

**The Ohio State University
Department of Political Science**

Political Science 709: Seminar on American Politics

Fall 2006
T, Th 9:30-11:18 (AM)
2078 Derby Hall

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This course is a survey of selected articles and works in American politics. The main objectives of this course are twofold: first, for students to become familiar with the different substantive subfields of American politics scholarship, and to be able to identify some of the major questions and controversies that drive research in this area. Second, students should begin to learn how to think in a social-scientific manner so that they can effectively formulate their own research questions, design their research program appropriately and execute their research. Given that the course is only 10 weeks long, it would be unrealistic to argue that we can cover everything that is important in American politics in such a short timeframe. Hence, we will consider only a small sample of works, the majority of which were written in the past 10 years, which illustrate important perspectives (from either a substantive or research design standpoint) within the particular field of study.

This class will meet twice a week and readings are generally organized according to subfields. All readings are either available online (through university subscription), or will be placed on reserve in the departmental reading room. Students are expected to complete all readings assigned for each session before coming to class. At the beginning of each class students must submit one type-written summary for one paper they choose from each subfield (one-inch margin, double-spaced, 12-pt. font). The summary must explicitly state: (1) the article's primary research question; (2) the research and null hypotheses in the paper; (3) a brief discussion of how the research hypotheses are motivated (where do they come from); (4) how strong the evidence is in support or against the hypothesis/hypotheses. The summaries cannot be longer than one page nor deviate from the above formatting requirements.

For each session and each article, I will designate one student to lead a critical discussion. Students are not required to submit written summaries for any articles designated as "background reading", but they will be required to read the background materials before the beginning of class.

Grades for the course will be based on the quality of the weekly papers (80 percent) and the quality of class discussion (20 percent).

Office hours: By appointment. (Don't worry, I'm always around, so it will be very easy to coordinate meetings.)

Academic Honesty: I expect all of the work you do in this course to be your own. I will tolerate absolutely no cheating or plagiarism (using someone else's words or ideas without

proper citation). I will report any cases of cheating or plagiarism to the university committee on academic misconduct, and they will be handled according to university policy.

Disability: If you need an accommodation based on the impact of a disability, you should contact me to arrange an appointment as soon as possible. At the appointment we can discuss the course format, anticipate your needs, and explore potential accommodations. I rely on the Office for Disability Services for assistance in verifying the need for accommodations and developing accommodation strategies. If you have not previously contacted the Office for Disability Services, I encourage you to do so.

Course Schedule and Topics

September 21: Organizational Meeting and Background

September 26: Epistemology, Introduction to the Spatial Model, and a Theory

Kramer, Gerald H. 1986. "Political Science as Science." In *Political Science: The Science of Politics*, ed. Herbert Weisberg. New York: Agathon Press.

Riker, William H. 1977. "The Future of a Science of Politics." *American Behavioral Scientist*. 21: 11-38.

Krehbiel, Keith. 1996. "Institutional and Partisan Sources of Gridlock: A Theory of Divided and Unified Government." *Journal of Theoretical Politics*. 8: 7-40.

Mayhew, David. 2004. *Congress: The Electoral Connection, 2nd Edition*. New Haven: Yale University Press.

September 28: Partisanship and Regularities in National Elections

Kernell, Samuel. 1977. "Presidential Popularity and Negative Voting: An Alternative Explanation of the Midterm Congressional Decline of the President's Party," *American Political Science Review*, 71: 44-66.

Ferejohn, John A. and Randall L. Calvert. 1984. "Presidential Coattails in Historical Perspective," *American Journal of Political Science*, 28: 127-46.

MacKuen, Michael B., Robert S. Erikson, and James A. Stimson. 1989. "Macropartisanship," *American Political Science Review*, 83: 1125-42.

Background Reading: Fiorina, Morris P. 1981. *Retrospective Voting in American National Elections*. Chapter 4, "A Model of Party Choice," pp. 65-83; and Chapter 5, "Explorations of a Political Theory of Party Identification," pp. 84-105. New Haven: Yale University Press.

October 3, 5: Presidential Elections

- Markus, Gregory B. 1988. "The Impact of Personal and National Economic Conditions on the Presidential Vote: A Pooled Cross-Sectional Analysis," *American Journal of Political Science*, 32: 137-154.
- Abramson, Paul R., John H. Aldrich, Phil Paolino, and David W. Rohde. 1992. "'Sophisticated' Voting in the 1988 Presidential Primaries," *American Political Science Review*, 86: 55-69.
- Alvarez, R. Michael and Jonathan Nagler. 1995. "Economics, Issues and the Perot Candidacy: Voter Choice in the 1992 Presidential Election," *American Journal of Political Science*, 39: 714-744.
- Nordhaus, William. 2006. "Electoral Victory and Statistical Defeat? Economics, Politics, and the 2004 Presidential Election." *Quarterly Journal of Political Science*. 1 (3): 313-322.
- Holbrook, Thomas M. 1994. "Campaigns, National Conditions, and U.S. Presidential Elections," *American Journal of Political Science*, 38: 973-998.

October 10, 12: Congressional Elections

- Ansolabehere, Stephen, James M. Snyder, Jr., and Charles Stewart III. 2001. "Candidate Positioning in U.S. House Elections." *American Journal of Political Science*. 45 (1): 136-59.
- Canes-Wrone, Brandice, David W. Brady, and John Cogan. 2002. "Out of Step, Out of Office: Electoral Accountability and House Members' Voting." *American Political Science Review*. 96 (1): 141-58.
- Goodliffe, Jay. 2001. "The Effect of War Chests on Challenger Entry in U.S. House Elections." *American Journal of Political Science*. 45(4): 830-44.
- Green, Donald Philip and Jonathan S. Krasno. 1988. "Salvation for the Spendthrift Incumbent: Reestimating the Effects of Campaign Spending in House Elections," *American Journal of Political Science*. 32: 884 -907.
- Jacobson, Gary C. 1990. "The Effects of Campaign Spending in House Elections: New Evidence for Old Arguments." *American Journal of Political Science*. 34: 334-362.

October 17, 19: Political Parties

- Cox, Gary W. and Mathew D. McCubbins. 2002. "Agenda Power in the U.S. House of Representatives, 1877-1986." In David W. Brady and Mathew D. McCubbins (eds.), *Party, Process, and Political Change in Congress: New Perspectives on the History of Congress*. (pp. 107-145). Stanford, CA: Stanford University Press.
- Krehbiel, Keith. 1993 "Where's the Party?" *British Journal of Political Science*. 23: 235-66.

Levitt, Steven D. and James M. Snyder, Jr. 1995. "Political Parties and the Distribution of Federal Outlays," *American Journal of Political Science*, 39: 958-980.

Snyder, James M. Jr., and Tim Groseclose. 2000. "Estimating Party Influence in Congressional Roll-Call Voting." *American Journal of Political Science*. 44(2): 193-211.

Wiseman, Alan E., and John R. Wright. 2006. "The Legislative Median and Partisan Policy." Unpublished Manuscript, The Ohio State University.

Background Reading:

Cox, Gary W., and Matthew D. McCubbins. 1993. *Legislative Leviathan*. Berkeley: University of California Press. Ch. 5

October 24, 26: Congress

Dion, Douglas, and John D. Huber. 1996. "Procedural Choice and The House Committee on Rules." *Journal of Politics*. 58(1): 25-53.

Krehbiel, Keith. 1997. "Restrictive Rules Reconsidered," *American Journal of Political Science*, 41: 919-944.

King, David C. 1994. "The Nature of Congressional Committee Jurisdictions," *American Political Science Review*, 88: 48-62.

Maltzman, Forrest. 1995. "Meeting Competing Demands: Committee Performance in the Postreform House," *American Journal of Political Science*, 39: 653-682.

Bernhard, William, and Brian R. Sala. 2006. "The Remaking of an American Senate: The 17th Amendment and Ideological Responsiveness." *Journal of Politics*. 68 (2): 345-357.

Background Reading:

Krehbiel, Keith. 1991. *Information and Legislative Organization*. Ann Arbor: University of Michigan Press. Chs.2, 3.

Weingast, Barry R. and William Marshall. 1988. "The "Industrial Organization of Congress," *Journal of Political Economy*, 96: 132-63.

October 31, November 2: Interest Groups and Lobbying

Austen Smith, David and John R. Wright. 1994. "Counteractive Lobbying." *American Journal of Political Science*. 38: 25-44.

Caldeira, Gregory A. and John R. Wright. 1998. "Lobbying for Justice: Organized Interests, Supreme Court Nominations, and the United States Senate." *American Journal of Political Science*. 42: 499-523.

Kroszner, Randall S., and Thomas Stratmann. 1998. "Interest Group Competition and the Organization of Congress: Theory and Evidence from Financial Services Political Action Committees," *American Economic Review*, 88: 1163-87.

Romer, Thomas and James M. Snyder, Jr. 1994. "An Empirical Investigation of the Dynamics of PAC Contributions," *American Journal of Political Science*, 38: 745-69.

Wiseman, Alan E. 2004. "Tests of Vote-Buyer Theories of Coalition Formation in Legislatures." *Political Research Quarterly*. 57 (3): 441-50.

Background Reading:

Snyder, James M., Jr. 1991. "On Buying Legislatures." *Economics and Politics*. 3: 93-109.

Groseclose, Tim and James M. Snyder. 1996. "Buying Supermajorities." *American Political Science Review*. 90 (June): 303-315.

November 7, 9: Bureaucracy

Carpenter, Daniel P. 2002. "Groups, the Media, Agency Waiting Costs, and FDA Drug Approval." *American Journal of Political Science*. 46(3): 490-505.

Huber, John D., Charles R. Shipan, and Madelaine Pfahler. 2001. "Legislatures and Statutory Control of the Bureaucracy." *American Journal of Political Science*. 45(2): 330-45.

Moe, Terry M. 1985. "Control and Feedback in Economic Regulation: The Case of the NLRB," *American Political Science Review*, 79: 1094-1116.

Balla, Steven J. and John R. Wright. 2001. "Interest Groups, Advisory Committees, and Congressional Control of the Bureaucracy." *American Journal of Political Science*. 45(4): 799-812.

Volden, Craig. 2002. "Delegating Power to Bureaucracies: Evidence from the States." *Journal of Law, Economics, and Organization*. 18 (1): 187-220.

Background Reading:

McCubbins, Mathew D., Roger G. Noll, and Barry R. Weingast. 1987. "Administrative Procedures as Instruments of Political Control." *Journal of Law, Economics, and Organization* 3: 243-277.

November 14, 16: Presidency

Cameron, Charles, John S. Lapinski, and Charles R. Riemann. 2000. "Testing Formal Theories of Political Rhetoric." *Journal of Politics*. 62 (1): 187-205.

Canes-Wrone, Brandice. 2001. "The President's Legislative Influence from Public Appeals." *American Journal of Political Science*. 45(2): 313-29.

Canes-Wrone, Brandice, and Kenneth W. Shotts. 2004. "The Conditional Nature of Presidential Responsiveness to Public Opinion." *American Journal of Political Science*. 48 (4).

Howell, William G., and David E. Lewis. 2002. "Agencies by Presidential Design." *Journal of Politics*. 64 (4): 1095-1114.

Krause, George A., Jeffrey E. Cohen. 2000. "Opportunity, Constraints, and the Development of the Institutional Presidency: The Issuance of Executive Orders, 1939-96." *Journal of Politics*. 62 (1): 88-114.

Background Reading:

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

November 21: Politics and Race

Alvarez, R. Michael, and Lisa Garcia Bedolla. 2004. "The Revolution Against Affirmative Action: Racism, Economics, and Proposition 209." *State Politics and Policy Quarterly*. 4 (1): 1-17.

Cameron, Charles, David Epstein, and Sharyn O'Halloran. 1996. "Do Majority-Minority Districts Maximize Substantive Black Representation in Congress?" *American Political Science Review*. 90: 794-812.

Cho, Wendy K. Tam. 2003. "Contagion Effects and Ethnic Contribution Networks." *American Journal of Political Science*. 47 (2): 368-387.

Gay, Claudine. 2001. "The Effect of Black Congressional Representation on Political Participation," *American Political Science Review*, 95: 589-602.

November 23: Thanksgiving—No Class

November 28, 30: Courts

George, Tracey E. and Lee Epstein. 1992. "On the Nature of Supreme Court Decision Making," *American Political Science Review*, 86: 323-337.

McGuire, Kevin T., and James A. Stimson. 2004. "The Least Dangerous Branch Revisited: new Evidence on Supreme Court Responsiveness to Public Preferences." *Journal of Politics*. 66 (4): 1018-1035.

Maltzman, Forrest and Paul J. Wahlbeck. 1996. "Strategic Policy Considerations and Voting Fluidity on the Burger Court," *American Political Science Review*, 90: 581-92.

Richards, Mark J., and Herbert M. Kritzer. 2002. "Jurisprudential Regimes in Supreme Court Decision Making." *American Political Science Review*. 96 (2): 305-20.

Bailey, Michael A., Brian Kamoie, and Forrest Maltzman. 2005. "Signals from the Tenth Justice: The Political Role of the Solicitor General in Supreme Court Decision-making." *American Journal of Political Science*. 49 (1). 72-85.