

UNINCORPORATUS: The 2% Solution to the 1% Problem

A University Course on Political Reform, Corporate Influence in Government, and Grassroots Organizing

Based on the book UNINCORPORATUS: A 99-Cent Solution to the 1% Problem by Randell S. Hynes

Course Code: POLS 4175 / PUBH 4290
(cross-listed)

Credit Hours: 3

Level: Upper-division undergraduate / Graduate

Format: 15 weeks · 2-hour lecture + 1-hour discussion weekly

Prerequisites: Intro to American Government or instructor permission

Instructor: [Faculty Name]

Term: [Semester / Year]

Office Hours: [By appointment]

Course Description

This course undertakes a sustained critical examination of the thesis advanced in Randell S. Hynes's *UNINCORPORATUS: A 99-Cent Solution to the 1% Problem*, a work that diagnoses a half-century of corporate capture of American democratic institutions and proposes a constitutional remedy grounded in grassroots organizing. The book argues that a single confidential memorandum — written in August 1971 by corporate attorney Lewis Powell, two months before his appointment to the United States Supreme Court — set in motion a systematic campaign through which American corporations captured the courts, the universities, the media, the regulatory agencies, and the political system itself. The result, Hynes contends, is the transfer of approximately \$30 trillion in wealth from American workers to corporate profits and shareholder returns since 1973, the stagnation of wages despite rising productivity, and the effective replacement of democratic self-governance with what the book calls a "managed economic zone" in which the language of democracy survives while its substance erodes.

The course treats *UNINCORPORATUS* not as a neutral textbook but as a primary source — a political argument of a specific kind, addressed to a specific audience (the 170 million Americans who depend on a paycheck), making a specific set of claims about constitutional law, economic history, and the mechanics of political power. Students will engage with the

book's central proposals: three constitutional amendments (the 28th, stripping corporations of constitutional personhood and declaring that money is not speech; the 29th, reforming Congress through term limits, salary reform, decentralization, and revolving-door bans; and the 30th, disestablishing the two-party cartel), a community-driven candidate selection strategy called People Primaries, a small-dollar funding platform called the 99-Cent Revolution, and a framework for protecting human labor against displacement by artificial intelligence.

Throughout the semester, students will be challenged to evaluate the book's empirical claims against independent sources, to assess the legal viability of its constitutional proposals, to weigh its organizing strategy against historical precedents, and to articulate their own reasoned positions on the relationship between corporate power and democratic governance. The course is designed for students in political science, public policy, economics, labor studies, constitutional law, and related fields who are prepared to engage seriously with a text that operates simultaneously as historical diagnosis, legal argument, and organizing manual.

Course Objectives

Upon successful completion of this course, students will be able to:

1. **Articulate the structural diagnosis** of American political economy presented in *UNINCORPORATUS*, including the Powell Memo's role as origin narrative, the \$30 trillion wealth transfer thesis, the concept of corporate personhood as constitutional doctrine, and the argument that political theater functions as a mechanism of structural concealment.
2. **Analyze the three proposed constitutional amendments** (28th, 29th, and 30th) at the level of their specific textual provisions, their relationship to existing constitutional doctrine (*Citizens United*, *Buckley v. Valeo*, *First National Bank v. Bellotti*), and their likely path through the Article V amendment process, including the state-convention ratification model drawn from the 21st Amendment precedent.
3. **Evaluate the book's empirical claims** — including the productivity–compensation divergence, the \$30 trillion computation, lobbying and dark-money figures, union density statistics, and AI displacement projections — against independent economic data from the Bureau of Labor Statistics, the Economic Policy Institute, the RAND Corporation, and the Federal Election Commission.

4. **Assess the People Primaries organizing model** against historical social movements and electoral insurgencies, including the labor movement of the 1930s, the civil rights movement, the Reagan Revolution, the Tea Party, Justice Democrats, and the Convention of States movement, identifying the structural conditions under which grassroots electoral strategies succeed or fail.
5. **Engage critically with the book's treatment of race, immigration, and worker solidarity**, evaluating its argument that racial division functions as a deliberate mechanism of working-class fragmentation and its proposals regarding foreign-worker visa programs, weighing these against alternative scholarly perspectives.
6. **Construct and defend an original argument** about whether the constitutional remedies proposed in *UNINCORPORATUS* represent a feasible path to political reform, a valuable diagnostic framework without a viable remedy, or a flawed analysis, supported by evidence from the text and independent sources.
7. **Apply the book's organizing framework** to a real-world district or community, producing a practical organizing assessment that demonstrates understanding of the civic-labor problem, distributed responsibility, and the relationship between upstream candidate selection and downstream electoral outcomes.

Required Texts

- **Hynes, Randell S.** *UNINCORPORATUS: A 99-Cent Solution to the 1% Problem*. [Edition indicated by instructor.] This is the primary text. Students should bring the assigned chapters to each lecture.
- **Powell, Lewis F.** "Attack on American Free Enterprise System" (1971 memorandum to the U.S. Chamber of Commerce). Reproduced in full as Appendix E of *UNINCORPORATUS* and widely available online. Students must read the original memo, not merely the book's summary of it.
- **U.S. Constitution, Article V.** The amendment process. Available in any edition.
- **Supreme Court opinions** (excerpts provided as PDFs on the course management system): *Buckley v. Valeo* (1976); *First National Bank of Boston v. Bellotti* (1978); *Citizens United v. FEC* (2010); *Dobbs v. Jackson Women's Health Organization* (2022, for comparison of amendment-vs.-judicial-reversal strategies).

Recommended Supplemental Readings

- Mayer, Jane. *Dark Money: The Hidden History of the Billionaires Behind the Rise of the Radical Right*. Doubleday, 2016.
- Gitlin, Todd. *The Whole World Is Watching: Mass Media in the Making and Unmaking of the New Left*. University of California Press, 1980.
- Hacker, Jacob S., and Paul Pierson. *Winner-Take-All Politics: How Washington Made the Rich Richer—and Turned Its Back on the Middle Class*. Simon & Schuster, 2010.
- Lessig, Lawrence. *Republic, Lost: How Money Corrupts Congress—and a Plan to Stop It*. Twelve, 2011.
- Skocpol, Theda, and Alexander Hertel-Fernandez. "The Koch Network and the Radical Right." *Political Studies Review* (2016).
- Economic Policy Institute. "The Productivity–Pay Gap." EPI.org (updated annually).

Course Structure: 15-Week Schedule

Each week consists of a 2-hour lecture (Tuesday) and a 1-hour discussion section (Thursday). Readings should be completed before the lecture. Discussion sections focus on critical engagement, source verification, and applied exercises.

WEEK 1 Introduction: The US Majority and the Diagnosis

Lecture Topics

- Course overview, expectations, and the method of reading a political book as a primary source
- Introduction to *UNINCORPORATUS*: "This Is Us — The US Majority" — who the book addresses and how it constructs its audience
- The book's central thesis in miniature: corporate capture as a half-century project, \$30 trillion transferred, 170 million workers affected
- The concept of "the 2%" — the book's claim that 3.4 million organized workers (2% of the electorate) can shift American politics
- Chapter 1: "What the US Majority Amendment Does" — overview of the 28th Amendment's six sections (corporate personhood, money as speech, labor rights, health rights, foreign influence, enforcement)
- The seven principles framework: four in the 28th Amendment, three accomplished across all three amendments

Readings

- *UNINCORPORATUS*: Introduction ("This Is Us: The US Majority") and Chapter 1
- U.S. Constitution, Article V (the amendment process)

Discussion Section

What does it mean to read a political book "as a primary source"? Identify the book's rhetorical stance — who is "you," who is "we," what assumptions does it make about its reader? Begin assembling a list of the book's core empirical claims that will need independent verification throughout the semester. Distribute the Claim Verification Worksheet.

WEEK 2 The Roadmap: Numbers, Districts, and the 21st Amendment

Precedent

Lecture Topics

- Chapter 2: "The Numbers Game" — how 3.4 million workers take back the Republic
- The district strategy: organizing at the congressional district level rather than the national level
- The 21st Amendment precedent: how state-convention ratification bypassed captured state legislatures in 1933
- The 29th Amendment preview: congressional salary reform (\$174,000 to \$1.25 million), term limits (12 years combined), decentralization, revolving-door ban, single-subject legislation
- Why the book argues that term limits alone (the Convention of States approach) would "accelerate the revolving door" without addressing the root cause

Readings

- *UNINCORPORATUS*: Chapter 2 and Appendix B (The WORK FOR US! Promise)
- Recommended: Lessig, *Republic, Lost*, Ch. 1–2 (for comparison of diagnosis)

Discussion Section

Workshop: Is the 21st Amendment a valid precedent for the 28th? Compare the political conditions of 1933 (Prohibition repeal) with those of the present day. What structural conditions made state-convention ratification possible then, and which of those conditions exist or do not exist now? Students begin the District Analysis Project by selecting a congressional district to study for the semester.

WEEK 3 The 2% and the Voting Booth Trap

Lecture Topics

- Chapter 3: "The Mathematics of Political Change" — the 2% thesis in detail
- The "voting booth trap": the argument that showing up on Election Day is the *last* step, not the first, and that the candidate pipeline is controlled upstream by parties, donors, and consultants
- The book's critique of "vote harder" as a strategy: why increasing turnout without changing candidate selection does not change outcomes
- Chapter 4: "A Lifetime of Standing for Others" — the author's biography as a veteran and the book's origin in personal experience of institutional betrayal
- The relationship between personal narrative and political argument in movement-building texts

Readings

- *UNINCORPORATUS*: Chapters 3 and 4

Discussion Section

The 2% claim: if 3.4 million workers organized across congressional districts could shift American politics, what evidence supports or undermines this? Compare to historical analogues: the Tea Party (approximately 2.7 million active participants at peak), the NRA (approximately 5 million members), the AARP (approximately 38 million members). What did these movements actually achieve, and what does that suggest about the feasibility of the book's strategy?

WEEK 4 The Constitutional Case: Article V and State Conventions

Lecture Topics

- Chapter 5: "Timeline Precedent — The Constitutional Case for Restoring 'We the People'"
- The 27 existing amendments: patterns, precedent, and the political conditions that produced each
- State conventions vs. state legislatures as ratifying bodies — the constitutional text and historical practice
- The book's argument against an Article V convention (the "Convention of States" trap): untested, potentially hijackable, lacks settled procedural law
- The anticipated legal challenges to the 28th Amendment: First Amendment, Takings Clause, vagueness/overbreadth, and the book's responses to each

Readings

- *UNINCORPORATUS*: Chapter 5 and Appendix A (28th Amendment full text and section-by-section analysis)
- U.S. Constitution, Article V
- Supreme Court excerpt: *Citizens United v. FEC* (2010), majority and dissenting opinions (excerpts)

Discussion Section

Constitutional workshop: Read the full text of the 28th Amendment (Appendix A) alongside the majority opinion in *Citizens United*. Does Section 1 (corporate personhood limited) actually overturn *Citizens United*, or does it create new doctrinal problems? Does Section 2 (money is not speech) survive First Amendment scrutiny as an amendment? The book argues "a constitutional amendment cannot violate the Constitution — it becomes part of the Constitution." Is this legally sound? Assign Amendment Analysis Paper (due Week 8).

WEEK 5 **People Primaries: Community-Driven Candidate Selection**

Lecture Topics

- Chapter 6: "People Primaries — The People Primaries Strategy"
- The Chip Roy hearing as case study: the argument that the party cartel prevents even bipartisan, popular legislation from reaching the floor
- The People Primaries model: open nomination, public vetting, promise-signing, small-dollar support — replacing the donor-selected candidate pipeline
- The Justice Democrats precedent: what worked, what failed, and what the book argues should be learned from it
- The four objections the book anticipates ("You'll never beat the party machine," "This is still working inside the two-party system," "They'll sell out," "You're just another DSA") and its responses

Readings

- *UNINCORPORATUS*: Chapter 6 and Appendix G (The People's Primary — mechanics)
- Recommended: Skocpol & Hertel-Fernandez, "The Koch Network and the Radical Right"

Discussion Section

Case study comparison: Justice Democrats vs. the Tea Party vs. the Powell Memo's own institutional-building strategy. What do successful movements do that unsuccessful ones do not? Is the book correct that the candidate pipeline is the "choke point" of American democracy? Students present preliminary District Analysis Project findings: who is the current representative, how were they selected, what is the donor profile, what is the primary history?

WEEK 6 The 99-Cent Revolution: Funding the Movement

Lecture Topics

- Chapter 7: "The Funding Engine — How ViaUS Powers the People Primaries Strategy"
- The 99-Cent Revolution: the argument that 3.4 million workers contributing 99 cents per week generates \$176 million annually — enough to compete with corporate PAC spending
- The ViaUS funding platform concept: why the book argues the movement needs its own payment infrastructure rather than relying on ActBlue or WinRed
- Chapter 8: "Building the 2029 121st Congress Begins in 2026" — the timeline for upstream candidate selection
- The civic labor problem: the argument that "voter agency begins before the ballot" and the challenge of asking exhausted workers to do more than vote
- Distributed responsibility as the answer to voter fatigue: the jury, volunteer fire department, and neighborhood association models

Readings

- *UNINCORPORATUS*: Chapters 7 and 8, and Appendix C (The People Primaries Field Manual)

Discussion Section

Financial arithmetic workshop: verify the 99-Cent Revolution math. $3.4 \text{ million} \times \$0.99 \times 52 \text{ weeks} = \175.3 million . Compare to actual spending: the 2024 federal election cycle cost approximately \$16 billion. Is \$176 million/year sufficient to field candidates in 435 House districts? What are the actual costs of a competitive House primary? Discuss the civic-labor problem: is it realistic to ask working people to engage in upstream candidate selection? What does the book's "distributed responsibility" model look like in practice?

WEEK 7 The Powell Memo: Origin of the Corporate Capture Project

Lecture Topics

- Chapter 10: "The Blueprint — How a Single Memo Destroyed the American Worker"
- Lewis Powell: the man, the memo, and the appointment to the Supreme Court two months later
- The memo's institutional strategy in detail: the universities (Heritage Foundation, Federalist Society), the media (corporate communications infrastructure), the courts (Pacific Legal Foundation, Buckley, Bellotti, Citizens United), the political system (Chamber of Commerce lobbying explosion)
- The implementation timeline: 1971 to 2025, institution by institution
- The \$30 trillion result: how the book computes the productivity–compensation divergence since 1973
- The RAND Corporation's \$50 trillion figure as a cross-reference

Readings

- *UNINCORPORATUS*: Chapter 10 and Appendix E (Powell Memo full text)
- Economic Policy Institute, "The Productivity–Pay Gap" (current data, available at EPI.org)
- Recommended: Mayer, *Dark Money*, Ch. 1–3

Discussion Section

Read the Powell Memo in full. Is the book's characterization accurate? Identify the specific recommendations Powell made and trace each to a present-day institution. The \$30 trillion computation: work through the math in class using EPI's data. Is the 1973 divergence date defensible? Does the book's choice of CPI-U-RS inflation index and total compensation (rather than wages alone) produce a conservative or aggressive figure? Midterm exam review.

WEEK 8 Midterm + The Slow Bleed and the Broken Family

Lecture Topics

- **Midterm Examination** (first hour of lecture)
- Chapter 11: "The Slow Bleed" — what \$700,000 of lost wages means over a working lifetime
- Chapter 12: "How Corporate Capture Broke the American Family" — the connection between economic insecurity and family formation, fertility rates, and the "Make America Healthy Again" movement
- The book's argument that food policy, healthcare policy, and economic policy are inseparable because the same corporate interests drive all three

Readings

- *UNINCORPORATUS*: Chapters 11, 12, and 13 (The Three-Legged Milking Stool: corporate profits, captured nonprofits, AI displacement narrative)

Discussion Section

Amendment Analysis Paper due this week. The "Three-Legged Milking Stool" metaphor: corporate profits, the captured nonprofit sector, and the AI displacement narrative. Evaluate the book's claim that nonprofits and foundations function as instruments of corporate capture rather than as counterweights to it. Is this a fair characterization of the philanthropic sector? What evidence supports or contradicts it?

WEEK 9 **The Chamber of Commerce, Foreign Money, and Political Theater**

Lecture Topics

- Chapter 14: "The Great Worker Betrayal — The Universal Hypocrisy of 'Pro-Worker' Politics"
- Chapter 15: "The Chamber of Commerce: Foreign Money, American Elections" — the argument that the Chamber collects dues from foreign corporations and foreign state-owned enterprises, channeling them into American political activity
- The FEC complaint framework: the book's proposal for a federal lawsuit challenging the Chamber's constitutional status
- Chapter 17: "The Ugly Truth — Pure Theater" — the argument that partisan conflict is real but narrow while bipartisan agreement on donor-class priorities is quiet and vast
- The "handshake," the "toll booth," the "wrecking crew," and the "flip" — the book's analytical vocabulary for political theater

Readings

- *UNINCORPORATUS*: Chapters 14, 15, and 17
- Supreme Court excerpt: *Buckley v. Valeo* (1976), excerpts on contribution limits vs. expenditure limits
- Recommended: Hacker & Pierson, *Winner-Take-All Politics*, Ch. 4–5

Discussion Section

The foreign-money claim: examine the evidence. The Chamber's international councils do collect dues from foreign entities. Does this constitute a campaign finance violation, or does the book overstate the case? Trace the legal framework: what would a lawsuit challenging the Chamber's First Amendment status actually argue, and what are its prospects? The political theater thesis: is the book correct that "the disagreements are loud, the agreements are worth trillions"? Find one recent legislative example that supports or complicates this claim.

WEEK 10 **Worker Displacement: H-1B Visas, Offshoring, and the Tech Giants**

Lecture Topics

- Chapter 16: "Foreign Workers, American Vulnerabilities" — the H-1B and OPT visa programs as labor-arbitrage mechanisms
- Chapter 18: "The Trojan Horse" — Amazon, Meta, Google, Microsoft, and Intel as case studies in worker displacement
- Chapter 19: "The Legal Invasion of American Labor" — the Immigration Act of 1990 and the creation of the H-1B program
- The "outsourcing loophole": how companies use H-1B workers at below-market wages while displacing American workers
- The national security dimension: the book's argument that foreign nationals in sensitive positions create vulnerability

Readings

- *UNINCORPORATUS*: Chapters 16, 18, and 19
- Government Accountability Office, "H-1B Visa Program: ICE Could Improve Its Monitoring of Students" (2022, excerpts provided)

Discussion Section

This is one of the book's most contentious sections. Engage critically: the H-1B argument intersects with immigration policy, national identity, and the risk of xenophobic framing. How does the book distinguish between "being replaced by cheaper labor" (its actual claim) and anti-immigrant sentiment (which it explicitly disclaims)? Is the distinction maintained consistently? Where does the book's argument overlap with or diverge from academic labor economics research on H-1B wage effects? Students submit the Organizing Strategy Paper outline (due Week 12).

WEEK 11 AI, Corporate Personhood, and Constitutional Human

Obsolescence

Lecture Topics

- Chapter 20: "The Machine Is Coming for Your Job Next — How Corporate Personhood + AI = Constitutional Human Obsolescence"
- The book's central argument about AI: that corporate personhood doctrine and money-as-speech doctrine together create a constitutional framework in which corporations can displace human workers with AI while human workers have no constitutional right to their jobs
- The 28th Amendment's Section 3 as the constitutional response: AI as a tool, not a person; the Labor Displacement Review Board; self-executing minimums (24-month transition, five-year benefits, Community Stabilization Fund)
- Chapter 28: "What 47% Displacement Actually Means for America" — the economic cascade: consumer demand collapse, tax base collapse, Social Security insolvency
- UBI vs. the Amendment framework: the book's argument that universal basic income creates "complete dependence on the state"

Readings

- *UNINCORPORATUS*: Chapters 20, 28, and 29 (Why Human Labor Is Not Obsolete)
- World Economic Forum, "Future of Jobs Report 2025" (executive summary, provided as PDF)

Discussion Section

The AI displacement argument is the book's most forward-looking claim. Evaluate the 47% displacement projection against the WEF Future of Jobs Report and MIT/Anthropic research. Is the book's constitutional framing (AI as tool, not person) legally novel, and is it workable? The UBI critique: does the book fairly represent UBI proposals, or does it construct a straw man? Compare the 28th Amendment's Section 3 to existing worker-protection frameworks in Germany (codetermination), Denmark (flexicurity), and the EU AI Act.

WEEK 12 Labor Rights, the PRO Act, and the Race Divide

Lecture Topics

- Chapter 21: "The PRO Act's Fatal Flaw — The Unionization Trap"
- The book's critique of the PRO Act: that it strengthens union bureaucracies rather than protecting individual workers' right to concerted action
- Chapter 22: "The Broken Promise — The Current Crisis of Worker Rights Violations"
- Chapter 23: "The American Dream and Government Protection — The Four Pillars Restored"
- Chapter 24: "Race and the Worker Divide" — the argument that racial division is "the most effective weapon ever deployed against American workers," not automation or offshoring
- The book's historical analysis: how racial division has functioned from Reconstruction through the present to prevent working-class solidarity across racial lines

Readings

- *UNINCORPORATUS*: Chapters 21, 22, 23, and 24
- Recommended: Hacker & Pierson, *Winner-Take-All Politics*, Ch. 7 (on race and the welfare state)

Discussion Section

Organizing Strategy Paper due this week. The race-and-solidarity argument is historically grounded but politically sensitive. Evaluate the book's claim that racial division is a "deliberate mechanism" rather than an organic outcome. How does this compare to the scholarly literature on the "welfare queen" trope, the Southern Strategy, and the use of racial resentment in political realignment? Is the book's proposed solution — cross-racial working-class solidarity organized around shared economic interests — feasible given what we know about the persistence of racial polarization in American politics?

WEEK 13 **Movement Security, Nationalism, and the Policy Platform**

Lecture Topics

- Chapter 25: "Inevitable Far Left and Right Infiltration — How movements are infiltrated, co-opted, and destroyed from within"
- The book's framework for protecting the movement: the alliance structure, the anti-infiltration protocol, the "extreme candidate gambit"
- Chapter 30: "Nationalism Trumps Globalism — The Binary Trap"
- The book's argument that both globalism and nationalism, as currently constructed, serve the donor class — the exit is not found inside either framework but in the question "who controls the government?"
- Chapter 31: The 10-pillar offshoring solution — the policy platform for the 121st Congress
- Chapter 32: "Total Choice Health" — the portable healthcare voucher proposal

Readings

- *UNINCORPORATUS*: Chapters 25, 30, 31, and 32

Discussion Section

The infiltration question: every serious movement faces co-optation. Compare the book's anti-infiltration framework to historical examples: the FBI's COINTELPRO program against the civil rights movement, the Koch network's capture of the Tea Party, corporate foundation co-optation of labor and environmental movements. Is the book's proposed alliance structure viable? The nationalism chapter: evaluate the "binary trap" argument. Does the book successfully avoid the globalism-vs.-nationalism framing, or does it ultimately take a side? Final paper proposal due.

WEEK 14 Veterans, the Covenant, and the Gig Economy

Lecture Topics

- Chapter 33: "The Broken Promise to America's Veterans" — the 18 million veterans as a case study in institutional betrayal and as a natural constituency for the amendment movement
- Chapter 34: "Our Humble Requests — The American Covenant" — the book's petition to Congress, framed as the "Olive Branch" that precedes the harder work (with author's note acknowledging its early, idealistic character)
- Chapter 35: "The Reluctant Rise of Gig Work" — the 70 million gig workers as evidence of the failure of U.S. labor law to adapt to changing employment relationships
- The book's argument that gig work is not "chosen freedom" but "reluctant default" — workers turn to gig platforms because traditional employment no longer provides security

Readings

- *UNINCORPORATUS*: Chapters 33, 34, and 35

Discussion Section

The Covenant chapter (34) is the book's earliest writing, drafted before the full structural diagnosis was developed. The author's framing note characterizes it as "the respectful petition that precedes, and historically fails to prevent, the harder work that follows." Discuss: is a petition to Congress consistent with the book's own argument that Congress is structurally captured and cannot reform itself? Or does the petition serve a rhetorical purpose — establishing that the respectful approach was tried and failed — that strengthens the case for the constitutional remedy? The gig economy: evaluate the "reluctant default" thesis against survey data on gig worker preferences.

WEEK 15 **The Call to Action: Synthesis and Critical Assessment**

Lecture Topics

- Chapter 36: "The Call to Action — Where Your Journey Begins"
- The book's closing argument: the five steps, the WORK FOR US! Promise, the movement structure
- Synthesis: the complete three-part strategy (constitutional remedy, legal challenge, electoral strategy) and how each part supports the others
- Critical assessment: where the book's argument is strongest, where it is weakest, and what it does not address
- Course conclusion: the relationship between diagnosis and remedy in political reform movements — when does accurate diagnosis lead to viable action, and when does it not?

Readings

- *UNINCORPORATUS*: Chapter 36 and review of Appendices A–K
- Review all assigned chapters for final exam

Discussion Section

Final discussion: Having read the entire book, construct your own assessment. Is *UNINCORPORATUS* a viable roadmap for political reform, a valuable diagnosis without a viable remedy, or a fundamentally flawed analysis? What would you change about the book's strategy if you were advising the movement? What did the book get right that mainstream political science has missed? Final paper presentations (5 minutes each). **Final paper due during exam week.**

Assignments and Evaluation

Grading Distribution

Component	Weight	Due
Participation & Discussion	15%	Weekly
Claim Verification Worksheets (5 × 3%)	15%	Weeks 3, 6, 9, 12, 14
Amendment Analysis Paper (1,500–2,000 words)	15%	Week 8
Midterm Examination	15%	Week 8
Organizing Strategy Paper (2,000–2,500 words)	20%	Week 12
Final Research Paper (3,000–4,000 words)	20%	Exam week

1. Claim Verification Worksheets (15% total)

Five short worksheets (1–2 pages each) in which students select a specific empirical claim from the assigned reading, locate the original source the book cites (or an independent source for the same claim), and verify whether the data supports the book's characterization. Claims may include: the \$30 trillion computation, the \$5.08 billion lobbying figure, union density statistics, the 47% AI displacement projection, the Chamber's foreign dues, or the productivity–pay gap. Each worksheet must include: (a) the exact claim as stated in the book with page/chapter citation, (b) the original source, (c) the verification result (confirmed, partially confirmed, contradicted, or unverifiable), and (d) a brief explanation of any discrepancy. The purpose is to build the habit of treating the book's claims as testable hypotheses, not as received truth.

2. Amendment Analysis Paper (15%)

A 1,500–2,000 word analytical paper examining one of the three proposed constitutional amendments (28th, 29th, or 30th) in detail. The paper must: (a) reproduce the key textual provisions of the chosen amendment, (b) identify the

existing constitutional doctrine the amendment would overturn or modify, (c) evaluate the legal arguments for and against the amendment's viability, drawing on at least two Supreme Court opinions and at least one scholarly source, (d) assess the political feasibility of the amendment's passage through the Article V process, and (e) argue whether the amendment represents sound constitutional design. Papers should engage seriously with the book's own legal arguments (found in Chapter 5 and the appendices) but should not be limited to them.

3. Midterm Examination (15%)

A 90-minute examination covering Weeks 1–7. Format: two short-answer questions (define and explain the significance of key concepts: the Powell Memo, the 21st Amendment precedent, the 2% thesis, the voting booth trap, corporate personhood, money as speech) and one essay question (chosen from three options) requiring synthesis across multiple chapters. The midterm tests both factual mastery of the book's argument and the ability to critically engage with it.

4. Organizing Strategy Paper (20%)

A 2,000–2,500 word paper applying the book's organizing framework to a real congressional district. Building on the District Analysis Project conducted throughout the semester, students must: (a) profile the district's demographics, economic profile, and current representative, (b) analyze the current representative's donor base and voting record using FEC and GovTrack data, (c) assess whether the People Primaries model could work in this district, identifying specific local institutions, labor unions, veterans' organizations, and community groups that could serve as organizing nodes, (d) identify the primary obstacles (incumbent strength, party machine, media market, donor networks), and (e) propose a concrete 18-month organizing plan with milestones. This paper tests the ability to move from theoretical framework to practical application.

5. Final Research Paper (20%)

A 3,000–4,000 word research paper answering the course's central question: **Does UNINCORPORATUS present a viable path to political reform?** Students must take a defended position (viable, partially viable, or not viable) and support it

with: (a) a fair summary of the book's complete argument, (b) engagement with at least four independent scholarly sources beyond the course reading list, (c) specific assessment of the three amendments' legal and political feasibility, (d) evaluation of the People Primaries and 99-Cent Revolution strategies against at least two historical movement precedents, and (e) an honest accounting of what the book gets right and where its analysis is weakest. Papers that simply agree or simply disagree with the book will receive lower grades than papers that engage critically with specific claims, identify genuine strengths, and propose reasoned alternatives where the student finds the book's approach wanting.

Grading Rubric (Applied to All Papers)

Criterion	Excellent (A)	Good (B)	Satisfactory (C)	Needs Work (D/F)
Argument & Thesis	Original, specific, debatable thesis sustained throughout	Clear thesis, mostly sustained	Thesis present but vague or inconsistently sustained	No clear thesis or thesis unsupported
Evidence & Sources	Multiple independent sources; data verified; claims properly cited	Adequate sources; most claims cited	Some sources; citation inconsistent	Few or no independent sources; claims uncited
Critical Engagement	Engages seriously with opposing views; identifies strengths and weaknesses	Acknowledges opposing views	Limited engagement with counterarguments	One-sided; no engagement with counterarguments
Structure & Clarity	Well-organized; transitions	Generally organized; readable	Some organizational issues;	Disorganized; difficult to follow

	clear; prose precise		occasionally unclear	
Application	Effectively applies course concepts to new contexts	Applies most course concepts correctly	Limited application of course concepts	Does not apply course concepts

Course Policies

Attendance and Participation

Attendance is expected at all lectures and discussion sections. Participation grades reflect the quality of engagement, not merely presence. Students should come prepared with at least one question or critical observation about the week's reading. Discussion sections are not lectures — they are collaborative workspaces for critical engagement with the text.

Academic Integrity

All work must be original. Plagiarism — including the use of AI-generated text presented as original work without disclosure — will result in a failing grade for the assignment and may result in failure of the course. Students may use AI tools for research assistance but must disclose their use and verify all AI-suggested claims against primary sources. The Claim Verification Worksheets are specifically designed to build the habit of source-checking that academic integrity requires.

Late Work

Late assignments will be penalized one-third of a letter grade per day (e.g., A to A– to B+). No assignments will be accepted more than one week after the due date without a documented medical or family emergency.

Accommodations

Students with documented disabilities should contact the Office of Disability Services to arrange accommodations. All reasonable accommodations will be made.

Content Advisory

This course engages with a book that addresses sensitive topics including economic hardship, worker displacement, racial division, political polarization, and institutional betrayal. Some chapters include personal narratives of individuals who have lost jobs, homes, or health coverage. Students who find particular topics difficult should speak with the instructor or the university counseling services.

Intellectual Diversity Statement

This course engages with a book that makes a specific, pointed political argument. Students are not expected to agree with the book's thesis, its proposed remedies, or its characterization of American institutions. They are expected to engage with it seriously, to understand its argument fully, to test its claims against evidence, and to articulate their own reasoned positions. The course is designed to foster critical thinking, not ideological conformity. Disagreement with the book — including fundamental disagreement — is welcomed and will be graded on the quality of the argument, not its direction.

Appendix: Course Reading Map

Week	Primary Book Chapters	Appendices & Supplemental
1	Intro, Ch 1	Article V
2	Ch 2	App B (WORK FOR US! Promise)
3	Ch 3, Ch 4	—
4	Ch 5	App A (28th Amendment), Citizens United excerpt
5	Ch 6	App G (People's Primary), Skocpol & Hertel-Fernandez
6	Ch 7, Ch 8	App C (Field Manual)
7	Ch 10	App E (Powell Memo), EPI Productivity–Pay Gap
8	Ch 11, 12, 13	— (Midterm + Amendment Paper due)
9	Ch 14, 15, 17	Buckley v. Valeo excerpt
10	Ch 16, 18, 19	GAO H-1B report excerpt

11	Ch 20, 28, 29	WEF Future of Jobs 2025
12	Ch 21, 22, 23, 24	Hacker & Pierson Ch 7
13	Ch 25, 30, 31, 32	— (Organizing Paper due)
14	Ch 33, 34, 35	—
15	Ch 36 + App A–K review	Final paper due exam week

— *End of Syllabus* —