PUBLIC OPINION AND ELECTORAL BEHAVIOR

This is a reading, discussion, and research seminar intended to introduce you to the literature on political participation, voting behavior, and related aspects of public opinion. There is an enormous literature in this field, and it is growing all of the time. Nonetheless, if we can get through this reading list, you will have an excellent foundation.

I have included on the list a few classic readings, but most are contemporary works that represent the latest theories and empirical work about voting behavior and elections as well as suggesting new directions for their study. Where appropriate, the material deals with public opinion more broadly and with institutional factors that influence voting behavior. We will also deal at times with comparative studies.

You should finish the course with a broad understanding of past public opinion and voting behavior research and a good idea of the directions in which that research is now moving.

TEXT:

REQUIREMENTS:
1. You will be responsible for the numbered readings as assigned in class.
2. You will be expected to participate in class discussions.
3. You should submit two relatively specific questions on the readings for each week (except week 1). The questions may involve either the substance or the methodology. Questions are due by 8 a.m. on the day of class—but handing them in the day before would be appreciated. E-mail submission is fine.
4. You will be expected to report on selected work (specific articles or book chapters). Often this will be relatively new material. We will make arrangements for these reports in class.
5. There is a research paper due at the end of the course. The paper will be discussed in class and in individual meetings. Note, however, that I expect to see one or more drafts, which I will critique, as well as the final copy.

Grades will be based on overall class participation (30%), class reports (20%), and the research paper (50%).

SCHEDULE OF READINGS:

I. Course Overview; Historical Perspective and Current Trends in Voting Research

II. Participation
   1. Controversies 5, ch. 2.
10. Wattenberg, *Is Voting for Young People?*

* Keyssar, *The Right to Vote*.
* Campbell, *Why We Vote*.
* Skocpol, *Diminished Democracy*.
* Zukin, Keeter, Andolina, Jenkins, & Delli Carpini, *A New Engagement?*
* Hanmer, *Discount Voting*
* Van Deth, Montero, & Westholm, *Citizenship and Involvement in European Democracy*.

### III. Political Information

1. Niemi & Weisberg, *Classics in Voting Behavior*, chs. 5-7; *Controversies* 5, ch. 5.
* Fuchs & Klingemann, in *Continuities in Political Action*, ch. 7.

### IV. Issues, Candidates, Campaigns, and the Vote

1. *Controversies* 5, chs. 9, 12.
6. Ansolabehere, Rodden, & Snyder, “Purple America,” *Controversies* 5, ch. 11.

* Fiorina, Abrams, & Pope, Culture War, 2nd ed.
* Gelman, Red State, Blue State, Rich State, Poor State.
* Dalton, Citizen Politics, 5th ed., chs. 8, 10.
* Brady & Johnston, Capturing Campaign Effects.

V. Democratic Support/Trust
1. Hibbing & Theiss-Morse, Stealth Democracy, chs. 7-8.
http://www.essex.ac.uk/government/epop/Papers/Panel31/P31_Norris_EPOP2010.pdf

VI. Partisanship
1. Classics, chs. 24-26; Controversies 4, chs. 17-20.
2. Green, Palmquist, & Schickler, Partisan Hearts and Minds.
* Schmitt & Holmberg, “Political Parties in Decline?” in Klingemann & Fuchs, Citizens and the State.

VII. Economic Factors and Voting
4. Duch & Stevenson, The Economic Vote (divide up chapters).

VIII. Congressional and State Legislative Voting

IX. From Voting to Representation
X. Ballots, Voting Systems, Voting Administration
* Krosnick, Miller, & Tichy, “An Unrecognized Need For Ballot Reform” in Crigler,
  Just, & McCaffery, Rethinking the Vote.
* Niemi, Jackson, & Hanmer, “Where Can College Students Vote?” Election Law J.,
  Dec., 2009.

XI. Historical Perspectives and Realignment
1. Classics, ch. 28; Controversies 5, ch. 18.
   Classics, ch. 30.
5. Carmines & Stimson, “On the Structure and Sequence of Issue Evolution,” APSR,
9. Carson, Jenkins, Rohde, & Souva, “The Impact of National Tides and District-Level
* Andersen, The Creation of a Democratic Majority.
* Dalton, McAllister, & Wattenberg, “The Consequences of Partisan Dealignment,” in
  Dalton & Wattenberg, Parties without Partisans.
  Controversies 4, ch. 23.
* Bensel, The American Ballot Box in the Mid-Nineteenth Century.

XII. The Media; Campaign Spending
1. Iyengar & Kinder, News That Matters, chs. 3, 6-8, 12.
2. Bartels, “Messages Received: The Political Impact of Media Exposure,” APSR, June,
   1993.

* Prior, *Post-Broadcast Democracy*.

XIII. Political Socialization/Civic Education
* Torney, et al., *Citizenship and Education in Twenty-eight Countries*. 
POSSIBLE PAPER TOPICS:
Many topics involving content analyses of newspapers or online sources
Use of new media; effects of new media
Exploratory experimental studies
Estimates of political behavior in online surveys
Term limits—e.g., numbers of candidates in primaries, or gubernatorial limits
State legislative elections: variations across states; trends in and reasons for uncontested seats; term limits
Updating various analyses
What happened in 1998 and 2002 to surge and decline?
Exploring sense of support/trust/anger, U.S. or cross-nationally

ELECTION (AND RELATED) SURVEYS:
American National Election Studies (http://www.electionstudies.org)
National Annenberg Election Study
   (http://www.annenbergpublicpolicycenter.org/ProjectDetails.aspx?myId=1)
Various black and Latino national election and public opinion studies
Cooperative Congressional Election Study (http://web.mit.edu/polisci/portl/cces/index.html)
Pew surveys of public opinion (http://people-press.org/reports/)
General Social Survey (http://www.norc.org/projects/General+Social+Survey.htm)
European Election Studies (EES) http://www.ees-homepage.net/
European Social Survey (ESS) http://www.europeansocialsurvey.org/
European Values Study (EVS) http://www.europeanvaluesstudy.eu/
International Social Survey Program (ISSP) http://www.issp.org/
“Barometers”
http://ec.europa.eu/public_opinion/index_en.htm &
http://www.icpsr.umich.edu/cocoon/ICPSR/SERIES/00026.xml
http://www.abdn.ac.uk/cspp/catalog1_0.shtml (Russia)
http://www.latinobarometro.org
http://www.asianbarometer.org
http://www.jdsurvey.net/eab/eab.jsp (East Asia Barometer)
http://www.afrobarometer.org
http://www.arabbarometer.org/index.html
Comparative Study of Electoral Systems (http://www.cses.org)
World values survey (http://www.worldvaluessurvey.org)