

*University of Rochester*

PSC209  
Professor Rothenberg

Interest Groups in America  
Spring 2010

*Course Purpose:* This course introduces issues concerning interest groups in American politics. Hopefully, the result is a substantive understanding of such organizations specifically and of the political system generally.

*Office Hours:* My office hours are on Tues. and Thurs. mornings from 11:00-12:00 in Harkness 108 (i.e., right after class). I will be available at other times (especially before 3 pm); I can be reached by phone at x34903 and by e-mail at [lrot@mail.rochester.edu](mailto:lrot@mail.rochester.edu) as well.

*Requirements:* Grading is based on a midterm exam (25%), a paper (10-15 pages; 25%—details to be furnished), and a final (50%). Those who are taking this course to fulfill their writing requirement will have some additional work (details to be provided).

*Readings:* Readings are required and should be read before class if possible to enhance the value of both the lectures and the discussion. I have the right to ask about things on the exams that were only covered in the readings. The following materials are in the bookstore:

Frank Baumgartner, et al. *Lobbying and Policy Change*.

Jeffrey M. Berry and Clyde Wilcox. *The Interest Group Society*, fifth edition.

John Wright, *Interest Groups & Congress*

These two cases should be downloaded (details to be furnished):

Stanford Graduate School of Business. "Anatomy of a Corporate Campaign: Rainforest Action Network and Citigroup," Case p42-a

Stanford Graduate School of Business, "Strategic Activism: The Rainforest Action Network," Case p44

*Class Notes:* Class notes will not be posted. I will post a lecture outline and copies of relevant figures and tables. The reason for this is that putting too much material on the web encourages students to not show up or to not pay attention. Not only do such students tend to do poorly in the class but the behavior of those who show up but pay little attention creates an atmosphere that is not conducive to learning.

*Class Organization:* While a lecture class, the class will be interactive. I encourage questions and discussion and will generally leave time at the end of each lecture for additional discussion. **The dates on which material is covered are tentative;** there may be some adjustments over the course of the semester and it is possible that I may be out of town for one session.

I. *Introduction: What are Interest Groups and Why Should We Study Them?*  
(Jan. 14<sup>th</sup>, 19<sup>th</sup>)

Readings:

John Jay, Alexander Hamilton, and James Madison, *The Federalist Papers*, #10, #51.

Berry and Wilcox, Ch. 1

Wright, Ch. 1

James Yoho. 1998. "The Evolution of a Better Definition of "Interest Group" and its Synonyms," *Social Science Journal* 35(2): 231-243.

Baumgartner, et al., Chs. 1-4.

II. *Where did the Interest Group System Come From?* (Jan. 21<sup>st</sup>, 26<sup>th</sup>)

Readings:

John Mark Hansen, "Choosing Sides: The Creation of an Agricultural Policy Network in Congress," *American Political Development* 2: 183-229.

Daniel Tichenor and Richard Harris. 2002/2003. "Organized Interests and American Political Development," *Political Science Quarterly* 117: 587-612.

Wright, Ch. 2

Berry and Wilcox, Ch. 2

III. *What Does the Group Universe Look Like Today? (Jan. 28<sup>th</sup>, Feb. 2<sup>nd</sup>)*

Readings:

Jack Walker. "The Origins and Maintenance of Interest Groups in America," *American Political Science Review* Vol. 63, No. 3: 390-406.

Frank Baumgartner. "The Growth and Diversity of U.S. Associations, 1956-2004."

Berry and Wilcox, Ch. 9.

IV. *The Internal Organization of Groups: Formation, Maintenance, and Internal Workings (Feb. 4<sup>th</sup>, 9<sup>th</sup>, and 11<sup>th</sup>)*

Readings:

Scott H. Ainsworth, *Analyzing Interest Groups*, Ch. 2

Berry and Wilcox, Ch. 3

Maryann Barakso and Brian F. Schaffner. "Exit, Voice, and Interest Group Governance," *American Politics Research* Vol. 36, No. 2: 186-209.

Lawrence S. Rothenberg. "Organizational Maintenance and the Retention Decision in Groups," *American Political Science Review* Vol. 82, No. 4: 1129-1152.

Cigler, Allan J., and Anthony Nownes. "Major Group Donors and Patrons: What They Give and What They Get," in Loomis and Cigler, *Interest Group Politics*, ed.

V. *The Strategies of Interest Groups (Feb. 16<sup>th</sup>, 18<sup>th</sup>)*

Readings:

Baumgartner, et al. Chs. 6-11.

Berry and Wilcox, Chs. 4-8

Thomas T. Holyoke. 2003. "Choosing Battlegrounds: Interest Group Lobbying Across Multiple Venues," *Political Research Quarterly* 56 (3): 325-336.

David Lowery. 2007. "Why Do Organized Interests Lobby? A Multi-Goal, Multi-Context Theory of Lobbying," *Polity*: 39: 29-54.

VI. *Congress (Feb. 23<sup>rd</sup>, 25<sup>th</sup>)*

Readings:

Wright, Chs. 3-4

Virginia Gray *et al.* 2005. "Legislative Agendas and Interest Advocacy: Understanding the Demand Side of Lobbying," *American Politics Research* 33: 404-434.

Matt Grossmann and Kurt Pyle. 2009. "Does Interest Group Support Move Bills Toward Law?"

VII. *Executive Branch (Mar. 2<sup>nd</sup>)*

Readings:

Daniel J. Tichenor. 2009. "The Presidency and Interest Groups: Allies, Adversaries, and Policy Leadership" in Michael Nelson, ed., *The Presidency and the Political System*. 9<sup>th</sup> edition.

Paul J. Quirk and Bruce E. Nesmith. 2005. "Who Serves Special Interests? The, President, Congress, and Interest Groups," in Paul Herrnson, *et al.* *The Interest Group Connection*. 2<sup>nd</sup> edition.

Susan Webb Yackee. 2006. "Sweet-Talking the Fourth Branch: The Influence of Interest Group Comments on Federal Agency Rulemaking," *Journal of Public Administration Research and Theory* 16 (1): 103-124.

Thomas T. Holyoke. 2004. "By Invitation Only: Controlling Interest Group Access to the Oval Office," *American Review of Politics* 25 (Fall): 221-240.

VIII. Courts (Mar. 4<sup>th</sup>)

Readings:

Karen O'Connor. 2005. "Lobbying the Justices or Lobbying for Power?," in Paul Herrnson, *et al.*, *The Interest Group Connection* 2<sup>nd</sup> ed.

Paul M. Collins, Jr. 2007. "Lobbyists Before the Supreme Court: Investigating the Influence of Amicus Curiae Briefs," *Political Research Quarterly* 60 (1): 55-70.

Thomas G. Hansford. 2004. "Lobbying Strategies, Venue Selection, and Organized Interest Involvement at the U.S. Supreme Court," *American Politics Research* 32(2): 170-197.

IX. Exam Covering Sections I-VIII (Mar. 18<sup>th</sup>)

X. *The Financial Connection—Introduction* (Mar. 16<sup>th</sup>)

Readings:

Stephen Ansolabehere, John de Figueiredo, and James M. Snyder, Jr. 2003. "Why is There so Little Money in U.S. Politics?" *Journal of Economic Perspectives* 17(1): 105-130.

Michael Bailey. "The Two Sides of Money in Politics: A Synthesis and Framework." *Election Law Journal* 3: 653-669

Trevor Potter. 2005. "The Current State of Campaign Finance Law," in *The New Campaign Finance Sourcebook*, edited by Corrado, *et al.*

Richard L. Hall. 2007. "Equalizing Expenditures in Congressional Campaigns: A Proposal," *Election Law Journal* 6 (2): 145-162.

Michael Franz. 2009. "The Devil We Know? Evaluating the Federal Election as Enforcer," *Election Law Journal* 8 (3): 167-187.

XI. *Who Contributes? (Mar. 23<sup>rd</sup>)*

Readings:

Jeffrey M. Drope and Wendy L. Hansen. 2006. "Does Firm Size Matter? Analyzing Business Lobbying in the United States," *Business and Politics* 8(2; article 4).

Susan Clark Muntean. 2008. "Corporate Contributions after the Bipartisan Campaign Reform Act," *Election Law Journal* 7 (3): 233-244.

David B. Magleby, Bradley Jones, and David Lassen. 2009. "Turning the Tables: Individual Contributions, Member Contributions, and the Changing Campaign Finance Environment," *The Forum* 7 (1): Article 11.

XII. *To What Avail? (Mar. 25<sup>th</sup>, 30<sup>th</sup>)*

Readings:

Baumgartner, et al. Ch. 10.

John Wright. "Campaign Contributions and Congressional Voting on Tobacco Policy, 1980-2000," *Business and Politics* 6(3): Article 1.

Jay Goodliffe. "War Chests as Precautionary Savings," *Political Behavior* 26 (4): 289-315.

*XIII. Private Politics* (Apr. 1<sup>st</sup>, 6<sup>th</sup>)

Reading/Cases:

David Baron. 1995. "Integrated Strategy: Market and Nonmarket Components," *California Management Review* Vol. 37 (2): 47-65.

Stanford Graduate School of Business. "Anatomy of a Corporate Campaign: Rainforest Action Network and Citigroup," Case p42-a

Stanford Graduate School of Business, "Strategic Activism: The Rainforest Action Network," Case p44

Erika N. Sasser, Aseem Prakash, Benjamin Cashore, and Graeme Auld. 2006. "Direct Targeting as an NGO Political Strategy: Examining Private Authority Regimes in the Forestry Sector," *Business and Politics* 8 (3): Article 1.

*XIV. Public Policy* (Apr. 8<sup>th</sup>, 13<sup>th</sup>)

Reading:

Baumgartner, et al., Ch. 11.

Jeffrey M. Drope and Wendy L. Hansen. 2008. Futility and Free-Riding: Corporate Political Participation and Taxation Rates in the United States," *Business and Politics*: Vol. 10 : Iss. 3, Article 2.

Jin-Hyuk Kim. 2008. "Corporate Lobbying Revisited," *Business and Politics*: Vol. 10 : Iss. 2, Article 3.

Dennis Coates and Bonnie Wilson. 2007. "Interest Group Activity and Long-run Stock Market Performance," *Public Choice* 133: 344-358.

**NO CLASS APR. 22<sup>nd</sup>—WORK ON PAPERS!!!!**

*XV. Systemic Impact* (Apr. 20<sup>th</sup>, 27<sup>th</sup>)

Readings:

Baumgartner, et al., Ch. 12

Berry and Wilcox, Ch. 10

Wright, Ch. 6

Susanne Lohmann. 2003. "Representative Government and the Special Interest Politics: (We Have Met the Enemy and He is Us)," *Journal of Theoretical Politics* 15(3): 299-319.