

PSC 523: American Politics Field Seminar
Professors Gerald Gamm + Lynda Powell
Spring 2006

This seminar will introduce you to the literature in American politics. There is an enormous literature in this field, and it is growing all of the time. Our focus in this course will be on class articles and books, combined with more recent seminal pieces. Inevitably we will sacrifice depth for breadth. Nonetheless, if we can get through this reading list, you will have an excellent foundation. You should finish the course with a comprehensive understanding of past research and a good idea of the directions in which that research is now moving.

You should do all the readings for each week's assignments and be prepared to discuss them in class. Grades will be based on 2 critical essays on the readings (5-10 pages), in-class presentations, and general class discussion. The specific assignments will be detailed in class.

Most of the articles are available from JSTOR on the library web site. Books are on course reserve at Rush Rhees Library. Many of these are classics you may wish to purchase. The least expensive way to purchase them is on the web. We encourage you to use your favorite bookstore search engine to purchase items you would like to own. Some of the books are out of print and can only be obtained used.

January 20: Introduction

No Reading

January 25: Representation

United States Constitution, with Amendments.

Federalist Papers: 10, 35, 48, 51, 52, 57, 63.

Fenno, Richard F., Jr. 1977. "U.S. House Members in Their Constituencies: An Exploration." *The American Political Science Review*. 71: 883-917.

February 1: Electoral Connection

Fenno, Richard F., Jr. 1973. *Congressmen in Committees*. Boston: Little, Brown and Co. Chapters 1-4, 6.

Mayhew, David R. 1974. *Congress: The Electoral Connection*. New Haven: Yale University Press.

Jacobson, Gary C. 1989. "Strategic Politicians and the Dynamics of U.S. House Elections, 1946-86," *American Political Science Review* 83(3):773-793.

***February 8: Congress as an Institution: The Committee System**

Shepsle, Kenneth A., and Barry R. Weingast. 1987. "The Institutional Foundations of Committee Power." *American Political Science Review* 81:85-104.

Krehbiel, Keith, Kenneth A. Shepsle, and Barry R. Weingast. 1987. "Why Are Congressional Committees Powerful?" *American Political Science Review* 81:929-45.

Weingast, Barry R. and William Marshall. 1988. "The Industrial Organization of Congress," *Journal of Political Economy* 91:132-163.

Hall, Richard L. 1987. "Participation and Purpose in Committee Decision Making," *American Political Science Review* 81:105-27.

Krehbiel, Keith. 1991. *Information and Legislative Organization*. Ann Arbor: University of Michigan Press, Chapters 1-3, 5, 7.

Moe, Terry M. 1985. "The Politicized Presidency." In John E. Chubb and Paul E. Peterson, eds., *The New Direction in American Politics*. Washington: Brookings Institution Press.

Kernell, Samuel. 1993. *Going Public: New Strategies of Presidential Leadership*. 2nd ed. Washington: CQ Press, Chapters 1-2.

Binder, Sarah A. 1999. "The Dynamics of Legislative Gridlock, 1947-96." *American Political Science Review* 93(3):519-33.

Canes-Wrone, Brandice. 2001. "The President's Legislative Influence from Public Appeals."

March 22: Parties

Key, V. O., Jr. 1949. *Southern Politics in State and Nation*. New York: Knopf, Chapter. 3.

Aldrich, John H. 1995. *Why Parties?* Chicago: University of Chicago Press, Chapters 1-4, 6-8.

McCarty, Nolan, Keith Poole and Howard Rosenthal. 2006. *Polarized America: The Dance of Ideology and Unequal Riches*. Cambridge: MIT Press, Chapters 1-3.

March 29: Interest Groups

Schattschneider, E.E. 1997 (1960). *The Semisovereign People*. International Thomson Publishing, Chapters 1-2.

Olson, Mancur. 1971. *Logic of Collective Action*. Cambridge: Harvard University Press, Chapters: Intro, 1-4, 6.

Walker, Jack L. 1983. "The Origins and Maintenance of Interest Groups in America." *American Political Science Review* 77:390-406.

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

April 5: Bureaucracy

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

Moe, Terry M. 1989. "The Politics of Bureaucratic Structure." In John E. Chubb and Paul E. Peterson, *Can the Government Govern?* Washington: Brookings Institution Press.

Carpenter, Daniel. 2001. *The Forging of Bureaucratic Autonomy: Reputations, Networks, and Policy Innovation in Executive Agencies, 1862-1928*. Princeton: Princeton University Press. Introduction, Chapters 1, 6- 9.

***April 12: Agenda Setting.**

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

Kingdon, John W. 1995. *Agendas, Alternatives, and Public Policy*. 2nd ed. New York: HarperCollins, Chapters 4, 9.

Sulkin, Tracy. 2005. *Issue Politics in Congress*. Cambridge: Cambridge University Press.

Lowery, David, and Virginia Gray. 1995. "The Population Ecology of Gucci Gulch, or the Natural Regulation of Interest Group Numbers in the American States." *American Journal of Political Science*