We will examine two main questions: How much influence does money have in determining who seeks and who wins elective office? How much does money spent on contributions and lobbying influence government actions and policies?

Political scientists have reached no consensus on the answers to these questions. We will read the literature that debates these and closely related issues. Because many of the studies use quantitative methods, all students should have completed a basic statistics course. (This need not be a political science methods course.) Students should have a good basic understanding of American government.

The course will be a small seminar and will use a discussion format. Each student will be expected to read the assigned material before class, and to take turns summarizing and critiquing particular readings, as well as participating in class discussion.

Grades will be based on class discussion, on written and oral brief presentations on the readings and on a final research paper. The final research paper will constitute 60% of the grade. Students will present their research papers in the final 2-3 class sessions. The research papers should be emailed to all participants 24 hours before the class presentations. Absent a documented excuse, missing a class presentation or the final research presentation will incur a substantial penalty in the final grade.

Each student will be responsible for learning how the campaign finance process works in one state. Each of you can then contribute detailed knowledge of one state to the class discussion. Most students will chose to write about some aspect of the campaign finance process in their state for their research paper, but you may propose other alternatives for the research paper.

Readings: Most readings will be available on Blackboard or through the library databases. We will be reading large sections from two books available in paperback that should be purchased. (I will request the library to put them on reserve also.) I haven’t ordered them in the bookstore—they should be cheaper online from Amazon or other sellers.

Readings:

January 18th. Why do we care about money? Discuss course setup. Describe how to choose states. Email me to choose states—rank 3 choices.


In class, I’ll summarize the basic rules and go thru the FEC’s presentation:  
www.FEC.gov E-learning resources. Interactive Presentations: Contributions  
Explains hard money donations
I’ll summarize the basic changes over time in regulation, discuss the differences between soft money and hard money, and the differences between presidential and congressional campaign finance.

Please read:


How to find information on your state’s campaign finance. Good start:  
OpenSecrets.org Campaign Finance Links

February 1st. What do states do?  
Begin to research your own state. Be prepared to discuss what you have found out about campaign finance in your state and to share ideas for locating information.

Powell What Money Buys Chapter 2 Patterns of State Legislative Campaign Finance.


**February 8**\textsuperscript{th}. Who Gives & Why? How is money raised?


**February 15**\textsuperscript{th}. Effect of $ on election outcomes.


Of interest, but not required:


**February 22**\textsuperscript{nd}. Effect of $ on policy


March 1st. Investment Model.


Powell, Lynda. What Money Buys Chapters 3, 4 and 6.

March 15th. Money and Influence


March 22nd Parties and Committees

Powell, Lynda. What Money Buys Chapter 7 Fundraising for the Caucus.


March 29th Lobbying


**April 5**th. **Campaign Finance Regulation Revisited.**
Ackerman, Bruce and Ian Ayers. 2002 Chapters 2 and 3 in *Voting with Dollars*. Yale University Press.

**We will need to see if we need 2 or 3 seminars for class presentations**
**April 12**th, 19**th** and 26**th**