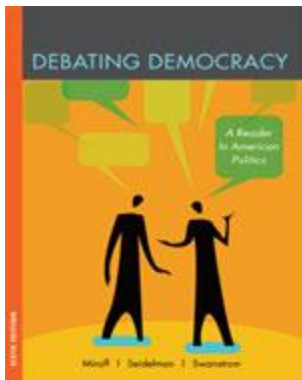
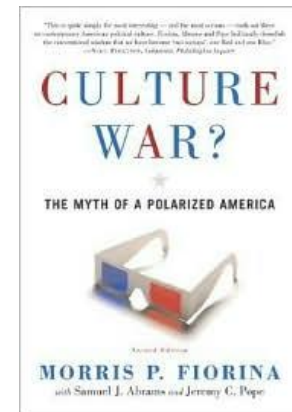
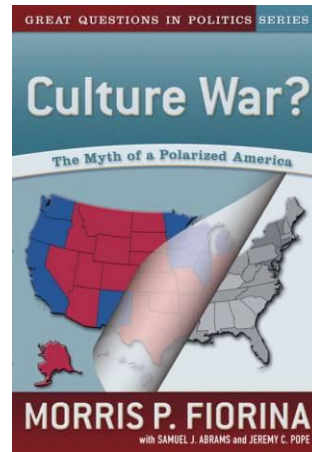
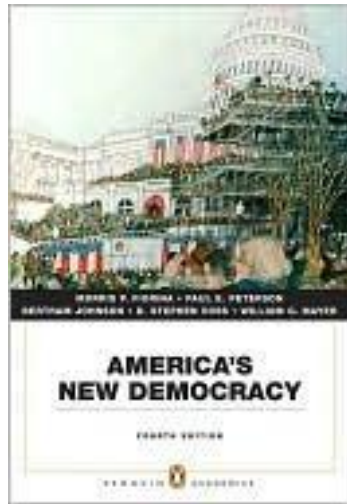


Index Cards

- Name
- Where you are from?
- What political activities have you engaged in?
- Something interesting about yourself?

Readings



- Pink Reading Packet
- Read New York Times

Requirements

- Web assignments
 - Two midterms
 - Research paper
 - Final exam
-
- I have High Standards
 - Everything is on my webpage
 - <http://www.skidmore.edu/~bturner/>

Format of Class

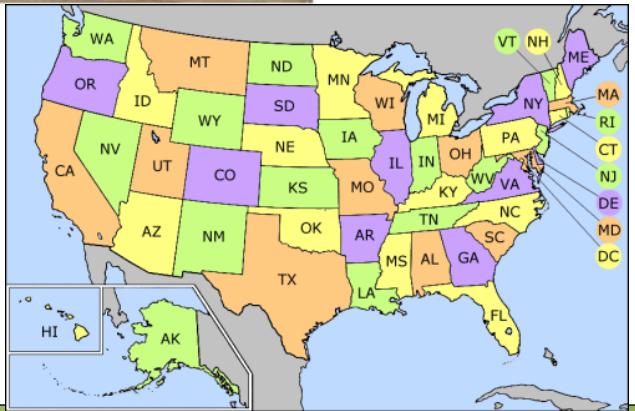
- Lecture outline on-line
- Not the University of Wisconsin
- The Socratic method, aka random terror
- Attendance Policy– 2 absences
- Last one in, first one asked
- I answer all cell phone calls

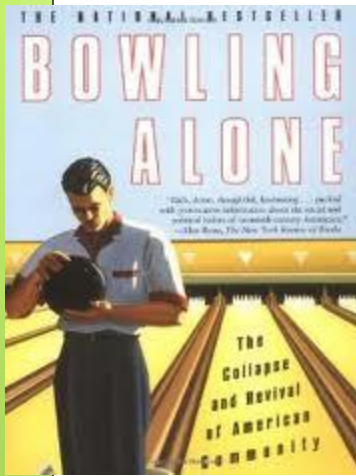
Purposes of the Course

- How government works
- To help make you better citizens
 - "I know of no safe depository of the ultimate powers of the society but the people themselves, and if we think them not enlightened enough to exercise their control with a wholesome discretion, the remedy is not to take it from them, but to inform their discretion by education."
Thomas Jefferson



Foundations of American Democracy





Political Participation



Beverage industry lobbying

As advocates pressed for a federal tax on sugared soft drinks last year, the beverage industry launched an intense lobbying effort against it. Annual amounts spent on lobbying by three major players:

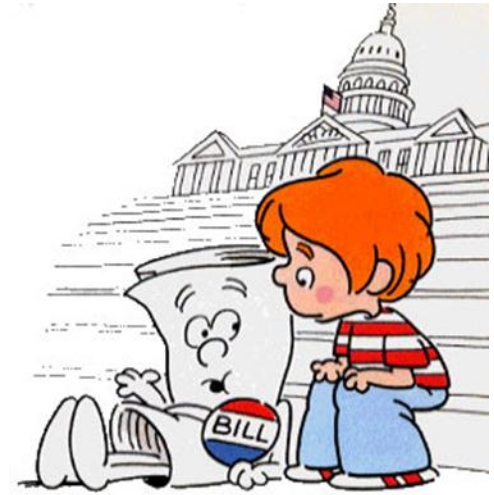
■ Coca-Cola ■ PepsiCo ■ American Beverage Assn.
(Scale in millions)



*2009 data from Los Angeles Times/Tribune research

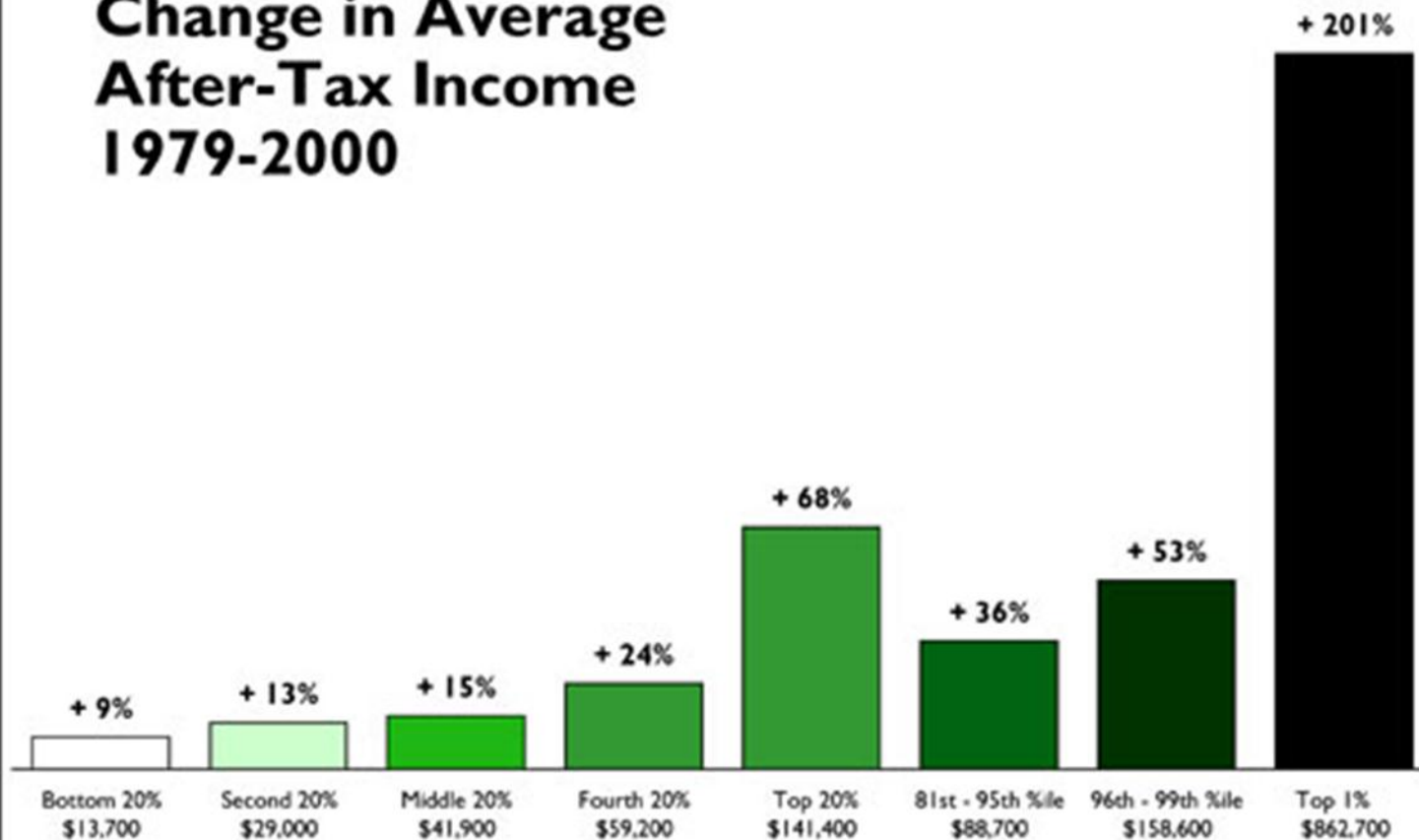
Source: Center for Responsive Politics. Graphics reporting by KIM GEIGER

Political Institutions



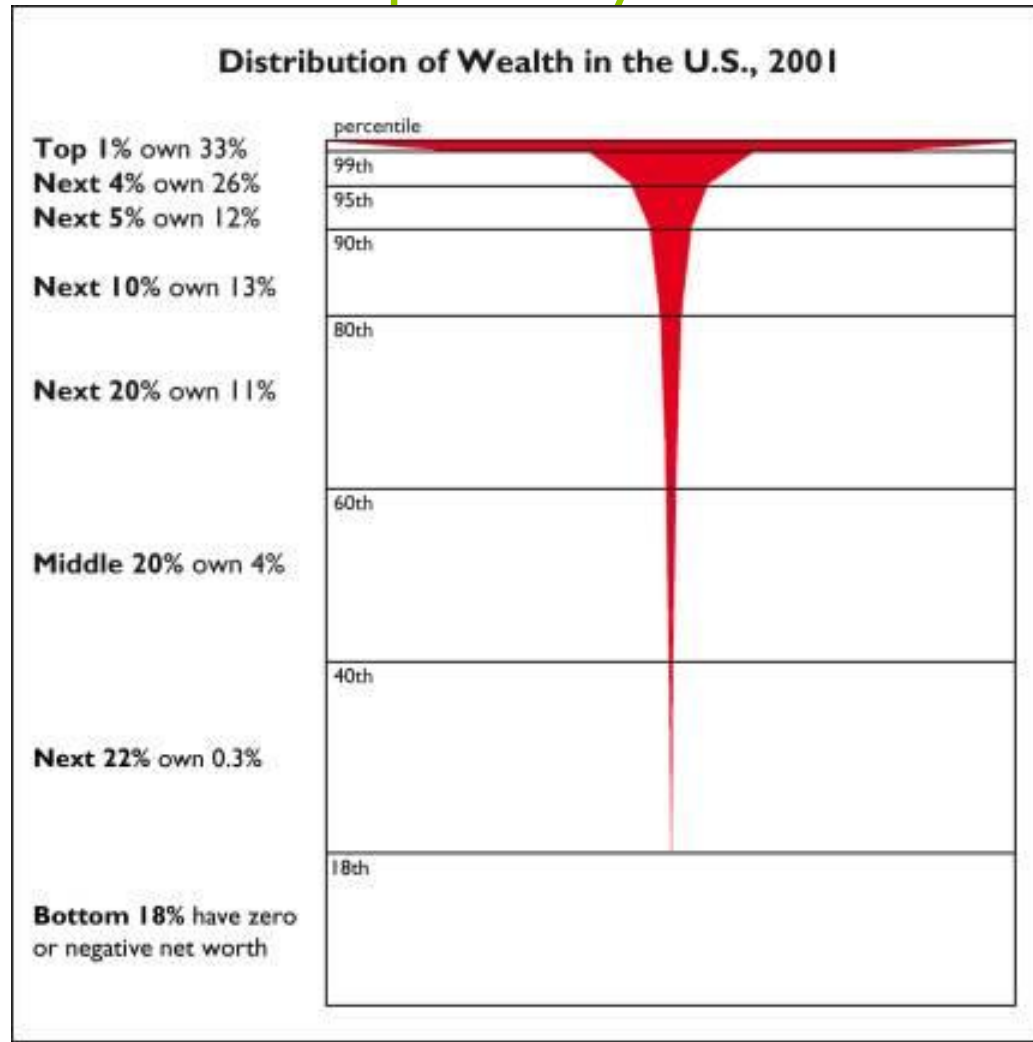
Economic Inequality

Change in Average After-Tax Income 1979-2000



Income Class and Average After-Tax Income in 2000

Economic Inequality



Edward N. Wolff, "Changes in Household Wealth in the 1980s and 1990s in the U.S.,"
Jerome Levy Economics Institute, May, 2004.

What is your first political memory?



A.



B.



A.



B.



A.



B.



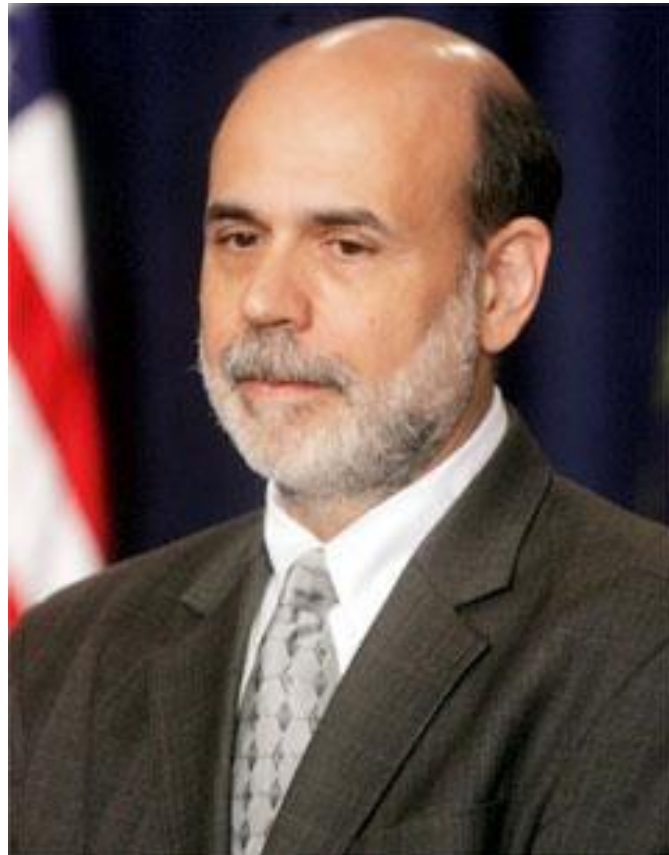
A.



B.



Hint: the most powerful person
in the world?



Civic Disengagement of College Freshmen

- 28.1% "keeping up to date with political affairs" was essential or very important (59% in 1966)
- 30.9% "becoming a community leader" was essential or very important
- 27% "realistically, an individual can do little to bring about changes in our society."
- 73.4% "being very well off financially" is essential or very important

Old American Democracy



John Trumbull, Declaration of Independence (1795)

“New American Democracy”

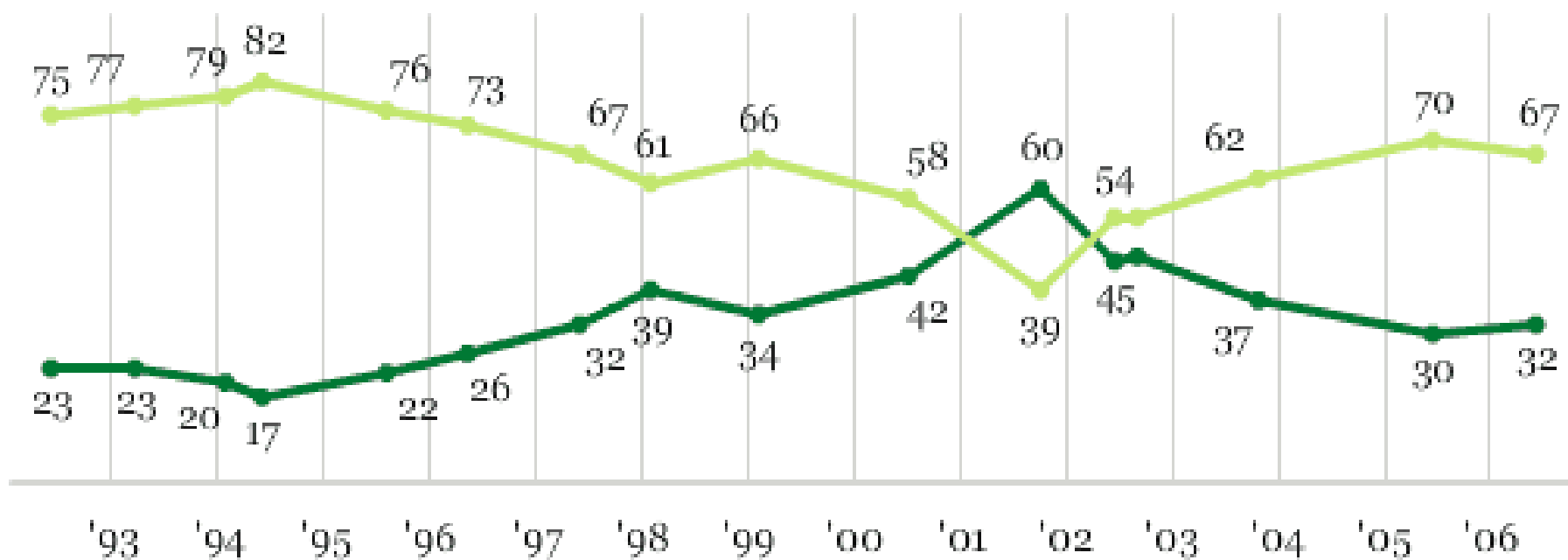
- the expansion of voting rights,
- sunshine or open government laws
- mass media
- consumer, women, and environmental groups
- primaries/weakening of parties,
- opinion polling

- “our system more responsive to citizens wishes than at any time in our history” Fiorina

How much of the time do you think you can trust government in Washington to do what is right -- just about always, most of the time, or only some of the time?

■ % Just about always/Most of the time

■ % Only some of the time/Never



GALLUP POLL

Popular Model of Democracy

1. John Dewey, "The cure for the ailments of democracy is more democracy."
 - Direct democracy is ideal
 - Election determine policies
 - Citizens vote prospectively
 - #1 Criteria for Democracy → civic education of citizens

Popular Model



Responsive Model of Democracy

- Representative democracy is ideal
- Elections determine leaders
- Citizens vote retrospectively
- #1 Criteria for Democracy → effective governance

Reforming the System

- John Dewey, “The cure for the ailments of democracy is more democracy.”
- More elections
- More open process

The Big Question

- Is there too much or too little democracy?
- Consider Baseball's All Star Game
 - Derek Jeter