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PSC 523: American Politics Field Seminar

Seminar Fall 2013: T 12:30-3:15 (Harkness 112)

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 online. 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/apfs2013.html>

September 2 – Introduction

No Reading

September 9 – Voting Behavior, Part 1

- [1] Downs, Anthony (1957). *An Economic Theory of Democracy*. New York: HarperCollins, Chapters 1, 7-8, and 12.
- [2] Campbell, Angus, Philip E. Converse, Warren E. Miller, and Donald E. Stokes (1960). *The American Voter*. Chicago: University of Chicago Press, Chapters 6-7.

- [3] Converse, Philip E. (1964). "The Nature of Belief Systems in Mass Publics." In *Ideology and Discontent*, ed. David E. Apter. New York: Free Press, Pages 206-231.
- [4] Ansolabehere, Stephen, Jonathan Rodden, and James M. Snyder (2008). [The Strength of Issues: Using Multiple Measures to Gauge Preference Stability, Ideological Constraint, and Issue Voting](#). *American Political Science Review* 102:215-232.

September 16 – Voting Behavior, Part 2

- [1] Alesina, Alberto, and Howard Rosenthal (1995). *Partisan Politics, Divided Government, and the Economy*, Chapter 3, 6, and 7.
- [2] Lau, Richard R. and David P. Redlawsk (1997). [Voting Correctly](#). *American Political Science Review* 91: 585-98.
- [3] McKuen, Michael B., Robert S. Erikson, James A. Stimson (1992). [Peasants or Bankers? The American Electorate and the U.S. Economy](#). *American Political Science Review* 86:597-611.
- [4] Zaller, John (2004). "Floating Voters in U.S. Presidential Elections." In *Studies in Public Opinion: Attitudes, Nonattitudes, Measurement Error, and Change*, ed. William E. Saris and Paul M. Sniderman. Princeton, NJ: Princeton University Press.

September 23 – Representation

- [1] Miller, Warren E., and Donald E. Stokes (1963). [Constituency Influence in Congress](#) 57:45-56.
- [2] Fiorina, Morris P., Samuel J. Abrams, and Jeremy C. Pope (2005). *Culture War? The Myth of a Polarized America*. New York: Longman, Chapters 2 and 4.
- [3] Abramowitz, Alan I. and Kyle L. Saunders (2008). [Is Polarization and Myth?](#) *Journal of Politics* 70:542-555.
- [4] Lax, Jeffrey R., and Justin H. Phillips (forthcoming). [The Democratic Deficit in the States](#). Forthcoming in *American Journal of Political Science*.
- [5] Gillens, Martin (2012). *Affluence and Influence: Economic Inequality and Political Power in America*. Princeton: Princeton University Press. Chapters 2 and 3.

September 30 – The Media

- [1] Iyengar, Shanto (1987). [Television News and Citizens' Explanations of National Affairs](#). *American Political Science Review* 81:815-832.
- [2] Lenz, Gabriel S. (2009). [Learning and Opinion Change, Not Priming: Reconsidering the Priming Hypothesis](#). *American Journal of Political Science* 53:821-837.
- [3] Gerber, Alan S., James G. Gimpel, Donald P. Green, and Daron R. Shaw (2011). [How Large and Long-lasting are the Persuasive Effects of Television Campaign Ads? Results from a Randomized Field Experiment](#). *American Political Science Review* 105:135-150.
- [4] Huber, Gregory A. and Kevin Arceneaux (2007). [Identifying the Persuasive Effects of Presidential Advertising](#). *American Journal of Political Science* 51:957-977.

October 14 – The Electoral Connection

- [1] Fenno, Richard F. (1977). [U.S. House Members in Their Constituencies: An Exploration](#). *American Political Science Review* 71:883-917.
- [2] Mayhew, David R. (1974). *Congress: The Electoral Connection*. New Haven: Yale University Press.
- [3] Jacobson, Gary C. (1989). [Strategic Politicians and the Dynamics of U.S. House Elections, 1946-86](#). *American Political Science Review* 83:773-793.

- [4] Gerber, Alan (1998). [Estimating the Effect of Campaign Spending on Senate Election using Instrumental Variables](#). *American Political Science Review* 92:401-411.

October 21 – Congress, Part 1

- [1] Binder, Sarah (1996). [The Partisan Basis of Procedural Choice: Allocating Parliamentary Rights in the House, 1789-1990](#). *American Political Science Review* 90:8-20.
- [2] Cox, Gary W., and Matthew D. McCubbins (2005). *Setting the Agenda: Responsible Party Government in the U.S. House of Representatives*. Cambridge: Cambridge University Press, [Chapters 2 and 5](#).
- [3] Poole, Keith T. and Howard Rosenthal (1997). *Congress: A Political Economic History of Roll Call Voting*. New York: Oxford University Press. [Chapter 3](#).
- [4] Richman, Jesse (2011). [Parties, Pivots, and Policy: The Status Quo Test](#). *American Political Science Review* 105:151-165.

October 28 – Congress, Part 2

- [1] Fenno, Richard F. (1973). *Congressmen in Committees*. Boston: Little, Brown, [Chapters 1-2](#).
- [2] Hall, Richard L. (1987). [Participation and Purpose in Committee Decision Making](#). *American Political Science Review* 81:105-27.
- [3] Cox, Gary W., and Matthew D. McCubbins (1993). *Legislative Leviathan*. Berkeley: University of California Press, [Chapters 7 and 10](#).
- [4] Krehbiel, Keith (1991). *Information and Legislative Organization*. Ann Arbor: University of Michigan Press, [Chapters 2 and 3](#).

November 5 – Race and Gender

- [1] Shotts, Kenneth W. (2002). [Gerrymandering, Legislative Composition, and National Policy Outcomes](#). *American Journal of Political Science* 46:398-414.
- [2] Washington, Ebonya (2006). [How Black Candidates Affect Voter Turnout](#). *Quarterly Journal of Economics* 121:973-998.
- [3] Lawless, Jennifer L, and Kathryn Pearson (2008). [The Primary Reason for Women's Underrepresentation? Reevaluating the Conventional Wisdom](#). *Journal of Politics* 70:67-82.
- [4] Anzia, Sarah F., and Christopher R. Berry (2011). [The Jackie \(and Jill\) Robinson Effect: Why Do Congresswomen Outperform Congressmen?](#) *American Journal of Political Science* 55:478-493.

November 12 – The Presidency

- [1] Neustadt, Richard E. (1990). *Presidential Power and the Modern Presidents*. New York: Free Press, [Chapters 3-5](#).
- [2] Kernell, Samuel (1993). *Going Public: New Strategies of Presidential Leadership*. 2nd ed. Washington: CQ Press, [Chapters 1-2](#).
- [3] Cameron, Charles M. (2000). *Veto Bargaining: Presidents and the Politics of Negative Power*. Cambridge: Cambridge University Press, [Chapters 4 and 6](#).
- [4] Canes-Wrone, Brandice, William G. Howell, and David E. Lewis (2008). [Toward a Broader Understanding of Presidential Power: A Reevaluation of the Two Presidencies Thesis](#). *Journal of Politics* 70:1-16.

November 19 – Courts

- [1] Segal, Jeffrey A. and Harold J. Spaeth (1996). [The Influence of Stare Decisis on the Votes of United States Supreme Court Justices](#). *American Journal of Political Science* 4:971-1003.
- [2] Gordon, Sanford C. and Gregory A. Huber (2007). [The Effect of Electoral Competitiveness on Incumbent Behavior](#). *Quarterly Journal of Political Science* 2:107-138.
- [3] Bailey, Michael and Forest Maltzman (2008). [Does Legal Doctrine Matter? Unpacking Law and Policy Preference on the U.S. Supreme Court](#). *American Political Science Review* 102:369-384.
- [4] Clark, Tom S., and Benjamin Lauderdale (2010). [Locating Supreme Court Opinions in Doctrine Space](#). *American Journal of Political Science* 54:871-890.

November 26 – Interest Groups and Parties

- [1] Olson, Mancur (1971). *Logic of Collective Action*. Cambridge: Harvard University Press, [Intro and Chapters 1-2](#).
- [2] Hall, Richard, and Frank Wayman (1990). [Buying Time: Moneyed Interests and the Mobilization of Bias in Congressional Committees](#). *American Political Science Review* 84:797-820.
- [3] Powell, Lynda (2012). *The Influence of Campaign Contributions in State Legislatures*. Ann Arbor: University of Michigan Press. [Chapter 8](#).
- [4] Aldrich, John H. (1995). *Why Parties?* Chicago: University of Chicago Press, [Chapters 1-2 and 6](#).

December 3 – Bureaucracy

- [1] Lewis, David E. (2007). [Testing Pendleton's Premise: Do Political Appointees Make Worse Bureaucrats?](#) *Journal of Politics* 69:1073-1088,
- [2] Ting, Michael M. (2008). [Whistleblowing](#). *American Political Science Review* 102:249-267.
- [3] Gordon, Sanford C. (2009). [Assessing Partisan Bias in Federal Public Corruption Prosecutions](#). *American Political Science Review* 103:534-554
- [4] Clinton, Joshua D., Anthony Bertelli, Christian Grose, David E. Lewis, and David C. Nixon (forthcoming). [Separated Powers in the United States: The Ideology of Agencies, Presidents, and Congress](#). Forthcoming in *American Journal of Political Science*.

December 10 – State and Local Politics

- [1] Erikson, Robert S., Gerald C. Wright, and John P. McIver (1994). *Statehouse Democracy: Public Opinion and the American States*. Cambridge: Cambridge University Press, [Chapters 4-6](#).
- [2] Kousser, Thad, Jeffrey B. Lewis, and Seth E. Maskett (2007). [Ideological Adaptation? The Survival Instinct of Threatened Legislators](#). *Journal of Politics* 69:828-843.
- [3] Gamm, Gerald, and Thad Kousser (2010). [Broad Bills of Particularistic Policy? Historical Patterns in the American State Legislatures](#). *American Political Science Review* 104:151-170.
- [4] Rigby, Elizabeth and Gerald C. Wright (2013). [Political Parties and the Representation of the Poor in the American States](#). *American Political Science Review* 57:552-565.