

PS 5531: Seminar in Political Behavior—Spring 2008

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Class: 1135 OLC
Wednesdays 6- 9 P.M.
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Office Hours: Tues and Thurs 9-11 and Wed 2-5 or by appointment

This is a graduate level course on American political behavior. There are numerous topics in political behavior including individual and mass participation, belief systems, public opinion, civic engagement, party identification, political psychology, tolerance, political socialization, and voting and elections (to name a few). There is a vast amount of research on these topics, and we will attempt to examine the conclusions and means by which scholars have evaluated questions on the nature of political behavior.

Required Texts:

1. Tarrow, Sidney. 1999. *Power in Movement: Social Movements and Contentious Politics*. Cambridge: Cambridge University Press. ISBN 0-521-62947-0
2. Rosenstone, Steven J. and John Mark Hansen. 2003. *Mobilization, Participation, and Democracy in America*. New York: Longman
3. Zaller, John. 1992/2006. *The Nature and Origins of Mass Opinion*. Cambridge: Cambridge University Press. ISBN: 0-521-40786-9
4. Neimi, Richard G. and Herbert F. Weisberg. 2001. *Controversies in Voting Behavior*. Washington DC: CQ Press. ISBN 1-56802-334-0
5. Delli Carpini, Michael and Scott Keeter. 1996. *What Americans Know about Politics and Why it Matters?* New Haven: Yale University Press. ISBN 0-300-07275-9
6. Stimson, James A. 2004. *Tides of Consent: How Public Opinion Shapes American Politics*. Cambridge: Cambridge University Press. ISBN 0-521-60117

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 (6 x 7%)	42%
Participation	15%
Leadership of class discussions	15%
Final Examination	28%

Critical Reviews: Each student will write critical reviews of the readings for six of the weeks. In these reviews, 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 required 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 7% of your grade each, for a total of 42% of your grade. Major political science journals often have examples of these toward the end of each edition (see *Journal of Politics*).

Participation

You are expected to not only attend the class meetings but participate in the class discussions. Therefore, it is critical (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 several times over the course of the semester. This will account for a total of 15% of your grade. 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.

Final Examination

The final exam will be given on Friday, May 2, 2008 from 6:00 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. The exam and will be worth 28% of your grade.

Topic 1—The Mass Public and Belief Systems

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.

Sharp, Carol and Milton Lodge, M. 1985. "Partisan and Ideological Belief Systems: Do They Differ?" *Political Behavior*,7:147-166.

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).

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* 89:309-326.

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 2—Political Knowledge

Required Readings:

Delli Carpini, Michael and Scott Keeter. 1996. *What Americans Know about Politics and Why it Matters?* New Haven: Yale University Press.

Niemi and Weisberg 2001. *Controversies*, Ch. 6.

Supplemental, Additional works, and classics:

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

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.

Key, V.O. 1966. *The Responsible Electorate*. Cambridge University Press.

Topic 3—Information and Cognition

Required Readings:

Lodge, M., K. McGraw and P. Stroh. 1989. "An Impression-Driven Model of Candidate Evaluation." *American Political Science Review*. 83:399-419.

McGraw, K. and M. Lodge and P. Stroh. 1990. "Order Effects in the Evaluation of Political Candidates." *Political Behavior*. 12: 41-58.

Lodge, Milton, Marco R. Steenbergen, and Sawn Brau. "The Responsive Voter: Campaign Information and the Dynamics of Candidate Evaluation." *Controversies*, Ch. 13.

Althaus, Scott. 2001. Controversies, Ch. 7

Supplemental, Additional works, and classics:

Alvarez, Michael and John Brehm. 2002. *Hard choices, Easy Answers: Values, Information, and American Public Opinion*. Princeton University Press.

Topic 4—Mobilization and Participation

Required Readings:

Rosenstone, Steven J. and John Mark Hansen. 2003. *Mobilization, Participation, and Democracy in America*. New York: Longman

Supplemental, Additional works, and classics:

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—The Nature of Public Opinion

Required Readings:

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

Supplemental, Additional works, and classics:

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

Achen, Christopher. 1985. Mass Political Attitudes and the Survey Response." *American Political Science Review*. 69:1218-1231.

Topic 6—Public Opinion and Politics

Required Readings:

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

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

Topic 7—Political Tolerance:

Required Readings:

Mondak, Jeffrey J. and Mitchell S. Sanders. 2003. "Tolerance and Intolerance, 1976 - 1998." *American Journal of Political Science*, 47: 492-502.

Davis, Darren W., and Brian D. Silver. 2004. "Civil Liberties vs. Security in the Context of the Terrorist Attacks on America." *American Journal of Political Science*, 48: 28-46

Golebiowska Ewa, A. 1996. "The Pictures in Our Heads and Individual-Targeted Tolerance." *The Journal of Politics*, 58:1010-1034

Gibson, James L. 1987. "Homosexuals and the Ku Klux Klan: A Contextual Analysis of Political Tolerance." *The Western Political Quarterly*, 40: 427-448.

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

Supplemental, Additional works, and classics:

Gibson, James L. 1988. "Political Intolerance and Political Repression during the McCarthy Red Scare," *American Political Science Review*, 82: 511-530.

Sullivan, et al. 1993. "Why Politicians are More Tolerant: Selective Recruitment and Socialization among Political Elites in Britain, Israel, New Zealand, and the United States," *British Journal of Political Science*, 23: 51-76.

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

Topic 8—Civic Engagement

Required Readings:

Putnam, Robert P. 2001. "Tuning In, Tuning Out: The Strange Disappearance of Social Capital in America." *Controversies*, Ch. 3

Verba, Sidney, Kay Lehman Schlozman, and Henry E. Brady. 1995. *Voice and Equality: Civic Volunteerism in American Politics*. Cambridge, MA: Harvard University Press. pp. 269-368.

Supplemental, Additional works, and classics:

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.

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.

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.

Topic 9—Social Movements

Required Readings:

Tarrow, Sidney. 1998/1999. *Power in Movements: Social Movements and Contentious Politics*. Cambridge University Press.

Topic 10—Party Identification

Required Readings:

Niemi and Weisberg. *Controversies*, Ch. 17

Miller, Warren E. *Controversies*, Ch. 18

Green, Donald P., Bradley L. Palmquist, and Eric Schickler, *Controversies*, Ch. 19

Topic 11—Voting and Elections

Required Readings:

Niemi and Weisberg 2001. *Controversies*. Chs. 2, 10

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

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:

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

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.

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

Key, V.O. 1966. *The Responsible Electorate*. Cambridge University Press.

Topic 12—Voting Debates

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.

Nadeau and Lewis-Beck *Controversies* Ch. 11

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

Norpoth, Helmut. 1996. "Presidents and the prospective Voter." *The Journal of Politics*. 58:776-792.

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

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.

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

Topic 13—Macro Politics

Required Readings:

Erikson, Robert S., Michael B. MacKuen, and James A Stimson. 1989. "Macropartisanship." *American Political Science Review*. 83:1125-1142.

Green, Palmquist, and Schickler. 2001. *Controversies Ch. 19*

Erikson, Robert S., Michael B. MacKuen, and James A Stimson. 2001. *Controversies*, ch. 20.

Abramson, Paul R. and Charles W. Ostrom. 1991. "Macropartisanship: An Empirical Reassessment." *American Political Science Review*

Suzanna De Boef and Paul M. Kellstedt. 2004. The Political (and Economic) Origins of Consumer Confidence. *American Journal of Political Science*, 48(4): 633-649.

Supplemental, Additional works, and classics:

Erikson, Robert S., Michael B. MacKuen, and James A Stimson. 2002. *The Macro Polity*. New York: Cambridge University Press.

Paul M. Kellstedt. 2000. "Media Framing and the Dynamics of Racial Policy Preferences." *American Journal of Political Science*, 44 (2): 245-260.

Jeff Manza, Fay Lomax Cook and Benjamin Page (Eds.), 2002. *Navigating Public Opinion*.

Topic 14: The Media and Negative Advertising in Campaigns

Required Readings:

Page, Benjamin I. 1996. "The Mass Media as Political Actors." *PS: Political Science and Politics*. 29:20-24.

Graber, Doris. 1996. "The 'New' Media and Politics: What Does the Future Hold?" *PS: Political Science and Politics*. 29:33-36

Weaver, David H. 1996. "What Voters Learn from Media." *Annals of the American Academy of Political and Social Science*. 546: 34-47.

D'Alessio, Dave and Mike Allen. 2000. "Media Bias in Presidential Elections: A Meta-Analysis." *Journal of Communication*, 50:133-156

Lau, Richard R., Lee Sigelman, Caroline Heldman, and Paul Babbitt. 1999. "The Effects of Negative Political Advertisements: A Meta-Analytic Assessment." *American Political Science Review*. 93: 851-876.

Wattenberg, Martin P. and Craig Leonard Briens. 1999. "Negative campaign Advertising: Demobilizer or Mobilizer?" *American Political Science Review*. 93: 891-900.

Supplemental, Additional works, and classics:

Ansolabahere, Stephen D., Shanto Iyengar. 1997. *Going Negative*. New York: The Free Press.

Ansolabahere, Stephen D., Shanto Iyengar, and Adam Simon. 1999. "Replicating Experiments Using Aggregate and Survey Data: The case of Negative Advertising and Turnout." *American Political Science Review*. 93: 901-910.

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

Kahn, Kim Fridkin and Patrick J. Kenney. 1999. "Do Negative Campaigns Mobilize or Suppress Turnout? Clarifying the Relationship between Negativity and Participation." *American Political Science Review*. 93: 877-890.

Patterson, Thomas. E. *Out of Order*. 1994. Vintage Books

Sabato, Larry J. 1993. *Feeding Frenzy*. New York: Free Press.