

Political Science 820
Proseminar in American Politics

Spring 2002
Tuesday 12:40-3:30
134 North Kedzie Hall

Professor Jeffery A. Jenkins
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This course provides a general introduction to the field of American Politics. It is structured as a “survey” course, providing an overview of the classic works and the more important contemporary pieces in the major subfields of American Politics. Thus, given finite time and vast literatures, emphasis will be placed on breadth over depth, so that once the course is completed, students will have a basic working knowledge of all aspects of the field.

Students are expected to come to class each week prepared to discuss *all* of the assigned readings. Four short essays will be required, which will 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 handed out on Wednesday, April 24, which will be due at 5 p.m. the following week, Wednesday, May 1. Exams may be given to me directly or placed in my mailbox (303 South Kedzie Hall).

The course grade will be determined as follows: short essays (40%), class participation (30%), and final exam (30%).

January 8: Course Introduction

January 15: Political Participation

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

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

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

Paul Abramson and John Aldrich, “The Decline of Electoral Participation in America,” *American Political Science Review* 76 (1982): 502-21. [JSTOR]

John Aldrich, “Rational Choice and Turnout,” *American Journal of Political Science* 37 (1993), 246-78. [JSTOR]

Richard J. Timpone, "Structure, Behavior, and Voter Turnout in the United States," *American Political Science Review* 92 (1998): 145-58. [JSTOR]

Kim Fridkin Kahn and Patrick J. Kenney, "Do Negative Campaigns Mobilize or Suppress Turnout? Clarifying the Relationship between Negativity and Participation," *American Political Science Review* 93 (1999): 877-89. [MSU electronic journals]

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

Michael P. McDonald and Samuel L. Popkin, "The Myth of the Vanishing Voter," *American Political Science Review* 95 (2001): 963-74. [MSU electronic journals]

January 22: Ideology, Political Knowledge, and Public Opinion

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

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

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

Paul Sniderman, "The New Look in Public Opinion Research," In Ada Finifter, ed., *Political Science: The State of the Discipline II* (1993).

Philip E. Converse, "Assessing the Capacity of Mass Electorates," *Annual Review of Political Science* 3 (2000): 331-51. [MSU electronic journals]

James H. Kuklinski and Paul J. Quirk, "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* (2000).

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

January 29: No Class

February 5: Voting Behavior: Seminal Works

Bernard R. Berelson, Paul F. Lazarsfeld, and William N. McPhee, *Voting* (1954), Introduction and Chapters 13-14.

Anthony Downs, *An Economic Theory of Democracy* (1957), Chapter 13.

Angus Campbell, Philip E. Converse, Warren E. Miller, and Donald E. Stokes, *The American Voter* (1960), Chapters 1-2, 6-7.

V.O. Key, Jr., *The Responsible Electorate* (1966), Chapters 1-2.

Morris P. Fiorina, *Retrospective Voting in American National Elections* (1981), Chapters 1-3.

Samuel L. Popkin, *The Reasoning Voter* (1994), Chapters 1-4.

February 12: Voting Behavior: Long-Term Factors

Party ID

Larry M. Bartels, "Partisanship and Voting Behavior, 1952-1996," *American Journal of Political Science* 44 (2000): 35-50. [JSTOR]

Marc J. Hetherington, "Resurgent Mass Partisanship: The Role of Elite Polarization," *American Political Science Review* 95 (2001): 619-32. [MSU electronic journals]

Incumbency

Andrew Gelman and Gary King, "Estimating Incumbency Advantage Without Bias," *American Journal of Political Science* 34 (1990) 1142-64. [JSTOR]

Gary W. Cox and Jonathan Katz, "Why Did the Incumbency Advantage in U.S. House Elections Grow?," *American Journal of Political Science* 40 (1996): 478-97. [JSTOR]

Economics

Gregory B. Markus, "The Impact of Personal and National Economic Conditions on the Presidential Vote: A Pooled Cross-Sectional Analysis," *American Journal of Political Science* 32 (1988): 137-54. [JSTOR]

Michael B. McKuen, Robert S. Erikson, and James Stimson, "Peasants or Bankers? The American Electorate and the U.S. Economy," *American Political Science Review* 86 (1992): 597-611. [JSTOR]

Harold D. Clarke and Marianne C. Stewart, "Prospections, Retrospections, and Rationality: The 'Bankers' Model of Presidential Approval Reconsidered," *American Journal of Political Science* 38 (1994): 1104-23. [JSTOR]

Hemut Norpoth, "Presidents and Prospective Voters," *Journal of Politics* 58 (1996): 776-92. [JSTOR]

Richard Nadeau and Michael S. Lewis-Beck, "National Economic Voting in U.S. Presidential Elections," *Journal of Politics* 63 (2001): 159-81. [MSU electronic journals]

February 19: Voting Behavior: Immediate Factors

Issues

Edward G. Carmines and James A. Stimson, "The Two Faces of Issue Voting," *American Political Science Review* 74 (1980): 78-91. [JSTOR]

Alan Abramowitz, "It's Abortion, Stupid: Policy Voting in the 1992 Presidential Election," *Journal of Politics* 57 (1995): 176-86. [JSTOR]

John R. Petrocik, "Issue Ownership in Presidential Elections, with a 1980 Case Study," *American Journal of Political Science* 40 (1996): 825-50. [JSTOR]

The Media

Larry Bartels, "Messages Received: The Political Impact of Media Exposure," *American Political Science Review* 87 (1993): 267-85. [JSTOR]

Russell J. Dalton, Paul A. Beck, and Robert Huckfeldt, "Partisan Cues and the Media: Information Flows in the 1992 Presidential Election," *American Political Science Review* 92 (1998): 111-26. [JSTOR]

Campaign Effects and Candidate Evaluations

Milton Lodge and Marco Steenbergen, with Shaun Brau, "The Responsive Voters: Campaign Information and the Dynamics of Candidate Evaluation," *American Political Science Review* 89 (1995): 309-26. [JSTOR]

Daron R. Shaw, "A Study of Presidential Campaign Event Effects from 1952-1992," *Journal of Politics* 61 (1999): 387-422. [MSU electronic journals]

February 26: Congress: Representation & The Electoral Connection

Miller, Warren E. and Donald E. Stokes, "Constituency Influence in Congress," *American Political Science Review* 57 (1963): 45-56. [JSTOR]

Mayhew, David. *Congress: The Electoral Connection* (1974). All.

Fenno, Richard F., Jr., "U.S. House Members in Their Constituencies," *American Political Science Review* 71 (1977): 883-917 [JSTOR]

Erikson, Robert S., "Constituency Opinion and Congressional Behavior: A Reexamination of the Miller-Stokes Representation Data," *American Journal of Political Science* 22 (1978): 511-535. [JSTOR]

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

Jonathan N. Katz, Brian R. Sala, "Careerism, Committee Assignments, and the Electoral Connection," *American Political Science Review* 90 (1996): 21-33. [JSTOR]

Cameron, Charles, David Epstein, and Sharyn O'Halloran, "Do Majority-Minority Districts Maximize Substantive Black Representation in Congress?," *American Political Science Review* 90 (1996): 794-812. [JSTOR]

Rothenberg, Lawrence S. and Mitchell S. Sanders, "Severing the Electoral Connection: Shirking in the Contemporary Congress." *American Journal of Political Science* 44 (2000): 316-325. [JSTOR]

March 5: No Class (Spring Break)

March 12: Congress: Legislative Organization

Kenneth Shesple and Barry Weingast, "The Institutional Foundations of Committee Power," *American Political Science Review* 81 (1987): 85-104. [JSTOR]

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

Keith Krehbiel, *Information and Legislative Organization* (1991). All.

David W. Rohde, *Parties and Leaders in the Postreform House* (1991). All.

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

Keith Krehbiel, "Where's the Party?," *British Journal of Political Science* 23 (1993): 235-66. [JSTOR]

David W. Rohde, "Parties and Committees in the House: Member Motivations, Issues, and Institutional Arrangements," *Legislative Studies Quarterly* 19 (1995): 341-

March 19: Political Parties

Joseph A. Schlesinger, "On the Theory of Party Organization," *Journal of Politics* 46 (1984): 369-400.

Joseph A. Schlesinger, "The New American Party," *American Political Science Review* 79 (1985): 1152-69.

John H. Aldrich, *Why Parties?: The Origin and Transformation of Party Politics in America* (1995). All.

March 26: Critical Elections and Partisan Realignment

V.O. Key, "A Theory of Critical Elections," *Journal of Politics* 17 (1955): 3-18. [JSTOR]

Walter Dean Burham, *Critical Elections and the Mainsprings of American Politics* (1970), Chapters 1 and 2.

Sundquist, James L. *Dynamics of the Party System: Alignment and Realignment of Political Parties in the United States* (1983), Chapters 1-3.

David Brady, "A Reevaluation of Realignment in American Politics: Evidence from the House of Representatives," *American Political Science Review* (1985) [JSTOR]

Keith T. Poole and Howard Rosenthal, "Spatial Realignment and the Mapping of Issues in American History: The Evidence from Roll Call Voting," In William H. Riker, ed., *Agenda Formation* (1993), pp. 13-39.

Peter F. Nardulli, "The Concept of a Critical Realignment, Electoral Behavior, and Political Change," *American Political Science Review* 89 (1995): 10-22. [JSTOR]

Larry Bartels, "Electoral Continuity and Change, 1868-1996," *Electoral Studies* 17 (1998): 301-26. [MSU electronic journals]

April 2: The Presidency

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

Charles Ostrom and Dennis Simon, "Promise and Performance: A Dynamic Model of Presidential Popularity," *American Journal of Political Science* 79 (1985): 334-58. [JSTOR]

Samuel Kernell, *Going Public: New Strategies of Presidential Leadership*, 3rd ed. (1997), Chapters

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

Terry Moe and Will Howell, "The Presidential Power of Unilateral Action," *Journal of Law, Economics & Organization* 15 (1999): 132-79. [MSU electronic journals]

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

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

April 9: The Bureaucracy

William Niskanen, *Bureaucracy and Representative Government* (1971), Chapters

Mathew D. McCubbins, Roger Noll, and Barry Weingast, "Administrative Procedures as Instruments of Political Control," *Journal of Law, Economics, and Organization* 3 (1987): 243-77.

D. Roderick Kiewiet and Mathew D. McCubbins, *The Logic of Delegation* (1991), Chapter 2.

B. Dan Wood and Rick Waterman, "The Dynamics of Political Control of the Bureaucracy," *American Journal of Political Science* 85 (1991): 801-28. [JSTOR]

Kathleen Bawn, "Political Control Versus Expertise: Congressional Choices about Administrative Procedures," *American Political Science Review* 89 (1995): 62-73. [JSTOR]

John Brehm and Scott Gates, *Working, Shirking, and Sabotage: Bureaucratic Response to a Democratic Public* (1997), Chapters 2 and 3.

Steven J. Balla, "Administrative Procedures and Political Control of the Bureaucracy," *American Political Science Review* 92 (1998): 663-73.

April 16: Interest Groups

Mancur Olson, *The Logic of Collective Action* (1965), Sections I and II.

Jack L. Walker, "Origins and Maintenance of Interest Groups in America," *American Political Science Review* 77 (1983): 390-406. [JSTOR]

Arthur Denzau and Michael Munger, "Legislators and Interest Groups: How Unorganized Interests Get Represented," *American Political Science Review* 80 (1986): 86-106. [JSTOR]

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

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

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

Marie Hojnacki and David Kimball, "Organized Interests and the Decision of Whom to Lobby in Congress," *American Political Science Review* 92 (1998): 775-90. [JSTOR]

April 23: The Supreme Court and Policymaking

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

William Mishler and Reginald S. Sheehan, "The Supreme Court as a Countermajoritarian Institution?: The Impact of Public Opinion on Supreme Court Decisions," *American Political Science Review* 87 (1993): 87-101. [JSTOR]

Jeffrey A. Segal and Harold J. Spaeth, *The Supreme Court and the Attitudinal Model* (1993), Chapters

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

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

Lee Epstein and Jack Knight, *The Choices Justices Make* (1998), Chapters