

Syllabus™

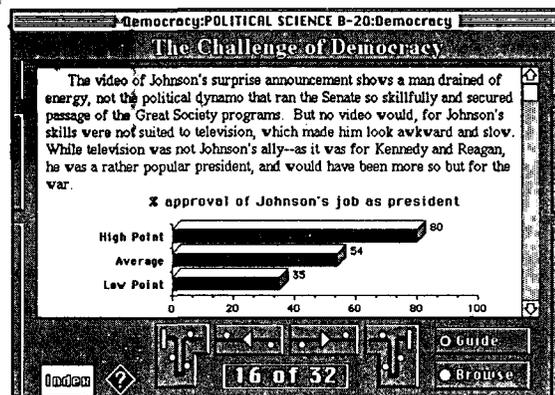
Democracy, 3rd edition, co-authored by Janda.

An auxiliary to the same text, *Idealog*, is also written in Pascal and is available free to anyone who adopts the text. The objective of the program, says Janda, is to get students to think critically about their own political thoughts. *Idealog* introduces students to ideology, showing them that political thought can be two-dimensional—people can be conservative on some issues and liberal on others. Students answer a series of 20 questions, during which they can watch their attitudes crystalize. The computer recalls the student's original ideological self-placement, allowing him or her to

Northwestern University

The 240 beginning political science students taking American Government and Politics at Northwestern University have the benefit of using three programs developed by Professor Kenneth Janda—Crosstabs, *Idealog*, and *Videopaths to American Government*.

Written in Pascal, *Crosstabs* focuses on keeping political science issues simple by allowing students to formulate and test hypotheses about political behavior while helping them understand statistical cross-tabulation. Students have access to predefined datasets that contain on the political behavior of voters in the most recent political election, and information on members of the current U.S. Congress. The program comes with a workbook with questions and open-ended queries that students answer using *Crosstabs*. *Crosstabs* may also be used to research topics of their own choosing. The workbook also guides students in writing papers by giving the student information on, for example, political participation, and also guidelines on how to write a paper. *Crosstabs* is designed to accompany the text *The Challenge of*



Professor Janda has created a supplement to his political science text, that includes data on political behavior.

compare that with the test results. Then, the student is compared to people surveyed across the country, and to fellow classmates. *Idealog* has been translated into Polish, and will be prepared for a Russian format, including questions tailored to address the Russian government.

A grant from Apple Computer consisting of seven Macintosh SE computers and the funds to purchase seven Pioneer laserdisc players and monitors helped make the development of the HyperCard program, *Videopaths to American Government*, possible. A media lab was built in the library to hold the equipment and two additional Macintosh SEs. Students using all three programs have access to two Macintosh IIsx and two Macintosh

Plus computers in the Political Science Department, and also to Macintosh labs across the campus.

Videopaths to American Government is a HyperCard-based program that examines recent political events in American history with the help of video clips from *The Video Encyclopedia of the Twentieth Century*. It includes five topics for students to analyze: the Watergate affair; ideology, the media, and its participation; Civil Rights and equality; presidential popularity; and the Vietnam war. Not only do students get the facts, but they also view actual footage of incidents. Students gain a much more vivid perspective than they could from just reading the textbook, says Janda. Each unit takes between 20-35 minutes to view. The Watergate presentation, for example, begins by describing the physical break-in at the Watergate hotel complex (with a video clip) and explaining the White House connections to the burglars. It goes on to discuss key actors in the White House by using video clips, including speeches given by Press Secretary Ron Ziegler, revelations from the White House tapes, and President Nixon's last appearance at the White House just before leaving by helicopter.

Each unit concludes with questions designed to help students form their own opinions with respect to the topic. Students are assigned to write down their answers and discuss them in the next class.

Apple is planning to work in conjunction with *The Video Encyclopedia of the Twentieth Century* to produce a CD-ROM version of *Videopaths to American Government*.

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