

## **Proseminar in American Politics (GOVT 710)**

Professor Elizabeth Suhay  
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American University, Fall 2019  
Wednesday, 5:30-8, McKinley Bldg 303

### **Course Description**

This course will introduce you to the field of U.S. politics and serve as preparation for the U.S. politics field exam, covering canonical works with an eye toward recent developments. While focused on the politics of just one nation, the field of U.S. politics has been an incubator of novel theorizing and methodologies, many of which have been taken up by scholars across the field of Political Science. Thus, you should understand this course not only as offering a deep understanding of U.S. government and politics but also as providing insight into the broader field. We will cover a wide range of topics in the study of U.S. politics. We begin with political culture, major political institutions, and federalism and state and local politics; we then cover political parties, interest groups, voter turnout, and elections; we end with the study of public opinion and inequality, including the politics of marginalized groups and democratic responsiveness. Finally, this course will also help you to develop your scholarly writing skills and ability to identify ways in which you might meaningfully contribute to the field.

### **Course Assignments and Expectations**

#### *Essays – 40%*

You will complete four essays in response to assigned readings, submitting them to Blackboard. You must complete one each month (Sept, Oct, Nov), with the fourth falling in a month of your choosing. These papers should be in the ballpark of 1000 to 1200 words (3-4 double-spaced pages). The purpose of these papers is to engage with one or more works and to practice laying the groundwork for your own scholarly work. As such, these papers are oriented toward finding ways in which you (or someone else) could contribute to the field. There are two main paper types: (a) critique a prominent study and explain how you would conduct a better study; (b) discuss two (or more) scholars engaged in a debate and describe a way of resolving the debate via a new theoretical framework and/or further empirical study. You should complete at least one of each type of paper this semester.

#### *Final paper – 30%*

You will complete one final paper that is an up-to-date synthesis of the research literature on a particular topic. You might consider choosing one or two works from the syllabus as an anchor, and then extending beyond those works to capture others, making sure you include relevant contemporary works. This synthesis should not just summarize these works. It should provide an original argument, or perspective, on the body of research, critique that research where relevant, and discuss important future avenues of research. Approximate length: 20 double-spaced pages. I strongly recommend you discuss your topic with me in office hours before you begin.

### *Discussion leader – 10%*

You will be a discussion leader for a portion of one class period. You will sign up for a week toward the beginning of the semester. One week prior to the relevant class, please contact me and identify up to three works for which you would like to lead discussion.

### *Participation – 20%*

This is a discussion-based seminar. Students should arrive in class having read, and recorded notes on, each assigned reading. At the very least, you should be able to (a) convey the author's main argument(s); (b) explain the evidence/analysis provided in support of that argument; (c) provide your own perspective on the work, such as its strengths and weaknesses and how it relates to other readings. I will grade your participation based on how often you participate and your preparedness. Note that unexcused absences or late arrivals will negatively affect your participation grade.

### **Course Readings**

Course readings will be made available via Blackboard. This said, I have starred one or two books most weeks that I suggest you purchase, particularly if you plan to take the U.S. politics field exam. In many cases, used copies can be obtained inexpensively online.

A separate list of additional recommended readings—intended to supplement this syllabus should you choose to read more deeply on a topic as well as to serve as additional reading for the field exam—will be made available later in the semester.

## SCHEDULE OF READINGS

### Week 1 August 28 - U.S. POLITICAL CULTURE and TRADITION

Louis Hartz. 1955. *The Liberal Tradition in America*. Harcourt Brace . Chapter 1

Robert Dahl. 1977. "On Removing Certain Impediments to Democracy in the United States." *Political Science Quarterly* 92(1): 1-20.

Seymour Martin Lipset. 1977. "Why No Socialism in the U.S." In *Sources of Contemporary Radicalism*. Westview Press.

Rogers Smith. 1993. "Beyond Tocqueville, Myrdal, and Hartz: The Multiple Traditions in America." *American Political Science Review* 87: 549-566.

Robert Putnam. 1995. "Bowling Alone: America's Declining Social Capital." *Journal of Democracy* 6(1).

Jennifer Hochschild. 1996. *Facing Up to the American Dream*. Princeton University Press. Chapters 1 & 3

#### *Recommended reading*

Robert Lane. 1962. *Political Ideology: Why the American Common Man Believes What He Does*. Free Press.

Gunnar Myrdal. 1944. *An American Dilemma*. McGraw-Hill.

Alexis de Tocqueville. *Democracy in America*.

## Week 2 September 4 - CONGRESS

David Mayhew. 1974. *Congress: The Electoral Connection*. Yale University Press. Introduction & Part 1\*

Richard Fenno. 1977. "U.S. House Members in their Constituencies: An Exploration." *American Political Science Review* 71(3): 883-917.

Douglas Arnold. 1990. *The Logic of Congressional Action*. Yale University Press. Chapters 1-5

Gary Cox and Matthew McCubbins. 2007 [1993]. *Legislative Leviathan*. Berkeley: University of California Press. Chapters 4 & 5

Erick Schickler. 2001. *Disjointed Pluralism: Institutional Innovation and the Development of the U.S. Congress*. Princeton University Press. Chapter 1

Frances E. Lee. 2016. *Insecure Majorities: Congress and the Perpetual Campaign*. University of Chicago Press. Chapters 2 & 3\*

### *Recommended reading*

Sarah A. Binder. 1997. *Minority Rights, Majority Rule: Partisanship and The Development of Congress*. Cambridge University Press.

Timothy Groseclose and James Snyder, Jr. 1996. "Buying Supermajorities." *American Political Science Review* 90 (2): 303-315.

Richard L. Hall. 1996. *Participation in Congress*. Yale University Press.

David King. 1997. *Turf Wars*. University of Chicago Press.

Keith Krehbiel. 1991. *Information and Legislative Organization*. The University of Michigan Press.

Jane Mansbridge. 2003. "Rethinking Representation." *American Political Science Review* 97 (4): 515-528.

Nelson W. Polsby. 1968. "The Institutionalization of the U.S. House of Representatives." *American Political Science Review* 62 (March): 144-68.

Keith T. Poole and Howard Rosenthal. 1997. *Congress: A Political-Economic History of Roll Call Voting*. Oxford University Press.

Kenneth A. Shepsle and Barry Weingast. 1994. "Positive Theories of Congressional Institutions." *Legislative Studies Quarterly* 19: 149-79.

Carol M. Swain. 1995. *Black Faces, Black Interests: The Representation of African Americans in Congress*. Harvard University Press.

Katherine Tate. 2003. *Black Faces in the Mirror: African Americans and Their Representation in the U.S. Congress*. Princeton University Press.

### **Week 3 September 11 - PRESIDENCY**

Richard Neustadt. 1990 [1960]. *Presidential Power and the Modern Presidents*. Free Press. Chapters 1-5\*

Terry Moe. 1985. "The Politicized Presidency." In *The New Direction in American Politics*, ed. John Chubb and Paul Peterson. Brookings Institution Press. Pp. 235-271.

Stephen Skowronek. "Presidential Leadership in Political Time." In Michael C. Nelson's *The Presidency and the Political System*. CQ Press.

Terry M. Moe and William G. Howell. 1999. "The Presidential Power of Unilateral Action." *Journal of Law, Economics, & Organization* 15(1): 132-179.

Charles Cameron and Nolan McCarty. 2004. "Models of Vetoes and Veto Bargaining." *Annual Review of Political Science* 7: 409-35.

Brandice Canes-Wrone. 2005. *Who Leads Whom?* University of Chicago Press. Chapters 1 & 2

#### *Recommended reading*

James D. Barber. 1992. *The Presidential Character: Predicting Performance in the White House*, 4<sup>th</sup> ed. Prentice Hall.

Fred I. Greenstein. 2004. *The Presidential Difference: Leadership Style from FDR to George W. Bush*. Princeton University Press.

Tim Groseclose and Nolan McCarty. 2001. "The Politics of Blame: Bargaining Before an Audience." *American Journal of Political Science*.

Samuel Kernell. 1997. *Going Public: New Strategies of Presidential Leadership*. 3rd ed. Congressional Quarterly Press. Chapters 1, 2, 5.

John Mueller. 1973. *War, Presidents and Public Opinion*. Wiley.

Mariah Zeisberg, 2013. *War Powers: The Politics of Constitutional Authority*. Princeton University Press.

## **Week 4 September 18 - JUDICIARY**

Robert Dahl. 1957. "Decision-Making in a Democracy: The Supreme Court as National Policy Maker." *Journal of Public Law* 6: 279-295.

Jeffrey Segal and Albert Cover. 1989. "Ideological Values and the Votes of U.S. Supreme Court Justices." *American Political Science Review* 83(2): 557-566.

Gerald Rosenberg. 1991. *The Hollow Hope: Can Courts Bring about Social Change?* University of Chicago Press. Introduction, chapters 1 & 4

Forrest Maltzman, James Spriggs, and Paul Wahlbeck. 1999. "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*. University of Chicago Press. Pp. 43-63.

Keith Whittington. 2005. "Interpose Your Friendly Hand: Political Support for the Exercise of Judicial Review by the United States Supreme Court." *American Political Science Review* 99(4): 583-96.

Brandon Bartels. 2009. "The Constraining Capacity of Legal Doctrine on the U.S. Supreme Court." *American Political Science Review* 103(3): 474-95.

### *Recommended reading*

Cliff Carrubba, Barry Friedman, Andrew Martin, and Georg Vanberg. 2012. "Who Controls the Content of Supreme Court Opinions?" *American Journal of Political Science* 56 (2): 400-412.

Paul Frymer. 2005. "Racism Revised: Courts, Labor Law, and the Institutional Construction of Racial Animus." *American Political Science Review* 99 (3): 373-387.

James Gibson, Gregory Caldeira, and Lester Kenyatta Spence. 2003. "The Supreme Court and the US Presidential Election of 2000: Wounds, Self-Inflicted or Otherwise?" *British Journal of Political Science* 33 (4): 535-556.

Mark Graber. 2008. *Dred Scott and the Problem of Constitutional Evil*. Cambridge University Press.

Gregory Huber and Sanford Gordon. 2006. "Accountability and Coercion: Is Justice Blind When It Runs for Office?" *American Journal of Political Science* 48 (2): 247-263.

Benjamin Lauderdale and Tom Clark. 2012. "The Supreme Court's Many Median Justices." *American Political Science Review* 106 (4): 847-866.

Ryan Owens. 2010. "The Separation of Powers and Supreme Court Agenda Setting." *American Political Science Review* 54: 412-425.

Charles Shipan. 1999. "The Politics of Supreme Court Nominations: A Theory of Institutional Constraints and Choices." *American Journal of Political Science* 43 (4): 1069-1095.

## Week 5 September 25 - BUREAUCRACY and ADMINISTRATIVE POWER

Peter Bachrach and Morton Baratz. 1962. "Two Faces of Power." *American Political Science Review*. 56: 947-952.

Albert Hirschman. 1970. *Exit, Voice, and Loyalty: Responses to Decline in Firms, Organizations, and States*. Harvard University Press. Chapters 1, 2, 3, 7, 9

Michael Lipsky. 2010 [1980]. *Street Level Bureaucracy: Dilemmas of the Individual in Public Service*. Russell Sage Foundation. [Alternate: Michael Lipsky. 1969. "Toward a Theory of Street-Level Bureaucracy." Paper prepared for presentation at 1969 APSA.]

Stephen Skowronek. 1982. *Building a New American State: The Expansion of National Administrative Capacities, 1877-1920*. Cambridge University Press. Part I, chapters 1, 2; Part II, Introduction, chapter 3; Part III, Introduction; Epilogue\*

James Q. Wilson. 1989. *Bureaucracy: What Government Agencies Do and Why They Do It*. Basic Books. Chapter 2, 17, 18, 19, 20

Daniel Carpenter. 2001. *The Forging of Bureaucratic Autonomy: Reputations, Networks, and Policy Innovation in Executive Agencies, 1862-1928*. Princeton University Press. Introduction, chapters 1, 4

### *Recommended reading*

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

David Epstein and Sharyn O'Halloran. 1999. *Delegating Powers: A Transaction Cost Politics Approach to Policy Making under Separate Powers*. Cambridge University Press.

John D. Huber and Charles R. Shipan. 2002. *Deliberate Discretion? Institutional Foundations of Bureaucratic Autonomy*. Cambridge University Press.

Mathew D. McCubbins and Thomas Schwartz. 1984. "Congressional Oversight Overlooked: Police Patrols versus Fire Alarms." *American Journal of Political Science* 28: 165-179.

Mathew D. McCubbins, Roger Noll, and Barry Weingast. 1987. "Administrative Procedures as Instruments of Political Control." *Journal of Law, Economics, and Organizations* 3(2): 243-77.

Susan Webb Yackee. 2006. "Sweet-Talking the Fourth Branch: The Influence of Interest Group Comments on Federal Agency Rulemaking." *Journal of Public Administration Research and Theory* 16(1): 103-124.

## **Week 6 October 2 - FEDERALISM, STATE and LOCAL POLITICS**

Robert Dahl. 2005 [1961]. *Who Governs?* Yale University Press. Chapters 1, 7, 8, 12, 13, 14, 15, 19, 20, 24, 27, 28\*

Paul Peterson. 1981. *City Limits*. University of Chicago Press. Chapter 3, 4

Nancy Burns. 1994. *The Formation of American Local Governments: Private Values in Public Institutions*. Oxford University Press. Chapter 1, 4, 5

Charles Shipan and Craig Volden. 2008. "The Mechanisms of Policy Diffusion." *American Journal of Political Science* 52(4): 840-857.

Ira Katznelson. 2013. *Fear Itself: The New Deal and the Origins of Our Time*. W.W. Norton.

Jamila Michener. 2018. *Fragmented Democracy: Medicaid, Federalism, and Unequal Politics*. Cambridge University Press. Chapter 2, 3

### *Recommended reading*

Christopher Berry. 2009. *Imperfect Union: Representation and Taxation in Multilevel Governments*. Cambridge University Press.

Ryan Enos. 2017. *The Space between Us: Social Geography and Politics*. Cambridge University Press.

Elisabeth R. Gerber. 1996. "Legislative Response to the Threat of Popular Initiatives." *American Journal of Political Science* 40(1): 99-128

Jonathan A. Rodden. 2019. *Why Cities Lose: The Deep Roots of the Urban-Rural Political Divide*. Basic Books.

Jessica Trounstine. 2018. *Segregation by Design: Local Politics and Inequality in American Cities*. Cambridge University Press.



## Week 7 October 9 - POLITICAL PARTIES and POLARIZATION

APSA Committee on Political Parties. 1950. "Toward a More Responsible Two-Party System: A Report of the Committee on Political Parties." *American Political Science Review* 44(3): 1-96.

John Aldrich. 1995. *Why Parties? The Origin and Transformation of Political Parties in America*. University of Chicago Press. Chapter 1, 2\*

David R. Mayhew. 2000. "Electoral Realignments." *Annual Review of Political Science* 3: 449-74.

Kathleen Bawn, Martin Cohen, David Karol, Seth Masket, Hans Noel, and John Zaller. 2012. "A Theory of Political Parties: Groups, Political Demands, and Nominations in American Politics." *Perspectives on Politics* 10(3): 571-597.

Matt Grossmann and David A. Hopkins. 2016. *Asymmetric Politics: Ideological Republicans and Group Interest Democrats*. Oxford. Chapter 2, 3\*

Nolan McCarty, Keith T. Poole, Howard Rosenthal, and Adam Bonica. 2016. *Polarized America: The Dance of Ideology and Unequal Riches, Second Edition*. MIT Press. [Alternative: Adam Bonica, Nolan McCarty, Keith T. Poole, and Howard Rosenthal. 2015. "Congressional Polarization and Its Connection to Income Inequality. An Update." In James A. Thurber and Antoine Yoshinaka (eds.) *American Gridlock: The Sources, Character, and Impact of Political Polarization*. Cambridge University Press.]

### *Recommended reading*

Paul R. Abramson and Charles W. Ostrom, Jr. 1991. "Macropartisanship: An Empirical Reassessment." *American Political Science Review* 85(1): 181-192.

Patrick Egan. 2013. *Partisan Priorities: How Issue Ownership Drives and Distorts American Politics*. Cambridge University Press.

Morris P. Fiorina. 2002. "Parties and Partisanship: A 40-Year Retrospective." *Political Behavior* 24(2): 93-115.

Geoffrey C. Layman, Thomas M. Carsey, Juliana Menasce Horowitz. 2006. "Party Polarization in American Politics: Characteristics, Causes, and Consequences." *Annual Review of Political Science* 9: 83-110.

Michael B. MacKuen, Robert S. Erikson, and James A. Stimson. 1991. "Macropartisanship." *American Political Science Review* 83(4): 1125-1142.

William Riker. 1992. "The Two-Party System and Duverger's Law: An Essay on the History of Political Science." *American Political Science Review* 76(4): 753-766.

## **Week 8 October 16 - INTEREST and ADVOCACY GROUPS**

Mancur Olson. 1965. *The Logic of Collective Action*. Harvard University Press. Chapters 1, 2\*

E. E. Schattschneider. 1975. *The Semisovereign People*. Dryden. Chapters 2, 3, 4\*

Theda Skocpol, Marshall Ganz, and Ziad Munson. 2000. "A Nation of Organizers: The Institutional Origins of Civic Voluntarism in the United States." *American Political Science Review* 94: 527-546.

Richard Hall and Alan Deardorff. 2006. "Lobbying as Legislative Subsidy." *American Political Science Review* 100 (1): 69-84.

Dara Strolovitch. 2006. "Do Interest Groups Represent the Disadvantaged? Advocacy at the Intersections of Race, Class, and Gender." *Journal of Politics* 68(4): 893-908.

Jacob Hacker and Paul Pierson. 2014. "After the 'Master Theory': Downs, Schattschneider, and the Rebirth of Policy-Focused Analysis." *Perspectives on Politics* 12(3): 643-662.

### *Recommended reading*

Jeffrey Berry. 1999. *The New Liberalism: The Rising Power of Citizen Groups*. Brookings Institution Press. Chapters 1, 2, 4

Hahrie Han. 2014. *How Organizations Develop Activists: Civic Associations and Leadership in the 21st Century*. Oxford University Press.

John Mark Hansen. 1985. "The Political Economy of Group Membership." *American Political Science Review* 79: 79-96.

Jane Mansbridge. 1986. *Why We Lost the ERA*. University of Chicago Press.

Kay Lehman Schlozman and John T. Tierney. 1986. *Organized Interests and American Democracy*. Harper & Row.

Jack Walker. 1991. *Mobilizing Interest Groups in America*. University of Michigan Press. Chapters 2, 3

James Q. Wilson. 1973. *Political Organizations*. Basic Books.

## **Week 9 October 23 - VOTER TURNOUT and PARTICIPATION**

Anthony Downs. 1957. *An Economic Theory of Democracy*. Harper and Row. Chapters 1, 3, 14\*

William Riker and Peter Ordeshook. 1968. "A Theory of the Calculus of Voting." *American Political Science Review* 62(1): 25-42.

Henry E. Brady, Sidney Verba, and Kay Lehman Schlozman. 1995. "Beyond SES: A Resource Model of Political Participation." *American Political Science Review* 89(2): 271-94.

Donald Green and Alan Gerber. 2000 "The Effects of Canvassing, Telephone Calls, and Direct Mail on Voter Turnout: A Field Experiment." *American Political Science Review* 94(3): 653-663.

Jan E. Leighley and Jonathan Nagler. 2014. *Who Votes Now? Demographics, Issues, Inequality and Turnout in the United States*. Princeton University Press.\*

Joshua L. Kalla and David E. Broockman. 2016. "Campaign Contributions Facilitate Access to Congressional Officials: A Randomized Field Experiment." *American Journal of Political Science* 60(3): 545-558.

### *Recommended reading*

Bernard Fraga. 2016. "Candidates or Districts? Reevaluating the Role of Race in Voter Turnout." *American Journal of Political Science*. 60 (1): 97-122.

Jan E. Leighley. 2001. *Strength in Numbers? The Political Mobilization of Racial and Ethnic Minorities*. Princeton University Press.

Michael P. McDonald and Samuel L. Popkin. 2001. "The Myth of the Vanishing Voter." *American Political Science Review* 95 (December): 963-74.

Steven J. Rosenstone and John Mark Hansen. 1993. *Mobilization, Participation, and Democracy in America*. Macmillan Publishing. Chapters 5, 6, 7

Sidney Verba, Kay Lehman Schlozman, and Henry Brady. 1995. *Voice and Equality: Civic Volunteerism in American Politics*. Harvard University Press.

## Week 10 October 30 - ELECTIONS and VOTE CHOICE

Bernard Berelson, Paul Lazarsfeld, and William McPhee. 1954. *Voting: Opinion Formation in a Presidential Campaign*. Chicago: University of Chicago Press.

Angus Campbell, Phillip Converse, Warren Miller, and Donald Stokes. 1960. *The American Voter*. University of Michigan Press. Chapter 2, 6, 7\*

V.O. Key. 1966. *The Responsible Electorate: Rationality in Presidential Voting, 1936-1960*. Vintage. Chapter 1, 2

Morris Fiorina. 1978. "Economic Retrospective Voting in American National Elections: A Micro-Level Analysis." *American Journal of Political Science* 22(2): 426-443.

Jane Mansbridge. 1999. "Should Blacks Represent Blacks and Women Represent Women? A Contingent 'Yes'." *Journal of Politics* 61: 628-657.

Donald Green, Bradley Palmquist, and Eric Schickler. 2002. *Partisan Hearts and Minds*. Yale University Press.

### *Recommended reading*

Stephen Ansolabehere, James Snyder, and Charles Stewart. 2001. "Candidate Positioning in U.S. House Elections." *American Journal of Political Science* 45(1): 136-159.

Ted Brader. 2005. *Campaigning for Hearts and Minds: How Emotional Appeals in Political Ads Work*. University of Chicago Press. Chapters 1, 4, 5

Jamie L. Carson, Erik J. Engstrom, and Jason M. Roberts. 2007. "Candidate Quality, the Personal Vote, and the Incumbency Advantage in Congress." *American Political Science Review* 101 (May): 289-301.

D. Sunshine Hillygus and Todd G. Shields. 2008. *The Persuadable Voter: Wedge Issues in Presidential Elections*. Princeton University Press.

V.O. Key, Jr. 1949. *Southern Politics in State and Nation*. Knopf.

Richard R. Lau and David P. Redlawsk. 2006. *How Voters Decide: Information Processing during Election Campaigns*. Cambridge University Press.

David R. Mayhew. 2002. *Critical Realignments: A Critique of an American Genre*. Yale University Press.

Robert Mickey. 2014. *Paths out of Dixie: The Democratization of Authoritarian Enclaves in America's Deep South, 1944-1972*. Princeton University Press.

Samuel L. Popkin. 1994. *The Reasoning Voter: Communication and Persuasion in Presidential Campaigns*, 2<sup>nd</sup> ed. Chicago University Press.

## Week 11 November 6 - PUBLIC OPINION

Phillip Converse. 1964. "The Nature of Belief Systems in Mass Publics." In *Ideology and Discontent*, ed. David Apter. Free Press. Pp. 206-258.

John Zaller and Stanley Feldman. 1992. "A Simple Theory of the Survey Response: Answering Questions versus Revealing Preferences." *American Journal of Political Science* 36(3): 579-616.

Donald R. Kinder and Lynn Sanders. 1995. *Divided by Color: Racial Politics and Democratic Ideals*. Chicago. Chapter 5

Larry M. Bartels. 2000. "Partisanship and Voting Behavior, 1952-1996." *American Journal of Political Science* 44(1): 35-50.

Katherine Cramer. 2012. "Putting Inequality in its Place: Rural Consciousness and the Politics of Perspective." *American Political Science Review* 106(3): 517-532.

Shanto Iyengar, Yptach Lelkes, Matthew Levendusky, Neil Malhotra, and Sean J. Westwood. 2019. "The Origins and Consequences of Affective Polarization in the United States." *Annual Review of Political Science* 22: 129-146.

### *Recommended reading*

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

Stephen Ansolabehere, Jonathan Rodden, and James Snyder. 2008. "The Strength of Issues: Using Multiple Measures to Gauge Preference Stability, Ideological Constraint, and Issue Voting." *American Political Science Review* 102 (2): 215-232.

Pamela Johnson Conover. 1984. "The Influence of Group Identifications on Political Perception and Evaluation." *Journal of Politics* 46: 760-784.

Michael X. Delli Carpini and Scott Keeter. 2007. *What Americans Know About Politics and Why It Matters*. Yale University Press.

V.O. Key. 1961. *Public Opinion and American Democracy*. Knopf.

Walter Lippmann. 1922. *Public Opinion: How People Decide; The Role of News, Propaganda and Manufactured Consent in Modern Democracy and Political Elections*.

Michael B. MacKuen, 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.

Benjamin Page and Robert Shapiro. 1992. *The Rational Public*. University of Chicago Press.

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

## Week 12 November 13 - MEDIA and POLITICAL COMMUNICATION

Shanto Iyengar and Donald Kinder. 2010 [1987]. *News That Matters: Television and American Opinion*, 2<sup>nd</sup> ed. University of Chicago Press. [Alternative: Shanto Iyengar, Mark D. Peters, and Donald R. Kinder. 1982. "Experimental Demonstrations of the 'Not-So-Minimal' Consequences of Television News Programs." *American Political Science Review* 76(4): 848-858.]

Markus Prior. 2007. *Post-Broadcast Democracy: How Media Choice Increases Inequality in Political Involvement and Polarizes Elections*. Cambridge University Press.\* [Alternative: Markus Prior. 2005. "News vs. Entertainment: How Increasing Media Choice Widens Gaps in Political Knowledge and Turnout." *American Journal of Political Science* 49(3): 577-592.]

Dennis Chong and James N. Druckman. 2007. "Framing Theory." *Annual Review of Political Science* 10:103–26.

Matthew Levendusky. 2013. *How Partisan Media Polarize America*. Chicago University Press.\* [Alternative: Matthew S. Levendusky. 2013. "Why Do Partisan Media Polarize Viewers?" *American Journal of Political Science* 57(3): 611-623.]

Kevin Arceneaux, Martin Johnson, Rene Lindstadt, and Ryan J. Wielen. 2016. "The Influence of News Media on Political Elites: Investigating Strategic Responsiveness in Congress." *American Journal of Political Science* 60(1): 5-29.

David M.J. Lazer, Matthew A. Baum, Yochai Benkler, Adam J. Berinsky, Kelly M. Greenhill, Filippo Menczer, Miriam J. Metzger, Brendan Nyhan, Gordon Pennycook, David Rothschild, Michael Schudson, Steven A. Sloman, Cass R. Sunstein, Emily A. Thorson, and Duncan J. Watts. 2018. "The Science of Fake News." *Science* 359(6380): 1094-1096.

### *Recommended reading*

David Barker and Kathleen Knight. 2000. "Political Talk Radio and Public Opinion," *Public Opinion Quarterly* 64(2): 149-170.

Frank R. Baumgartner, Bryan D. Jones, and Beth L. Leech. 1997. "Media Attention and Congressional Agendas." In Shanto Iyengar and Richard Reeves (eds.), *Do the Media Govern?* Sage.

Diana Mutz and Byron Reeves. 2005. "The New Videomalaise: Effects of Televised Incivility on Political Trust." *American Political Science Review* 99 (1): 1-15.

Brendan Nyhan and Jason Reifler. 2010. "When Corrections Fail: The Persistence of Political Misperceptions." *Political Behavior* 32 (2): 303-330.

## Week 13 November 20 - THE POLITICS OF HISTORICALLY MARGINALIZED GROUPS

Michael Dawson. 1994. *Behind the Mule: Race and Class in African-American Politics*. Princeton University Press. Chapter 4, 8\*

Jeffrey Lax and Justin Phillips. 2009. "Gay Rights in the States: Public Opinion and Policy Responsiveness." *American Political Science Review* 103(3): 367-386.

Sarah F. Anzia and Christopher R. Berry. 2011. "The Jackie (and Jill) Robinson Effect: Why Do Congresswomen Outperform Congressmen?" *American Journal of Political Science* 55(3): 478-93.

Christopher F. Karpowitz and Tali Mendelberg. 2014. *The Silent Sex: Gender, Deliberation, and Institutions*. Princeton University Press. [Alternative: Christopher F. Karpowitz, Tali Mendelberg, and Lee Shaker. 2012. "Gender Inequality in Deliberative Participation." *American Political Science Review* 106(3): 533-547.]

Amy Lerman and Vesla Weaver. 2014. *Arresting Citizenship: The Democratic Consequences of American Crime Control*. University of Chicago Press. [Alternative: Vesla M. Weaver and Amy E. Lerman. 2010. "Political Consequences of the Carceral State." *American Political Science Review* 104(4): 817-833.]

David Broockman and Joshua Kalla. 2016. "Durably Reducing Transphobia: A Field Experiment on Door-to-Door Canvassing." *Science* 352(6282): 220-224.

### Recommended reading

Cathy Cohen. 1999. *The Boundaries of Blackness: AIDS and the Breakdown of Black Politics*. University of Chicago Press.

Richard Fox and Jennifer Lawless. 2014. "Uncovering the Origins of the Gender Gap in Political Ambition." *American Political Science Review*.

Claudine Gay. 2002. "Spirals of Trust? The Effect of Descriptive Representation on the Relationship between Citizens and Their Government." *American Political Science Review* 46 (4): 717-732.

Martin Gilens. 1999. *Why Americans Hate Welfare: Race, Media, and the Politics of Antipoverty Policy*. The University of Chicago Press. Chapters 1-3

Jens Hainmueller and Michael Hiscox. 2010. "Attitudes toward Highly Skilled and Low-Skilled Immigrants: Evidence from a Survey Experiment." *American Political Science Review* 104 (1): 61-84.

Michael Jones-Correa. 1998. *Between Two Nations: The Political Predicament of Latinos in New York City*. Cornell University Press.

Desmond King. 2000. *Making Americans: Immigration, Race and the Origins of the Diverse Democracy*. Harvard University Press.

Taeku Lee. 2002. *Mobilizing Public Opinion: Black Insurgency and Racial Attitudes*. University of Chicago Press.

Kristin Luker, 1985. *Abortion and the Politics of Motherhood*. University of California Press.

Tali Mendelberg. 2001. *The Race Card: Campaign Strategy, Implicit Messages, and the Norm of Equality*. Princeton University Press.

Eric Schickler. 2016. *Racial Realignment: The Transformation of American Liberalism, 1932-1964*. Princeton University Press.

Deborah Schildkraut. 2010. *Americanism in the 21<sup>st</sup> Century: Public Opinion in the Age of Immigration*. Cambridge University Press.

David Sears et al. 2000. *Racialized Politics: The Debate about Racism in America*. University of Chicago Press.

Michael Tesler. 2012. "The Spillover of Racialization into Health Care: How President Obama Polarized Public Opinion by Race and Racial Attitudes." *American Journal of Political Science* 56(3): 690-704.



## **Week 14 December 4 - POLICY AGENDAS and DEMOCRATIC RESPONSIVENESS**

Edward Carmines and James Stimson. 1989. *Issue Evolution: Race and the Transformation of American Politics*. Princeton University Press. Chapter 1, 6, 7, 8

Frank Baumgartner and Bryan Jones. 1993. *Agendas and Instability in American Politics*. University of Chicago Press. [Alternative: James L. True, Bryan D. Jones, and Frank R. Baumgartner. 2007. "Punctuated Equilibrium Theory: Explaining Stability and Change in Public Policymaking." In Paul A. Sabatier (ed), *Theories of the Policy Process*. Westview Press. Pp. 155-187.]

James Stimson, Michael Mackuen, and Robert Erikson. 1995. "Dynamic Representation." *American Political Science Review* 89(3): 543-565.

Jeffrey Lax and Justin Phillips. 2012. "The Democratic Deficit in the States." *American Journal of Political Science* 56: 148-166.

Martin Gilens. 2012. *Affluence and Influence: Economic Inequality and Political Power in America*. Princeton University Press.\* [Alternative: Martin Gilens and Benjamin I. Page. 2014. "Testing Theories of American Politics: Elites, Interest Groups, and Average Citizens." *Perspectives on Politics* 12(3): 564-581.]

Christopher Achen and Larry Bartels. 2016. *Democracy for Realists: Why Elections Do Not Produce Responsive Government*. Princeton University Press. Chapter 11\*

### *Recommended reading*

Larry Bartels. 2018. *Unequal Democracy: The Political Economy of the New Gilded Age*. Princeton University Press.

Christopher Wlezien. 2004. "Patterns of Representation: Dynamics of Public Preferences and Policy," *Journal of Politics* 66 (1): 1-24.

## AU STUDENT SUPPORT SERVICES

### Academic Support Services

All students may take advantage of the Academic Support and Access Center (ASAC) for individual academic skills counseling, workshops, Tutoring and Writing Lab appointments, peer tutor referrals, and Supplemental Instruction. The ASAC is located in Mary Graydon Center 243.

Additional academic support resources available at AU include the Bender Library, the Department of Literature's Writing Center (located in the Library), the Math Lab in the Department of Mathematics & Statistics, and the Center for Language Exploration, Acquisition, & Research (CLEAR) in Asbury Hall. A more complete list of campus-wide resources is available in the ASAC.

### Accommodations for Students with Disabilities

AU is committed to making reasonable accommodations for qualified students with disabilities. The ASAC assists students with disabilities and promotes full participation in academic programs and other campus activities.

Students are not required to notify the university or any of its offices or personnel of a disability either prior to or subsequent to admission; however, if a student plans to request accommodations, documentation of the disability must be provided. As accommodations are not retroactive, timely notification at the beginning of the semester, if possible, is strongly recommended.

To register with a disability or for questions about disability accommodations, contact the Academic Support and Access Center at 202-885-3360 or [asac@american.edu](mailto:asac@american.edu), or drop by MGC 243.

For more information, visit AU's [Services for Students with Disabilities web page](#).

### Center for Diversity & Inclusion

CDI is dedicated to enhancing LGBTQ, multicultural, first-generation, and women's experiences on campus and to advancing AU's commitment to respecting and valuing diversity by serving as a resource and liaison to students, staff, and faculty on issues of equity through education, outreach, and advocacy. It is located on the 2nd floor of Mary Graydon Center. (202-885-3651, MGC 201 & 202)

### Counseling Center

The Counseling Center offers counseling and consultations regarding personal concerns, self-help information, and connections to off-campus mental health resources. (202-885-3500, MGC 214)

### **Dean of Students Office**

The Dean of Students Office offers one-on-one meetings to discuss academic, adjustment, and personal issues that may be interfering with a student's ability to succeed academically. The office also verifies documentation for students who have medical or mental health issues that cause them to be absent from class. (202-885-3300, Butler Pavilion 408)

### **International Student & Scholar Services**

International Student & Scholar Services has resources to support academic success and participation in campus life including academic counseling, support for second language learners, response to questions about visas, immigration status and employment and intercultural programs, clubs and other campus resources. (202-885-3350, Butler Pavilion 410)

### **Office of Advocacy Services for Interpersonal and Sexual Violence**

OASIS provides free and confidential advocacy services for anyone in the campus community who experiences sexual assault, dating or domestic violence, or stalking. Advocacy is survivor-driven and intended to empower survivors to make informed decisions about their health, emotional well-being, and the adjudication process. (202-885-7070, Wellness Center – McCabe Hall 123)

### **Writing Center**

Writing Center offers free, individual coaching sessions to all AU students. In your 45-minute session, a student writing consultant can help you address your assignments, understand the conventions of academic writing, and learn how to revise and edit your own work. (202-885-2991, Bender Library – 1<sup>st</sup> Floor Commons).

## UNIVERSITY POLICIES

### Discrimination and Harassment (Title IX)

American University expressly prohibits any form of discriminatory harassment including sexual harassment, dating and domestic violence, sexual assault, and stalking. The university is an equal opportunity, affirmative action institution that operates in compliance with applicable laws and regulations. AU does not discriminate on the basis of race, color, national origin, religion, sex (including pregnancy), age, sexual orientation, disability, marital status, personal appearance, gender identity and expression, family responsibilities, political affiliation, source of income, veteran status, an individual's genetic information, or any other bases under federal or local laws in its programs and activities.

If you experience any of the above, you have the option of filing a report with the [AU Department of Public Safety](#) (202-885-2527) or the [Office of the Dean of Students](#) ([dos@american.edu](mailto:dos@american.edu) or 202-885-3300). Please keep in mind that all faculty and staff – with the exception of counselors in the Counseling Center, staff in the Office of Advocacy Services for Interpersonal and Sexual Violence (OASIS), medical providers in the Student Health Center, and ordained clergy in the Kay Spiritual Life Center – who are aware of or witness this conduct are required to report this information to the university, regardless of the location of the incident. For more information, including a list of supportive resources on and off-campus, contact [OASIS: The Office of Advocacy Services for Interpersonal and Sexual Violence](#) ([oasis@american.edu](mailto:oasis@american.edu) or 202-885-7070) or the Office of the Dean of Students.

For information about your rights, see the [Title IX Information](#) page on the AU website.

### Emergency Preparedness

In the event of an emergency, American University will implement a plan for meeting the needs of all members of the university community. Should the university be required to close for a period of time, we are committed to ensuring that all aspects of our educational programs will be delivered to our students. These may include altering and extending the duration of the traditional term schedule to complete essential instruction in the traditional format and/or the use of distance instructional methods. Specific strategies will vary from class to class, depending on the format of the course and the timing of the emergency. Faculty will communicate class-specific information to students via AU email and Blackboard, while students must inform their faculty immediately of any emergency-related absence. Students are responsible for checking their AU email regularly and keeping themselves informed of emergencies. In the event of an emergency, students should refer to the AU Student Portal, the [AU website](#), and the AU information line at (202) 885-1100 for general university-wide information, as well as contact their faculty and/or respective dean's office for course and school/college specific information.

## **Religious Observances**

Students will be provided the opportunity to make up any examination, study, or work requirements that may be missed due to a religious observance, provided they notify their instructors before the end of the second week of classes. Please send this notification through email to the professor. For additional information, see American University's [religious observances policy](#).

## **Sharing of Course Content**

Students are not permitted to make visual or audio recordings, including live streaming, of classroom lectures or any class-related content, using any type of recording devices (e.g., smart phone, computer, digital recorder, etc.) unless prior permission from the instructor is obtained, and there are no objections from any of the students in the class. If permission is granted, personal use and sharing of recordings and any electronic copies of course materials (e.g., PowerPoints, formulas, lecture notes, and any classroom discussions—online or otherwise) is limited to the personal use of students registered in the course and for educational purposes only, even after the end of the course.

Exceptions will be made for students who present a signed Letter of Accommodation from the Academic Support & Access Center. Further details are available from the [ASAC website](#).

To supplement the classroom experience, lectures may be audio or video recorded by faculty and made available to students registered for this class. Faculty may record classroom lectures or discussions for pedagogical use, future student reference, or to meet the accommodation needs of students with a documented disability. These recordings are limited to personal use and may not be distributed (fileshare), sold, or posted on social media outlets without the written permission of faculty.

Unauthorized downloading, file sharing, distribution of any part of a recorded lecture or course materials, or using information for purposes other than the student's own learning may be deemed a violation of American University's Student Conduct Code and subject to disciplinary action (see Student Conduct Code VI. Prohibited Conduct).

## **Use of Student Work**

The professor will use academic work that you complete for educational purposes in this course during this semester. Your registration and continued enrollment constitute your consent.