

DEPARTMENT OF SOCIOLOGY
UNIVERSITY OF NORTH CAROLINA, CHAPEL HILL
Fall, 2006

First-Year Seminar:
Citizenship and Society in the United States
(SOCI 66)

Section 002 MWF 11:00–11:50 Saunders 321

Andrew Perrin

Office: Hamilton 269

Office hours: Monday, 2:00–3:30; Thursday, 10:00–11:30; or by appointment

Phone: 962-6876

E-mail: andrew_perrin@unc.edu • <http://perrin.socsci.unc.edu>

COURSE OVERVIEW

This course is designed to give you a framework for thinking about the possibilities for, and the impediments to, effective democratic citizenship in the United States.

This course has 3 main goals and 2 secondary goals. The main goals are:

1. To acquaint you with ideas about citizenship and democracy in an American context;
2. To introduce you to the relationship between society and politics; and
3. To get you thinking about both the possibilities and the impediments to effective citizenship.

The secondary goals are:

1. To stimulate critical and sophisticated thinking about politics and democracy; and
2. To provide a gentle, exciting introduction to college.

READINGS AND RESOURCES

Required Books

Bruce Ackerman and James S. Fishkin. *Deliberation Day* (Yale University Press, 2004).

George Lakoff. *Moral Politics* (University of Chicago Press, 2002).

Jeff Manza and Christopher Uggen. *Locked Out: Felon Disenfranchisement and American Democracy* (Oxford University Press, 2006).

Thomas E. Patterson. *The Vanishing Voter: Public Involvement in an Age of Uncertainty* (Vintage, 2003).

Andrew J. Perrin. *Citizen Speak: The Democratic Imagination in American Life* (University of Chicago Press, 2006).

Michael Schudson. *The Good Citizen* (Free Press, 1998).

Jeffrey Toobin. *Too Close to Call: The Thirty-Six-Day Battle to Decide the 2000 Election* (Random House, 2001).

Katherine Cramer Walsh. *Talking About Politics: Informal Groups and Social Identity in American Life* (University of Chicago Press, 2004).

Lani Guinier. *The Tyranny of the Majority* (Free Press, 1994).

Note: Ten copies of this book are available for you to borrow from the instructor.

Supplementary Readings

You should read one or more of the following newspapers on a **daily** basis:

- *The New York Times* (The *Times* offers special pricing for students in this class; go to <http://nytimes.com/student> for more information.)
- *The Wall Street Journal*
- *The Washington Post*
- *The Raleigh News & Observer*

All other readings are available either on the web or on the course website. Readings available on the course website are marked with the WWW symbol. Those available on the web are linked from the course website. A few readings are on reserve in the library, and should also be available by electronic reserve; these are marked with the LIB symbol. The course website is available through <http://blackboard.unc.edu> and is also linked from <http://perrin.socsci.unc.edu>.

Other Resources

Have a dictionary close at hand to look up words you don't know. You can find an adequate one at <http://www.dictionary.com> if you prefer using an online version.

The UNC Writing Center (<http://www.unc.edu/depts/wcweb>) can help you with writing clearly and correctly.

There is an astonishing amount of information available on the World Wide Web. A significant proportion of that information—though by no means all—is true and relevant. By all means, use the Web to supplement your reading and knowledge, but use it critically and make sure you know the source of the information.

FORMAL REQUIREMENTS

The requirements of this course are as follows:

Reading You must complete all the course readings. *You are responsible for understanding the readings*—make use of your fellow students, your dictionary, the Internet, and me to make sure you understand the readings. Course time is to be used for substantive discussion and further exploration of the implications of course readings, *not* for grasping the basic contents.

Participation You must attend, and participate in, all class discussions. *Class participation is the only graded measure of your understanding of the readings.* You must therefore be an *active* participant in *all* class discussions.

Team Presentations You will be part of a presentation team, which will be responsible for structuring and leading discussion of the content during two sessions. The team will:

- Write a *seminar paper* that considers the reading's main point(s) and takes a provocative stand on some issue in the reading. This seminar paper must be distributed via the **blackboard** site no later than 12:00 noon the day before the seminar meets.

- Organize and moderate discussion in the seminar. Discussion will be structured around the team’s seminar paper, but will usually “take off” from there to examine a wide range of related issues.

Citizenship Interview You will conduct an in-depth interview with someone who has something interesting to say about good citizenship. You will write up the important sections of the interview and present them to the class.

Election Ethnography Along with your presentation team, you will observe the goings on at a polling site on election day, taking detailed notes and interviewing at least one voter. You will present your observations to the class.

Final Paper The final paper is your opportunity to synthesize what you have learned during the class. The paper should address some aspect of the topic: *How healthy is American democracy at the beginning of the 21st century?* It may do so by approaching any issue raised in class. We will spend time in several class sessions discussing the process of writing the final paper.

Final Exam There will be a final examination on the course’s material and content. It will be held in the regular classroom on December 11.

Completing these requirements adequately will earn you a **B-** in the course. Completing them *exceptionally well* will earn you a B+, A-, or A, depending on the quality of work.

Grading

Your course grade will be calculated as follows:

Course Participation	20%
Team Presentations and Seminar Papers	25%
Citizenship Interview	10%
Election Ethnography	10%
Final Paper	20%
Final Exam	15%

COURSE SCHEDULE

Week 1: Introduction to the Course

August 23 Introductions and discussion; course organization and ground rules for discussion.

August 25 Discussion of bias and respect for individuals’ political views; political self-introductions

Week 2: Introduction to Citizenship

August 28 Discussion: What does “citizenship” mean? What do we think are the threats and opportunities to it?

Assignment: (Do before reading!) Write answers, based on your knowledge and opinions, to these three questions:

1. What does “democracy” mean?
2. What does it mean to be a “good citizen”?
3. How healthy is American democracy today?

August 30 Discussion; Reading: Federalist #10 [www](http://www.yale.edu/lawweb/avalon/federal/fed10.htm) (<http://www.yale.edu/lawweb/avalon/federal/fed10.htm>)

September 1 Discussion; Reading: The Port Huron Statement [www](http://lists.village.virginia.edu/sixties/HTML_docs/Resources/Primary/Manifestos/SDS_Port_Huron.html) (http://lists.village.virginia.edu/sixties/HTML_docs/Resources/Primary/Manifestos/SDS_Port_Huron.html)
Formation of presentation teams

Week 3: How should citizenship work?

Reading: Schudson

September 4: Labor day, no class

September 6: Chapters 2 & 3 (Discussion: Group 1)

September 8: Chapters 4 & 5 (Discussion: Group 2)

Week 4: Democracy since 9/11

September 11: Roderick P. Hart, Sharon E. Jarvis, and Elvin T. Lim, "The American People in Crisis: A Content Analysis." *Political Psychology* 23:3 (September, 2002): 417–438. (Discussion: Prof. Perrin)

September 13: Robert Putnam. "Bowling Together." *The American Prospect* February 11, 2002 <http://www.prospect.org/web/page.wv?section=root&name=ViewPrint&articleId=6114> (Discussion: Group 3)

September 15: Michael Novak. "Global Liberty: Toward a Foreign Policy for Democratic Nations." *National Review* January 20, 2005. <http://www.nationalreview.com/novak/novak200501200814.asp> (Discussion: Group 4)

Recommended: An interview with John Yoo author of *The Powers of War and Peace: The Constitution and Foreign Affairs after 9/11*. <http://www.press.uchicago.edu/Misc/Chicago/960315in.html>

Week 5: Citizenship Talk

Reading: Walsh

September 18: Chapters 1 & 3 (Discussion: Group 5)

September 20: Chapters 4 & 5 (Discussion: Group 6)

September 22: Chapter 6 (Discussion: Prof. Perrin)

Week 6: Race and Citizenship

Reading: Guinier; Manza and Uggen

September 25: Manza & Uggen, Chapters 2 & 3 (Discussion: Group 7)

September 27: Guinier, "The Tyranny of the Majority" and "Groups, Representation, and Race Conscious Districting," from *The Tyranny of the Majority* (Free Press, 1994) (Discussion: Prof. Perrin)

September 29: Manza & Uggen, Chapters 8 & 9 (Discussion: Group 1)

Week 7: Designing citizenship interviews

October 2: No class, Yom Kippur

October 4: Discussion: Whom are you interviewing?

October 6: Discussion: What to ask?

Week 8: The Vanishing Voter

Reading: Patterson

October 9: Chapter 1 (Discussion: Group 2)

October 11: Chapter 3 (Discussion: Group 3)

October 13: Chapter 5 (Discussion: Prof. Perrin)

Week 9: No class (teams carry out citizenship interviews)

October 16: Interviews

October 18: Interviews

October 20: No class, Fall Break

Week 10: Presentations on citizenship interviews

October 23: Video: CNN, the 2000 Election

October 25: Presentations

October 27: Presentations

Week 11: The Florida 2000 Election Crisis and the 2004 Echo

Reading: Toobin; Recommended: Perrin, Wagner-Pacifici, Hirschfeld, and Wilker, "Contest Time: Time, Territory, and Representation in the Postmodern Electoral Crisis." *Theory & Society* 2006.

October 30: Chapters 1 & 5 (Discussion: Group 4)

November 1: Chapters 6 & 12 (Discussion: Group 5)

November 3: Chapters 14, 15, 16 (Discussion: Prof. Perrin)

Week 12: Election week

November 6: Plans for election day observation

Reading: Schudson, Introduction

Tuesday, November 7: Election Day: all students must observe a polling station and interview one or more voters there

November 8: Excerpts from TV news coverage of the election

November 10: No class—relax and prepare presentations

Week 13: Election Week Wrap-up

November 13: Presentations

November 15: Presentations

November 17: Presentations

Week 14: Deliberation Day

Reading: Ackerman and Fishkin

November 20: Chapters 1–3 (Discussion: Group 6)

November 22: Chapters 7 & 8 (Discussion: Group 7)

November 24: No class, Thanksgiving Break

Week 15: Theorizing Talk and Citizenship

Reading: Perrin

November 27: Chapters 1 & 3 (Discussion: Prof. Perrin)

Assignment: Bring a one-page, *anonymous* discussion and/or critique of the chapters to class.

November 29: Chapters 4 & 5 (Discussion: TBA)

December 1: Chapters 6–8 (Discussion: TBA)

Week 16: Synthesis and Connection

December 4: Discussion: Synthesizing ideas on democracy

December 6: Course wrap-up and evaluation

December 11: Final Examination