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PSC 523: American Politics Field Seminar

Seminar Spring 2012: W 12:30-3:15 (Harkness 329)

Course Description

This seminar will introduce you to classic as well as contemporary research in American politics. We will discuss the literature both in political institutions (e.g., Congress) and in political behavior (e.g., voting). By covering an array of topics in these areas, the course will provide a foundation for developing a comprehensive understanding of the field and the various directions in which it is now moving.

Requirements

You should do all the readings for each week's assignments and be prepared to discuss them in class. Grades will be based on two critical essays on the readings (5-10 pages), in-class presentations, and general class discussion. Student responsibilities include leading discussion of one of the readings in **each** seminar, drawing the class into describing and comparing the readings substantively and methodologically. (There will be some flexibility about this depending on the size of the class and the readings for the week.) A one-two page handout of notes should be provided. The specific assignments will be detailed in class.

Readings

Most articles are available through the Voyager electronic journals or Google Scholar. Any that are not will be available through course reserves (either online or as a physical book) or in a box in the Political Science Lounge, Harkness 314. Please be sure to return these quickly, so that others can read them.

Course Schedule

Latest version available on the course web site:

<http://www.rochester.edu/College/faculty/mperess/apfs2012.html>