

Political Science 510
American Politics Graduate Seminar
Fall 2014

Department of Political Science
Southern Illinois University

1 Instructor Information

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2 Course Description

Alexis de Tocqueville described the American democracy as The Great Experiment. Over 200 years after the signing of the Declaration of Independence and the ratification of the U.S. Constitution, the experiment to provide liberty, justice, and equality for all continues. The main objective of this course is to provide students with a better understanding of the principles and practices behind American democracy, the American political institutions, and the political processes which determine policy and the distribution of resources. .

The breadth of research which explores American politics is so large that it would be impossible to cover it all in just one semester. However, the goal of this course is to provide students with a broad overview of both classic works and cutting edge research in each subfield of American politics. Moreover, the course endeavors to be a jumping off point for those interested in writing a thesis or a dissertation on the topic.

While this course will cover many of the same areas that you were exposed to in your undergraduate American Politics course, it will be markedly different. In particular, this course will require students move beyond simply being a consumer of information. Instead, students in this course will be expected to identify shortcomings in each reading and to independently produce knowledge. To that end, students will be required to create a research question related to American politics and empirically address this question in a research paper.

3 Course Readings

This course's readings will be primarily drawn from two main sources. The first will be from several required books which are listed below. The second set of readings will come from journal articles which will be available on the course website. Students will be required to complete all of the readings before each class.

Required Books

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

- Aldrich, John. 1995. *Why Parties: The Origin and Transformation of Political parties in America*. Chicago: University of Chicago Press
- Epstein, Lee and Jack Knight. 1998. *The Choices Justices Make*. Washington D.C.: Congressional Quarterly Press

4 Course Structure

The course will be conducted as a seminar in which students are expected to actively participate in the discussion, rather than simply being lectured to. To facilitate the discussions and encourage participation, students are required to complete the readings and attend class each week. Moreover, each student must submit two weekly discussion questions regarding the reading. These questions will make connections between two or more readings and pose a question regarding the authors' agreements or disagreements.

Each student will also serve as discussion leaders for two weeks of the course. The discussion leader will be required to provide a five to ten minute presentation of that week's readings. In particular, the discussion leader should identify the key debates of the week's readings, discuss how each of the authors contributes to these debates, explain the research designs and data for each of the studies, and present a critique of these readings. In addition to synthesizing the materials, discussion leaders will use their classmates' questions to facilitate discussions.

5 Assessment

Weekly Questions(10%)

To encourage discussion that is interesting to the class, students will be asked to send in two questions each week that pertain to the readings by Midnight on Monday. These questions should connect two or more readings from the course (As long as one of the readings is from the current week, the other can be from any other reading in the class) and pose a question regarding the authors' agreements or disagreements. One of the week's questions may also connect the reading to a current event.

These questions will be graded as Pass/Fail. As long as it is evident that the students put some thought into their questions they will pass. Students may miss two classes worth of questions without a penalty. After that, students will lose 3% of their grade for every additional missed set of questions. Students who email questions, but do not attend class will NOT be given credit.

Discussion Leader (20%)

Twice during the semester, students will be required to facilitate discussion. To accomplish this goal, students should prepare a 5 to 10 minute presentation which summarizes the week's readings, identifies a common thread, and pose several questions to their classmates. The discussion leader should also use their classmates questions to encourage participation.

Discussion Papers (40%)

Students will be asked to review and make connections between the readings for a particular week in a 5-8 page paper twice during the course of the semester. In addition to summarizing and making

connections between the arguments, students will be asked to identify the strengths and weaknesses of the readings' research design and argue in favor of one reading's argument. These papers should summarize the main point of the articles and identify a central theme from the reading in the first 1-2 pages, identify the strengths and weaknesses of the reading in the next 1-3 pages, and provide some analysis about why one side is more credible than another in the final 1-3 pages. The best papers will be organized around one central question and have a clear hypothesis.

Final Research Paper (30%)

One of the primary goals of this course is to train students to think like social scientists. To assess student's progress in this area, each student will be required to write a 15-20 page empirical research paper dealing with a research question of the students choosing. The only constraint on student's choices is that the question has to address some issue that pertains to one of the topics discussed in this course. To ensure that the research question is one that can be completed in a 15 week course, students should clear the project with the professor by email or in person by October 7th. On October 14th, Students will give a five minute informal presentation of their research project idea. These presentations should identify the research question, the expected hypotheses and the data that the student plans to use to test these hypotheses.

6 Course Schedule and Assigned Readings

Tuesday-August 19- Introduction and Syllabus

- *NO READING*

Tuesday-August 26- Foundations in American Politics

Required Readings

- Federalists Papers 10, 15, 47, & 51
- The Anti-Federalists Papers 9, 14, & 17
- Dahl Chapters 1, 3, 4, & 5

Recommended Readings

- Walker, Jack 1966. A Critique of the Elitist Theory of Democracy. American Political Science Review 60: 285-295
- Dahl, Robert A. 1966. Further Reflections on the Elitist Theory of Democracy. American Political Science Review 60:296-305. American Journal of Political Science 55:463-477
- Schumpeter, Joseph. 1950. Capitalism, Socialism, and Democracy. New York: NY: Harper & Row

Tuesday-September 2nd- Representation

Required Readings

- Federalists Papers 55 Through 58.

- The Anti-Federalists Papers 55 Through 58
- Pitkin, Hanna. 1966. The Concept of Representation. Berkeley: University of California Press Chapters 3, 4 & 10
- Daniel M. Butler and David E. Brookman. 2011. Do Politicians Racially Discriminate Against Constituents? A Field Experiment on State Legislators. American Journal of Political Science 55: 463-477

Recommended Readings

- Weissberg, Robert. 1978. Collective vs. Dyadic Representation in Congress. American Political Science Review 72: 535-547
- Mansbridge, Jane. 2003. Rethinking Representation. American Political Science Review 97: 515-528
- Dryzek, John and Simon Niemeyer. 2008. Discursive Representation. American Political Science Review 102: 481-493
- Mansbridge, Jane. 1999. Should Blacks Represent Blacks and Women Represent Women? A Contingent Yes. The Journal of Politics 61:628-657

Tuesday-September 9th- Public Opinion Part 1

Required Readings

- Alford, John, Carolyn Funk, and John R. Hibbing. 2005. Are Political Orientations Genetically Transmitted? American Political Science Review 99:153-167.
- Krysnan, Maria. 2000. Prejudice, Politics, and Public Opinion: Understanding the Sources of Racial Policy Attitudes. Annual Review of Sociology 26: 135-168
- Page, Benjamin I., Robert Y. Shapiro, and Glenn R. Dempsey. 1987. What Moves Public Opinion? American Political Science Review 81:23-44.
- Druckman, James, Erik Peterson, and Rune Slothuus. 2013. How Elite Partisan Polarization Affects Public Opinion Formation. American Political Science Review 107: 57-79

Recommended Readings

- Huckfeldt, Robert, and John Sprague. 1987. Networks in Context: The Social Flow of Political Information. American Political Science Review 81: 1197-1216.
- Gamson, William. 1992 Talking Politics. Cambridge, UK: Cambridge University Press
- Zaller, John. 1992. The Nature and Origins of Mass Opinion. Cambridge, UK: Cambridge University Press

Tuesday-September 16th- Public Opinion Part 2*Required Readings*

- Gilens, Martin. 2001. Political Ignorance and Collective Policy Preferences. *American Political Science Review*. 95: 379-396
- Page, Benjamin and Robert Shapiro. 1983. Effects of Public Opinion on Policy. *American Political Science Review* 77: 175-190.
- Jacobs, Lawrence and Robert Y. Shapiro. 1997. Debunking the Pandering Politician Myth. *The Public Perspective* 8: 3-5
- Lax, Jeffrey and Justin Phillips. 2009. Gay Rights in the States: Public Opinion and Policy Responsiveness. *American Political Science Review* 103: 367-386

Recommended Readings

- Jacobs, Lawrence R. and Robert Y. Shapiro. 2000. *Politicians Don't Pander: Political Manipulation and the Loss of Democratic Responsiveness*. Chicago: University of Chicago Press.
- Easton, David. *A Framework for Political Analysis*. Englewood Cliffs, NJ Prentice-Hall 1965
- Stimson, James A., Michael B. MacKuen, and Robert Erikson. 1994. Opinion and Policy: A Global View. *PS: Political Science and Politics* 27 (March): 29-35.

Tuesday- September 23rd- Political Participation*Required Readings*

- Downs, Anthony. *An Economic Theory of Democracy*. New York: Harper Collins, 1957. Chapter 3 & 14
- Kay Schlozman, Sidney Verba, Henry Brady, 1994. Beyond SES: A resource model of Political Participation. *American Political Science Review* 89: 271-294
- Blais, Andre. 2006. What Affects Voter Turnout? *Annual Review of Political Science* 9: 111-125
- Kay Schlozman, Sidney Verba, Henry Brady, 1994. Beyond SES: A resource model of Political Participation. *American Political Science Review* 89: 271-294
- McClurg, Scott. 2003. Social Networks and Political Participation. *Political Research Quarterly* 56: 449-464

Recommended Readings

- Nickerson, David 2008. Is Voting Contagious? Evidence from Two Field Experiments. *American Political Science Review*. 102: 49-58.
- Aldrich, John 1993. Rational Choice and Turnout. *American Journal of Political Science*. 37(1):246-78.
- Wolfinger, Raymond and Steven Rosenstone. *Who Votes?*. New Haven, CT: Yale University Press, 1980.

Tuesday- September 30th- Political Parties*Required Readings*

- Aldrich, John. 1995. Why Parties: The Origin and Transformation of Political Parties in America Chicago, IL: University of Chicago Press Chapters 1, 2 & 9
- Hirano, Shigeo and James Snyder, Jr. 2007. The Decline of Third-Party Voting in the United States. *Journal of Politics*. 69:1-16.
- Wattenberg, Martin. 1981. The Decline of Political Partisanship in the United States: Negativity or Neutrality. *The American Political Science Review* 75: 941-950
- Miller, Gary, and Norman Schofield. 2003. Activists and Partisan Realignment in the United States. *American Political Science Review*. 97::245-60

Recommended Readings

- Wattenberg, Martin *The Decline of American Political Parties, 1952-1996*. Cambridge, MA: Harvard University Press, 1998.
- Rosenstone, Steven, Roy Behr, and Edward Lazarus. *Third Parties in America*. Second Edition. Princeton, NJ: Princeton University Press, 1996.
- Abramowitz, Alan and Kyle Saunders. 2008. Is Polarization a Myth? *Journal of Politics* 70:542-557.

Tuesday- October 7th- Congressional and Presidential Elections*Required Readings*

- Bartels, Larry 1996. Uninformed Votes: Information Effects in Presidential Elections. *American Journal of Political Science*. 40:194-230
- Carmines, Edward and James Stimson. 1980. The Two Faces of Issue Voting. *American Political Science Review* 74: 78-91.
- MacKuen, Michael B., Erikson, Robert S., and Stimson, James A. 1992. Peasants or bankers? The American electorate and the US economy. *American Political Science Review*, 86: 597-611.
- Buttice, Matthew K., and Stone, Walter J. 2012. Candidates matter: Policy and quality differences in congressional elections. *The Journal of Politics*, 74: 870-887.

Recommended Readings

- Campbell, Angus, Phillip Converse, Warren Miller, and Donald Stokes. 1964. *The American Voter*. New York: Wiley
- Fiorina, M. *Retrospective Voting in American National Elections*. New Haven, CT: Yale University Press, 1981
- Kam, Cindy. 2006. Political Campaigns and Open-Minded Thinking. *Journal of Politics*. 68(4):931-45
- Lau, Richard and David Redlawsk. 2006. *How Voters Decide: Information Processing in Election Campaigns*. Cambridge University Press.

Tuesday- October 14th- Fall Break**Tuesday- October 21st- How to Write a Research Paper****Research Proposals Due** *Required Readings*

- Bem, Darrel J. 2000. Writing an Empirical Article. In Robert J. Sternberg, ed., Guide to Publishing in Psychology Journals. Cambridge, U.K.: Cambridge University Press.
- King, Gary. 2006. Publication, Publication. PS: Political Science and Politics 39:119-125.
- Polsky, Andrew J. 2007. Seeing Your Name in Print: Unpacking the Mysteries of the Review Process at Political Science Scholarly Journals. PS: Political Science & Politics 40:539-543.
- Wuffle, A. 1989. Uncle Wuffle's Advice to the Advanced Graduate Student. PS: Political Science & Politics, 22: 838-839.
- Thunder, David. Back to Basics: Twelve Rules for Writing a Publishable Article. PS 37: 493-495 *Recommended Readings*

Tuesday- October 28th- The Presidency*Required Readings*

- Neustadt, Richard. 1991. Presidential Power and the Modern Presidents New York: Wiley Chapters 2 and 3.
- Kernell, Samuel. 1997. Going Public: New Strategies of Presidential Leadership. Washington D.C.: Congressional Quarterly Press: Chapters 2 and 4
- Cohen, Jeffrey and John Hamman. 2003. "The Polls: Can Presidential Rhetoric Affect the public's Economic Perceptions?" Presidential Studies Quarterly 33: 408-422
- Howell, William 2005. Unilateral Powers: A Brief Overview. Presidential Studies Quarterly. 35: 417-439

Recommended Readings

- Barber, James 1992. The Presidential Character. Fourth Edition. Englewood Cliffs, NJ: Prentice-Hall
- Skowronek, Stephen 1993. The Politics Presidents Make. Cambridge, MA: Harvard University Press
- Beckmann, Matthew. 2010. Pushing the Agenda: Presidential Leadership in U.S. Lawmaking 1953-2004.
- Edwards, George C. and Stephen J. Wayne. 2010. Presidential Leadership.

Tuesday-November 4th- Congress*Required Readings*

- Tate, Katherine. 2001. The Political Representation of Blacks in Congress: Does Race Matter? 26: 623-638
- Fleisher, Richard and John R. Bond. 2004. The Shrinking Middle in the US Congress. British Journal of Political Science 34:429-451
- Martin, Andrew. 2001. Congressional Decision Making and the Separation of Powers. American Political Science Review 95: 361-378
- Grant, J. Tobin and Thomas Rudolph. 2004. The Job of Representation in Congress: Public Expectations and Representative Approval. Legislative Studies Quarterly 29: 431-445
- Fenno, Richard F., Jr. 1977. U.S. House Members in Their Constituencies. American Political Science Review 71: 883-917

Recommended Readings

- Grose, Christian. 2011. Congress in Black and White: Race and Representation in Washington and at Home. New York: Cambridge University Press
- McCubbins, Matthew and Terry Sullivan. 1987. Congress: Structure and Policy. New York: Cambridge University Press
- Oleszek, Walter J. 2007. Congressional Procedures and Policy Process. Washington D.C. CQ Press

Tuesday- November 11th- No Class-Veteran's Day**Tuesday- November 18th- The Judiciary***Required Readings*

- Epstein, Lee. and J. Knight. The Choices Justices Make. Washington, D.C.: Congressional Quarterly Press, 1998. Chapters 1, 2, and 3
- Boyd, Christina, Lee Epstein, and Andrew D. Martin. Untangling the Causal Effect of Sex on Judging. American Journal of Political Science 54:389-411
- Comparato, Scott. 2003. Amici Curiae and Strategic Behavior in State Supreme Courts Westport, CT: Praeger Publisher Chapter 5
- Giles, Michael W., Bethany Blackstone, and Richard L. Vining, Jr. 2008. The Supreme Court in American Democracy: Unraveling the Linkages between Public Opinion and Judicial Decision Making. Journal of Politics. 70: 293-306.

Recommended Readings

- Epstein, Lee and Jack Knight. 2000. Field Essay: Toward a Strategic Revolution in Judicial Politics: A Look Back, A Look Ahead. Political Research Quarterly. 53: 625-661.

- McGuire, Kevin T. 1995. Repeat Players in the Supreme Court: The Role of Experience Lawyers in Litigation Success. *The Journal of Politics*. 57:187-196s
- Wahlbeck, Paul J. James F. Spriggs and Forrest Maltzman. 1998. Marshalling the Court: Bargaining and Accommodation on the United States Supreme Court. *American Journal of Political Science* 42:294-315

Tuesday- November 25th- Racial Politics in the United States

Required Readings

- Kauffman, Karen. 2003. Cracks in the Rainbow: Group Commonality as a Basis for Latino and African-American Political Coalitions *Political Research Quarterly* 56: 199-210
- Cain, Bruce, D. Roderick Kiewiet, Carole Uhlaner. 1991. The Acquisition of Partisanship by Latinos and Asian-Americans *American Journal of Political Science* 35: 390-422
- Miller, Arthur H., Patricia Gurin, Gerald Gurin, and Oksana Malanchuk. 1981. Group consciousness and political participation. *American Journal of Political Science* 25: 494-511.
- Lewis-Beck, Michael S., Charles Tien, and Richard Nadeau. 2010. Obama's Missed Landslide: A Racial Cost?. *PS: Political Science & Politics* 43: 69-76.
- Tesler, Michael. The Spillover of Racialization into Health Care: How President Obama Polarized Public Opinion by Racial Attitudes and Race. *American Journal of Political Science* 56: 690-704.

Recommended Readings

- Lien, Pei-Te, M. Margaret Conway, and Janelle Wong. 2004. *The Politics of Asian Americans* New York, NY: Routledge Press
- Kinder, Donald and Lynn Sanders *Divided by Color* Chicago, IL: University of Chicago
- DeSipio, Louis. 1998. *Counting on the Latino Vote: Latinos as a New Electorate*. Charlottesville: University of Virginia Press
- Dawson, Michael. 1994. *Behind the Mule* Princeton, NJ: Princeton University Press

Tuesday- December 2nd- Gender Politics in the United States

Required Readings

- Fox, Richard L., and Jennifer L. Lawless. 2004. Entering the arena? Gender and the decision to run for office. *American Journal of Political Science* 48: 264-280.
- Kaufmann, Karen M. and John R. Petrocik. 1999. The changing politics of American men: Understanding the sources of the gender gap. *American Journal of Political Science* 43: 864-887.
- Edlund, Lena, and Rohini Pande. 2002. Why have women become left-wing? The political gender gap and the decline in marriage. *Quarterly Journal of Economics* 112: 917-961..

- Manza, Jeff, and Clem Brooks. 1998. The Gender Gap in US Presidential Elections: When? Why? Implications? *American Journal of Sociology* 103: 1235-1266.
- Dolan, Kathleen. Voting for Women in the Year of the Woman. *American Journal of Political Science* 42: 272-293.

Recommended Readings

- Dolan, Kathleen A. 2004. *Voting for women: How the public evaluates women candidates*. New York: Westview Press.
- Wolbrecht, Christina Karen Beckwith, and Lisa Baldez. *Political Women and American Democracy*. New York: Cambridge University Press.
- Sanbonmatsu, Kira. 2002. *Democrats, Republicans, and the Politics of Womens Place*. Ann Arbor: University of Michigan Press.