

Political Science 410-0
American Political Institutions and Behavior

Fall 2004
Wednesday 9:00 – 11:50
212 Scott Hall

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This course provides a general introduction to the field of American Political Institutions and Behavior. It is structured as a “survey” course, providing both an overview of the classic works and coverage of important contemporary pieces in the major subfields of American Politics. Given finite time and vast literatures, breadth will be emphasized over depth, so that once the course is completed, students should have a basic working knowledge of each field. This will provide a solid framework for further courses and a subsequent comprehensive exam in American Politics.

Course Requirements

There are several requirements for this class:

- (1) You must come to class prepared, which means that you have done *all* of the week’s readings in advance. You are also expected to participate in class discussion. Participation is what makes a seminar a useful learning experience – you learn as much from the in-class discussion as you do from the readings themselves. Moreover, given that this is your chosen vocation, you should be active in fostering your professional development.
- (2) Each week, each student will serve as a “discussion leader” for a given paper (or a section of a book). This means that you will present the paper (book section) in class – covering the theory, substance, and empirics in a thorough and critical manner. My role will be more of a “moderator,” providing background context and steering the discussion in various directions.
- (3) The course grade will be a function of short essays (30%), class participation (30%), and a final exam (40%). You will write two short essays, the goal of each will be to summarize, analyze, and critique a given week’s readings both individually and collectively. Each essay will be due *before* the class meets to discuss that particular week’s readings. Finally, a take-home final exam will be given, the timing and specifics of which will be discussed in class.

Course Materials:

The readings for the course will be a balance between books and journal articles. Most of the journal articles are available electronically, and I indicate their URL sources below. For those journal articles that are not available electronically, as well as for relevant book chapters, I will provide copies in the lounge on the 3rd floor of Scott Hall.

Six books are required. All are available at the Norris Center bookstore:

- (1) Gary W. Cox, and Mathew D. McCubbins. 1993. *Legislative Leviathan: Party Government in the House*. Berkeley: University of California Press.
- (2) Keith Krehbiel. 1991. *Information and Legislative Organization*. Ann Arbor: University of Michigan Press.
- (3) Scott H. Ainsworth. 2002. *Analyzing Interest Groups*. New York: W. W. Norton.
- (4) David R. Mayhew. 1974. *Congress: The Electoral Connection*. New Haven: Yale University Press.
- (5) John H. Aldrich. 1994. *Why Parties?: The Origins and Transformation of Party Politics in America*. Chicago: University of Chicago Press.
- (6) Lee Epstein, and Jack Knight. 1997. *The Choices Justices Make*. Washington: CQ Press.

The following four books are recommended. We will only read selections from them, so I will provide copies of the relevant chapters in the Scott Hall copy room. Nevertheless, they are “important” books that you might at some point like to own.

- (7) Keith T. Poole, and Howard Rosenthal. 1997. *Congress: A Political-Economic History of Roll Call Voting*. New York: Oxford University Press.
- (8) Anthony Downs. 1957. *An Economic Theory of Democracy* [Reprint]. New York: Addison Wesley.
- (9) Angus Campbell, Philip E. Converse, Warren E. Miller, and Donald E. Stokes. 1960. *The American Voter* [Reprint]. Chicago: University of Chicago Press.
- (10) Benjamin I. Page and Robert Y. Shapiro. 1991. *The Rational Public*. Chicago: University of Chicago Press.

Below is a week-by-week list of reading assignments. Required readings are marked with a *. Recommended readings are marked with a #.

Week 1 – September 22: Introduction

Overview of the course, expectations of the students, etc.

Week 2 – September 29: Participation

*Anthony Downs. 1957. *An Economic Theory of Democracy*, Chapter 14.

*Angus Campbell, Philip E. Converse, Warren E. Miller, and Donald E. Stokes. 1960. *The American Voter*, Chapter 5.

*William Riker and Peter Ordeshook. 1968. “A Theory of the Calculus of Voting.” *American Political Science Review* 62: 25-42. [JSTOR]

*John H. Aldrich. 1993. “Rational Choice and Turnout.” *American Journal of Political Science* 37: 246-278. [JSTOR]

*Sidney Verba, Kay L. Schlozman and Henry E. Brady. 2000. "Rational Action and Political Activity." *Journal of Theoretical Politics* 12: 243-68. [Ingenta]

*Robert Putnam. 2000. *Bowling Alone: The Collapse and Revival of American Community*, Chapters 2 and 3.

*Michael P. McDonald and Samuel L. Popkin. 2001. "The Myth of the Vanishing Voter." *American Political Science Review* 95: 963-74. [Cambridge Journals On-Line]

#Jeff Manza and Christopher Uggen. 2004. "Punishment and Democracy: Disenfranchisement of Nonincarcerated Felons in the United States." *Perspectives on Politics* 2: 491-506. [Cambridge Journals On-Line]

#Thomas E. Patterson. 2002. *The Vanishing Voter*, Chapter 1.

Week 3 – October 6: Ideology, Political Knowledge, and Public Opinion

*Philip E. Converse. 1964. "The Nature of Belief Systems in Mass Publics." In David Apter, ed., *Ideology and Discontent*.

*John Zaller and Stanley Feldman. 1992. "A Simple Theory of the Survey Response: Answering Questions versus Revealing Preferences." *American Journal of Political Science* 36: 579-616. [JSTOR]

*Benjamin I. Page and Robert Y. Shapiro. 1992. *The Rational Public: Fifty Years of Trends in Americans' Policy Preferences*, Chapters 1-2, 8-10.

*James H. Kuklinski and Paul J. Quirk. 2000. "Reconsidering the Rational Public: Cognition, Heuristics, and Mass Opinion." In Mathew D. McCubbins and Samuel Popkin, eds., *Elements of Reason: Understanding and Expanding the Limits of Political Rationality*.

*Robert S. Erikson, Michael B. MacKuen, and James A. Stimson. 2002. *The Macro Polity*, Chapter 8.

*James N. Druckman. 2001. "The Implications of Framing Effects for Citizen Competence." *Political Behavior* 23: 225-56. [Ingenta]

#Philip E. Converse. 2000. "Assessing the Capacity of Mass Electorates." *Annual Review of Political Science* 3: 331-51. [WWW]

#James H. Kuklinski, Paul J. Quirk, Jennifer Jerit, David Schweider, and Robert F. Rich. 2000. "Misinformation and the Currency of Citizenship." *Journal of Politics* 62: 790-816. [JSTOR]

Week 4 – October 13: Voting

- *Anthony Downs. 1957. *An Economic Theory of Democracy*, Chapter 13.
- *Angus Campbell, Philip E. Converse, Warren E. Miller, and Donald E. Stokes. 1960. *The American Voter*, Chapters 1-2, 6-7.
- *V.O. Key, Jr. 1966. *The Responsible Electorate*, Chapters 1-2.
- *Edward G. Carmines and James A. Stimson, “The Two Faces of Issue Voting,” *American Political Science Review* 74 (1980): 78-91. [JSTOR]
- *Morris P. Fiorina. 1981. *Retrospective Voting in American National Election*, Chapters 1-3.
- *Richard R. Lau and David P. Redlawsk. 1997. “Voting Correctly.” *American Political Science Review* 91: 585-98. [JSTOR]
- *Larry M. Bartels, “Partisanship and Voting Behavior, 1952-1996,” *American Journal of Political Science* 44 (2000): 35-50. [JSTOR]
- #Michael B. McKuen, Robert S. Erikson, and James Stimson. 1992. “Peasants or Bankers? The American Electorate and the U.S. Economy.” *American Political Science Review* 86: 597-611. [JSTOR]
- #Harold D. Clarke and Marianne C. Stewart. 1994. “Prospections, Retrospections, and Rationality: The ‘Bankers’ Model of Presidential Approval Reconsidered.” *American Journal of Political Science* 38: 1104-23. [JSTOR]

Week 5 – October 20: No Class

Week 6 – October 27: Congress: Representation and Roll-Call Voting

- *Mayhew, David. *Congress: The Electoral Connection* (1974). All.
- *Fenno, Richard F., Jr. 1977. “U.S. House Members in Their Constituencies.” *American Political Science Review* 71: 883-917. [JSTOR]
- *Keith T. Poole and Howard Rosenthal. 1997. *Congress: A Political-Economic History of Roll Call Voting*, Chapters 1-4.
- *Lawrence S. Rothenberg and Mitchell S. Sanders. 2000. “Severing the Electoral Connection: Shirking in the Contemporary Congress.” *American Journal of Political Science* 44: 316-325. [JSTOR]

*John H. Aldrich and David W. Rohde. 2001. "The Logic of Conditional Party Government: Revisiting the Electoral Connection." In Lawrence C. Dodd and Bruce I. Oppenheimer, eds., *Congress Reconsidered*, Seventh Edition. Washington: CQ Press.

#James A. Stimson, Michael B. MacKuen, and Robert S. Erikson. 1995. "Dynamic Representation." *American Political Science Review* 89: 543-565. [JSTOR]

#Jane Mansbridge. 1999. "Should Blacks Represent Blacks and Women Represent Women?: A Contingent 'Yes.'" *Journal of Politics* 61: 628-57. [JSTOR]

Week 7 – November 3: Congress: Institutional Organization

*Barry Weingast and William Marshall. 1988. "The Industrial Organization of Congress: Or, Why Legislatures, Like Firms, Are Not Organized as Markets." *Journal of Political Economy* 96: 132-63. [JSTOR]

*Keith Krehbiel. 1991. *Information and Legislative Organization*. All.

*Gary Cox and Mathew D. McCubbins. 1993. *Legislative Leviathan*. All.

#Eric Schickler. 2000. "Institutional Change in the House of Representatives, 1867-1998: A Test of Partisan and Ideological Power Balance Models." *American Political Science Review* 94: 269-288. [JSTOR]

#Mark S. Hurwitz, Roger J. Moiles, and David W. Rohde. 2001. "Distributive and Partisan Issues in Agricultural Policy in the 104th House." *American Political Science Review* 95: 911-22. [Cambridge Journals On-Line]

Week 8 – November 10: Presidency

*Richard E. Neustadt. 1960 [1990]. *Presidential Power and the Modern Presidents*, Chapter 3.

*Samuel Kernell. 1997. *Going Public*, 3rd ed., Chapters.

*Kenneth R. Mayer. 1999. "Executive Orders and Presidential Power." *Journal of Politics* 61: 445-66. [JSTOR]

*Terry Moe and William Howell. 1999. "Unilateral Action and Presidential Power: A Theory." *Presidential Studies Quarterly* 29: 850-72. [Ingenta]

*Charles Cameron. 2000. *Veto Bargaining: Presidents and the Politics of Negative Power*, Chapter 2.

*Brandice Canes-Wrone. 2001. "The President's Legislative Influence from Public Appeals." *American Journal of Political Science* 45: 313-29. [JSTOR]

#Stephen Skowronek. 1997. *The Politics Presidents Make*. Cambridge: Belknap Press. Chapters.

#Lyn Ragsdale and John J. Theiss. 1997 "The Institutionalization of the American Presidency, 1924-92." *American Journal of Political Science* 41: 1280-1318. [JSTOR]

Week 9 – November 17: Supreme Court

*Lee Epstein and Jack Knight. 1997. *The Choices Justices Make*. All.

*Paul J. Wahlbeck, James F. Spriggs, and Forrest Maltzman. 1998. "Marshalling the Court: Bargaining and Accommodation on the United States Supreme Court." *American Journal of Political Science* 42: 294-315. [JSTOR]

*Timothy Johnson and Andrew Martin. 1998. "The Public's Conditional Response to Supreme Court Decisions." *American Political Science Review* 92: 299-309. [JSTOR]

*Kevin McGuire. 2004. "The Institutionalization of the U.S. Supreme Court." *Political Analysis* 12: 128-142.

#Gregory A. Caldeira and John R. Wright. 1988. "Organized Interests and Agenda Setting in the U.S. Supreme Court." *American Political Science Review* 82: 1109-27. [JSTOR]

#Mark J. Richards and Herbert M. Kritzer. 2002. "Jurisprudential Regimes in Supreme Court Decision Making." *American Political Science Review* 96: 305-20. [Cambridge On-Line Journals]

Week 10 – November 24: Political Parties

*John H. Aldrich, *Why Parties?*. All

*Keith T. Poole and Howard Rosenthal. 1997. *Congress: A Political-Economic History of Roll Call Voting*, Chapter 5.

*Marc J. Hetherington. 2001. "Resurgent Mass Partisanship: The Role of Elite Polarization." *American Political Science Review* 95: 619-32. [Cambridge Journals On-Line]

#Gary C. Jacobson. 2000. "Party Polarization in National Politics: The Electoral Connection." In Jon R. Bond and Richard Fleisher, eds., *Polarized Politics: Congress and the President in a Partisan Era*. Washington: CQ Press.

#Geoffrey Layman and Thomas Carsey. 2002. "Party Polarization and 'Conflict Extension' in the American Electorate." *American Journal of Political Science* 46: 786-802. [JSTOR]

Week 11 – December 1: Interest Groups

*Scott H. Ainsworth. 2002. *Analyzing Interest Groups*. All.

#Richard D. Hall and Frank W. Wayman. 1990. "Buying Time: Moneyed Interests and the Mobilization of Bias in Congressional Committees." *American Political Science Review* 84: 797-820. [JSTOR]

#Marie Hojnacki. 1997. "Interest Groups' Decisions to Join Alliances or Work Alone." *American Journal of Political Science* 41: 67-87. [JSTOR]