

SYLLABUS

“THE FUTURE OF AMERICAN DEMOCRACY”

FALL 2000

(Three Credit Hours)

Political Science 475m (undergraduate) and Political Science 575m (graduate)
for alphabetical credit.

Political Science 476m (undergraduate) and Political Science 576m (graduate)
for pass-fail credit.

Consult with Admissions Office, Political Science Department, or Instructor
for proper registration.

Class will meet at Self Hall according to the times listed in this syllabus.

Dr. Glen Browder
Eminent Scholar in American Democracy
Political Science Department
Jacksonville State University
Jacksonville, AL 36265
256/782-5650

Member, United States Congress, 1989-1996.

Alabama Secretary of State, 1987-89.

Member, Alabama State Legislature, 1982-1986.

website

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 eight 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 eight 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 will be expected to bring to this course requisite background and commitment commensurate with their academic expectations—either alphabetical or pass-fail credit—with each student’s final grade based on participation and enrollment status as follows. For successful alphabetical credit ("A", "B", "C", or "D", the student must attend three-fourths of the class meetings, read outside material, engage in the seminars, and complete an individualized research project. For pass credit, 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 5, 2000

Introduction to Course.
“What is America?”
Discussion of individualized course projects.
Class assignments for next meeting.

Tuesday, September 12, 2000

“Browder’s Thesis of American Democracy”
“The Passionate Perspective of a Veteran Politician, Political Scientist, and
‘American Dreamer’ (How dare I ask such an outrageous question about
America?)”
Discussion of individualized course projects.
Class assignments for next meeting.

Tuesday, September 19, 2000 – Public Lecture # 1

“Is America Dying?”
(A rhetorical proposition.)

- A. America is developing a fundamental civic illness.
- B. It is time for a Tocquevillian checkup of American democracy.

Tuesday, September 26, 2000 – Public Lecture #2

A Systems Theory of Dysfunctional 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 dying America.

Tuesday, October 3, 2000 – No Public Lecture or Class

Tuesday, October 10, 2000 – Public Lecture # 3

Political Observations of Dysfunctioning America.
(Why and how is American democracy dying?)

A. Political 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 17, 2000 – Public Lecture # 4

Political 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 experiencing an intense national debate over America’s cultural values.
3. Ultimate democratization is threatening our traditional system of limited representative governance.
4. This is a very different and ominous challenge to American democracy.

Tuesday, October 24, 2000 – Public Lecture # 5

Political Observation Number Three:

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

1. The American people are losing their civic spirit.

2. The political machinery of American democracy is broken.
3. American government is functioning—or malfunctioning—in unacceptable manner.
4. Demographic, economic, and technological trends are exacerbating the problems of American democracy.
5. We are witnessing the revolutionary rise of “electronic democracy”.

Tuesday, October 31, 2000 – Public Lecture # 6

Political Observation Number Four:

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

1. Increasingly and incrementally, America is retreating from its national experiment in democratic ideals.
2. We evidence troubling disarray in political commitment to our national democratic endeavor.
3. There is increasing public disengagement from the Great Experiment.
4. The contemporary realities are suspect consensus and dangerous tendencies.
5. The magical mix is losing its magic, and America may be dying!

Tuesday, November 7, 2000 – No Public Lecture or Class

Tuesday, November 14, 2000 – Public Lecture # 7

“Is America really going to die?”

(And some alternative scenarios for our uncertain future.)

- A. America’s Great Experiment may simply have run its course.
- B. Alternative Scenario No. 1: Dissolution (“Death of America”).
- C. Alternative Scenario No. 2: Transformation (“Amerika” or “USSA”).

Alternative Scenario No. 3: Restoration (“New America”).

Tuesday, November 21, 2000 – Public Lecture # 8

“How can we restore America?”
 (“New America” in the New Millennium)

- A. A speculative Projection: “The American Federation”.
- B. An Alternative Challenge: “American Democratic Renaissance”.
- C. The Future of American Democracy?

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 I 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.
- 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.
- 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, 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.
- 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.
- Broder, David S. *Democracy Derailed: Initiative Campaigns and the Power of Money* (2000). Harcourt.
- Broder, David. "Californocracy in Action", in *The Washington Post* (August 23, 1997).
- Broder, David. "Challenge From the Young", in *The Washington Post* (February 17, 1999).

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

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

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.

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

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.

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. "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.
- 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.
- Eisenstadt, S.N. *Paradoxes of Democracy: Fragility, Continuity, and Change* (1999). Johns Hopkins University Press.
- Elshtain, Jean Bethke. *Democracy on Trial* (1995). Basic Books.
- 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.
- 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.
- 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.

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

Gray, John. "Does Democracy Have a Future?", in *The New York Times Book Review*
(January 22, 1995).

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

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).

Heclo, Hugh. "Hyperdemocracy", in *The Wilson Quarterly* (Winter 1999).

Himmelfarb, Gertrude. *One Nation, Two Cultures* (1999). Knopf Alfred Publishers.

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

Hunter, James Davison. *Before the Shooting Begins: Searching for Democracy in
America's Culture War* (1994). The Free Press.

Hunter, James Davison. *Culture Wars: The Struggle To Define America* (1991). Basic
Books.

- Huntington, Samuel. *American Politics* (1981). Belknap 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). Knopf Alfred Publishers.
- 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).
- Katz, Jon. "Birth of a Digital Nation", in *Wired Magazine* (April, 1997).
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- Key, V.O., Jr. "Public Opinion and the Decay of Democracy," *Virginia Quarterly*

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- Kosterlitz, Julie. "Sovereignty's Struggle", in *National Journal* (November 20, 1999).
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- Ladd, Everett Carl. *The Ladd Report* (1999). Simon and Schuster Press.
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- Lester, Will. "Survey: Young Voters Uninterested" (Associated Press, February 10, 1999).
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- MacDonald, Andrew. *The Turner Diaries* (1978). Barricade Books Inc.
- 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.
- Muncy, Mitchell. *The End of Democracy ? II: A Crisis of Legitimacy* (1999). Spence Publishing Company.
- 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.
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- Neuhaus, Richard John. *America Against Itself: Moral Vision and the Public Order* (1992). South Bend: University of Notre Dame Press.

- Neuhau, Richard John. *The End of Democracy? The Celebrated First Things Debate With Arguments Pro and Con on 'the Anatomy of a Controversy'* (1997). Spence Publishing Company.
- 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, and Gaebler Ted. *Reinventing Government: How the Entrepreneurial Spirit Is Transforming the Public Sector* (1992). Dutton/Plume Publishers.
- Osborne, David, and Peter Plastrik (Contributor). *Banishing Bureaucracy: The Five Strategies for Reinventing Government* (1997). Penguin Putnam Inc.
- Panetta Institute. "“Though Few Students Vote, Poll Shows Them Still Interested in Issues and Upbeat About the Country” (April 25, 2000).
- Peters, B. Guy. *The Future of Governing* (1996). University Press of Kansas.
- Pharr, Susan J., and Robert D. Putnam. *Disaffected Democracies: What's Troubling the Trilateral Countries?* (2000). Princeton: Princeton University Press.
- Pierson, George Wilson. *Tocqueville in America* (1938). Baltimore: Johns Hopkins University Press.
- Pink, Daniel H. "Free Agent Nation", in *Fast Company* (December-January 1998).
- Putnam, Robert D. *Bowling Alone: The Collapse and Revival of American Community* (2000). Simon and Schuster Trade.
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- Rauch, Jonathan. *Demosclerosis: The Silent Killer of American Government* (1994). Random House Inc.
- Rauch, Jonathan. *Government's End: Why Washington Stopped Working* (1999). Public Affairs, LLC.
- Reich, Robert. "The Era of Great Social Rest", in *The American Prospect Online* (July 17, 2000).

- Reed, Ishmael. *Multi-America: Essays on Cultural Wars and Cultural Peace* (1996). Viking Penguin.
- Robertson, Wilmot. *The Ethnostate* (1993). Howard Allen Enterprises.
- Robinson, Randall. *The Debt: What America Owes To Blacks* (2000). Dutton/Plume Publishers.
- Rosenthal, Alan. *The Decline of Representative Democracy* (1997). Congressional Quarterly Inc.
- Rosenthal, Alan. "Too Much Democracy", in *State Legislatures* (December 1997).
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- Rowan, Carl T. *The Coming Race War in America: A Wakeup Call* (1996). Little, Brown, and Company.
- Samuelson, Robert. *The Good Life and Its Discontents: The American Dream in the Age of Entitlement 1945-1965* (1997). Vintage Books.
- Sandel, Michael J. *Democracy's Discontent: America in Search of a Public Philosophy* (1996). Cambridge: Harvard University Press.
- Sanchez, Rene. "College Freshmen Have the Blahs, Survey Indicates", in *The Washington Post* (January 12, 1998).
- Sassen, Saskia. *Losing Control?: Sovereignty in an Age of Globalization* (1996). New York: Columbia University Press.
- Schlesinger, Arthur M. *The Disuniting of America: Reflections on Multicultural Society*. (1992 and 1998). Norton Books.
- Schmelser, Neil J., and Jeffrey C. Alexander (Editors). *Diversity and Its Discontents: Cultural Conflict and Common Ground in Contemporary American Society* (1999). Princeton: Princeton University Press.
- Schrag, Peter. *Paradise Lost: California's Experience, America's Future* (1998). New Press.
- Skocpol, Theda, and Morris P. Fiorina (Editors). *Civic Engagement in American Democracy* (1999). Brookings Institute Press.
- Staeheli, Lynn A., Janet E. Kodras, and Colin Flint. *State Devolution in America:*

- Implications for a Diverse Society (1997). Sage Publications Inc.
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- Steuerle, C. Eugene, Edward M. Gramlich, Hugh Heclo, Demetra Smith Nightingale. The Bills for Rights: How Can the U. S. Political System Keep the Promises Americans Have Made to Themselves (1998). Urban Institute.
- Strauss, William, and Neil Howe. The Fourth Turning: An American Prophecy (1998). Broadway Books.
- Talbott, Strobe. "The Birth of the Global Nation", in Time Magazine (July 20, 1992).
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- Tocqueville, Alexis de. Democracy in America (1835, 1988). Harper Trade.
- Toffler, Alvin, and Heidi Toffler. Creating A New Civilization: The Politics of the Third Wave (1995). Turner Publishing Company.
- Tolchin, Susan. The Angry American: How Voter Rage Is Changing the Nation (1996). Westview Press.
- Turner, Frederick J. The Significance of the Frontier in American History (1893, 1990). Frederick Unger A Book.
- Turner, Frederick, J., and John MacK Faragher. Re-reading Frederick Jackson Turner: The Significance of the Frontier in American History and Other Essays (1999). New Haven: Yale University Press.
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Wilson, James Q. "The History and Future of Democracy" (1999).

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Wolfe, Alan. *One Nation, After All* (1998). Penguin USA.

Wuthnow, Robert. *Loose Connections: Joining Together in America's Fragmented Communities* (1998). Cambridge: Harvard University Press.

Wuthnow, Robert. "The Culture of Discontent", in Smelser and Alexander, *Diversity and its Discontents* (1999).

