

DRAFT

SYLLABUS

“THE FUTURE OF AMERICAN DEMOCRACY”

(PSC 475M-575M)

FALL 2001

(Three Credit Hours)

“The Future of American Democracy” is a lecture/seminar course open to undergraduate students (Political Science 475M) and graduate students (Political Science 575M) for alphabetical credit.

(Alternatively, a variation of this course—“America’s National Experiment in Democratic Ideals”, PSC 476M and PSC 576M—may be taken for pass-fail credit. Students may enroll in either course, but not both. Consult with Admissions Office, Political Science Department, or Instructor for details and proper registration.)

Class will meet from 6:15-9:15 p.m. on Tuesdays at 216 Self Hall.

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This syllabus and additional information regarding "The Future of American Democracy" (including updates) are available on JSU's website at:
www.jsu.edu/depart/polsci/browder

The Course:

“The Future of American Democracy”—a special Jacksonville State University offering as part of its Eminent Scholars Program—is a provocative assessment of America’s national experiment in democratic ideals. Dr. Glen Browder, drawing largely upon his academic, political, and personal background, will challenge conventional thinking about America with critical but constructive analysis.

The course will combine three different educational elements: (1) Dr. Browder will share, in a series of ten public lectures, his analysis of the current state and future prospects of American democracy; (2) he and enrolled students will engage in seminars on American democracy; and (3) he will direct individualized student research projects on American democracy.

The general public is invited to attend the ten lectures, which will be presented during the first hour (6:15-7:15 p.m.) of designated class meetings and which will address the scheduled topic for that date. After a short break, Dr. Browder and enrolled students will reconvene for their seminar.

Enrolled students (in PSC 475M-575M and the alternative PSC 476M-576M) will be expected to bring to this course requisite background and commitment commensurate with their academic expectations—either alphabetical credit or pass-fail credit—with each student’s final grade based on enrollment status and participation as follows. For successful alphabetical credit ("A", "B", "C", or "D") in PSC 475M-575M, the student must attend three-fourths of the class meetings, read outside material, engage in the seminars, and complete an individualized research project (a 10-page paper). For “pass” credit in PSC 476M-576M, the student must attend three-fourths of the class meetings, read outside material, engage in the seminars, and contribute in some meaningful manner to the research projects. Of course, anyone in the JSU community is encouraged to audit the course or to attend selected lectures and class meetings in accord with university policy.

The class normally will meet from 6:15-9:15 p.m. on Tuesdays (see the following course outline schedule). Some scheduling adjustments may have to be made during the course of the semester.

Course Outline:

Tuesday, September 4, 2001

Introduction to course.

“Browder’s Thesis of American Democracy”

Discussion of individualized course projects.

Class assignments for next meeting.

Tuesday, September 11, 2001

Discussion of individualized course project.

Class assignments for next meeting.

Tuesday, September 18, 2001 – Public Lecture # 1

“The Future of American Democracy”

“Is America Dying?”

(An unconventional analysis of transforming American democracy.)

- A. The American national dream is turning into national democratic distemper.
- B. It is time for a Tocquevillian checkup of the “Great Experiment” of American democracy.
- C. The objective: “To learn what we have to fear or to hope from its progress.”

Tuesday, September 25, 2001 – Public Lecture # 2

“How Dare I Ask Such An Outrageous Question About America?”

(The discomfoting venture of a veteran politician, political scientist, and “American Dreamer”)

- A. A political-academic-personal introduction.
- B. The discomfoting nature of my rhetorical inquiry.
- C. A normative forewarning.

Tuesday, October 2, 2001 – Public Lecture # 3

“A Systems Theory of Transformational America.”

(What do I mean by “America”, “American Democracy”, and “Dying”?)

- A. “America”: A national experiment in democratic ideals.
- B. “American Democracy”: The magical mix of people, politics, and government through which we pursue democratic ideals.
- C. “Dying”: American democracy no longer works the way it used to, and we seem to be tiring of the Great Experiment itself.
- D. A systemic model of transformational America.

Tuesday, October 9, 2001 – Public Lecture # 4

“Propositional Observations of Transforming American Democracy.”
(Why and how—arguably—is America dying?)

Propositional Observation Number One:

“The favorable systemic environment of American democracy has disappeared.”

- 1. American democracy began and prospered in a propitious setting.
- 2. Our original, open, natural environment encouraged freedom, individualism, and independence—but that environment closed long ago.
- 3. The popular expansion of national public authority fostered equality, security and justice—but that expansion appears to have reached its limits.
- 4. America’s historic democratic boom may have busted.

Tuesday, October 16, 2001 – Public Lecture # 5

Propositional Observation Number Two:

“We have entrapped American democracy within a philosophical civil war.”

- 1. America is engaged in a philosophical struggle to redesign its Great Experiment.
- 2. We are conducting an intense national debate over America’s cultural values.
- 3. We are re-examining our traditional system of limited

representative governance.

4. This is a very different and ominous challenge to American democracy.

Tuesday, October 23, 2001 – Public Lecture # 6

Propositional Observation Number Three:

“American democracy no longer works the way it has in the past.”

1. The American people are losing their civic virtue.
2. The political machinery of American democracy is broken.
3. American government is functioning in unacceptable manner.
4. We are witnessing the revolutionary rise of “electronic democracy”.
5. Demographic and economic trends are exacerbating our political troubles.
6. Summary declension of American democracy.

Tuesday, October 30, 2001 – Public Lecture # 7

Propositional Observation Number Four:

“America seems to be tiring of its historic Great Experiment.”

1. Systemic, philosophical, and political dynamics constrain contemporary American democracy.
2. The American people now evidence mixed commitment to their national democratic endeavor.
3. The American polity increasingly inclines toward alternative ideas about governance.
4. America appears to be giving up on the Great Experiment.
5. American democracy is losing its magic, and America may be dying!

Tuesday, November 6, 2001 – Public Lecture # 8

“How Serious Is America’s Democratic Illness?”
(Systemic realities and alternative scenarios.)

- A. America apparently has reached a critical point of systemic destiny.
- B. Conventional assurances of American democracy’s enduring strength.
- C. Unconventional interpretations of democratic decline.
- D. Alternative scenarios for an uncertain future: Disintegration (“Death of America”), Deformation (“Amerika” / “USSA”), Transition (“The American Federation”), or Transformation (“New America”)?

Tuesday, November 13, 2001 – Public Lecture # 9

“What Might America Look Like—If We Continue Our Current Course—In 2050?”

(A speculative projection: “The American Federation”)

- A. American society is trending toward a “subcultural social order”.
- B. Political dynamics are pushing American democracy toward “American federal democracy”.
- C. America may become “The American Federation” by the middle of the Twenty-First Century.
- D. But is “The American Federation” the best that we can do?

Tuesday, November 20, 2001 – Public Lecture # 10

“The Future of American Democracy?”

(Transforming America into “New America”)

- A. A transformational juncture (Election 2000).
- B. A transformational challenge (“National Democratic Renaissance”).
- C. And some transformational predictions about the evolving direction of American democracy.
- D. The road to “New America”.

Additional Seminars and Research (class activity for enrolled students to be scheduled by Dr.Browder)

SELECTED READING MATERIAL.

(This list includes reading material which the instructor considers pertinent to the public lecture series and course. Students are not expected to read all of these materials. However, specific materials will be assigned to individual students for reports back to the class; and students may find this list useful in their individualized course projects.)

Adams, James Truslow. *The Epic of America* (1931). Little, Brown and Company.

Almond, Gabriel, and Sidney Verba. *Civic Culture: Political Attitudes and Democracy in Five Nations* (1963). Little, Brown and Company.

Almond, Gabriel A., Sidney Verba. *The Civic Culture Revisited* (1980). Sage Publications Inc.

Anderson, Caitlin E. "Harvard Goes to Washington? Not Anymore", (*Harvard Crimson*, June 8, 2000.)

Barber, Benjamin R. *A Passion for Democracy: American Essays* (2000). Princeton University Press.

Barlett, Donald L., and James B. Steele. *America: What Went Wrong* (1992). Andrews and McMeel.

Barlett, Donald L., and James B. Steele. *America: Who Stole the Dream?* (1996). Andrews and McMeel.

Barone, Michael. *The New Americans* (2001). Regnery Publishing.

Barzun, Jacques. *From Dawn to Decadence: 500 Years of Western Cultural Life, 1500 to Present* (2000). Harper Trade Publishers.

Beard, Charles Austin. *An Economic Interpretation of the Constitution of the United States* (1925). Transaction Publishers.

Beck, Paul Allen, and Marjorie Randon Hershey. *Party Politics in America* (Ninth edition, 2001). Longman.

Becker, Theodore Lewis, and Christa Daryl Slaton. *The Future of Teledemocracy: Visions and Theories—Action Experiments—Global Practices* (2000). Greenwood Publishing Inc.

Bell, Art. *Quickening: Today's Trends, Tomorrow's World* (1998). Paper Chase Press.

Benjamin, Caren. "Survey: Students Fail History Test" (Associated Press, June 27, 2000).

Bennett, Stephen Earl, and Linda L. M. Bennett. "What Political Scientists Should Know about

the Survey of First-Year Students in 2000”, in PS: Political Science and Politics (June, 2001).

Bennett, W. Lance. News - The Politics of Illusion (1996). Longman Publishing Group.

Blakey, Edward J. and Mary Gail Snyder. Fortress America: Gated Communities in the United States (1997). Brookings Institution Press.

Bloom, Allan. The Closing of the American Mind: How Higher Education Has Failed Democracy and Impoverished the Souls of Today’s Students (1988). Simon and Schuster Trade.

Bok, Derek. The Trouble With Government (2001). Harvard University Press.

Bok, Derek. The State of the Nation (1997). Harvard University Press.

Bovard, James. Freedom in Chains: The Rise of the State and the Demise of the Citizen (1999). St. Martin’s Press Inc.

Bovard, James. Lost Rights: The Destruction of American Liberty (1995). St. Martin’s Press Inc.

Box, Richard C. Citizen Governance: Leading American Communities into the 21st Century

(1998). Sage Publications.

Brecke, Ronald F. *A Republic, If You Can Keep It* (1999). Lexington.

Broder, David S. "A Cloud Over Thanksgiving", in *The Washington Post*, (November 21, 2000).

Broder, David S. *Democracy Derailed: Initiative Campaigns and the Power of Money* (2000).
Harcourt.

Broder, David. "Californocracy in Action", in *The Washington Post* (August 13, 1997).

Brookings Review. "The State of Governance in America 2000" (Winter, 2000).

Bryce, James. *The American Commonwealth* (1888). Liberty Fund.

Bush, George. "Inaugural Address" (January 20, 1989).

Bush, George W. "Inaugural Address" (January 20, 2001).

Carter, Stephen L. *Civility: Manners, Morals, and the Etiquette of Democracy* (1998).
HarperCollins Publishers.

Chancellor, John. *Peril and Promise: A Commentary on America*. (1990). Harper Trade Publishers.

Chittum, Thomas W. *Civil War II: The Coming Breakup of America* (1997). American Eagle Publications.

Clinton, William Jefferson. "State of the Union Message" (January 23, 1996).

Cohen, Richard E. "When There's Too Much Of A Good Thing", *National Journal* (June 18, 1994).

Crabtree, Susan. "CBC Lashes Out At Bush", in *Roll Call* (December 18, 2000).

Crevecoeur, Hector St. John de. *Letters from an American Farmer* (1912, 1997). Oxford University Press.

Crozier, Michel, Joji Watanuki, and Samuel P. Huntington. *The Crisis of Democracy Report on the Governability of Democracies to the Trilateral Commission* (1975). New York University Press.

Dahl, Robert. *A Preface to Democratic Theory* (1963, 1990). University of Chicago Press.

Dahl, Robert. *On Democracy* (1999). Yale University Press.

Dahl, Robert. *The New American Political (Dis)order* (1994). University of California Institute of Government Studies.

Davidson, James West, William E. Gienapp, Christine Leigh Heyrman, Mark H. Lytle, Michael A. Stoff. *Nation of Nations: A Narrative History of the American Republic* (1994). McGraw-Hill.

Dietze, Gottfried. *America's Political Dilemma* (1968). University Press of America.

Dionne, E.J., Jr. *Community Works: The Revival of Civil Society in America* (1998). Brookings Institute Press.

Dionne, E.J., Jr. *They Only Look Dead: Why Progressives Will Dominate the Next Political Era* (1996). Touchstone.

Dionne, E.J., Jr. *Why Americans Hate Politics* (1991). Simon and Shuster.

Dionne, E.J., Jr. "The Civics Deficit", in *The Washington Post* (November 30, 1999).

Donahue, John D. *Disunited States* (1997). Basic Books.

Drew, Elizabeth. *The Corruption of American Politics: What Went Wrong and Why* (1999).

Overlook Press.

Dye, Thomas R., and Harmon Ziegler. *The Irony of Democracy: An Uncommon Introduction to American Politics* (2000). Harcourt Brace College Publishers.

Dyer, Joel. *Harvest of Rage: Why Oklahoma City Is Only the Beginning* (1997). Westview Press.

Easton, David. *A Systems Analysis of Political Life* (1965). John Wiley and Sons.

Eberly, Don E. *America's Promise: Civil Society and the Renewal of American Culture* (1999). Rowman and Littlefield.

Eberly, Don. *The Essential Civil Society Reader* (2000). Rowman and Littlefield.

Edsall, Thomas Byrne, and Mary D. Edsall. *Chain Reaction: The Impact of Race, Rights, and Taxes on American Politics* (1991). Norton Publishers.

Edwards, Lee. *The Conservative Revolution* (1999). Simon and Schuster Trade.

Ehrenhalt, Alan. *Democracy in the Mirror: Politics, Reform, and Reality in Grassroots America* (1998). Congressional Quarterly.

Ehrenhalt, Alan. *The Lost City: The Forgotten Virtues of Community in America* (1996). Basic Books.

Ehrenhalt, Alan. *The United States of Ambition: Politicians, Power, and the Pursuit of Office* (1991). Times Books.

Eisenstadt, S.N. *Paradoxes of Democracy: Fragility, Continuity, and Change* (1999). Johns Hopkins University Press.

Elshtain, Jean Bethke. *Democracy on Trial* (1995). Basic Books.

Elshtain, Jean Bethke. "Democratic Authority at Century's End" (1998). *The Institute of United States Studies*.

Erikson, Robert S., and Kent L. Tedin. *American Public Opinion* (Fifth Edition, 1995). Allyn and Bacon.

Esman, Milton J. *Government Works: Why Americans Need the Feds* (2000). Cornell University Press.

Fallows, James. *Breaking the News: How the Media Undermine American Democracy* (1996). Random House Inc.

Foner, Eric. *The Story of American Freedom* (1999). Norton Publishers.

Frey, William H., and Ross C. DeVol. "America's Demography in the New Century" (2000).
Milken Institute.

Frey, William. "New Demographic Divide in the U.S.", *The Public Perspective* (1998).

Friel, Brian. *Why People Don't Trust Government* (1997). Harvard University Press.

Fukuyama, Francis. *The End of History and the Last Man* (1992). Free Press.

Fuller, Graham. *The Democracy Trap: Perils of the Post-Cold War World* (1991). Dutton/Plume
Publishers.

Fullinwider, Robert K. *Civil Society, Democracy, and Civic Renewal* (1999). Rowman and
Littlefield.

Galbraith, John Kenneth. *The Culture of Contentment*. (1992). Houghton Mifflin Co.

Gans, Curtis. "Primary Turnout Falls to Record Lows", *Electronic Policy Network* (November
3, 1998).

Gardner, James. *The Age of Extremism: The Enemies of Compromise in American Politics*,

Culture, and Race Relations (1997). Carol Publishing Group.

Gergen, David. "Legitimizing Victory", in U.S. News & World Report (November 27, 2000).

Geyer, Georgia Anne. Americans No More: The Death of Citizenship (1996). Grove/Atlantic Inc.

Gitlin, Todd. The Twilight of Common Dreams (1995). Henry Holt and Company.

Gore, Al. The Gore Report On Reinventing Government (1993). Times Books.

Gottschalk, Peter (Contributor), Sheldon H. Danziger. America Unequal (1997). Harvard University Press.

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Guehenno, Jean-Marie, and Victoria Pesce Elliott. The End of the Nation-State (1995). University of Minnesota Press.

Hague, Barry N. and Brian D. Loader. Digital Democracy: Discourse and Decision Making in the Information Age (1999). Routledge.

Harrison, Lawrence E., and Samuel P. Huntington. *Culture Matters: How Values Shape Human Progress* (2000). Basic Books.

Hall, John A., and Charles Lindholm. *Is America Breaking Apart?* (1999). Princeton University Press.

Hargrove, Thomas and Guido H. Stempel III. "Poll Shows Most Believe in Government Conspiracies", *Scripps Howard News Service* (July 4, 1997).

Harris, John. "Roadblocks Ahead For Governing", in *The Washington Post* (November 9, 2000).

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Hodge, Carl Cavanagh. *All of the People, All of the Time: American Government at the End of the Century* (1998). Peter Lang Publishers.

Hollinger, David A. *Postethnic America: Beyond Multiculturalism* (1995). Basic Books.

Howard, Philip K. *The Death of Common Sense: How Law Is Suffocating America* (1996). Warner Books Inc.

Hudson, William E. *American Democracy in Peril: Seven Challenges to America's Future* (1997). Seven Bridges Press Inc.

Hughes, Robert. *Culture of Complaint: The Fraying of America* (1993). Oxford University Press.

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Jacoby, Russell. *The End of Utopia: Politics and Culture in an Age of Apathy* (2000). Basic.

Jamieson, Kathleen Hall. *Dirty Politics: Deception, Distraction, and Democracy* (1992). Oxford University Press.

Jefferson, Thomas, Adrienne Koch (ed.), and William Peden (ed.). *The Life and Selected Writings of Thomas Jefferson* (1998). Random House.

Johnson, Haynes, and David S. Broder. *The System: The American Way of Politics at the Breaking Point* (1996). Little, Brown, and Company.

Johnson, Paul. *A History of the American People* (1998). HarperCollins.

Journal of Democracy. "Democracy in the World: Tocqueville Reconsidered" (January, 2000).

Judis, John B. *The Paradox of American Democracy: Elites, Special Interests, and the Betrayal of Public Trust* (2000). Pantheon Books.

Kamber, Victor. *Poison Politics: Are Negative Campaigns Destroying Democracy?* (1997). Perseus Books.

Kaplan, Robert. *An Empire Wilderness: Travels into America's Future* (1998). Random House.

Kaplan, Robert. *The Coming Anarchy: Shattering the Dreams of the Post Cold War* (2000). Random House Value Publishing.

Kaplan, Robert. "Was Democracy Just a Moment?", in *Atlantic Monthly* (December 1997).

Kaplan, Robert. "The Return of Ancient Times", in *Atlantic Monthly* (June 2000).

Karatnycky, Adrian. "The 2000-2001 Freedom House Survey of Freedom", Freedom House

(July 25, 2001).

Katz, Jon. "Birth of a Digital Nation", in *Wired Magazine* (April, 1997).

Kennan, George F. *At a Century's Ending: Reflections, 1982-1995* (1996). Norton Books.

Kennan, George F. *Around the Cragged Hill: A Personal and Political Philosophy* (1993).
Norton Books.

Kennon, Patrick. *The Twilight of Democracy* (1995). Doubleday and Company.

Kettl, Donald F. "Is the Past Prologue?" in *Governing* (December, 2000).

Key, V.O., Jr. *Southern Politics in State and Nation* (1949). University of Tennessee
Press.

Key, V.O., Jr. "Public Opinion and the Decay of Democracy," *Virginia Quarterly Review*
(1959).

King, Martin Luther, Jr. "I Have A Dream", speech delivered in Washington, DC. (August 28,
1993).

Kingdon, John W. *America the Unusual* (1999). Bedford.

Kosterlitz, Julie. "Sovereignty's Struggle", in *National Journal* (November 20, 1999).

Kramer, Hilton, and Roger Kimball. *Against the Grain: The New Criterion on Art and Intellect at the End of the Twentieth Century* (1995). Ivan R. Dee Publishers.

Kressley, Konrad M. "Living in the Third Millennium: Introducing Future Studies in the Life Course Curriculum", American Higher Education Alliance ("www.ahea.org", 1998).

Ladd, Everett Carll. *The Ladd Report* (1999). Simon and Schuster Press.

Lasch, Christopher. *Revolt of the Elites: And the Betrayal of Democracy* (1995). Norton Books.

Lawrence, Jill. "Country vs. City, Spelled in Red, Blue", in *USA Today* (November 9, 2000).

Lazare, Daniel. *The Frozen Republic: How the Constitution Is Paralyzing Democracy* (1996).
Harcourt Brace and Company.

Lester, Will. "Survey: Young Voters Uninterested" (Associated Press, February 10, 1999).

Levine, Peter. *The New Progressive Era: Toward a Fair and Deliberative Democracy* (2000).
Rowman and Littlefield.

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Lukacs, John. *Outgrowing Democracy: A History of the United States in the Twentieth Century* (1984). Doubleday.

MacDonald, Andrew. *The Turner Diaries* (1978). Barricade Books Inc.

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Matthews, Chris. "U.S. Political Geography: One Nation, Divisible", in *The San Francisco Examiner* (November 11, 2000).

McElroy, John Harmon. *American Beliefs: What Keeps a Big Country and a Diverse People United* (1999). Ivan R. Dee Publishers.

Mills, Nicholas. *The Triumph of Meanness: America's War Against Its Better Self* (1997). Houghton Mifflin.

Morris, Dick. "Florida: The More W See, The Sicker We Get", www.vote.com (November 22, 2000)

Morris, Dick. "Textbook Triangulation", in *New York Post* (March 1, 2001).

Morrow, William Lockhart. *A Republic, If You Can Keep It* (1999). Prentice Hall.

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Naisbitt, John. *Megatrends: Ten Directions Transforming Our Lives* (1982). Mass Market Paperback.

Naisbitt, John, and Patricia Aburdene. *Megatrends 2000: Ten New Directions for the 1990s* (1990). Mass Market Paperback.

National Academy of Public Administration. *A Government to Trust and Respect: Rebuilding Citizen-Government Relations for the 21st Century*" (June, 1999).

National Commission on Civic Renewal. "A Nation of Spectators" (June, 1998).

Neuhaus, Richard John. *America Against Itself: Moral Vision and the Public Order* (1992).
South Bend: University of Notre Dame Press.

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Ohmae, Kenichi. *The End of the Nation State: The Rise of Regional Economies* (1996). Simon and Schuster Trade.

Olson, Mancur. *The Rise and Decline of Nations* (1982). Yale University Press.

O'Neill, Michael J. *The Roar of the Crowd: How Television and People Power Are Challenging the World* (1993).

Osborne, David. "A New Federal Compact: Sorting Out Washington's Proper Role", pp. 237-262 in Will Marshall and Martin Schram (editors) *Mandate For Change* (1993), Progressive Policy Institute.

Osborne, David, and Gaebler Ted. *Reinventing Government: How the Entrepreneurial Spirit Is Transforming the Public Sector* (1992). Dutton/Plume Publishers.

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for Reinventing Government (1997). Penguin Putnam Inc.

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Putnam, Robert D. Bowling Alone: The Collapse and Revival of American Community (2000). Simon and Schuster Trade.

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Company.

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(1991). Free Press.

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Entitlement 1945-1965* (1997). Vintage Books.

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