

PS 5030: Seminar in American Government and Politics—Fall 2007

Dr. Adam Newmark
Office: 2051 OLB
newmarkaj@appstate.edu
Office Hours: MW 10AM to 12PM and 2PM to 3:30 PM or by appointment

Class: 013 OLC
Wednesdays 6:15- 9 P.M.
Phone: 6341

This is a graduate *Seminar in American Government and Politics*. It is designed to provide an overview of the literature and theoretical concepts associated with political science as it relates to American government and politics. There is no way to cover every topic, nor is it possible to evaluate a majority of literature within these topics. Therefore, we will examine the major issues within American politics and some of the important research findings. The intent is to provide you with a sample of the key findings in the literature, as well as help you develop critical skills for evaluating this research.

Since this is a graduate seminar, it is imperative that you attend all the classes and complete the readings and written work. There will be little lecture in this course, and the class will require critical discussion and evaluation of each week's readings. Accordingly, readings should be completed prior to each meeting.

Required texts for Seminar in American Government and Politics

These should be available in the bookstore, or feel free to try to obtain them on Amazon (or any other web source).

1. Dahl, Robert A. 1956. *A Preface to Democratic Theory*. Chicago: The University of Chicago Press. ISBN: 0-226-13426-1
2. Mayhew, David R. 2004. *Congress: The Electoral Connection*. 2nd edition. New Haven: Yale University Press. ISBN: 0300105878
3. Stimson, James A. 1999. *Public Opinion in America*. Westview Press. ISBN: 0-8133-6890-1
4. Baumgartner, Frank R. and Bryan D. Jones. 1993. *Agendas and Instability in American Politics*. Chicago: The University of Chicago Press. ISBN: 0-226-03939-0
5. Baumgartner, Frank and Beth Leech. 1998. *Basic Interests*. Princeton University Press. ISBN: 0-691-05915-2
6. Aldrich, John. 1995. *Why Parties?* Chicago: The University of Chicago Press. ISBN: 0-226-01272-7

Additional readings will be available on reserve outside of my office or in the library. Journal articles can be obtained through JSTOR.

Grades: Your grade will be based on a combination of your participation, discussion leadership, written work, and the examination. All written work will be reduced by 10% for each day late.

Critical Reviews (5 x 6%)	30%
Participation	15%
Leadership of class discussions (3 x 5%)	15%
Literature Review	15%
Final Examination	25%

Critical Reviews: Each student will write a critical review of the readings for five of the weeks. In this review, summaries should be kept to a minimum; instead, the purpose is for you to critically evaluate the theoretical and methodological findings of the readings for the week (you should review all the readings in a given week). Papers should be approximately 4 pages (text) in length and should be well-organized, proof-read, and scholarly in nature. Proper citation is required. These are worth 6% of your grade each, for a total of 30% of your grade. Most major political science journals have examples of these toward the end of each edition (*see Journal of Politics, American Political Science Review, American Journal of Political Science, or others for examples*).

Participation

You are expected to not only attend the class meetings but participate in the class discussions. Therefore, it is important (and required) that you complete the readings as assigned. Your participation grade will be based on your verbal discussions of the materials each week. This will account for 15% of your final grade. (This is separate from the leadership grade below.)

Leadership of class discussions

At the first class meeting, one or more students will be chosen to lead the class discussion for each week (I will do the first reading—week 2). Each student will lead or co-lead the discussion three times over the course of the semester. This will account for a total of 15% of your grade (5% for each time). The student or students should prepare study questions based on the material (you may want to make a list of these and hand them out at the beginning of class). It might be a good idea to coordinate with the other students leading that week; supplemental readings are listed below and may be examined to provide additional scholarship on each subject.

Literature Review

You are required to write a 7-9 page literature review of one topic or subtopic in American politics. Please be aware that a literature review is just that—a review of the literature. If you are not familiar with one, please see me. Additional information will follow. This assignment is worth 15% of your grade and is due 12/5.

Final Examination

The final exam will be given on Wednesday, December 12, 2007 from 6:15 PM – 9:00 PM (time subject to change). The exam is designed to mimic an American government

comprehensive exam and will test your theoretical and analytical understanding of the material for the course. This will be a closed book exam and will be worth 25% of your grade.

Topic and Reading list:

First Meeting—Introduction—August 22nd

Topic 1—Democracy—August 29th

Required Readings:

Dahl, Robert A. 1956. *A Preface to Democratic Theory*. Chicago: The University of Chicago Press.

Supplemental, Additional works, and classics:

Downs, Anthony. 1957. *An Economic Theory of Democracy*. New York: Harper and Row

Topic 2—The Mass Public—September 5th

Required Readings:

Converse, Philip E. 1964. “The Nature of Belief Systems in Mass Publics.” In David Apter. Ed. *Ideology and Discontent*. New York: The Free Press. Pages 206-249.

Popkin, Samuel L. 1991. *The Reasoning Voter: Communication and Persuasion in Presidential Campaigns*. Chicago: University of Chicago Press. Prologue, Chapters 1-3 (Pages 1-71). (Read quickly.)

Zaller, John. 1992. *The Nature and Origins of Mass Opinion*. Cambridge: Cambridge University Press. Chapters 2, 12 (Pages 6-39, 310-332).

Supplemental, Additional works, and classics:

Sears, David O., Richard R. Lau, T.R. Tyler and H.J. Allen. 1980. “Self-Interest vs. Symbolic Politics in Policy Attitudes and Voting.” *American Political Science Review* 74:670-684.

Lodge, Milton, Marco R. Steenbergen, and Sawn Brau. 1995. “The Responsive Voter: Campaign Information and the Dynamics of Candidate Evaluation.” *American Political Science Review* 89(2):309-326.

Conover, Pamela Johnston, and Stanley Feldman. 1981. “The Origins and Meaning of Liberal-Conservative Self-Identifications.” *American Journal of Political Science* 25:617-645.

MacKuen, Michael B., Robert S. Erikson, and James A. Stimson. 1992. “Peasants or Bankers? The American Electorate and the U.S. Economy.” *American Political Science Review* 86:598-611.

Marcus, George E., and Michael B. MacKuen. 1993. "Anxiety, Enthusiasm, and the Vote: The Emotional Underpinnings of Learning and Involvement During Presidential Campaigns." *American Political Science Review* 87:672-685.

Zaller, John. 1992. *The Nature and Origins of Mass Opinion*. Cambridge: Cambridge University Press. Chapters 3, 9

Topic 3—Public Opinion—September 12th

Required Readings:

Stimson, James A. 1999. *Public Opinion in America*. Westview Press.

Stimson, James A., Michael B. MacKuen, and Robert S. Erikson. 1995. "Dynamic Representation." *American Political Science Review*. 89 (September):543-565.

Supplemental, Additional works, and classics:

Zaller, John. 1992. *The Nature and Origins of Mass Opinion*. Cambridge: Cambridge University Press.

Stimson, James A. 2004. *Tides of Consent: How Opinion Movements Shape American Politics*. Cambridge University Press.

Page, Benjamin I. and Robert Y. Shapiro. 1992. *The Rational Public: Fifty Years of Trends in Americans' Policy Preferences*. Chicago: The University of Chicago Press.

Topic 4—Civic Engagement— September 19th

Required Readings:

Putnam, Robert P. 1995. "Tuning In, Tuning Out: The Strange Disappearance of Social Capital in America." *PS: Political Science and Politics*, 28, 664-83.

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

Skocpol, Theda, Marshall Ganz, and Ziad Munson. 2000. "A Nation of Organizers: The Institutional Origins of Civic Volunteerism in the United States." *American Political Science Review*. 94:527-46.

Supplemental, Additional works, and classics:

Sullivan, John L et al. 1981. "The Sources of Political Tolerance: A Multivariate Analysis." *American Political Science Review*, 75, 92-106.

Putnam, Robert D. 2000. *Bowling Alone: The Collapse And Revival Of American Community*. New York: Simon & Schuster.

Gibson, James L. 1992. "The Political Consequences of Intolerance: Cultural Conformity and Political Freedom." *American Political Science Review*, 86, 338-356.

Simon, Bernd et al., 1998. "Collective Identification and Social Movement Participation." *Journal of Personality and Social Psychology*, 74, 646-658.

Kim, Hyojoung and Peter S. Bearman. 1997. "The Structure and Dynamics of Movement Participation." *American Sociological Review*, 62, 70-93.

Verba, Sidney, and Norman H. Nie. 1973. *Participation in America: Political Democracy and Social Equality*. New York: Harper and Row.

Tarrow, Sidney. 1994. *Power in Movement: Social Movements, Collective Action and Politics*. Cambridge University Press.

Topic 5—Voting and Elections— September 26th

Required Readings:

Powell, Bingham G. 1986. "American Voter Turnout In Comparative Perspective." *American Political Science Review* 80: 17-43.

Rabinowitz, George, and Stuart Elaine Macdonald. 1989. "A Directional Theory of Issue Voting." *American Political Science Review* 83: 93-121.

Gelman, Andrew, and Gary King. 1993. "Why Are American Presidential Election Polls So Variable When Votes Are So Predictable." *British Journal of Political Science* 23: 409-451.

Supplemental, Additional works, and classics:

Cox, Gary W. 1998. *Making Votes Count: Strategic Coordination in the World's Electoral System*. Cambridge University Press.

Cox, Gary W. 1990. "Centripetal and Centrifugal Incentives in Electoral Systems." *American Journal of Political Science* 34: 903-935

Campbell, Angus, Philip E. Converse, Warren E. Miller, and Donald Stokes. 1960. *The American Voter*. New York: John Wiley & Sons, Inc.

Niemi, Richard G., and M. Kent Jennings 1991. "Issues and Inheritance in the Formation of Party Identification." *American Journal of Political Science* 35: 970-988.

Rahn, Wendy M. 1993. "The Role of Partisan Stereotypes in Information Processing about Political Candidates." *American Journal of Political Science* 37: 472-496.

Ansolabehere, Stephen, Shanto Iyengar, Adam Simon, and Nicholas Valentino. 1994. "Does Attack Advertising Demobilize the Electorate." *American Political Science Review* 88: 829-838.

Sniderman, Paul M., Richard A. Brody, and Philip E. Tetlock. 1991. *Reasoning and Choice* Chapter 9, Information and Electoral Choice.

Topic 6 –Political Parties—October 3rd

Required Readings:

Aldrich, John. 1995. *Why Parties?* Chicago: The University of Chicago Press. Read Chs. 1-2; 6-9; read 3-5 quickly.

Supplemental, Additional works, and classics:

Aldrich, John H., and David W. Rohde. January, 2000. "The Republican Revolution and the House Appropriations Committee," *Journal of Politics*.

Campbell, Angus, Philip E. Converse, Warren E. Miller, and Donald E. Stokes. 1960. *The American Voter*. New York: John Wiley, Chapters 6 and 7, "The Impact of..." and "The Development of Party Identification," respectively (pp. 120-167).

Fiorina, Morris P. 1980. "The Decline in Collective Responsibility in American Politics." *Daedalus* 109 (3) (Summer):25-45.

Key, Jr., V.O. 1955. "A Theory of Critical Elections." *Journal of Politics* 17 (1) (February):3-18.

Erikson, Robert S., Michael B. MacKuen, and James A. Stimson. *The Macro Polity*. Chapter 4.

Schlesinger, Joseph A. 1984. "On the Theory of Party Organization." *Journal of Politics* 46 (2) (May):369-400.

Topic 7—Organized Interests— October 10th

Required Readings:

Baumgartner, Frank R., and Beth L. Leech. 1998. *Basic Interests: The Importance of Groups in Politics and in Political Science*. Princeton University Press.

Supplemental, Additional works, and classics:

Salisbury, Robert. 1969. "An Exchange Theory of Interest Groups." *Midwest Journal of Political Science* 13 (1): 1-32.

Mitchell, William C., and Michael C. Munger. 1991. "Economic Models of Interest Groups." *American Journal of Political Science* 35 (2): 512-546.

Lowery, David, and Virginia Gray. 1995. "The Population Ecology of Gucci Gulch, or the Natural Regulation of Interest Group Numbers in the American States." *American Journal of Political Science*, 39 (February): 1-29.

Hall, Richard D., and Frank W. Wayman. 1990. "Buying Time: Moneyed Interests and the Buying of Mobilization of Bias in Congressional Committees." *American Political Science Review*, 84: 797-820.

Hojnacki, Marie. 1997. "Interest Groups' Decisions to Join Alliances or Work Alone." *American Journal of Political Science*. 41 (1): 67-87.

McKeown, Tim. 1994. "The Epidemiology of PAC Formation, 1975-84." *Journal of Economic Behavior and Organization*. 24: 153-168.

Olson Jr., Mancur. 1965. *The Logic of Collective Action*. Cambridge, Massachusetts: Harvard University.

Truman, David. 1951. *The Governmental Process*. New York: Alfred A. Knopf.

Bauer, Raymond A., Ithiel de Sola Pool, and Lewis Anthony Dexter. 1963. *American Business and Public Policy*. New York: Atherton.

Topic 8—Representation in Congress— October 17th
Required Readings:

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

Supplemental, Additional works, and classics:

Fenno, Richard. 1978. *Home Style: House Members in Their Districts*. Boston: Little, Brown. (excerpt from McCubbins and Sullivan reader)

Jacobson, Gary. 1997. *The Politics of Congressional Elections*. 4th Edition Chaps. 3, 6.

Brady, David, and Barbara Sinclair. 1984. "Building Majorities for Policy Changes in the House of Representatives." *Journal of Politics* 46:1033-1060.

Erikson, Robert S. and Gerald C. Wright. 1997. "Voters, Candidates, and Issues in Congressional Elections." In Lawrence C. Dodd and Bruce I. Oppenheimer (eds.), *Congress Reconsidered*. 6th ed. Washington: CQ Press.

Carmines, Edward B., and James A. Stimson. 1989. *Issue Evolution: Race and the Transformation of American Politics*. Princeton, N.J.: Princeton University Press. Chapters 1, 7, 8. (Pages 3-26, 159-197).

Topic 9—Congress as an Institution—October 24th

Required Readings:

Kingdon, John W. 1989. *Congressmen's Voting Decisions*. Ann Arbor: University of Michigan Press. Chapters 9-12.

Rohde, David. 1991. *Parties and Leaders in the Post-Reform House*, Chicago: University of Chicago Press. Chapters 3,4

Supplemental, Additional works, and classics:

Nelson Polsby et al. 1968. "The Institutionalization of the House of Representatives." *American Political Science Review* 787-807.

Fenno, Richard . 1973. *Congressmen in Committees*, Boston: Little Brown. Chapters 3-4

Krehbiel, Keith. 1991. *Information and Legislative Organization*, Ann Arbor: University of Michigan Press. Chapters 3, 6.

Kiewiet, D. Roderick and Matthew D. McCubbins. 1991. *The Logic of Delegation*. Chicago: The University of Chicago Press.

Rohde, David. 1979. "Risk-Bearing and Progressive Ambition." *American Journal of Political Science* 23:1-26.

Weisberg, "Herbert. 1979. "Evaluating Theories of Congressional Roll-Call Behavior." *American Journal of Political Science* 22:554-577.\

Topic 10—Presidency—October 31st

Required readings:

Neustadt, Richard. 1976. *Presidential Power: The Politics of Leadership with reflections on Johnson and Nixon*, Chapters 1-3, New York: John Wiley and Sons

Wildavsky, Aaron. 1975. "The Two Presidencies." In Wildavsky, ed., *Perspective on the Presidency*. Boston: Little Brown and Co. pp. 448-461.

Peppers, Donald A. 1975. "'The Two Presidencies:'" Eight Years Later." In Wildavsky, ed., *Perspective on the Presidency*. Boston: Little Brown and Co. pp. 462-471.

Jacobson, Gary C. 2006. "Partisan Polarization in Presidential Support: The Electoral Connection." In *Readings on Presidential Politics*. George C. Edwards, III, ed. Thomson and Wadsworth.

Supplemental, Additional works, and classics:

Barber, James David. 1992 (1972). *Presidential Character: Predicting performance in the White House*. Englewood Cliffs: Prentice Hall. Chapters 1, 2.

Terry Sullivan, "Bargaining with the President," *American Political Science Review* 84:1167-1196, 1990.

Kernell, Samuel. 1986. *Going Public: New Strategies of Presidential Leadership*. Washington: CQ Press. Chapters 2, 3.

Allison, Graham. 1969. "Conceptual Models and the Cuban Missile Crisis," *American Political Science Review* 63:689-718.

Topic 11—The Supreme Court—November 7th

Required Readings:

Segal, Jeffrey A., and Harold J. Spaeth. 2002. *The Supreme Court and the Attitudinal Model*. Cambridge: Cambridge University Press. Chapters 2, 3, 7, 8.

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.

Supplemental, Additional works, and classics:

Baum, Lawrence. 1997. *The Puzzle of Judicial Behavior*. Ann Arbor: University of Michigan Press. Chapter 1.

Epstein, Lee, and Jack Knight. 1998. *The Choices Justices Make*. Washington: CQ Press. Chapter 3.

Perry, Jr., H.W. 1991. *Deciding to Decide: Agenda Setting in the United States Supreme Court*. Cambridge: Harvard University Press. Chapter 5.

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. (See also related critiques in the same issue if you have time.)

Topic 12—Public Policy—November 14th

Required Readings:

Baumgartner, Frank R. and Bryan D. Jones. 1993. *Agendas and Instability in American Politics*. Chicago: The University of Chicago Press.

Supplemental, Additional works, and classics:

Lindblom, Charles. 1959. "The Science of Muddling Through." *Public Administration Review*. 19:79-88.

March, James, Michael Cohen, and John Olsen. 1972. "The Garbage Can Model of Organizational Choice." *Administrative Science Quarterly*. 17:1-25.

Heclo, Hugh. 1984. "Issue Networks and the Executive Establishment." In Anthony King, ed. *The New American Political System*. Washington, D.C.: The American Enterprise Institute. Pp. 87-124

Kingdon, John W. 1995 (1984). *Agendas, Alternatives, and Public Policies*. Second Edition. New York: HarperCollins.

Sabatier, Paul A. 1999. *Theories of the Policy Process*. Westview Press.

Topic 13—Bureaucracy—November 28th

Required Readings:

Downs, Anthony. 1967. *Inside Bureaucracy*. Boston: Little Brown. Chapters 9, 11, 12.

Wilson, James Q. 1989. *Bureaucracy: What government agencies do and why they do it*. New York: Basic Books. Chapters 7, 8, 9.

Supplemental, Additional works, and classics:

Brehm, John and Scott Gates. 1997. *Working, Shirking, and Sabotage : Bureaucratic Response to a Democratic Public*. Ann Arbor: University of Michigan Press. Chapters 2,3.

Bawn, Kathleen. 1995. "Political Control versus Expertise." *American Political Science Review* 89:62-73.

Wood, B. Dan and Rick Waterman. 1991. "The Dynamics of Political Control of the Bureaucracy." *American Political Science Review* 85:801-828

Moe, Terry. 1984. "The New Economics of Organizations." *American Journal of Political Science* 739-777.

McCubbins, Mathew, Roger Noll, and Barry Weingast. "Administrative Procedures as Instruments of Political Control." *Journal of Law, Economics, and Organizations*. 3:243-77

Niskanen, William. 1971. *Bureaucracy and Representative Government*. Chicago: Aldine, Atherton. Chapters 4, 14.

Topic 14—State Politics, Federalism, and Disaster Response—December 5th

(Literature Review is Due)

Required Reading

Brace, Paul and Aubrey Jewett. 1995. “The State of State Politics Research.” *Political Research Quarterly*. 48:643-681.

Walker, David B. *The Rebirth of Federalism: Slouching Toward Washington*. New York: Chatham House Publishers. Introduction and Ch. 1, pp. 1-35.

Dinan, John and Dale Krane. 2006. “The State of American Federalism, 2005: Federalism Resurfaces in the Political Debate.” *Publius*. 36:327-374.

Kweit, Mary Grisez and Robert W. Kweit. 2006. “A Tale of Two Disaster.” *Publius*. 36: 375-392.

Supplemental, Additional works, and classics:

Erikson, Robert S., Gerald C. Wright, and John P. McIver. 1993. *Statehouse Democracy: Public Opinion and Policy in the American States*. Cambridge University Press.

Gray, Virginia and Russell L. Hanson. 2004. *Politics in the American States*. Washington D.C.: CQ Press.

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

Elazar, Daniel J. 1984. *American Federalism: A View from the States*. New York: Harper & Row.

Peterson, Paul E. 1995. *The Price of Federalism*. Washington D.C.: Brookings.

Hamilton, Alexander, James Madison, and John Jay. *The Federalist Papers*. Edited by Clinton Rossiter. Mentor Book (any version will do).

Jewell, Malcolm E. 1982. “The Neglected World of State Politics.” *The Journal of Politics*. 44:638-657.

Final Exam: Wednesday, December 12, 2007 from 6:00 PM - 8:30 PM