

PSC 523: American Politics Field Seminar
Professors Gerald Gamm + Lynda Powell
Spring 2006

This seminar will introduce you to the literature in American politics. There is an enormous literature in this field, and it is growing all of the time. Our focus in this course will be on class articles and books, combined with more recent seminal pieces. Inevitably we will sacrifice depth for breadth. Nonetheless, if we can get through this reading list, you will have an excellent foundation. You should finish the course with a comprehensive understanding of past research and a good idea of the directions in which that research is now moving.

You should do all the readings for each week's assignments and be prepared to discuss them in class. Grades will be based on 2 critical essays on the readings (5-10 pages), in-class presentations, and general class discussion. The specific assignments will be detailed in class.

Most of the articles are available from JSTOR on the library web site. Books are on course reserve at Rush Rhees Library. Many of these are classics you may wish to purchase. The least expensive way to purchase them is on the web. We encourage you to use your favorite bookstore search engine to purchase items you would like to own. Some of the books are out of print and can only be obtained used.

January 20: Introduction

No Reading

January 25: Representation

United States Constitution, with Amendments.

Federalist Papers: 10, 35, 48, 51, 52, 57, 63.

Fenno, Richard F., Jr. 1977. "U.S. House Members in Their Constituencies: An Exploration." *The American Political Science Review*. 71: 883-917.

February 1: Electoral Connection

Fenno, Richard F., Jr. 1973. *Congressmen in Committees*. Boston: Little, Brown and Co. Chapters 1-4, 6.

Mayhew, David R. 1974. *Congress: The Electoral Connection*. New Haven: Yale University Press.

Jacobson, Gary C. 1989. "Strategic Politicians and the Dynamics of U.S. House Elections, 1946-86," *American Political Science Review* 83(3):773-793.

***February 8: Congress as an Institution: The Committee System**

Shepsle, Kenneth A., and Barry R. Weingast. 1987. "The Institutional Foundations of Committee Power." *American Political Science Review* 81:85-104.

Krehbiel, Keith, Kenneth A. Shepsle, and Barry R. Weingast. 1987. "Why Are Congressional Committees Powerful?" *American Political Science Review* 81:929-45.

Weingast, Barry R. and William Marshall. 1988. "The Industrial Organization of Congress," *Journal of Political Economy* 91:132-163.

Hall, Richard L. 1987. "Participation and Purpose in Committee Decision Making," *American Political Science Review* 81:105-27.

Krehbiel, Keith. 1991. *Information and Legislative Organization*. Ann Arbor: University of Michigan Press, Chapters 1-3, 5, 7.

February 15: Congress as an Institution: Leaders, Parties, and Rules

Cooper, Joseph and David Brady. 1981. "Institutional Context and Leadership Style: The House from Cannon to Rayburn." *American Political Science Review* 75: 411-25.

Rohde, David. 1991. *Parties and Leaders in the Postreform House*. Chicago: University of Chicago Press, Chapters 1-4.

Binder, Sarah. 1996. "The Partisan Basis of Procedural Choice: Allocating Parliamentary Rights in the House, 1789-1990." *American Political Science Review* 90(1):8-20.

Smith, Steven S. 2000. "Positive Theories of Congressional Parties." *Legislative Studies Quarterly*. 25:193-215.

Cox, Gary, and Matthew McCubbins. 2005. *Setting the Agenda*. Cambridge: Cambridge University Press, Chapters 1-4, 11.

February 22: The Presidency

Neustadt, Richard E. 1990. *Presidential Power and the Modern Presidents*. New York: Free Press, Chapters 3-5.

Moe, Terry M. 1985. "The Politicized Presidency." In John E. Chubb and Paul E. Peterson, eds., *The New Direction in American Politics*. Washington: Brookings Institution Press.

Kernell, Samuel. 1993. *Going Public: New Strategies of Presidential Leadership*. 2nd ed. Washington: CQ Press, Chapters 1-2.

Binder, Sarah A. 1999. "The Dynamics of Legislative Gridlock, 1947-96." *American Political Science Review* 93(3):519-33.

Canes-Wrone, Brandice. 2001. "The President's Legislative Influence from Public Appeals." *American Journal of Political Science* 45(2):313-329.

***March 1: Voting in Elections**

Downs, Anthony. 1957. *An Economic Theory of Democracy*. New York: HarperCollins, Chapters 1, 7-8, 12, 14.

Campbell, Angus, Philip E. Converse, Warren E. Miller, and Donald E. Stokes. 1960. *The American Voter*. Chicago: University of Chicago Press, Chapters 2-3, 6-7.

MacKuen, Michael B., Robert S. Erikson, and James A. Stimson. 1992. "Peasants or Bankers? The American Electorate Economy." *American Political Science Review* 86:597-611.

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

***March 8: Public Opinion**

Converse, Philip E. 1964. "The Nature of Belief Systems in Mass Publics." In *Ideology and Discontent*, ed. David E. Apter. New York: Free Press, pp. 206-231.

Iyengar, Shanto. 1987. "Television News and Citizens' Explanations of National Affairs." *American Political Science Review* 81:815-832.

Zaller, John R. 1992. *The Nature and Origins of Mass Opinion*. Cambridge: Cambridge University Press, Chapters 1-5.

Lau, Richard R. and David P. Redlawsk. 1997. "Voting Correctly." *American Political Science Review* 91: 585-98.

Zaller, John. (unpublished: Theory of Media Politics)

Draft available at www.sscnet.ucla.edu/polisci/faculty/zaller/media%20politics%20book%20

chapters to be announced

March 22: Parties

Key, V. O., Jr. 1949. *Southern Politics in State and Nation*. New York: Knopf, Chapter. 3.

Aldrich, John H. 1995. *Why Parties?* Chicago: University of Chicago Press, Chapters 1-4, 6-8.

McCarty, Nolan, Keith Poole and Howard Rosenthal. 2006. *Polarized America: The Dance of Ideology and Unequal Riches*. Cambridge: MIT Press, Chapters 1-3.

March 29: Interest Groups

Schattschneider, E.E. 1997 (1960). *The Semisovereign People*. International Thomson Publishing, Chapters 1-2.

Olson, Mancur. 1971. *Logic of Collective Action*. Cambridge: Harvard University Press, Chapters: Intro, 1-4, 6.

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

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.

April 5: Bureaucracy

McCubbins, Mathew D., and Thomas Schwartz. 1984. "Congressional Oversight Overlooked: Police Patrols versus Fire Alarms." *American Journal of Political Science* 28:165-179.

Moe, Terry M. 1989. "The Politics of Bureaucratic Structure." In John E. Chubb and Paul E. Peterson, *Can the Government Govern?* Washington: Brookings Institution Press.

Carpenter, Daniel. 2001. *The Forging of Bureaucratic Autonomy: Reputations, Networks, and Policy Innovation in Executive Agencies, 1862-1928*. Princeton: Princeton University Press. Introduction, Chapters 1, 6- 9.

***April 12: Agenda Setting.**

Bachrach, Peter, and Morton S. Baratz. 1962. "Two Faces of Power." *American Political Science Review* 56:947-952.

Kingdon, John W. 1995. *Agendas, Alternatives, and Public Policy*. 2nd ed. New York: HarperCollins, Chapters 4, 9.

Sulkin, Tracy. 2005. *Issue Politics in Congress*. Cambridge: Cambridge University Press.

April 19: Citizen Participation

Verba, Sidney, and Norman H. Nie. 1972. *Participation in America*. New York: Harper and Row, Chapters 3-5, 8-10.

Brady, Henry E., Sidney Verba, and Kay Lehman Schlozman. 1995. "Beyond SES: A Resource Model of Political Participation." *American Political Science Review* 89:271-294.

Putnam, Robert. 2000. *Bowling Alone*. New York: Simon & Schuster, Chapters 1, 6, 15.

Skocpol, Theda, Marshall Ganz, and Ziad Munson. 2000. "A Nation of Organizers: The Institutional Origins of Civic Voluntarism in the United States." *American Political Science Review* 94:527-46.

April 26: Race and Gender

Bobo, Lawrence, and Franklin D. Gilliam, Jr. 1990. "Race, Sociopolitical Participation, and Black Empowerment." *The American Political Science Review* 84(2):377-393.

Schlozman, Kay Lehman, Nancy Burns, and Sidney Verba. 1994. "Gender and the Pathways to Participation: The Role of Resources." *The Journal of Politics* 56(4):963-990.

Canon, David T., Matthew M. Schousen, and Patrick J. Sellers. 1996. "The Supply Side of Congressional Redistricting: Race and Strategic Politicians, 1972-1992." *Journal of Politics* 58(3):846-862.

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

Gay, Claudine. 2000. "The Effect of Black Congressional Representation on Political Participation." *American Political Science Review* 95:589-602.

May 3: State and Local Politics

Alt, James E., and Robert C. Lowry. 1994. "Divided Government, Fiscal Institutions, and Budget Deficits: Evidence from the States." *The American Political Science Review* 88(4):811-828.

Lowery, David, and Virginia Gray. 1995. "The Population Ecology of Gucci Gulch, or the Natural Regulation of Interest Group Numbers in the American States." *American Journal of Political Science* 39(1):1-29.

Gerber, Elisabeth R. 1996. "Legislative Response to the Threat of Popular Initiatives." *American Journal of Political Science* 40(1):99-128.

Carey, John M., Gary Moncrief, Richard G. Niemi, and Lynda W. Powell "The Effects of Term Limits on State Legislatures," *Legislative Studies Quarterly*, forthcoming 2006.

Burns, Nancy, Laura Evans, Gerald Gamm, and Corrine McConnaughy. 2005. "Pockets of Expertise: Careers and Professionalism in 20th-Century State Legislatures." Paper presented at the Annual Meeting of the American Political Science Association, Washington, D.C.