

POL 411 – Seminar in American Politics
Fall 2016
Tuesday, 6:00 – 8:50
Schroeder 107

Instructor: Dr. Carl L. Palmer
Office: 433 Schroeder Hall
Office Hours: MW 1:00-2:00, Tuesday 4-6, or by appointment
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Course Objectives:

This seminar course is designed to introduce students to research in American politics. We will be undertaking a survey of the broader topics in American politics, both classic and contemporary. Students should end the course familiar with some of the major research traditions, questions and findings, and with improved and sharpened skills in critical reading, speaking, thinking and writing. This should not be taken to be an exhaustive survey of the subfield; students interested in additional readings should not hesitate to ask for further recommendations.

In this and other graduate seminars, it is essential that students take a consistently active role in class discussions. I expect students to come to class every day having completed assigned readings in advance, and prepared to contribute your opinions, observations, questions and efforts to relate readings to concepts and tools you are learning in your other classes, and/or current developments and events in American politics. In general, we will approach assigned readings with the following questions in mind:

- How does it contribute to our understanding of politics?
- What are the main arguments of the piece? The substantive findings?
- How does the author's argument speak to the existing literature? The other readings on the topic?
- What are the limitations of this research? Are there any current/recent features or trends in the literature that might call for modifying the research and/or its findings?
- What would be one or more "next steps" toward improving or building upon this research?

Additionally, with every reading, you should be able to identify and describe the following from each reading:

- The research question
- The hypotheses
- The research design
- The dependent and independent variables (including how they are measured)
- The results of the analyses

Required Readings:

- Baglione, Lisa A. 2016. *Writing a Research Paper in Political Science*. 3rd Edition. Thousand Oaks CA: CQ Press.

- Downs, Anthony. 1957. *An Economic Theory of Democracy*. New York NY: Addison Wesley.
- Segal, Jeffrey A., and Harold J. Spaeth. 2005. *The Supreme Court and the Attitudinal Model Revisited*. Cambridge MA: Cambridge University Press.
- Zaller, John R. 1992. *The Nature and Origins of Mass Opinion*. Cambridge MA: Cambridge University Press.
- Additional readings will be made available via the course website at (or can be downloaded from www.jstor.org). A detailed bibliography is attached to the syllabus.

Course Policies:

1. Academic dishonesty will not be tolerated. Please see the university's policies regarding plagiarism and cheating online at the Dean of Students Office website.
2. Assignments must be submitted *at the beginning of class* on the due date in the syllabus; late assignments will lose 10% credit per day late. All assignments *must* be typed unless otherwise instructed.
3. Usage of cell phones in class will not be permitted. Please silence all electronic devices before coming to class.
4. If you have special needs that require accommodation, please let me know early on so that the appropriate measures can be taken. You will be required to provide documentation of your requirements.

Course Requirements:

Your course grade will be determined as follows:

Class Participation (20%): This seminar depends on your active participation. As such, you will be expected to come to class ready and willing to contribute to our discussion of the readings.

Reaction papers (30%): You will be required to submit a one-page single-spaced paper (12-point font with 1in margins) reacting to the week's readings for 6 of the 12 weeks (beginning with week 3). Papers must be submitted electronically to the instructor via email by 9AM on Tuesday prior to class, in Word or PDF format. Late papers **will not** be accepted without proper documentation.

Final Paper (40%): You will be asked to develop a 20-25 page research proposal (12-point font with 1in margins) over the course of the semester. It will be comprised of an initial literature review (due 10/18, 5% of final grade), a research design (due 11/15, 5% of final grade), and a revised final paper due on the day of the final (TBD).

Presentation/Discussion (10%): The final class meeting you will present your final research design, as well as providing comments for one of your colleagues' work.

Course Schedule:

Section I: Introduction

Week 1

August 23 - Introductions and Syllabus

- Baglione, Lisa A. 2016. *Writing a Research Paper in Political Science*. 3rd Edition. Thousand Oaks CA: CQ Press. Chapters 2, 5, 7-8 (skim).

Week 2

Aug. 30 –Methodological Approaches

- Bennett, Andrew, and Colin Elman. 2006. “Qualitative Research: Recent Developments in Case Study Methods.” *Annual Review of Political Science*. 9: 455-76.
- Brady, Henry E. 2000. “Contributions of Survey Research to Political Science.” *PS: Political Science and Politics*. 33(1): 47-57.
- Fiorina, Morris P. 1975. “Formal Models in Political Science.” *The American Journal of Political Science*. 19(1): 133-59.
- Kinder, Donald R. and Thomas R. Palfrey. 2003. “On Behalf of an Experimental Political Science.” In Kinder, Donald R. and Thomas R. Palfrey, eds. *Experimental Foundations of Political Science*. Ann Arbor MI: Michigan University Press
- Walsh, Katherine Cramer. 2004. *Talking About Politics: Informal Groups and Social Identity in American Life*. Chicago: University of Chicago Press, chapter 8, appendix 1.

Section II: Institutions

Week 3

Sept. 6 – Parties and Interest Groups

- Downs, Anthony. 1957. *An Economic Theory of Democracy*. New York NY: Addison Wesley. Chapters 2, 7-8
- Hall, Richard L., and Frank W. Wayman. 1990. “Buying Time: Moneyed Interests and the Mobilization of Bias in Congressional Committees.” *The American Political Science Review*. 84(3): 797-820.
- Lowery, David and Kathleen Marchetti. 2012. "You Don't Know Jack: Principals, Agents, and Lobbying." *Interest Groups & Advocacy*. Vol. 1 (2): 139-170.
- Strom, Kaare. 1990. “A Behavioral Theory of Competitive Political Parties.” *American Journal of Political Science*. 34(2): 565-98.

Week 4

Sept. 13 – Congress, the Institutional Perspective

- Anderson, Sarah E., Daniel Butler, and Laurel Harbridge. 2016. “Legislative Institutions as a Source of Party Leaders' Influence.” *Legislative Studies Quarterly*. 41(3): 605-31.
- Ansolabehere, Stephen, James M. Snyder, and Charles Stewart III. 2001. "The Effects of Party and Preferences on Congressional Roll-Call Voting." *Legislative Studies Quarterly* 26(4): 533-72.
- Harbridge, Laurel, and Neil Malhotra. 2011. “Electoral Incentives and Partisan Conflict in Congress: Evidence from Survey Experiments.” *American Journal of Political Science*. 55(3): 494-510.
- Kanthak, Kristin. 2002. “Top-Down Divergence: The Effect of Legislative Rules on Candidate Ideological Placement.” *Journal of Theoretical Politics*. 14(3): 301-323.
- Krehbiel, Keith. 1993. "Where's the Party?" *British Journal of Political Science*. 23(2): 235-66.

Week 5

Sept. 20 – The Presidency

- Beckmann, Matthew N. 2008. "The President's Playbook: White House Strategies for Lobbying Congress." *The Journal of Politics*. 70(2): 407-19.
- 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." *The Journal of Politics* 70(1): 1-15.
- Evans, Kevin. 2011. "Challenging Law: Presidential Signing Statements and The Maintenance of Executive Power." *Congress & The Presidency*. 38(2): 217-34.
- Gallagher, Maryann E., and Bethany Blackstone. 2015. "Taking Matters Into Their Own Hands: Presidents' Personality Traits and the Use of Executive Orders." *Presidential Studies Quarterly*. 45(2): 221-246.
- Rudalevige, Andrew. 2012. "The Contemporary Presidency: Executive Orders and Presidential Unilateralism." *Presidential Studies Quarterly*. 42(1): 138-160.

Week 6

Sept. 27 – The Bureaucracy

- Bendor, Jonathan B., Amihai Glazer, and Thomas H. Hammond. 2001. "Theories of Delegation." *Annual Review of Political Science*. 4: 235.
- Epstein, David, and Sharyn O'Halloran. 1994. "Administrative Procedures, Information, and Agency Discretion." *The American Journal of Political Science*. 38(3): 697-722.
- McCubbins, Mathew D., Roger G. Noll, and Barry R. Weingast. 1987 "Administrative Procedures as Instruments of Political Control." *Journal of Law, Economics, and Organization*. 3(2): 243-77.
- Shipan, Charles R. 2004. "Regulatory Regimes, Agency Actions, and the Conditional Nature of Congressional Influence." *The American Political Science Review*. 98(3): 467-80.

Week 7

Oct. 4 – The Courts

- Corley, Pamela C., Paul M. Collins Jr., and Bryan Calvin. 2011. "Lower Court Influence on U.S. Supreme Court Opinion Content." *The Journal of Politics*. 73(1): 31-44.
- Segal, Jeffrey A., and Harold J. Spaeth. 2005. *The Supreme Court and the Attitudinal Model Revisited*. Cambridge MA: Cambridge University Press. Chapters 2-3.
- Songer, Donald R., and Stefanie A. Lindquist. 1996. "Not the Whole Story: The Impact of Justices' Values on Supreme Court Decision Making." *American Journal of Political Science* 40(4): 1049-63.

Week 8

Oct. 11 – Electoral Politics

- Canes-Wrone, Brandice, David W. Brady, and John F. Cogan. 2002. "Out of Step, Out of Office: Electoral Accountability and House Members' Voting." *The American Political Science Review*. 96(1): 127-40.
- Cox, Gary W. and Jonathan N. Katz. 1996. "Why Did the Incumbency Advantage in U.S. House Elections Grow?" *The American Journal of Political Science*. 40(2): 478-

97.

- Haynes, Audrey A., Paul-Henri Gurian, and Stephen M. Nichols 1997. "The Role of Candidate Spending in Presidential Nomination Campaigns." *The Journal of Politics*. 59(1): 213-25.
- Norrander, Barbara. 2000. "The End Game in Post-Reform Presidential Nominations." *The Journal of Politics*. 62(4): 999-1013.
- Stone, Walter J., L. Sandy Maisel, and Cherie D. Maestas. 2004. "Quality Counts: Extending the Strategic Model of Incumbent Deterrence." *The American Journal of Political Science*. 48(3): 479-95.

Section III: Behavior

Week 9 - Literature Review due

Oct. 18 – Partisanship

- Green, Donald, Bradley Palmquist, and Eric Schickler. 2002. *Partisan Hearts and Minds*. New Haven CT: Yale University Press. Chapters 2-3
- Huddy, Leonie, Lilliana Mason, Lene Aaroe. 2015 "Expressive Partisanship: Campaign Involvement, Political Emotion, and Partisan Identity." *American Political Science Review*. 109(1): 1-17.
- Klar, Samara. 2014. "Partisanship in a Social Setting." *American Journal of Political Science* 58(3): 687-704.

Week 10

Oct. 25 – Public Opinion: Belief Systems and Opinion Formation

- Burdein, Inna, Milton Lodge, and Charles Taber. 2006. "Experiments on the Automaticity of Political Beliefs and Attitudes." *Political Psychology*. 27(3): 359-71.
- Converse, Philip. 1964. "The Nature of Belief Systems in Mass Publics." In David Apter, ed. *Ideology and Discontent*. NY: The Free Press.
- Zaller, John R. 1992. *The Nature and Origins of Mass Opinion*. Cambridge MA: Cambridge University Press. Chapters 2-3, 7-9

Week 11

Nov. 1 – Public Opinion: Political Information, Sophistication, and Heuristics

- Bartels, Larry M. 1996. "Uninformed Votes: Information Effects in Presidential Elections." *The American Journal of Political Science*. 40(1): 194-230.
- Boudreau, Cheryl. 2009. "Closing the Gap: When Do Cues Eliminate Differences between Sophisticated and Unsophisticated Citizens?" *Journal of Politics*. 71(3): 287-306.
- Downs, Anthony. 1957. *An Economic Theory of Democracy*. New York NY: Addison Wesley. Chapters 11-12.
- Lupia, Arthur. 1994. "Shortcuts Versus Encyclopedias: Information and Voting Behavior in California Insurance Reform Elections." *The American Political Science Review* 88(1): 63-76.

Week 12

Nov. 8 – Communication Effects

- Boydston, Amber E., and Rebecca A. Glazier. 2013. "A Two-Tiered Method for Identifying Trends in Media Framing of Policy Issues: The Case of the War on Terror." *Policy Studies Journal*. 41(4): 706-735.
- Boydston, Amber E., Anne Hardy and Stefaan Walgrave. 2014. "Two Faces of Media Attention: Media Storms vs. General Coverage." *Political Communication*. 31(4): 509-531.
- Huckfeldt, Robert, Paul E. Johnson, and John Sprague. 2002. "Political Environments, Political Dynamics, and The Survival of Disagreement." *The Journal of Politics*. 64(1): 1-21.
- Iyengar, Shanto, and Kyu S. Hahn. 2009. "Red Media, Blue Media: Evidence of Ideological Selectivity in Media Use." *Journal of Communication* 59(1): 19-39.
- Levitan, Lindsey and Julie Wronski. (2014). "Social Context and Information Seeking: Examining the Effects of Network Attitudinal Composition on Engagement with Political Information." *Political Behavior*. 36(4): 793-816.

Week 13 – Research Proposal due

Nov. 15 – Participation

- Brady, Henry E., Sidney Verba, and Kay Lehman Schlozman. 1995. "Beyond SES: A Resource Model of Political Participation." *American Political Science Review* 89(2): 271-94.
- Downs, Anthony. 1957. *An Economic Theory of Democracy*. New York NY: Addison Wesley. Chapters 3, 14.
- Kam, Cindy D. 2012. "Risk Attitudes and Political Participation." *American Journal of Political Science* 56(4): 817-36.
- Kam, Cindy D., and Carl L. Palmer. 2008. "Reconsidering the Effects of Education on Political Participation." *Journal of Politics* 70(3): 612-31.

Week 14 – Thanksgiving Holiday

Nov. 22 – no class

Week 15 - Submit rough draft to discussants by 5PM on 12/2

Nov. 29 – Race and Gender

- Chong, Dennis, and Reuel Rogers. 2005. "Racial Solidarity and Political Participation." *Political Behavior* 27(4): 347-74.
- Feldman, Stanley, and Leonie Huddy. 2005. "Racial Resentment and White Opposition to Race-Conscious Programs: Principles or Prejudice?" *American Journal of Political Science*. 49(1): 168-83.
- Kam, Cindy D., Elizabeth J. Zechmeister, and Jennifer R. Wilking. 2008. "From the Gap to the Chasm: Gender and Participation Among Non-Hispanic Whites and Mexican Americans." *Political Research Quarterly*. 61(2): 228-38.
- Schlozman, Kay Lehman, Nancy Burns, Sidney Verba, and Jesse Donahue. 1995. "Gender and Citizen Participation: Is there a Different Voice?" *American Journal of Political Science*. 39(2): 267-93.

- White, Ismail K. 2007. "When Race Matters and When it Doesn't: Racial Group Differences in Response to Racial Cues." American Political Science Review. 101(2): 339-54.

Week 16

Dec. 6 – Presentations