

Political Science 605
Foundations of American Politics
Spring 2009
Professor Matthew Lebo
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THIS IS AN ALMOST COMPLETED SYLLABUS – IT WILL CHANGE SLIGHTLY

Time: Tuesdays, 9:30am-12:30 pm.

Place: SBS N702

Overview:

The purpose of this course is to introduce PhD students to the scholarly study of various subfields of American politics. We will focus on the state of research and on the substantive and methodological challenges that face each subfield. The course is simply too short to provide a great deal of depth in any subfield but should offer students a starting point for research and teaching across a broad range of subjects in American politics.

Requirements:

For each week of the semester I have listed both required and recommended readings. Students are expected to come to class having read everything on the required list and when students write summaries of weekly readings, they should also delve into the recommended readings. These readings will provide you with a good, but brief, introduction to each topic. Here's what you need to be able to do after reading each article or book:

- describe the main themes of the reading
- explain what its contributions are to our understanding of politics
- provide specific criticisms of the study (theory, hypotheses, evidence, methodology)
- raise questions about specific theoretical or empirical issues that are difficult
- outline ideas for future research

We will discuss the readings as a group and try to outline areas for future research. I view this as the most important thing that can be taken from this course – to have you learn feasible approaches to expanding the literature on American politics. We are not here to read, but to learn what to *write*.

Grades:

Grading will be based on class participation, short papers, and a longer research paper due at the end of the semester.

Class participation 20%.

Four short papers 10% each.

Research paper 40%.

Short papers:

The weekly meetings will be divided among the students so that one student is the expert of the week. The assigned student will write a paper about 4-5 pages in length that should review and interpret the literature in *both* the required and recommended readings of the week. The short paper should also propose a research project that could be undertaken with limited financial resources, such as those available to most graduate students. This should not be an add-on to the short paper but is expected to be a key component. Papers are due at the start of the class for the week they are assigned. The student(s) writing a short paper for the week will also be called upon for additional insights into the week's topics.

Research paper:

Students must complete a research paper of approximately 25 pages. The should *at least* be a detailed research design for a project that could feasibly finished by a graduate student in the next year or two. That is, it must include all the sections of a research project except the actual data and analyses but must describe carefully how the data would be collected and analyzed. We will discuss this further in class. The basic idea is to give you a blueprint of a good research paper as well as most of a paper draft that could then be completed by the student once they have sufficient time to gather and analyze the data.

Weekly Schedule

*** Indicates a book you should buy.**

Week 1: January 27th Presidential Politics

Required readings:

- Canes-Wrone, Brandice and Scott de Marchi. 2002. "Presidential Approval and Legislative Success." *American Journal of Political Science* 64:491-509.
- Bond, Jon R., Richard Fleisher, B. Dan Wood. 2003. "The Marginal and Time-Varying Effect of Public Approval on Presidential Success in Congress." *Journal of Politics*. 65(1).
- Canes-Wrone, Brandice. 2001. "The President's Legislative Influence from Public Appeals." *American Journal of Political Science* 45(2):313-29.

Recommended readings:

- Neustadt, Richard. 1990. *Presidential Power*. Chapters 2-3.
- Barber, James David. 1972. *Presidential Character*. Englewood Cliffs: Prentice-Hall.
- Kernell, Samuel. 1997. *Going Public: New Strategies of Presidential Leadership*. 3rd Edition. Washington: Congressional Quarterly Press. (Chapters 1,2, and 4).

Week 2: February 3rd Congress – Institutional Development

Required readings:

- Polsby, Nelson. 1969. "The Institutionalization of the House of Representatives." *American Political Science Review* 62(1):144-68.
- Engstrom, Erik, and Samuel Kernell. 2005. "Manufactured Responsiveness: The Impact of State Electoral Laws on Unified Party Control of the Presidency and House of

- Representatives, 1840-1940." *American Journal of Political Science* 49(3):531-49.
- Jenkins, Jeffrey A. 1999. "Examining the Bonding Effects of Party: A Comparative Analysis of Roll-Call Voting in the U.S. and Confederate Houses." *American Journal of Political Science* 43(3):1144-65.
- Carson, Jamie L., Jeffrey A. Jenkins, David W. Rohde, and Mark A. Souva. 2001. "The Impact of National Tides and District-Level Effects on Electoral Outcomes: The U.S. Congressional Elections of 1862-63." *American Journal of Political Science* 45(4):887-98.
- Cox, Gary W., and Jonathan N. Katz. 1999. "The Reapportionment Revolution and Bias in U.S. Congressional Elections." *American Journal of Political Science* 43(3):812-841.
- Recommended readings:
- Arnold, Douglas. 1990. *The Logic of Congressional Action*. New Haven: Yale University Press.
- Baumgartner, Frank R. and Bryan D. Jones. 1993. *Agendas and Instability in American Politics*. Chicago: University of Chicago Press.
- Binder, Sarah. 1997. *Minority Rights, Majority Rule: Partisanship and the Development of Congress*. Cambridge, UK: Cambridge University Press.
- Binder, Sarah A. 1999. "The Dynamics of Legislative Gridlock, 1947-1996." *American Political Science Review* 93(3):519-533.
- *Cox, Gary W., and Matthew D. McCubbins. 1993. *Legislative Leviathan: Party Government in the House*. Berkeley: University of California Press.
- *Fenno, Richard F. 1978. *Home Style: House Members in Their Districts*. New York: Longman.

Week 3: February 10th Congress as an Institution

Required readings:

- *Rohde, David. 1991. *Parties and Leaders in the Postreform House*. Chicago: University of Chicago Press.
- Aldrich, John and David Rohde. 2000. "The Consequences of Party Organization in the House: The Role of the Majority and Minority Parties in Conditional Party Government." in Jon Bond and Richard Fleisher (eds.) *Polarized Politics: Congress and the President in a Partisan Era*. Washington, D.C.: CQ Press: 31-72.
- Cox, Gary W., and Matthew D. McCubbins. 2005. *Setting the Agenda*. New York: Cambridge University Press. Chapters 1-2.
- Matthew Lebo, Adam McGlynn and Gregory Koger. 2007. "Strategic Party Government: Party Influence in Congress, 1789-2000." *American Journal of Political Science* 51:464-81.

Recommended readings:

- Cox, Gary and Matthew McCubbins. 2005. *Setting the Agenda*. New York: Cambridge University Press. Rest of book.
- Krehbiel, Keith. 1993. "Where's the Party?" *British Journal of Political Science* 23:235-66.

- Krehbiel, Keith. 1998. *Pivotal Politics: A Theory of U.S. Lawmaking*. Chicago: University of Chicago Press.
- Mayhew, David. 1974. *Congress: The Electoral Connection*. New Haven: Yale University Press.
- Poole, Keith T. and Howard Rosenthal. 1997. *Congress: A Political-Economic History of Roll Call Voting*. Oxford: Oxford University Press.
- Weisberg, Herbert. 1979. "Evaluating Theories of Congressional Roll Call Behavior." *American Journal of Political Science* 22:554-77.

Week 4: February 17th – The Supreme Court – Guest Lecture, Jeff Segal

Required readings:

- *Segal, Jeffrey and Harold Spaeth. 2002. "The Supreme Court and the Attitudinal Model Revisited." Cambridge University Press.
- Robert A. Dahl. 1957 "Decision Making in a Democracy: The Supreme Court as a National Policy Maker." *Journal of Public Law* 279-95.

Recommended:

- Baum, Lawrence. 1988. "Measuring Policy Change in the U.S. Supreme Court." *American Political Science Review* 82:905-12.
- George, Tracey E., and Lee Epstein. 1992. "On the Nature of Supreme Court Decision Making." *American Political Science Review* 86:323-337.
- Epstein, Lee and Jack Knight. 1998. *The Choices Justices Make*. Washington: Congressional Quarterly Press.
- Mishler, William, and Reginald S. Sheehan. 1993. "The Supreme Court as a Countermajoritarian Institution? The Impact of Public Opinion on Supreme Court Decisions." *American Political Science Review* 87:87-101.
- Stimson, James A., Michael B. MacKuen, and Robert S. Erikson. 1995. "Dynamic Representation." *American Political Science Review* 89:543-65.

Week 5: February 24th – Parties

Required readings:

- *Downs, Anthony. 1957. *An Economic Theory of Democracy*. New York: Harper and Row. Chapters 1-8.
- APSA. 1950. "Responsible Two-Party Government." *American Political Science Review* 44.
- *Aldrich, John H. 1995. *Why Parties? The Origin and Transformation of Political Parties in America*. Chicago: University of Chicago Press. Chapters 1-3.
- Krehbiel, Keith. 1993. "Where's the Party?" *British Journal of Political Science* 23:235-66.

Recommended readings:

- Snyder, James M., Jr. and Michael M. Ting. 2002. "An Informational Rationale for Political Parties." *American Journal of Political Science* 45:90-110.
- Schlesinger, Joseph A. 1984. "On the Theory of Party Organization." *Journal of Politics* 46:369-400.
- Green, Donald, Bradley Palmquist, and Eric Schickler. 2002. *Partisan Hearts and Minds: Political Parties and the Social Identities of Voters*. New Haven, CT: Yale University Press.

Week 5.1: SPECIAL TIME: FRIDAY, February 27th Voting Behavior

Guest Lecture, Helmut Norpoth

Required readings:

Lewis-Beck, Michael, William G. Jacoby, Helmut Norpoth, and Herbert Weisberg. 2008. *The American Voter Revisited*. University of Michigan Press. Chapters 3-7, 14-15.

Recommended readings:

Brader, Ted. 2005. "Striking a Responsive Chord: How Political Ads Motivate and Persuade Voters by Appealing to Emotions." *American Journal of Political Science* 49:388-405.

Rabinowitz, George and Stuart Elaine MacDonald. 1989. "A Directional Theory of Issue Voting." *American Political Science Review* 83:93-121.

Week 7: March 10th Public Opinion

Required readings:

*Zaller, John. 1992. *The Nature and Origins of Mass Opinion*. Chapters 1-6.

Keele, Luke. 2007. "Social Capital and the Dynamics of Trust in Government." *American Journal of Political Science* 51:241-55.

DeBoef, Suzanna and Paul Kellstedt. 2004. "The Political (and Economic) Origins of Consumer Sentiment." *American Journal of Political Science* 48:633-49.

Box-Steffensmeier, Janet, Suzanna De Boef and Tse-Min Lin. 2004. "The Dynamics of the Gender Gap." *American Political Science Review* 98:515-528.

Lebo, Matthew and Daniel Cassino. 2007. "The Aggregated Consequences of Motivated Reasoning and the Dynamics of Partisan Presidential Approval." *Political Psychology* 28:719-746.

Recommended readings:

Harold Clarke, Marianne Stewart, Michael Ault, and Euel Elliott. 2005. "Men, Women and the Political Economy of Presidential." *British Journal of Political Science* 35:31-51.

Page and Shapiro. 1992. *The Rational Public*. Chicago: University of Chicago Press. Chapters 1&2.

Zaller, John and Stanley Feldman. "A Simple Theory of Survey Response: Answering Questions versus Revealing Preferences." *American Journal of Political Science* 36:579-616.

Stimson, James, Michael MacKuen, and Robert Erikson. 1995. "Dynamic Representation." *American Political Science Review* 89:543-65.

Week 8: March 17th Ideology – Guest Lecture Stanley Feldman

Required readings:

Converse, Phillip. 1964. "The Nature of Belief Systems in Mass Publics." in D. Apter (ed.) *Ideology and Discontent*. Glencoe: The Free Press.

Jacoby, William. 1995. "The Structure of Ideological Thinking in the American Electorate." *American Journal of Political Science* 39:314-35.

MORE TO COME

Recommended readings:

MORE TO COME

Week 9: March 24th – Partisanship and Polarization

Required readings:

- Bartels, Larry M. 2000. "Partisanship and Voting Behavior, 1952-1996." *American Journal of Political Science*.
- Abramowitz, AI, and Saunders, KL. 1998. "Ideological Realignment in the U.S. Electorate." *Journal of Politics* 60:634-52.
- Carsey, Thomas M. and Geoffrey C. Layman. 2006. "Changing Sides or Changing Minds? Party Identification and Policy Preferences in the American Electorate." *American Journal of Political Science* 50(2):464-77.
- Miller, G. and N. Schofield. 2003. "Activists and Partisan Realignment in the United States." *American Political Science Review* 97:245-60.
- Hetherington, Marc J. 2001. "Resurgent Mass Partisanship: The Role of Elite Polarization." *American Political Science Review* 95(3):619-31.
- Fiorina, Morris P. 2002. "Parties and Partisanship: A 40-Year Retrospective." *Political Behavior* 24(2):93-116.

Recommended readings:

- Layman, Geoffrey C. and Thomas M. Carsey. 2002. "Party Polarization and Conflict Extension in the American Electorate." *American Journal of Political Science*. 46:786-802.

Week 10: March 31st – Political Campaigns and Presidential Elections **MPSA Week**

Required readings:

- Gregory A. Huber and Kevin Arceneaux. 2007. "Identifying the Persuasive Effects of Presidential Advertising." *American Journal of Political Science* 51:961-981.
- Wlezien, Christopher, and Robert S. Erikson. 2002. "The Timeline of Presidential Election Campaigns." *The Journal of Politics* 64:969-993.
- Erikson, MacKuen and Stimson. 2002 *The Macro Polity*. Chapter 7: Elections:237-83.
- *Johnston, Richard, Michael G. Hagen and Kathleen Hall Jamieson. 2004. *The 2000 Presidential Election and the Foundations of Party Politics*. New York: Cambridge University Press.
- Norpoth, Helmut. 2008. "On the Razor's Edge: The Forecast of the Primary Model." *Political Science* 41:683-86.
- Erikson, Robert S. and Christopher Wlezien. 2008. "Leading Economic Indicators, the Polls, and the Presidential Vote." *Political Science* 41:703-708.

Recommended readings:

- Gelman, Andrew and Gary King. 1993. "What are American Presidential Election Polls So Variable When Votes Are So Predictable." *British Journal of Political Science* 23:409-451.
- Fiorina, Morris. 1981. *Retrospective Voting in American National Elections*.

Week 11: April 7th – SPRING BREAK

Week 12: April 14th Realignment

Required readings:

- Key, V.O. 1955. "A Theory of Critical Elections." *Journal of Politics* 17:3-18.
- Shea, D. 1999. "The Passing of Realignment and the Advent of the 'Base-less' Party System." *American Politics Quarterly* 27:33-57.
- Carmines, Edward J. and James A. Stimson. 1986. "On the Structure and Sequence of Issue Evolution." *American Political Science Review* 80: 901-20.
- Beck, Paul Allen. 1979. "The Electoral Cycle and Patterns of American Politics." *British Journal of Political Science* 9:129-56.
- Miller, Gary and Norman Schofield. 2003. "Activists and Partisan Realignment in the United States." *American Political Science Review* 97:245-260.

Recommended readings:

- Mayhew, David, R. 2002. *Electoral Realignments: A Critique of an American Genre*. Yale University Press.
- Schofield, Norman, Gary Miller, and Andrew Martin. 2003. "Critical Elections and Political Realignments in the USA: 1860-2000." *Political Studies* 51:217-40.

Week 13: April 21st Macro Politics / Macro Opinion

Required readings:

- MacKuen, Michael, Robert Erikson, and James Stimson. 1989. "Macropartisanship." *American Political Science Review* 83:1125-42.
- Stimson, James A. 2004. *Tides of Consent: How Opinion Movements Shape American Politics*. New York: Cambridge University Press. Chapter 3.
- *Erikson, Robert S., Michael B. MacKuen, and James A. Stimson. 2002. *The Macro Polity*. New York: Cambridge University Press. Chapters 3, 6, 8-10.
- Kramer, Gerald H. 1983. "The Ecological Fallacy Revisited: Aggregate versus Individual-Level Findings on Economics and Elections and Sociotropic Voting." *American Political Science Review* 77:92-111.
- *Gelman, Andrew, David Park, Boris Schor. 2008. *Red State, Blue State, Rich State, Poor State*. Princeton University Press.

Recommended readings:

- Fleming, Roy B., B. Dan Wood, and John Bohte. 1999. "Attention to Issues in a System of Separated Powers." *The Journal of Politics* 61:76-108.
- Wlezien, Christopher. 2004. "Patterns of Representation: Dynamics of Public Preferences and Policy." *Journal of Politics* 66:1-24.
- Durr, Robert H. "What Moves Policy Sentiment?" *American Political Science Review* 87:158-170.

Week 14: April 28th Congressional Elections

Required readings:

- Carson, Jamie, Gregory Koger and Matthew Lebo. 2008/09. "The Electoral Costs of Party Loyalty in Congress." Available at my website.
- Ansolabehere, Stephen, James M. Snyder, Jr, and Charles Stewart III. 2001. "The Effects of Party and Preferences on Congressional Roll-Call Voting." *Legislative Studies Quarterly* 26:533-72.

*Jacobson, Gary C. 2001. *The Politics of Congressional Elections*. 2001. New York: Longman.

Abramowitz, Alan, Brad Alexander and Matthew Gunning. 2006. "Incumbency, Redistricting, and the Decline of Competition in U.S. House Elections." *Journal of Politics* 68:75-88.

Maestas, Cherie D., Sarah Fulton, L Sandy Maisel and Walter Stone. 2006. "When to Risk It? Institutions, Ambitions and the Decision to Run for the U.S. House." *American Political Science Review* 101:289-301.

Recommended readings:

Canes-Wrone, Brandice, David Brady and John Cogan. 2002. "Out of Step Out of Office: Electoral Accountability and House Members' Voting." *American Political Science Review* 96:127-140.

Fenno, Richard. 1973. *Congressmen in Committees*. Boston: Little, Brown and Co. Chapters 1-4,6.

Mayhew, David R. 1974. *Congress: The Electoral Connection*. New Haven: Yale University Press.

Week 15: May 5th Interest Groups and Lobbying

Required readings:

*Olson, Mancur. 1965. *The Logic of Collective Action*. Chapters 1 and 2.

McFarland, A. 1987. "Interest Groups and Theories of Power in America." *British Journal of Political Science* 17:129-47.

Baumgartner, Frank R. and Beth L. Leech. 1998. *Basic Interests: The Importance of Groups in Politics and in Political Science*. Chapter 3: "The Rise and Decline of the Group Approach."

Grier, Munger, and Roberts, "The Determinants of Industry Political Activity, 1978-1986," *American Political Science Review* 88, 1994.

Kollman, "Inviting Friends to Lobby: Interest Groups, Ideological Bias and Congressional Committees." *American Journal of Political Science* 41 (April 1997):519-44.

Caldiera, Gregory, Marie Hojnacki, and John R. Wright. 2000. "The Lobbying Activities of Organized Interests in Federal Judicial Nominations." *Journal of Politics* 62:51-69.

Recommended readings:

Austen-Smith and Wright. 1994. "Counteractive Lobbying," *American Journal of Political Science* 38:25-44.

Baumgartner & Leech. 1996. "The Multiple Ambiguities of Counteractive Lobbying," *American Journal of Political Science* 40:521-42.

Austen-Smith and Wright. 1996. "Theory and Evidence for Counteractive Lobbying." *American Journal of Political Science* 40:543-64.

Baumgartner & Leech. 1996. "Good Theories Deserve Good Data," *American Journal of Political Science* 40:565-69.

Jacobson, Gary. 1999. "The Effect of the AFL-CIO's 'Voter Education' Campaigns on the 1996 House Elections," *Journal of Politics* 61:185-94.

Baumgartner and Jones. 1993. *Agendas and Instability in American Politics*. Chicago: University of Chicago Press. Chapters 1 & 2.