

DEPARTMENT OF POLITICAL SCIENCE  
AND  
INTERNATIONAL RELATIONS

**Posc 105**

**INTRODUCTION**

I. THIS MORNING:

- A. Impeachment and the study of politics
  - 1. An introduction to the course style and content.
- B. Class organization and requirements

II. THE IMPEACHMENT AND TRIAL OF WILLIAM JEFFERSON CLINTON:

- A. A case study in political analysis and interpretation
- B. Impeachment
  - 1. Process and constitutional context
    - a. Checks and balances and “high crimes and misdemeanors.”
    - b. House impeaches, Senate tries
    - c. Two thirds vote for removal
    - d. Chief Justice presides
    - e. House leaders manage (“prosecute”)
    - f. Questions via Chief Justice; comments private; vote ultimately public.
  - 2. Allegations.
    - a. Perjury before grand jury convened by Office of Independent Prosecutor (Kenneth Starr).
    - b. Obstruction of justice
  - 3. For more information on the impeachment “crisis” go to:

**[www.intellectualcapital.com/issues/98/0910/icopinions5.asp](http://www.intellectualcapital.com/issues/98/0910/icopinions5.asp)**

C. Interpretations:

- 1. One view: perjury constitutes grounds for removal.
- 2. Reynolds: “Impeachment: Politics By Other Means”
  - a. A brief history lesson:
    - (1) 1980 and “Reagan revolution”
    - (2) House Republicans in the wilderness 1954 to 1994.
    - (3) Clinton wins first term, 1992.
    - (4) Special prosecutor appointed by Janet Reno to investigate “Whitewater,” White House travel office, and other matters.
    - (5) “The Contract With America” 1994
      - (i.) Newt Gingrich and the Republican “revolution”
      - (ii.) See the class web site for a copy of the “Contract”.

- (6) 1995 Clinton on the ropes
- (7) Government closes December 1995
- (8) January to April Clinton rebounds
  - (i.) Economic expansion
  - (ii.) Dick Morris, soft money, television ads regarding social security and medicare.
- (9) 1996 Clinton wins reelection.
  - (i.) Republican “revolution” stalls
- (10) House Republicans see an opening.
- b. Evidence:
  - (1) What has and has not been acceptable conduct in the past
    - (i.) Presidential lies and misbehavior

### III. THE CLASS - HIGHLIGHTS FROM THE SYLLABUS:

- A. \*Attendance
- B. Notes
- C. E-mail and internet
- D. Reading
- E. Clipping file
- F. Assignments and tests

### IV. NEXT TIME:

- A. A political system.
- B. Institutions, structures, historical actors: the “agency” problem.
- C. A “case” for government: why individual rational behavior leads to collective harm.
- D. Reading for next time:
  - 1. Start ***There Are No Children Here***
  - 2. Patterson, ***We The People***, Chapter 1.
- E. Buy an insurance policy: get ***May God Have Mercy***.

Go to Notes page

Go to American Political System page

Go to H. T. Reynolds page