INTEREST GROUP POLITICS

Purpose: This course principally introduces students to the political science and political economy literatures on interest groups. This will include developing an understanding of the makeup of the group system, the contribution decision, the internal politics of organizations, and the role that groups play with respect to political institutions. As the study of organized groups cuts across many subdisciplines in political science and political economy (one of the reasons that groups are often viewed as understudied is because there are very few scholars interested in groups in and of themselves), this course might have a wide appeal.

Requirements: Course requirements include research presentations and a longer final paper—either original research, a detailed literature review, or a research proposal (roughly 15 pages will suffice).

Office Hours. I am located in Room 108 at Harkness (Department of Political Science/Wallis Institute of Political Economy). You can come by any time and I will see you barring extenuating circumstances. My phone number is x3-4903 and my e-mail is lrot@mail.rochester.edu.

Availability of Readings. Articles will be made available electronically. There are several standard books that I would be happy to reference is students would like.

Grading. Grading will reflect your class participation and your final paper (weighted approximately 1/2, 1/2).
Weekly Assignments

**Week I: Introduction.** (Sept. 7th)

**Week II: Macro-Perspectives** (Sept. 14th).


Week III. Micro-Foundations (Sept. 21\textsuperscript{st}).


Note: Please be familiar with the basic logic of collective action at least to the level of Olson (1965); if not, review Mancur Olson. The Logic of Collective Action, Chs. 1, 2, 6. There are also a variety of other works in this tradition as well to which I would be happy to provide citations.
Week IV. Lobbying: Who Lobbies—Part I (Sept. 28th).


Week V. Lobbying: Purpose and Strategies (Oct. 5th)


Week VI: Lobbying--Coalitions and Venue Selections (Oct. 12th)


[Possibly working paper by Stuart Jordan]
Week VII: Impacts of Lobbying (Oct. 19th)


Week VIII. Political Contributions—Motivations for Giving (Oct. 26th)


[Will probably add one paper]
Week X-XI. *Lobbying the Bureaucracy.* (Nov. 9th and Nov. 16th).


Week XII. *Interest Groups and the EU* (Nov. 30th). Papers Tbd.

Week XIII. *Private Politics* (Dec. 7th)


Week XV. Student Presentations (TBD).