The Almanac Of American Politics 2012

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principles and practice of american politics is a well balanced reader covering all the major topics of an american government course blake jones ohio valley university combining timeless readings with cutting edge articles and essays principles and practice of american politics seventh edition enriches students understanding of the american political system by examining the strategic behavior of key players in u s politics this collection of classic and contemporary readings brings concepts to life by providing students with real examples of how political actors are influenced by the strategies of others and are governed by the constitution the law and institutional rules carefully edited by award winning authors samuel kernell and steven s smith each reading is put into context to help students understand how political actions fall within a major national political forum new to the seventh edition nine new and updated essays encourage students to reflect on the continuing debates over the polarization of the american electorate and congress the role of social media and fake news in influencing public views of politicians and issues the fragile trump coalition the efficacy of polling in tracking public opinion and other issues more relevant than ever in the wake of the 2016 elections additional essays challenge students to think more carefully about alternative institutions and political arrangements the new essays present institutions of majority rule the nature of racial discrimination and the proper role of the court as less settled issues that provide students an opportunity to think through and discuss their views on the future direction of american civic life each selection is artfully framed by kernell and smith s contextual headnotes to make them appropriate for classroom use original readings written specifically for the volume give the book a coherent

treatment of the performance of u s political institutions

huntington examines the persistent gap between the promise of american ideals and the performance of american politics he shows how americans have always been united by the democratic creed of liberty equality and hostility to authority but how these ideals have been frustrated through institutions and hierarchies needed to govern a democracy

washington think tanks such as the brookings institution the american enterprise institute and the heritage foundation have become so large and influential in recent years that they now constitute virtually a new branch of the political system in this engrossing and lively book david m ricci brillantly explores the parallel and convergent social economic and political trends within america that have transformed government in washington and led to the development and prestige of these public policy research centers ricci argues that since the late 1960s americans have lost sight of the familiar guidelines that used to help them assess issues and have become more hospitable to think tank research and advice he examines the flood of policy relevant information that has resulted from the growth of expertise and the advent of big government the confusion over national goals that comes from the decline of the protestant ethic and the empowerment of minorities the growing influence of television and its focus on instant testimony from experts political changes such as the decline of parties the move to an open congress and the growth of an independent presidency the pervasive power of modern marketing and much more according to ricci policy ideas generated by think tank research and commentary are helpful in providing greater objectivity and political insight not only because of their general reliability but also because in their ideological variety think tanks generate a substantial range of policy proposals giving voice to a healthy factional pluralism and facilitating a constant testing of ideas in today s dissonant politics ricci concludes think tanks contribute some order and occasionally wisdom in the ongoing battle in washington over political ideas

this collection examines the strategic behavior of key players in american politics from the founding fathers to the super pacs by showing that political actors though motivated by their own interests are governed by the constitution the law and institutional rules as well as influenced by the strategies of others

by putting students in direct touch with the inner workings of the political system the real world of american politics provides them with direct concrete access to the nuts and bolts the real world of american government in all the standard areas of american political practice working documents provide serious insight into the stakes values and processes that drive and inform the political system for example looking carefully at the text of an actual bill deeply enhances learning about the legislative process and the strengths and weaknesses of public opinion polling become clearer if a student has an opportunity to examine a real life survey instrument organized thematically to reflect the way that many introductory courses are taught the documents are accompanied by brief accessible and informative introductory materials that place them in their proper historical political and theoretical contexts each section also includes study questions to guide student reading and inquiry whether used as the core text or in conjunction with a standard textbook the real world of american politics is the only book on the market that takes students inside the political process as it actually unfolds features a well organized and carefully curated volume that includes a wide variety of on the ground documents composing a representative selection of raw materials procedures and outcomes characteristic of the political process itself brief accessible and informative introductory discussions that place each document in its proper historical political and theoretical context carefully chosen study questions designed both to guide student inquiry and to suggest possible paper topics or exam questions accompanying each document

this dynamic and comprehensive text from two nationally renowned scholars continues to demonstrate the profound influence african americans have had and continue to have on american politics through the use of two interrelated themes the idea of universal freedom and the concept of minority majority coalitions the text demonstrates how the presence of africans in the united states affected the founding of the republic and its political institutions and processes the authors show that through the quest for their own freedom in the united states african americans have universalized and expanded the freedoms of all americans

a simple and straightforward guide to the american political system american politics for dummies is an engaging and accessible treatise on the inner workings of the us government which cuts through the political jargon to give you the facts

american politics seems to grow more contentious and complicated by the day and whether american democracy works well is hotly debated amidst all this roiling partisan argument and confusing claims and counterclaims there has never been a greater need for an impartial primer on the basics of the american political system this very short introduction gives readers a concise accessible and sophisticated overview of the vital elements of american democracy emphasizing both how these elements function their historical origins and how they have evolved into their present forms richard valelly covers all facets of america s political system the bicameral congress and the place of the filibuster the legislative executive process the role of the supreme court political parties and democratic choice bureaucracy the partisan revival and the political economy he offers as well an original analysis of the evolution of the american presidency and a fascinating chapter on the effects of public polling on political decision making and voter representation valelly shows that the american political system is and always has been very much a work in progress unfolding within and also constantly updating an eighteenth century constitutional framework in a refreshingly balanced and judicious assessment he explores the strengths of american democracy while candidly acknowledging both gaps in representation and the increasing income inequality have sparked protest and intense public discussion finally valelly considers the remarkable persistence for more than two centuries of the basic constitutional forms established in 1787 despite the dramatic social changes that have reshaped virtually all aspects of american life for anyone wishing to understand the nuts and bolts of how our political system works and sometimes fails to work this very short introduction is the very best place to start about the series oxford s very short introductions series offers concise and original introductions to a wide range of subjects from islam to sociology politics to classics literary theory to history and archaeology to the bible not simply a textbook of definitions each volume in this series provides trenchant and provocative yet always balanced and complete discussions of the central issues in a given discipline or field every very short introduction gives a readable evolution of the subject in question demonstrating how the subject has developed and how it has influenced society

eventually the series will encompass every major academic discipline offering all students an accessible and abundant reference library whatever the area of study that one deems important or appealing whatever the topic that fascinates the general reader the very short introductions series has a handy and affordable guide that will likely prove indispensable

american politics is criticized and belittled by media critics and the public yet the system is held out as a model for the world the paradox of this simultaneous cynicism and adulation is rooted in the conflict between the human motives that drive politics crisply and clearly written with numerous historical examples how american politics works explains the complex and sometimes confusing american political system in a vibrant and accessible light documented with recent and historical scholarship presented clearly in laymen s terms how american politics works explores the multiple dimensions of politics and the source of americans disillusionment with their government through the four ps philosophy pragmatism personality and profit philosophical and moral principles underpin the key political institutions in america but values are challenged in the quest to achieve workable political solutions policy is rarely made to conform to lofty principles alone it often results from short term incremental compromise driven by people in pursuit of the public good and their own personal self interest and profit how american politics works explains the inner workings of the american political system including the power of ideas political compromise powerful personalities and the preeminent position of money while americans high ideals are often illusive in the rough and tumble of political battles and the public s trust is bruised with every political scandal balancing idealism and individual virtue with ambition and self interest is the dynamic and safeguard of american politics how american politics works offers a comprehensive presentation of the realities challenges and possibilities of the american political system to bring an understanding fascination and dedication to the wider public

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