environment" (In These Times, Aug. 19, 2015)
- \*Bhargava, "Corporate Dark Money is Keeping Millions of Americans in Poverty" (The

Hill, July 24, 2015)

\*Cunningham, “Planned Parenthood Runs Ads in Senate Battleground States”  
(Washington Examiner, August 18, 2015)

### **Monday, November 11**

Films: “Inside Obama’s White House: Obamacare” and “Heather Booth: Changing the World”

### **Tuesday, November 12 - - Does It Matter Who Wins?**

Elizabeth Warren, A Fighting Chance (Prologue through Chapter 3, pages 1-126)

### **Thursday, November 14 - Does It Matter Who Wins?**

Elizabeth Warren, A Fighting Chance (Chapter 4 through Epilogue, pages 127-277)

## **Human Rights at Home and Abroad**

### **Monday, November 18**

Film: “The Central Park Five”

### **Tuesday November 19 - Criminal Justice: Cops, Courts and Prisons**

- Watch this 3-minute video, “Should It Cost Less To Get Out of Jail if You’re Rich?” which is embedded in this article (The Nation, October 15, 2013):  
<https://www.thenation.com/article/should-it-cost-less-get-out-jail-if-youre-rich/>
- \*Dreier, “Caught on Camera: Police Racism” (American Prospect, July 11, 2016)
- \*Spence, “Policing Class” (Jacobin, August 16, 2016)
- \*Lathrop and Flagg, “Killings of Blacks by Whites Are Far More Likely to Be Ruled ‘Justifiable’” (NYT, August 14, 2017)
- \*Bronner, “Right to a Lawyer Can Be Empty Promise for the Poor” (NYT, March 15, 2013)
- \*O’Hear, “Racial Disparities in the Federal Death Penalty” (Marquette University Law School)
- \*Dreier and Reiman, “Prisoners of Misleading Facts” (Dissent, Spring 1996)
- \*Segura, “With 2.3 Million People Incarcerated in the US, Prisons Are Big Business” (The Nation, October 1, 2103)
- \*Michaels, “Rick Scott Is Getting a Boost From a Private Prison Company. Too Bad It Might Be Illegal” (Mother Jones, July 27, 2018)
- \*Gonnerman, “Larry Krasner’s Campaign to End Mass Incarceration” (New Yorker, October 29, 2018) <https://www.newyorker.com/magazine/2018/10/29/larry-krasnens-campaign-to-end-mass-incarceration>
- \*Liptak, “Corporations Find a Friend in the Supreme Court” (NYT, May 5, 2013)
- \*Fortunato, “Corporate Crime and Voting Rights” (Dissent, Summer 2002)

- \*Matthews, “How the First Liberal Supreme Court in a Generation Could Reshape America” (Vox, August 22, 2016)
- \*Cassidy, “Why It’s Right to Be Mad About Kavanaugh and the Supreme Court” (The New Yorker, July 11, 2018)
- \*Williams and Kaplan, “The Criminal Justice Debate Has Changed Drastically. Here’s Why” (NYT, August 20, 2019)  
<https://www.nytimes.com/2019/08/20/us/politics/criminal-justice-reform-sanders-warren.html>
- \*\*“Where the 2020 Democratic Candidates Stand on Criminal Justice” (The Marshall Project, November 4, 2019)  
<https://www.themarshallproject.org/2019/10/10/2020-the-democrats-on-criminal-justice>

#### **Thursday, November 21 -- Human Rights and Global Sweatshops**

- Watch this 6-minute video before coming to class: “The Other Side of Apple”  
<http://www.youtube.com/watch?v=DUT2ZZP4EA&feature=related>
- Watch this 3-minute video before coming to class: “Wal-Mart: The Real Story”  
<http://www.youtube.com/watch?v=ATu-WhQ8IsY>
- Watch this 4-minute video before coming to class: “Global Wealth Inequality”  
<http://www.youtube.com/watch?v=uWSxzjyMNpU>
- Watch “Zoned for Slavery” in three parts (total: 23 minutes)  
Part 1: <http://www.youtube.com/watch?v=1XtYhfcEZ9A>  
Part 2: <http://www.youtube.com/watch?v=2QOwNHeAqBE>  
Part 3: <http://www.youtube.com/watch?v=klSngDpTIM4>

Film: “Rana Plaza Factory Disaster” (BBC)

- \*\*“6 Years After Rana Plaza Collapse, Many Fashion Giants Still Unwilling to Make Changes, Says Industry Expert” (CBC, April 26, 2019)  
<https://www.cbc.ca/radio/thecurrent/the-current-for-april-26-2019-1.5111980/6-years-after-rana-plaza-collapse-many-fashion-giants-still-unwilling-to-make-changes-says-industry-expert-1.5111984>

- \*Kristof, “Let Them Sweat” (NYT, June 25, 2002)
- \*Hayden and Kernaghan, “Pennies an Hour, and No Way Up” (NYT, July 6, 2002)
- \*Ablow, “The Free Trade Myth, Explained” (BillMoyers.Com, August 16, 2016)
- \*Weiner, “Low-Wage Costa Ricans Make Baseballs for Millionaires” (NYT, January 25, 2004)
- \*\*“Media Fawns Over Nike ‘Empowering’ Women Ad, Forgets About Abused Women in Its Factories” (RT, February 26, 2019) <https://www.rt.com/news/452488-nike-ad-women-factories/>
- \*Alterman, “Rotten at the Core” (The Nation, November 2, 2015)
- \*Cleeland, Iritani and Marshall, “Scouring the Globe to Give Shoppers an \$8.63 Polo Shirt” (LAT, Nov. 24, 2003)
- \*Barboza, “In Chinese Factories, Lost Fingers and Low Pay” (NYT, Jan.5, 2008)
- \*North, “Bangladeshi Garment Workers Fight Back” (The Nation, November 15, 2013)



- \*Greenhouse and Yardley, “As Walmart Makes Safety Vows, It’s Seen as Obstacle to Change” (NYT, December 28, 2013)
- \*Rosenbloom, “Wal-Mart to Toughen Standards” (NYT, Oct. 22, 2008)
- \*Greenhouse, “Labor Fight Ends in Win for Students” (NYT, Nov. 18, 2009)
- \*Strain, “Students Demand College-Logo Brands Join Fire and Safety Agreement” (The Nation, October 24, 2013)
- \*Linke, “Factories Get More Business When They Treat Workers Right” (Phys.Org, January 28, 2018) <https://phys.org/news/2018-01-factories-business-workers.html>
- \*Dreier, “Another Factory is Possible” (The Nation, November 7, 2011)

### Monday, November 25

Film: “Why We Fight”

### Tuesday, November 26 - The Military Industrial Complex and Foreign Policy

- Watch this 4-minute video before class: “What are Universal Human Rights?” (<https://www.youtube.com/watch?v=nDglVseTkuE>)
- Take five minutes to quickly scroll through this report: “Instances of Use of United States Armed Forces Abroad, 1798-2019” (Congressional Research Service, July 17, 2019) <https://crsreports.congress.gov/product/pdf/R/R42738/28>
- \*United Nations, *Universal Declaration of Human Rights*
- \*Kipling, “The White Man’s Burden” (McClure’s, February 1899)
- \*Leonard, “Violence Is the American Way” (AlterNet, April 22, 2003)
- \*Lepore, “The Force: How Much Military is Enough?” (The New Yorker, Jan 28, 2013)
- \*Turley, “Big Money Behind War: The Military-Industrial Complex” (Al Jazeera, Jan. 10, 2016)
- \*Johnson, “Lowering the Flag on the American Century” (Tom Dispatch, August 16, 2010)
- \*Judis, “Imperial Amnesia” (Foreign Policy, July/August 2004)
- \*Sanger and Haberman, “50 G.O.P. Officials Warn Donald Trump Would Put Nation’s Security ‘at Risk’” (NYT, August 8, 2016)
- \*Lemire and Klapper, “Trump Advisers at Odds Over President’s Foreign Policy” (Seattle Times, August 8, 2017)
- \*Gordon, “The Current Migrant Crisis Was Created by US Foreign Policy, Not Trump” (The Nation, August 16, 2019)
- \*”Rethinking America’s Approach to the World” (NYT, August 18, 2019)
- \*Giacomo, “Trump Has Scrambled America’s Foreign Policy. Can the Democrats Do Better?” (NYT, July 20, 2019)
- \*Hiro, “Trump Is Accelerating America’s Decline” (The Nation, July 2, 2019)
- \*”How the US Learned to Stop Worrying and Love the Forever War” (The Nation, September 11, 2019)
- \*Testimony of Ambassador William Taylor and senior State Department official George

P. Kent before the House Intelligence Committee, November 13, 2019 (links will be put on Moodle when they become available)

### **Wednesday, November 27 - Friday, November 29 - Thanksgiving Break**

#### **Monday, December 2**

Film: "Bread and Roses"

Before Monday night, please read the article and the poem:

\*Kelly, "What A Labor Union Is and How It Works," Teen Vogue, March 12, 2019

\*Oppenheim, "Bread and Roses" (poem)

<https://chawedrosin.wordpress.com/2008/05/09/bread-and-roses-by-james-oppenheim/>

### **Tuesday, December 3 - Looking Backward and Forward: Dangers and Opportunities**

- Watch this video before class: "Mom Runs For Office After Son's Death," CNN, August 2018 (3 minutes)  
<https://www.cnn.com/videos/politics/2018/07/06/lucy-mcbath-georgia-candidate-lah-dnt-ebf-vpx.cnn>
- Watch this video before class: "Democrat Lucy McBeth Wins Georgia Midterm Race for Congress," MSNBC, November 10, 2018 (9 minutes)  
<https://www.msnbc.com/am-joy/watch/democrat-lucy-mcbath-wins-georgia-midterms-race-for-congress-1367199299566>

\*Geraghty, "There Are a Lot of Reasons to Feel Optimistic About America's Future," National Review, August 3, 2018

\*Gorton, "My Fellow Republicans, Please Follow the Facts," New York Times, November 25, 2019

\*Starr, "Trump's Second Term," The Atlantic, May 2019

\*Nwanevu, "Elizabeth Warren, Bernie Sanders, and Two Paths for the American Left," The New Yorker, June 18, 2019

\*Daugherty, "Youth Voter Registration Went Up 41 Percent After Parkland Shooting," Miami Herald, July 20, 2018

\*Brownstein, "Millennials To Pass Baby Boomers As Largest Voter-Eligible Age Group, and What It Means," CNN, July 25, 2017

\*Cilluffo and Fry, "Gen Z, Millennials and Gen X outvoted older generations in 2018 midterms," Pew Research Center, May 29, 2019

\*Rudell, "2018 Midterms: A Blue Wave or Merely an Electoral Adjustment Into a New Presidency?" The Hill, December 2, 2018

\*Arnold, Bond, Chenoweth, and Pressman, "These Are the Four Largest Protests Since Trump Was Inaugurated," Washington Post, May 31, 2018

\*Solnit, "Protest and Persist: Why Giving Up Hope Is Not an Option," The Guardian, May 13, 2017

\*“Meet 15 Women Leading the Fight Against Climate Change,” Time, September 17, 2019

\*McKibben, “Hello From the Year 2050. We Avoided the Worst of Climate Change – But Everything Is Different,” Time, September 12, 2019

### Writing Assignments

<u>Assignment</u>	<u>Passed Out</u>	<u>Due in Class</u>
Essay #1	Tues., Sept. 10	Tues., Sept. 17
Essay #2	Thurs., Oct. 3	Thurs., Oct. 10
Essay # 3	Thurs., Nov. 7	Thurs., Nov. 14
Final exam	Tues., Dec. 3	Tues., Dec. 10*

\*The final exam should be handed in to my office before 4 p.m., on Tuesday, December 10

### Monday Night Films (exceptions noted)

September 3 (Tuesday)	“Where To Invade Next?”
September 9	“Knock Down the House”
September 16	“Hot Coffee”
September 19 (Thurs)	“Inequality for All” (in class)
September 30	“Selma”
October 7	“RBG”
October 21	“Children in America’s Schools”
October 28	“Recount”
November 4	“By the People”
November 11	“Inside Obama’s White House: Obamacare” and “Heather Booth: Changing the World”
November 18	“The Central Park Five”
November 25	“Why We Fight”
December 2	“Bread and Roses”