


Fall 2008

# Constitutional Government and Free Enterprise

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**Syllabus for  
CONSTITUTIONAL GOVERNMENT  
AND FREE ENTERPRISE  
GOVT 200 – Autumn 2008  
Dr. Steven Alan Samson  
Liberty University  
Helms School of Government**

**I. Course Description** Diverse introduction to political and economic ideas, government institutions, free market processes, public issues, economic policy, and political and economic activity, emphasizing the close relationship between a system of limited constitutional government and the free enterprise economy and providing an overview of the Christian world view with regard to government and economics.  
3 credit hours

**II. Rationale** This course directly supports Aims 1, 2, 3, 4, 5, 6, 7, 8, 9, 10, and 11 of the Liberty University Statement of Purpose.

**III. Prerequisite** None

**IV. Materials List**

Required:

Blackboard Readings [Blackboard]

Eidsmoe, John. God and Caesar [E. 1-20]

Gwartney, James, Richard L. Stroup, and Dwight R. Lee. Common Sense Economics [C. 1-4]

Hazlitt, Henry. Economics in One Lesson [H. I-XXVI] (also available on-line for free)

Martin, Glenn R. Prevailing Worldviews [M. 1-13]

McClellan, James. Liberty, Order, and Justice [L. 1-7]

**V. Course Objectives**

Students should be able to:

1. Identify, describe, and apply the principles of limited government.
2. Identify and analyze specific provisions of the American Constitution in its context as a limiting device.
3. Describe and defend the ethics and workings of free market processes.
4. Evaluate the moral arguments against “capitalism” and refute them.
5. Demonstrate an ability to apply the historic Biblical Christian Worldview to issues of contemporary significance.

**VI. Graded Requirements**

**Read carefully!**

1. **Reading:** a) Each student is responsible for completing reading assignments **prior** to class. b) Keeping a loose leaf notebook of class materials is highly recommended. c) The schedule may change from time to time requiring adjustment of the schedule along the way. Changes to the schedule on the syllabus will be posted on Blackboard with the date of the change. Review items are related to specific test questions. Study questions are designed to help stimulate analysis.
2. **Participation** is an essential part of class. a) Textbook chapters, readings posted on Blackboard, and current events will be the subject of class commentary and occasional discussions. b) Students should be prepared to discuss readings and current events. c) Please focus your attention on the lectures and discussions in class rather than extensive note-taking.

3. **Tests:** a) Students will be tested on the lecture and reading material through a series of four tests. b) Each item in the **Review section** of each chapter and each reading posted on Blackboard represents a specific question that may be on the test. c) Raw scores will be recorded on the Gradebook feature on Blackboard. d) Tests **must** be taken at the scheduled date and time in the scheduled classroom. e) Check for possible schedule changes on Blackboard.
4. **Grades:** The grading scale is 100-90=A, 89.980=B, 79.9-70=C, 69.9-60=D, 59.9 and below=F.

**VII. Attendance** a) Regular and punctual attendance is required and expected. Three (3) unexcused absences will result in the student's grade being lowered. E-mail the professor if you must be absent and please explain why. b) Valid excuses include documented medical emergencies and participation in University approved curricular and extracurricular activities. c) Students are responsible for all the material covered in all scheduled class meetings .d) Six Intermittent absences or a prolonged absence without notice may result in an FN without notice.

**VIII. Dress Code** Observe the Liberty Way. Food is not permitted. Students who are not in appropriate campus attire will **not** be admitted to class. Caps may not be worn in class.

#### **IX. School Policies**

##### Electronic Devices

The use of laptops in the classroom is a privilege and not a necessity. If you choose to bring a laptop to class on a regular basis, you are only allowed to use it for word processing, and not for checking e-mails or surfing the internet. If this privilege is abused, you will no longer be allowed to use your laptop in class.

You are not allowed to bring portable digital cameras to class, or any other type of photographing device. You are also not allowed to use MP3 players to record lectures, or any other type of recording device, either a peripheral or laptop microphone.

All cell phones must be turned off – there are no exceptions. You are not allowed to leave the class to answer a message or make a call.

##### Plagiarism and Multiple Submissions of Papers:

Plagiarism is a serious offense and utilizing the work of others without proper citation is a clear violation of University policy. However, no clear directive has been established within the Helms School of Government as to the permissibility of a student submitting substantially the same paper to satisfy writing requirements in different courses.

Effective spring 2007, any writing assignment required for a Helms School of Government course must be an original composition drafted specifically for the individual course. When a course requirement in an upper division course builds upon a previously researched topic, and the student desires to utilize his/her prior submission as a foundational document for the new course assignment, he/she may bring a copy of the previous paper to the current professor. The professor will review with the student the additional research and writing elements needed to complete the current assignment without violating this policy.

##### Christian Service:

For those students not already involved in Christian Service, see the professor for details and other information if interested.

##### Disabilities:

Students with a documented disability may contact the Office of Disability Academic Support (ODAS) in TE 127 for arrangements for academic accommodations.

## X. Office Location, Phone, E-Mail, Hours

Helms School of Government, SLAB 133

Phone: 434-592-3689

E-Mail: [ssamson@liberty.edu](mailto:ssamson@liberty.edu)

Hours: MWF 13:45-15:45, R 3-5; and by appointment

### TENTATIVE CLASS SCHEDULE

(Subject to Update and Revision)

#### August

- Mon. 18 Read Syllabus; Preface to American Politics  
Wed. 20 M. Introduction, 1  
Fri. 22 E. 1-2  
Mon. 25 Birth of Freedom: M. 2-3; Rom. 13: 1-10; Charles Colson  
Wed. 27 Birth of Freedom; M. 3-4; Magna Charta and Mayflower Compact; **Collateral:** Glossary  
[http://www.magnacartaplus.org/magnacarta/definitions.htm#magna\\_carta](http://www.magnacartaplus.org/magnacarta/definitions.htm#magna_carta)  
Fri. 29 E. 3-4

#### September

- Mon. 1 E. 5-6; I Tim. 2:1-2; Edmund Burke and Fairfax County Resolves  
Wed. 3 M. 5-6; Paul Belien (link below), Act of Abjuration [on Blackboard with Bélien Review]  
<http://www.brusselsjournal.com/node/58/print>  
Fri. 5 M. 6-7; handouts on The Federal System, Checks and Balances  
Mon. 8 M. 7; Herbert W. Titus (handout); Transcendentalism (Blackboard)  
Wed. 10 E. 7-9; I Pet. 2:13-17; Fabianism  
Fri. 12 **FIRST EXAM:** M. 1-6; E. 1-6; Preface, Colson, Bélien; Magna Charta, Mayflower Compact, March of Freedom, Edmund Burke, Fairfax County Resolves; Herbert W. Titus  
Mon. 15 E. 9-10; Rod Dreher  
[http://www.dallasnews.com/sharedcontent/dws/dn/opinion/columnists/rdreher/stories/DN-dreher\\_31edi.ART.State.Edition1.4d7bd71.html](http://www.dallasnews.com/sharedcontent/dws/dn/opinion/columnists/rdreher/stories/DN-dreher_31edi.ART.State.Edition1.4d7bd71.html)  
Wed. 17 Constitution Day; M. 8, 9, 11; Andrew Klavan:  
[http://online.wsj.com/public/article\\_print/SB121694247343482821.html](http://online.wsj.com/public/article_print/SB121694247343482821.html)  
**Collateral:** Klavan Interview <http://tv.nationalreview.com/uncommonknowledge/>  
Fri. 19 J. Budziszewski: <http://www.leaderu.com/real/ri9801/budziszewski.html>  
Larry Woiwode: <http://www.und.edu/dept/our/dimensions/march2005/1.html>  
Spengler, "Lehman and the End of the Era of Leverage"  
[http://www.atimes.com/atimes/Global\\_Economy/JI16Dj08.html](http://www.atimes.com/atimes/Global_Economy/JI16Dj08.html)  
Mon. 22 L. 1 (pp. 1-22); Brian Godawa review: <http://www.facingthechallenge.org/godawa.php>  
Wed. 24 L. 1 (pp. 22-47); Steven Alan Samson, "The Covenant Origins of the American Polity"  
[http://www.contra-mundum.org/cm/features/10\\_Samson.pdf](http://www.contra-mundum.org/cm/features/10_Samson.pdf)  
Fri. 26 L. 1 (pp. 47-59, English Bill of Rights); Abraham Kuyper); **Collateral:** Spengler,  
*E Pluribus Hokum*" [http://www.atimes.com/atimes/Global\\_Economy/JI23Dj06.html](http://www.atimes.com/atimes/Global_Economy/JI23Dj06.html)  
Mon. 29 L. 2 (pp. 89-111); Declaration of the Causes and Necessity of Taking Up Arms;  
Bill Whittle:  
<http://article.nationalreview.com/print/?q=OGVIY2RhOGM0MWE5MjNmMGM2ZjY0NzcxMjMzMTc5NWl=>

#### October

- Wed. 1 L. 2 (pp. 111-37); Declaration of Independence; **Collateral:** Abraham H. Miller  
[http://www.americanthinker.com/2008/09/the\\_financial\\_mess\\_how\\_we\\_got.html](http://www.americanthinker.com/2008/09/the_financial_mess_how_we_got.html)  
Spengler: [http://www.atimes.com/atimes/Global\\_Economy/JI30Dj08.html](http://www.atimes.com/atimes/Global_Economy/JI30Dj08.html)  
George Will:  
[http://www.realclearpolitics.com/articles/2008/10/publics\\_fury\\_noted\\_now\\_is\\_time.html](http://www.realclearpolitics.com/articles/2008/10/publics_fury_noted_now_is_time.html)  
Greg Sheridan: <http://www.theaustralian.news.com.au/story/0,25197,24408271-7583,00.html>  
Geert Wilders: See Blackboard  
Edward Rozek: <http://www.nhinet.org/samson15-2.pdf>

Fri. 3 FALL BREAK  
 Mon. 6 L. 2 (pp. 141-64); Virginia Bill of Rights; **Collateral**: Spengler, "Hockey Moms and Capital Markets" [http://www.atimes.com/atimes/Global\\_Economy/JJ07Dj07.html](http://www.atimes.com/atimes/Global_Economy/JJ07Dj07.html)  
 Wed. 8 Virginia Bill of Rights; Thoughts on Government (on THIRD TEST)  
 Fri. 10 L. 3; Virginia Plan  
 Mon. 13 L. 3; New Jersey Plan  
 Wed. 15 **SECOND EXAM**: E. 7-10; M. 8-9, 11; L. 1-2, Declaration of Independence, Virginia Bill of Rights; Fabianism; Dreher, Samson "Covenant," "Seeds," "Road"  
 Fri. 17 Constitution of the United States; Samson, "Reconstituting the American States"  
 Mon. 20 L. 4 (Federalism)  
 Wed. 22 L. 4 (Separation of Powers, Rule of Law); Federalist, no. 10  
 Fri. 24 Federalist no. 10; Phyllis Chesler:  
<http://pajamasmedia.com/phyllischesler/2008/10/20/islamic-religious-and-gender-apartheid-the-murder-of-a-christian-woman-in-kabul/?print=1>  
 Mon. 27 Federalist no. 51; L. 5 (pp. 381-409)  
<http://www.foundingfathers.info/federalistpapers/fed51.htm>  
 Wed. 29 L. 5 (pp. 409-27); George Will:  
[http://www.realclearpolitics.com/printpage?url=http://www.realclearpolitics.com/articles/2008/10/greedy\\_washington\\_coming\\_for\\_t.html](http://www.realclearpolitics.com/printpage?url=http://www.realclearpolitics.com/articles/2008/10/greedy_washington_coming_for_t.html)  
 Fri. 31 Frederic Bastiat: [www.jim.com/bastiat.htm](http://www.jim.com/bastiat.htm)  
**November**  
 Mon. 3 **THIRD EXAM**: L. 3-4; Samson, "Reconstituting;" Federalist 10, 51; Thoughts on Government, Northwest Ordinance  
 Wed. 5 J. Budziszewski: <http://www.leaderu.com/ftissues/ft9806/articles/budziszewski.html>  
 Fri. 7 H. I; Samson, "Introduction to Political Economy" (Blackboard), "Character of Inflation"  
[http://www.reformed.org/webfiles/antithesis/index.html?mainframe=/webfiles/antithesis/v1n6/ant\\_v1n6\\_inflation.html](http://www.reformed.org/webfiles/antithesis/index.html?mainframe=/webfiles/antithesis/v1n6/ant_v1n6_inflation.html)  
 Mon. 10 H. II-VI  
 Wed. 12 H. XXII-XXIII; Max Raskin: <http://mises.org/story/2678>  
 Fri. 14 H. XXIV-XXV  
 Mon. 17 G. 1  
 Wed. 19 G. 2  
 Fri. 21 G. 3  
 Mon. 24 THANKSGIVING BREAK  
 Wed. 26 THANKSGIVING BREAK  
 Fri. 28 THANKSGIVING BREAK  
**December**  
 Mon. 1 Whittaker Chambers, "Letter to My Children"  
[www.law.umkc.edu/faculty/projects/ftrials/hiss/chambersletter.html](http://www.law.umkc.edu/faculty/projects/ftrials/hiss/chambersletter.html)  
 Wed. 3 To Be Announced  
 Wed. 10 **FOURTH EXAM**: L. 5; H. I-VI, XXII-XXV; G. 1-3; Raskin; Budziszewski Preface and 2 Samson "Economy" and "Inflation;" Chambers