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## **PSC 523: American Politics Field Seminar Fall 2009**

### **Course Description**

This seminar will introduce you to classic as well as contemporary research in American politics. We will discuss the literature both in political institutions (e.g., Congress) and in political behavior (e.g., voting). By covering an array of topics in these areas, the course will provide a foundation for developing a comprehensive understanding of the field and the various directions in which it is now moving.

### **Requirements**

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

### **Readings**

Course readings will be made available under the Reserves link on the course's Blackboard page, with the exception of starred items which are entire books or multiple chapters from books. These books will be made available on one-day course reserve, and of course you may also purchase them.

### **Course Meetings**

#### **September 14: Introduction**

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

#### **September 21: Congress: The Electoral Connection**

\*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* 83:773-793.

Shepsle, Kenneth, Robert P. Van Houweling, Samuel J. Abrams, and Peter C. Hanson. 2009. "The Senate Electoral Cycle and Bicameral Appropriations Politics." *American Journal of Political Science* 53:343-359.

## **September 28: Congress as an Institution: The Committee System**

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

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

Weingast, Barry R., and William Marshall. 1988. "The Industrial Organization of Congress." *Journal of Political Economy* 96:132-163.

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

## **October 5: NO CLASS—UNIVERSITY HOLIDAY**

### **October 12: Congress as an Institution: Leaders, Parties, and Rules**

\*Rohde, David. 1991. *Parties and Leaders in the Postreform House*. Chicago: University of Chicago Press, chs. 1-3. (background reading)

Krehbiel, Keith. 1993. "Where's the Party?" *British Journal of Political Science* 23:235-266.

\*Cox, Gary, and Matthew D. McCubbins. 2007. *Legislative Leviathan*, 2<sup>nd</sup> ed. New York: Cambridge University Press, chs. 5-6, 9-10, Conclusion.

\*Smith, Steven S. 2009. *Party Influence in Congress*. New York: Cambridge University Press, chs. 1-4, 7.

Rohde, David W., Edward H. Stiglitz, and Barry R. Weingast. 2009. "Dynamic Congressional Organization: A Theory of Institutional Stability and Reform." Paper prepared for presentation at the 2009 Midwest Political Science Association Meeting.

### **October 19: The Presidency**

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.

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

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

Canes-Wrone, Brandice, William G. Howell, and David E. Lewis. 2008. "Toward a Broader Understanding of Presidential Power: A Re-Evaluation of the Two Presidencies Thesis." *Journal of Politics* 70(1):1-16.

## **October 26: Courts**

Caldeira, Gregory A., and John R. Wright. 1988. "Organized Interests and Agenda Setting in the U.S. Supreme Court." *American Political Science Review* 82:1109-1127.

\*Rosenberg, Gerald N. 1991. *The Hollow Hope*. Chicago: University of Chicago Press, chs. 1-2.

Segal, Jeffrey A., and Harold J. Spaeth. 1996. "The Influence of Stare Decisis on the Votes of United States Supreme Court Justices." *American Journal of Political Science* 40:971-1003.

Bonneau, Chris W., Thomas H. Hammond, Forrest Maltzman, and Paul J. Wahlbeck. 2007. "Agenda Control, the Median Justice, and the Majority Opinion on the U.S. Supreme Court." *American Journal of Political Science* 51(4):890-905.

## **November 2: Bureaucracy**

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

McNollgast. 1987. "Administrative Procedures as Instruments of Political Control." *Journal of Law, Economics, and Organization* 3:243-277.

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.

Lewis, David E. 2007. "Testing Pendleton's Premise: Do Political Appointees Make Worse Bureaucrats?" *Journal of Politics* 69:1073-1088.

## **November 9: Political Parties and Interest Groups**

Federalist 10. [http://memory.loc.gov/const/fed/fed\\_10.html](http://memory.loc.gov/const/fed/fed_10.html) (background reading)

\*Schattschneider, E.E. 1997 (1960). *The Semisovereign People*. International Thomson Publishing, chs. 1-2. (background reading)

Wilson, James Q. 1995 (updated ed.). *Political Organizations*. Princeton: Princeton University Press, ch. 3. (background reading)

Key, V.O. 1949. *Southern Politics in State and Nation*. New York: Vintage Books, ch. 3.

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

\*Olson, Mancur. 1971. *Logic of Collective Action*. Cambridge: Harvard University Press, chs. Int., 1-2.

Ansolabehere, Stephen, John M. de Figueiredo, and James M. Snyder, Jr. 2003. "Why is There So Little Money in U.S. Politics?" *Journal of Economic Perspectives* 17:105-130.

### **November 16: Voting in Elections**

\*Downs, Anthony. 1957. *An Economic Theory of Democracy*. New York: HarperCollins, chs. 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, chs. 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.

### **November 23: Citizen Participation and Public Opinion**

\*Verba, Sidney, and Norman H. Nie. 1972. *Participation in America*. New York: Harper and Row, chs. 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.

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.

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

### **November 30: Polarization**

Achen, Christopher H. 1978. "Measuring Representation." *American Journal of Political Science* 22:475-510.

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

Abramowitz, Alan I., and Kyle L. Saunders. 2008. "Is Polarization a Myth?" *Journal of Politics* 70:542-555.

Fiorina, Morris P., Samuel A. Abrams, and Jeremy C. Pope. 2008. "Polarization in the American Public: Misconceptions and Misreadings." *Journal of Politics* 70:556-560.

## **December 7: State and Local Politics**

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

Carey, John M., Richard G. Niemi, Lynda W. Powell, and Gary F. Moncrief. 2006. "The Effects of Term Limits on State Legislatures: A New Survey of the 50 States." *Legislative Studies Quarterly* 31:105-134.

Shipan, Charles R., and Craig Volden. 2006. "Bottom-up Policy Federalism: The Spread of Antismoking Laws from U.S. Cities to States." *American Journal of Political Science* 50:825-843.

Hogan, Robert E. 2008. "Policy Responsiveness and Incumbent Reelection in State Legislatures." *American Journal of Political Science* 52:858-73.