

PROPOSED LECTURES AND SEMINARS BY NEIL A. MCDONALD

**The Political Process in the United States**

This course will consist of a series of lectures and seminars on the political system of the United States. After two introductory lectures, attention will be directed to a descriptive and interpretative treatment of the political process in the United States. Emphasis will be placed upon that which is unique in the system - the way in which officials are removed or retained through the campaign and election system; the way in which policy is formulated, amidst conflicting organized pressure groups, and converted into law; the workings of the executive and administrative system. The lecture series will conclude with a discussion of legal and political control and responsibility.

In these lectures an effort will be made to give a picture of the political system at work, and to explain, and where possible to reconcile, divergences between practice and theory. An important part of the interpretation will be an evaluation of how certain problems have been solved, and an estimate of the ability of the political processes to deal with future problems.

The lectures will be supplemented by six seminars, two each devoted to the topics: (1) federalism, (2) political party system, (3) the presidency. The seminars will deal with these unique and difficult features in a more intensive way, but will parallel roughly the lectures.