

Brendan Flynn

For my courses and research

About

D/O/L: Hill Style & Home Style

By ADMIN | Published: FEBRUARY 3, 2010

Due Feb. 4

Does the existence of dual responsibilities (to lawmaking and constituency) improve our legislature's representativeness? (Consider who MCs—members of Congress— are, what types of policy voters care about, and what your ideal legislature might look like) The following questions from Chapter 5 might help you think about this question:

How does a MC's constituency influence their public service? What are relationships between MCs and their constituents based on? What role does a home style play in building that relationship? Once in Washington, D.C., how do MCs work to maintain ties to their constituents? Do other actors help MCs cater to their constituents?

Posted in [American Congress](#) | Tagged [Reaction Paper 2](#) | Comments closed

POSLC 110 Sec. 51 Reaction Paper 1

By ADMIN | Published: JANUARY 29, 2010

Due Feb. 5th.

These questions are just a guide. You don't have to address all (or any) of them. Remember to identify the chief claim(s) the author makes in their piece. You are to read all the documents, even the one(s) you were not assigned to write on.

For those of you reading Morone consider these questions:

- 1) Is the United States a Christian country?
- 2) Does the Social Gospel still exist today? What about Neo-Puritanism? How are they different?
- 3) What role should religion play in politics?
- 4) What does Morone think the role of religion is in American politics?

For those reading the Declaration of Independence and Seneca Falls Declaration of Sentiments and Resolutions:

1) Who are the founder writing to in the Declaration of Independence? What about Elizabeth Cady Stanton and signers of the Seneca Falls Resolutions?

2) What are the nature of the grievances in each document?

3) Why/how did the authors of the Seneca Falls Resolutions compare the oppression of women in the mid-nineteenth century to the oppression faced by American colonists? Why frame their claims in that language?

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4) Are these persuasive documents?

Posted in *POLSC 110 Sec 51* | Comments closed

POLSC 110 Sec 53: Reaction Paper 1

By ADMIN | Published: JANUARY 28, 2010

Assignment Due February 2nd.

These questions are just a guide. You don't have to address all (or any) of them. Remember to identify the chief claim(s) the author makes in their piece. You are to read all the documents, even the one(s) you were not assigned to write on.

For those of you reading Morone consider these questions:

- 1) Is the United States a Christian country?
- 2) Does the Social Gospel still exist today? What about Neo-Puritanism? How are they different?
- 3) What role should religion play in politics?
- 4) What does Morone think the role of religion is in American politics?

For those reading the Declaration of Independence and Seneca Falls Declaration of Sentiments and Resolutions:

- 1) Who are the founder writing to in the Declaration of Independence? What about Elizabeth Cady Stanton and signers of the Seneca Falls Resolutions?
- 2) What are the nature of the grievances in each document?
- 3) Why/how did the authors of the Seneca Falls Resolutions compare the oppression of women in the mid-nineteenth century to the oppression faced by American colonists? Why frame their claims in that language?
- 4) Are these persuasive documents?

Posted in *POLSC 110 Sec 53* | Comments closed

New Congress Links

By ADMIN | Published: JANUARY 28, 2010

Class,

The course website is a work in progress. I'll add new links and content as I see fit. American Politics, but more importantly Congress is really dynamic—so to paraphrase a wise soul, new stuff comes to light all the time.

You can [track the activity of Congress](#) (votes, hearings and debates) on this interactive feature from the NY Times Online.

Someone asked about the midterm elections after class. The New York Times had a feature on [primaries to watch](#). [Chris Cillizza](#), an election handicapper, provides weekly updates on competitive elections in his *Washington Post* blog. This horse-race aspect of politics might be scorned (often rightfully so) in some courses but in Congress elections matter for a variety of reasons.

Posted in *American Congress* | Comments closed

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POLSC 235: The Two Congresses and Evolution of the Modern Congress

By ADMIN | Published: JANUARY 28, 2010

For the response paper consider the following questions: (Remember to compose the paper as an essay)

What do the authors mean by the phrase two congresses? Are these dual roles complementary or in conflict? What challenges do they pose to representatives and the body itself? What is distinct about the modern congress? Has the body's evolution helped to reconcile these two roles or exacerbated the conflict?

Posted in *American Congress* | Comments closed

State of the Union

By ADMIN | Published: JANUARY 28, 2010

Last night the President delivered the State of the Union speech. You can view, read, and utilize other interactive features [here](#). While much of the punditry is concerned with how the speech was received, the speech is an attempt by President Obama used to set the political agenda for Congress. What specifically did he call on the legislators to do?

Posted in *American Congress, POLSC 110 Sec 51, POLSC 110 Sec 53* | Comments closed

Welcome Students For Spring 2010 Courses

By ADMIN | Published: JANUARY 25, 2010

Students,

I am teaching three courses this semester, American Congress & and two sections of American Government: A Historical Introduction. Assignments and announcements for all three courses will be posted on this website. The links on this site should also be helpful for you. Occasionally I'll post other content here containing links to articles or opinion pieces on contemporary news and political events.

I've created a category for each course. The easiest way to navigate this blog is to check the posts in the category for your course. For those in my American Government: A Historical Introduction course, you need to remember your section number. The courses have different schedules so they won't move at the same pace.

I'll see you all later this week.

Posted in *American Congress, POLSC 110 Sec 51, POLSC 110 Sec 53* | Comments closed

POLSC 215–Afghanistan

By ADMIN | Published: DECEMBER 4, 2009

On Thursday we'll discuss President Obama's plan to increase troop levels in Afghanistan. You may also write a reaction paper to submit on Thursday. For the paper, decide whether you support or oppose the President's plan and use the readings to defend your position and identify counter-arguments.

Watch or read the text of President Obama's speech where he outlines his surge plan [here](#). John Burns of *The New York Times* has engaged in a series of Q&A's that should shed light on the following key factors: the [details of the plan](#), the plan's [global impact](#), and issues of [corruption and incompetence](#) within the Afghan government. [J Alexander Thier](#) writes in support of continued US engagement while [Professor Andrew Bacivech](#) questions the logic of the plan in an interview with NPR (listen or read the text). President Obama has to convince an [increasingly isolationist American public](#) of his plan.

Posted in *Public Opinion & Political Participation* | Tagged *Extra Reaction Paper* | Comments closed

POLSC 215—Health Care Reform

By ADMIN | Published: DECEMBER 4, 2009

Class,

As I mentioned on Thursday I want to spend our last week discussing current events. We'll start with the health care reform battle in Congress. Read the stories linked below and browse the New York Times and Washington Post coverage (on the blog roll) before class on Tuesday.

This [basic comparison](#) of the House and Senate bills highlights the key provisions. One of the key concerns with the bill is its cost. [Time Magazine](#) describes how Congress undercut efforts to control costs while the [Congressional Budget Office reports](#) on the cost controls in both the House and Senate plans.

Another point of contention is the role that government should play in providing health care for its citizens. A [public option garners public support](#), but many don't understand what a [public option is](#). Analysts believe Democrats will have to compromise on the public option by adopting a trigger plan where the government would only negotiate plans if the market fails to insure more Americans. [Jonathan Cohn](#) suggests such an outcome may not be bad for progressives. In response to media coverage the Senate has also been forced to consider [access for women to mammograms](#) and whether government supported insurance could be used for [abortions](#).

Posted in *Public Opinion & Political Participation* | Comments closed

Is It Time for Third Parties?

By ADMIN | Published: NOVEMBER 2, 2009

[Ross Douthat](#) argues in yesterday's New York Times that now is the time for third party and independent candidates to seek office. Read it and think about if you think his approach would be more successful than the strategy used by the Christian Coalition in Robert Sullivan's, "An Army of the Faithful." I think Douthat is complete wrong for many of the following reasons we've discussed in class:

first past the post elections (even most states have this)

single member districts

the inherent organizational & campaign advantages state parties can offer candidates

the ability of parties, particularly on the state and local level to adapt blunting any impact independents might make

a complete misunderstanding/neglect of V.O. Key's Party-In-Government function.

Posted in *Cogitations* | *Leave a comment*

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