Observers and political activists have long fought over how to best reconcile the existence of capitalism, with its necessary inequalities, and the principles of a democratic republic, which postulates equality with respect to rights. In this course, we consider what political science can teach us about the relationship between money and politics, and how best to assess the normative consequences of this interaction.

This is a seminar course, which places more responsibility than most courses on the preparation and participation of students. Participation in class will count for 30% of the final grade. As part of the participation grade, students must submit to me, via email prior to class, two specific questions about the readings that may serve as the basis for our discussions that day. These questions can be of a substantive or critical nature. Out of the 22 class sessions during which we will discuss readings, each student must submit question sheets for 17 to receive full credit.

Half of the grade for this course will be based on a substantial research paper of approximately 25 pages in length. If you wish, you may work in teams of up to three on this paper. A research proposal, due May 3, will be worth 10% of the final grade, while the final paper will be worth 40%. I will talk in detail about my expectations for this paper in a later class period.

Finally, Twenty-five percent of the grade will be based on a presentation to the rest of the class based on the topic of your paper. You will be expected to summarize your research question, illustrate why it is important in the context of existing research on money in politics, and discuss the evidence you are gathering to answer your question.

The following books are available for purchase at the bookstore. Other readings (Marked RR on syllabus) are available on reserve at Gould Library:


### I 🔄 Introduction

April 1

### II 🔄 Business, Labor, and American Political Development

April 3

**April 5**

- Ferguson, pp. 50-86.

**April 8**

- Ferguson, pp. 347-357.

**April 10**


### III The Current System: What is it and How Does it Work?

**Overview**

**April 12**

- Summary and analysis of Shays-Meehan-McCain-Feingold as enacted. (Handout)

**Presidential System**

**April 15**


**Soft Money**

**April 17**

- *Sourcebook*, pp. 167-177.

**April 19**

https://acad.carleton.edu/curricular/POSC/classes/Posc314/S02/index.html
- Brennan Center for Justice, New York University School of Law. "The Purposes and Beneficiaries of Soft Money." (Handout)

*Issue Advocacy*

**April 22**


*PACs and Lobbying*

**April 24**

- *Sourcebook*, pp. 123-129; 143-149.

**April 26**

NO CLASS

**IV. Effects of Money on Politics?**

**April 29**


**May 1**


**May 3**

- RESEARCH PROPOSAL DUE
May 6

MIDTERM BREAK

May 8


May 10


May 13


May 15


V. Reform Proposals and Controversies

May 17


May 20


May 22

- Smith, pp. 65-105.

May 24

- Smith, pp. 109-166.
- Donnelly et al. pp. 60-64.

May 27
- Smith, pp. 170-227.
- Donnelly et al. pp. 74-77.

**May 29**

Student Presentations

**May 31**

Student Presentations

**June 3**

Student Presentations

**June 5**

Conclusion