## University of Rochester

PSC209 Professor Rothenberg Interest Groups in America Spring 2010

*Course Purpose*: This course introduces issues concerning interest groups in American politics. Hopefully, the result is a substantive understanding of such organizations specifically and of the political system generally.

*Office Hours*: My office hours are on Tues. and Thurs. mornings from 11:00-12:00 in Harkness 108 (i.e., right after class). I will be available at other times (especially before 3 pm); I can be reached by phone at x34903 and by e-mail at Irot@mail.rochester.edu as well.

*Requirements*: Grading is based on a midterm exam (25%), a paper (10-15 pages; 25%—details to be furnished), and a final (50%). Those who are taking this course to fulfill their writing requirement will have some additional work (details to be provided).

Readings: Readings are required and should be read before class if possible to enhance the value

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*Class Organization*: While a lecture class, the class will be interactive. I encourage questions and discussion and will generally leave time at the end of each lecture for additional discussion. The dates on which material is covered are tentative; there may be some adjustments over the course of the semester and it is possible that I may be out of town for one session.

*I. Introduction: What are Interest Groups and Why Should We Study Them?* (Jan. 14<sup>th</sup>, 19<sup>th</sup>)

Readings:

John Jay, Alexander Hamilton, and James Madison, *The Federalist Papers*, #10, #51.

III. What Does the Group Universe Look Like Today? (Jan. 28<sup>th</sup>, Feb. 2<sup>nd</sup>)

Readings:

Jack Walker. "The Origins and Maintenance of Interest Groups in America," *American Political Science Review* Vol. 63, No. 3: 390-406.

Frank Baumgartner. "The Growth and Diversity of U.S. Associations, 1956-2004."

Berry and Wilcox, Ch. 9.

*IV. The Internal Organization of Groups: Formation, Maintenance, and Internal Workings (Feb.* 4<sup>th</sup>, 9<sup>th</sup>, and 11<sup>tht</sup>)

Readings:

Scott H. Ainsworth, Analyzing Interest Groups, Ch. 2

Berry and Wilcox, Ch. 3

Maryann Barakso and Brian F. Schaffner. "Exit, Voice, and Interest Group Governance," *American Politics Research* Vol. 36, No. 2: 186-209.

Lawrence S. Rothenberg. "Organizational Maintenance and the Retention Decision in Groups," *American Political Science Review* Vol. 82, No. 4: 1129-1152.

Cigler, Allan J., and Anthony Nownes. "Major Group Donors and Patrons: What They Give and What They Get," in Loomis and Cigler, *Interest Group Politics*, ed.

7<sup>th</sup>

V. The Strategies of Interest Groups (Feb.  $16^{tt}$ ,  $18^{th}$ )

Readings:

Baumgartner, et al. Chs. 6-11.

Berry and Wilcox, Chs. 4-8

Thomas T. Holyoke. 2003. "Choosing Battlegrounds: Interest Group Lobbying Across Multiple Venues," *Political Research Quarterly* 56 (3): 325-336.

David Lowery. 2007. "Why Do Organized Interests Lobby? A Multi-Goal, Multi-Context Theory of Lobbying," *Polity*: 39: 29-54.

VI. Congress (Feb. 23<sup>rd</sup>, 25<sup>th</sup>)

Readings:

Wright, Chs. 3-4

Virginia Gray *et al.* 2005. "Legislative Agendas and Interest Advocacy: Understanding the Demand Side of Lobbying," *American Politics Research* 33: 404-434.

Matt Grossmann and Kurt Pyle. 2009. "Does Interest Group Support Move Bills Toward Law?"

VII. Executive Branch (Mar.  $2^{nd}$ )

Readings:

Daniel J. Tichenor. 2009. "The Presidency and Interest Groups: Allies, Adversaries, and Policy Leadership" in Michael Nelson, ed., *The Presidency and the Political System*. 9<sup>th</sup> edition.

Paul J. Quirk and Bruce E. Nesmith. 2005. "Who Serves Special Interests? The, President, Congress, and Interest Groups," in Paul Herrnson, *et al. The Interest Group Connection.* 2<sup>nd</sup> edition.

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.

Thomas T. Holyoke. 2004. "By Invitation Only: Controlling Interest Group Access to the Oval Office," *American Review of Politics* 25 (Fall): 221-240.

VIII. Courts (Mar. 4<sup>th</sup>)

Readings:

Karen O'Connor. 2005. "Lobbying the Justices or Lobbying for Power?," in Paul Herrnson, *et al.*, *The Interest Group Connection* 2<sup>nd</sup> ed.

XI. Who Contributes? (Mar. 23<sup>rd</sup>)

Readings:

Jeffrey M. Drope and Wendy L. Hansen. 2006. "Does Firm Size Matter?

XIII. Private Politics (Apr. 1<sup>st</sup>, 6<sup>th</sup>)

Reading/Cases:

David Baron. 1995. "Integrated Strategy: Market and Nonmarket Components," *California Management Review* Vol. 37 (2): 47-65.

Stanford Graduate School of Business. "Anatomy of a Corporate Campaign: Rainforest Action Network and Citigroup," Case p42-a

Stanford Graduate School of Business, "Strategic Activism: The Rainforest Action Network," Case p44

Erika N. Sasser, A seem Prakash, Benjamin Cashore, and Graeme Auld. 2006. "Direct Targeting as an NGO Political Strategy: Examining Private Authority Regimes in the Forestry Sector," *Business and Politics* 8 (3): Article 1.

XIV. Public Policy (Apr. 8<sup>th</sup>, 13<sup>th</sup>)

Reading:

Baumgartner, et al., Ch. 11.

Jeffrey M. Drope and Wendy L. Hansen. 2008. Futility and Free-Riding: Corporate Political Participation and Taxation Rates in the United States," *Business and Politics*: Vol. 10: Iss. 3, Article 2.

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Susanne Lohmann. 2003. "Representative Government and the Special Interest Politics: (We Have Met the Enemy and He is Us)," *Journal of Theoretical Politics* 15(3): 299-319.