“It would be wrong to assume that all the arguments of the Federalist still hold good in this new world, but all modern political science derives from the eighteenth-century science of politics that the Federalist refined and perfected.”

David Wootton

Course Syllabus

Session One: Introduction - the Constitution, the Federalists, and the Antifederalists

Session Two: Powers of the Union (#’s 41-46)

Session Three: Separation of Powers (#’s 47-51)

Session Four: The House of Representatives (#’s 52-61)

Session Five: The Senate (#’s 62-66)

Session Six: The Presidency (#’s 67-73)

Session Seven: The Presidency, cont’d (#’s 74-76), The Federal Courts (# 78)

Session Eight: The Federal Courts, cont’d (#’s 79-81), Concluding Issues (#’s 83-85)

In The Federalist Papers, part one, we covered the following:

Session Two: Challenges facing the constitutional convention (# 37); the question of its authority to draft a new charter of government (# 40)

Session Three: General introduction to the essays (# 1); dangers from external sources (#’s 2-5)

Session Four: Dangers from internal sources, and Union as a safeguard against them (#’s 6-9)

Session Five: The same subject, cont’d – the proposed constitution’s republican form (#’s 10, 14)

Session Six: Defects of the Articles of Confederation (#’s 15, 21); the proposed constitution a balance of republican, national, and federal features (#39)

Session Seven: The need for strong central government (#23); the concern over standing armies in peacetime (#’s 24-27)

Session Eight: Congress’ taxing power and related concerns (#’s 31, 33-35)
The Declaration of Independence

The Articles of Confederation

The Constitution of 1787

Preamble

Article One – Congress

Structure – secs. 2 – 5

Process – sec. 7

Powers – sec. 8

Limits on Congress’ powers – sec. 9

Limits on States’ powers – sec. 10

Article Two – the Presidency

Article Three – the Federal Courts

Article Four – Federal/State and Interstate Matters

Article Five – the Amendment process

Article Six – the Supremacy Clause, etc.
The Antifederalists and their objections to the proposed Constitution:

Authority

Process

Substance

Concerns over republicanism

Concerns over separation of powers

Concerns over federalism

Concerns over a lack of a Bill of Rights