

American Political Process
Political Science 210
Fall, 2007

Professor Forrest Maltzman
Monroe/Hall of Govt (2215 G St., rm, 425)
Phone: 994-5821
Email: Forrest@gwu.edu

Office Hours: Th 3:00-5:00
Or by appointment

Class: 5:10-7:00 Th (Monroe 351)

This seminar is the introductory graduate course for the American Politics subfield. By the end of this course, you should have a basic familiarity with some of the more fundamental and central works in political science; understand the strengths and weaknesses of different approaches for studying the American political system; and, be familiar with a couple of the more recent debates that are central to the discipline. In other words, this course attempts to strike a healthy balance between political science classics and contemporary pieces. It also is designed to highlight a variety of methodological and theoretical approaches. At the end of this semester, you should understand that there is no single way to approach political science nor is there agreement on how politicians, citizens and institutions perform.

By itself, this seminar will not cover enough material to enable you to have a complete understanding of the American Politics subfield. If you are planning to take an American Politics comprehensive exam, you should not limit your studying to material on this syllabus. Since this is a graduate level course, a basic understanding of the American political system will be assumed. If you lack such an understanding, perusing a good American Government textbook is essential. I have several texts that I would be willing to lend students enrolled in the course.

Required Texts: All of the texts for this course are available in the bookstore in the basement of Marvin Center. In addition to these materials, there will be a course packet that will primarily be placed in the files section of this course's blackboard page. You should be able to get there from <http://blackboard.gwu.edu> and by using your GW mail user name and password. Finally, there are a number of articles I am assigning that you can reach via JSTOR. If you are on campus, you can access these from any computer linked to the internet. If you want to access JSTOR articles from your home, you will need to go to JSTOR via the GW library's ALADIN system www.gwu.edu/~gelman. Then go to ALADIN and enter your library barcode from your GW ID.

1. Shanto Iyengar and Donald Kinder, *News that Matters*
2. Tali Mendelberg, *The Race Card*
3. Albert Hirschman, *Exit, Voice and Loyalty*
4. Martin Wattenberg, *The Decline of American Political Parties*
5. Keith Krehbiel, *Information and Legislative Organization*
6. David Mayhew, *Congress: The Electoral Connection*.
7. Richard Neustadt, *Presidential Power and the Modern Presidents*
8. David Mayhew, *Divided We Govern*, 2nd ed.

Requirements: (i) Prior to each class, I expect you to read and reflect on readings for the course. (ii) For two of the seminars (not week 13), you should prepare a written list of

questions/discussion topics about the readings. These questions will be due at 3:00 pm on the day of the seminar. You can either bring them to my office or email them to me. (iii) For two classes, you will need to take the leading in presenting an article/chapter. This presentation should (a) highlight what the article is about; the nature of the evidence employed; where it fits into the literature; and its weaknesses. At the first class meeting, we will divvy up the articles/chapters. (iv) You should complete a 15-20 page take home final exam.

Evaluation: The grade in this course will be based on seminar questions/class participation (20%), Presentations (10%), and the final exam (70%).

Key Dates:

Final Exam will be due on December 17.

Week 1: Understanding Politics I (September 6)

Cohn, "When Did Political Science Forget about Politics?" *New Republic* (10/25/1999) (Blackboard link)

Simon, "Human Nature in Politics: The Dialogue of Psychology with Political Science" *American Political Science Review* (1985: 293-304)

•<http://links.jstor.org/sici?sici=0003-0554%28198506%2979%3A2%3C293%3AHNIPTD%3E2.0.CO%3B2-N>

Maltzman, Sigelman, and Binder, "Leaving Office Feet First: Death in Congress." *PS: Political Science and Politics* (1996: 665-671).

•<http://links.jstor.org/sici?sici=1049-0965%28199612%2929%3A4%3C665%3ALOFFDI%3E2.0.CO%3B2-5>

Moe, "The New Economics of Organization" *American Journal of Political Science* (1984: 739-777).

•<http://links.jstor.org/sici?sici=00925853%28198411%2928%3A4%3C739%3ATNEOO%3E2.0.CO%3B2-G>

Pierson, "Introduction" and "Institutional Development" chapter 5, *Politics in Time* (2004). (Blackboard link)

Shepsle, "Studying Institutions: Some Lessons from the Public Choice Approach" (Blackboard link)

Week 2: Public Opinion I: Media (September 13)---NEED TO RESCHEDULED

Iyengar and Kinder, *News that Matters* (1987)

Week 3: Public Opinion II: Individuals (September 20)

Nie and Andersen, "Mass Belief Systems Revisited" *Journal of Politics* (1976:541-591).

•<http://links.jstor.org/sici?sici=0022-3816%28197408%2936%3A3%3C540%3AMBSRPC%3E2.0.CO%3B2-Y>

Campbell et al., *The American Voter*, ch. 9 (1960). (Blackboard link)

Sullivan, et al., "Ideological Constraint in the Mass Public: A Methodological Critique and Some New Findings", *American Journal of Political Science* (May, 1978).
• <http://links.jstor.org/sici?sici=0092-5853%28197805%2922%3A2%3C233%3AICITMP%3E2.0.CO%3B2-Q>

Peffley, Hurwitz, and Sniderman, "Racial Stereotypes and Whites..." *American Journal of Political Science* (1997: 30-60).
• <http://links.jstor.org/sici?sici=0092-5853%28199701%2941%3A1%3C30%3ARSAWPV%3E2.0.CO%3B2-Z>

Mendelberg, *The Race Card* (2001)

Huber and Lapinski, "The Race Card Revisited." (2005). Manuscript. Blackboard link).

Alford, Funk, and Hibbing. "Are Political Orientations Genetically Transmitted?" *American Political Science Review* (2006: 153-168) (Blackboard link)

PRESENTATION #1:

Zaller, *The Nature and Origins of Mass Opinion* (1992). pg. 6-53.* (Blackboard link)

PRESENTATION #2:

Stimson, *Public Opinion in America*, ch. 2 and 3 (1991) (Blackboard link)

PRESENTATION #3:

Skowronek, "The Reassociation and Ideas and Purposes: Racism, Liberalism, and The American Political Tradition." *American Political Science Review* (2006: 385-402).

Week 4: Voting and Parties (September 27)

Aldrich, *Why Parties*. Ch. 1-2. (Blackboard link)

Campbell et al., *The American Voter*, ch. 6 and 7 (1960). (Blackboard link)

Downs, *An Economic Theory of Democracy*, pp. 1-14 (part of chapter 1) and ch. 2, 3 and 8 (1957) (Blackboard link)

Fiorina, *Retrospective Voting in American National Elections*, ch. 1 and pp. 84-105 (1981). (Blackboard link)

Nie, Verba and Petrocik, *Changing American Voter*, ch. 4 (1976). (Blackboard link)

Wattenberg, *The Decline of American Political Parties* (1986).

Green, Palmquist, and Shickler, "Macropartisanship: A Replication and Critique." *American Political Science Review* (1998: 883-900).
<http://links.jstor.org/sici?sici=0003-0554%28199812%2992%3A4%3C883%3AMARAC%3E2.0.CO%3B2-0>

Erikson, MacMuen, and Stimson, "What Moves Macropartisanship?" *American Political Science Review* (1998: 901-912).
<http://links.jstor.org/sici?sici=0003-0554%28199812%2992%3A4%3C901%3AWMMART%3E2.0.CO%3B2-S>

PRESENTATION: 4

Cohen, Karol, Noel, and Zaller. "Beating Reform..." Draft. (2001). (Blackboard link).

Week 5: Participation (October 4)

Gerber and Green, "The effect of a Nonpartisan Get-Out-The-Vote Drive: An Experimental Study of Leafletting." *Journal of Politics* (2000: 846-257).
<http://links.jstor.org/sici?sici=0022-3816%28200008%2962%3A3%3C846%3ATEOANG%3E2.0.CO%3B2-K>

Powell, "American Voter Turnout in Comparative Perspective." *American Political Science Review* (1986: 17-43).
<http://links.jstor.org/sici?sici=0003-0554%28198603%2980%3A1%3C17%3AAVTICP%3E2.0.CO%3B2-N>

Mutz, "The Consequences of Cross-Cutting Networks for Political Participation." *American Journal of Political Science* (2002:838-855).
<http://links.jstor.org/sici?sici=0092-5853%28200210%2946%3A4%3C838%3ATCOCNF%3E2.0.CO%3B2-K>

Bartels, "Partisanship and Voting Behavior..." *American Journal of Political Science* (2000: 35-50).
<http://links.jstor.org/sici?sici=0092-5853%28200001%2944%3A1%3C35%3APAVB1%3E2.0.CO%3B2-Z>

Hirschman, *Exit, Voice and Loyalty* (1970)

PRESENTATION #5:

McDonald and Popkin, "The Myth of the Vanishing Voter." *American Political Science Review* (2001: 963-974). (Blackboard link)

PRESENTATION #6:

Hetherington, "Resurgent Mass Partisanship: The Role of Elite Polarization." *American Political Science Review* (2001: 619-631). (Blackboard link)

PRESENTATION #7:

Brady, Verba, and Schlozman, "Beyond SES: A Resource,," *American Political Science Review* (1995: 271-294)
<http://links.jstor.org/sici?sici=0003-0554%28199506%2989%3A2%3C271%3ABSARMO%3E2.0.CO%3B2-V>

PRESENTATION #8:

Oliver and Wolfinger, "Jury Aversion and Voter Registration" *American Political Science Review* (1999: 147-153).

<http://links.jstor.org/sici?sici=0003-0554%28199903%2993%3A1%3C147%3AJAAVR%3E2.0.CO%3B2-E>

Week 6: Interest Groups (October 11)

Backrach and Baratz, "Two Faces of Power" *American Political Science Review* (1962:947-952).

• <http://links.jstor.org/sici?sici=0003-0554%28196212%2956%3A4%3C947%3ATFOP%3E2.0.CO%3B2-J>

Dahl, "Pluralist Democracy in the United States" Rand McNally (1967: 22-24)
(Blackboard link)

Olson, *The Logic of Collective Action*, ch. 1 (1965/1971). (Blackboard link)

Wright, "PACs, Contributions, and Roll Calls: An Organizational Perspective," *American Political Science Review* (1985:400-414).

<http://links.jstor.org/sici?sici=0003-0554%28198506%2979%3A2%3C400%3APCARCA%3E2.0.CO%3B2-U>

PRESENTATION #9:

Rothenberg, "Organizational Maintenance and the Retention Decision in Groups." *American Political Science Review* 1129-1152.

• <http://links.jstor.org/sici?sici=0003-0554%28198812%2982%3A4%3C1129%3AOMATRD%3E2.0.CO%3B2-F>

Week 7: Congress (October 18)

Binder, "The Partisan Basis of Procedural Choice: Allocating Parliamentary Rights in the House, 1789-1990" *American Political Science Review* (1996:8-20).

• <http://links.jstor.org/sici?sici=0003-0554%28199603%2990%3A1%3C8%3ATPBOPC%3E2.0.CO%3B2-I>

Fenno, "The House Appropriations Committee as a Political System" *American Political Science Review* (1962:310-324).

• <http://links.jstor.org/sici?sici=0003-0554%28196206%2956%3A2%3C310%3ATHACAA%3E2.0.CO%3B2-2>

Mayhew, *The Electoral Connection* (1974).

PRESENTATION #10:

Polsby, "The Institutionalization of the U.S. House of Representatives" *American Political Science Review* (1968:144-168).*

• <http://links.jstor.org/sici?sici=0003-0554%28196803%2962%3A1%3C144%3ATIOTUH%3E2.0.CO%3B2-N>

Week 8: Congress (October 25)

Cain, Ferejohn, and Fiorina, "The Constituency Service Basis of the Personal Vote for U.S. Representatives and British Members of Parliament" *American Political Science Review* (1984: 110-125).

•<http://links.jstor.org/sici?sici=0003-0554%28198403%2978%3A1%3C110%3ATCSBOT%3E2.0.CO%3B2-1>

Cox and McCubbins, *Legislative Leviathan* (1993:ch. 4, 5). (Blackboard link)

Maltzman, *Competing Principals* (1997: ch. 2). (Blackboard link)

Krehbiel, *Information and Legislative Organization* (1991).

Week 9: Presidency (November 1)

Deering and Maltzman, "The Politics of Executive Orders: Legislative Constraints on Presidential Power." *Political Research Quarterly* (1999)

•<http://links.jstor.org/sici?sici=1065-9129%28199912%2952%3A4%3C767%3ATPOEOL%3E2.0.CO%3B2-R>

Kernell, *Going Public* (1993: Ch. 1, and 2) (Blackboard link)

Moe, "Presidents, Institutions, and Theory" in Edwards *Researching the Presidency* (1993:pp. 337-386). (Blackboard link)

Neustadt, *Presidential Power and the Modern Presidents* (1990). *Skim part II.*

PRESENTATION #11:

Skowronek, "Presidential Leadership in Political Time." Excerpt from his book appeared in Nelson, *The Presidency and the Political System*.* (Blackboard link)

Week 10: Partisanship and the Separation of Powers (November 8)

Binder, "The Dynamics of Legislative Gridlock" " *American Political Science Review* (1999)

•<http://links.jstor.org/sici?sici=0003-0554%28199909%2993%3A3%3C519%3ATDOLG1%3E2.0.CO%3B2-E>

Krehbiel, "Where's the Party?" *British Journal of Political Science* (1993)

•<http://links.jstor.org/sici?sici=0007-1234%28199304%2923%3A2%3C235%3AWTP%3E2.0.CO%3B2-5>

Mayhew, *Divided We Govern*, 2nd ed. (2005)

Moraski and Shipan. "The Politics of Supreme Court Nominations: A Theory of Institutional Constraints and Choices" *American Journal of Political Science* (1999).

•<http://links.jstor.org/sici?sici=0092-5853%28199910%2943%3A4%3C1069%3ATPOSCN%3E2.0.CO%3B2-0>

PRESENTATION #12

Cameron, *Veto Bargaining*, ch. 4 and 5 (2000) (Blackboard link)

Week 11: Courts (November 15)

Casper, "The Supreme Court and National Policy Making" *American Political Science Review* (1976:50-63).

•<http://links.jstor.org/sici?sici=0003-0554%28197603%2970%3A1%3C50%3ATSCANP%3E2.0.CO%3B2-5>

Dahl, "Decision-Making in a Democracy" *Journal of Public Law* (1957:279-295).

Maltzman, Spriggs, and Wahlbeck. "Strategy and Judicial Choice: New Institutional Approaches to Supreme Court Decision Making." In C. Clayton and H. Gillman's *Supreme Court Decision-Making: New Institutional Approaches* (1999)

Murphy, *Elements of Judicial Strategy* (1964: ch. 3, 6) (Blackboard link)

Segal and Cover, "Ideological Values and the Votes of U.S. Supreme Court Justices" *American Political Science Review* (1989:557-566).

<http://links.jstor.org/sici?sici=0003-0554%28198906%2983%3A2%3C557%3AIVATVO%3E2.0.CO%3B2-T>

Bonneau, Hammond, Maltzman, and Wahlbeck. "Agenda Control, the Median Justice...." *American Journal of Political Science* (2007: forthcoming). (Blackboard link).

PRESENTATION #13:

Kagan, *Adversarial Legalism* (2001: Preface & 3-58). (Blackboard link)

PRESENTATION #14:

Smith, "Political Jurisprudence, The 'New Institutionalism,' and the Future of Public Law." *American Political Science Review* (1988:89-108).

<http://links.jstor.org/sici?sici=0003-0554%28198803%2982%3A1%3C89%3APJT%22IA%3E2.0.CO%3B2-Z>

PRESENTATION #15:

Whittington, "Interpose Your Friendly Hand!: Political Supports for the Exercise of Judicial Review..." *American Political Science Review* 2005: 583-610). (Blackboard link)

Week 12: Bureaucracy (November 29)

McCubbins and Schwartz, "Congressional Oversight Overlooked: Police Patrols versus Firealarms," *American Journal of Political Science* (1984:165-179).

•<http://links.jstor.org/sici?sici=0092-5853%28198402%2928%3A1%3C165%3ACOOPP%3E2.0.CO%3B2-N>

Weingast and Moran. 1983. "Bureaucratic Discretion or Congressional Control? Regulatory Policymaking by the Federal Trade Commission" *Journal of Political Economy* (1983:765-800).

•<http://links.jstor.org/sici?sici=0022-3808%28198310%2991%3A5%3C765%3ABDOCCR%3E2.0.CO%3B2-H>

PRESENTATION #16:

Huber, Shipan, and Pfahler, "Legislatures and Statutory Control of Bureaucracy" *American Journal of Political Science* (2001:330-345).

<http://links.jstor.org/sici?sici=0092-5853%28200104%2945%3A2%3C330%3ALASCOB%3E2.0.CO%3B2-C>

PRESENTATION #17:

Moe, "The Politics of Structural Change: Towards a Public Theory of Bureaucracy." In Williamson, *Organizational Theory*. (Blackboard link)

Week 13: Understanding Politics II (December 6)

Green and Shapiro, *Pathologies of Rational Choice Theory* (1994). Ch. 2-3.
(Blackboard link)

Chong, "Rational Choice Theory's Mysterious Rivals." (1996) (Blackboard link)

Dahl, "The Concept of Power," *Behavioral Science* (1957:201-215). (Blackboard link)

Fiorina, "Rational Choice, Empirical Contributions, and the Scientific Enterprise." (1996) (Blackboard link)

Kelley, "The Promise and Limitations of Rational Choice Theory." (1996)
(Blackboard)

March and Olsen, "The New Institutionalism: Organizational Factors in Political Life." *American Political Science Review* (1984: 734-749).

•<http://links.jstor.org/sici?sici=0003-0554%28198409%2978%3A3%3C734%3ATNIOFI%3E2.0.CO%3B2-J>

Moe, "Power and Political Institutions" *Perspectives on Politics*. (2005) (Blackboard link)

Quattrone and Tversky, "Contrasting Rational and Psychological Analyses of Political Choice" *American Political Science Review* (1988:720-736).

•<http://links.jstor.org/sici?sici=0003-0554%28198809%2982%3A3%3C719%3ACRAPAO%3E2.0.CO%3B2-8>