

# PSC541-1: U.S. Political Behavior

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Office Hours: TBD

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## Course Description

This graduate-level course focuses on mass political behavior within the American political system. The goal of this course is to give students an introduction to some of the major questions in the study of American political behavior, and how people have gone about answering them. The background goal is to help students practice reading work critically and think through the difficulties of social science research in preparation for individual research projects. The course







- Zaller, John. *The Nature and Origins of Mass Opinion*. Cambridge [367(Natur)Ah

## Tuesday, 10/03 Macro Public Opinion and Representation

- Page, Benjamin I., and Robert Y. Shapiro. *The Rational Public: Fifty Years of Trends in Americans' Policy Preferences*. University of Chicago Press, 1992. Chapters 1, 2, 8, 9.
- Stimson, James A. *Tides of Consent: How Public Opinion Shapes American Politics*. Cambridge University Press, 2015. Pages 1-82
- Stimson, James A., Michael B. MacKuen, and Robert S. Erikson. "Dynamic Representation." *American Political Science Review*. 1995. 89(3): 543-565.
- Broockman, David E. "Approaches to Studying Policy Representation." *Legislative Studies Quarterly*. 2016. 41(1): 181-215.
- ~~American Political~~ "Uninformed Votes: Information Effects in Presidential Elections." *American Journal of Political Science*. 1996. 40(1): 194-230.
- Bafumi, Joseph, and Michael C. Herron. "Leapfrog Representation and Extremism: A Study of American Voters and Their Members in Congress." *American Political Science Review*. 2010. 104(3): 519-542.

## Tuesday, 10/10 Party, Party, Party (Identification)

- Fiorina, Morris. *Retrospective Voting in American National Elections*. Yale University Press. 1981. "Theories of Retrospective Voting." Chapter 1.
- Huddy, Leonie, Lilliana Mason, and Lene Aarøe. "Expressive partisanship: Campaign Involvement, Political Emotion, and Partisan Identity." *American Political Science Review*. 2015. 109(1): 1-17.
- Green, Donald P., Bradley Palmquist, and Eric Schickler. *Partisan Hearts and Minds: Political Parties and the Social Identities of Voters*. Yale University Press, 2004. Chapters 1-3, 5, 8.
- ~~A 20109,10930503)-507(4286)\*TJ-q-0-G-16-277-22-544 Tel f(0)T-10-0-0-500(Huebe) magt n.)-532(Mas)180~~  
~~Serber, Alan S., and Gregory A. Huber. "Partisanship and Economic Behavior: Do Part-~~  
~~isan Differences in n DifPa.nqIBst iredictf n Difvior:?"~~

- Huber, John D., Georgia Kernell, and Eduardo L. Leoni. "Institutional Context, Cognitive Resources and Party Attachments Across Democracies." *Political Analysis*. 2005. 13(4): 365-386.

**Tuesday, 10/17** Fall Break. No Class.

**Tuesday, 10/24** Polarization

- Abramowitz, Alan and Kyle Saunders, "Is Polarization a Myth?" *Journal of Politics*. 2008. 70(2):542-555
- Fiorina, Morris P., Samuel A. Abrams, and Jeremy C. Pope. "Polarization in the American Public: Misconceptions and Misreadings." *The Journal of Politics*. 70(2): 556-560
- Mason, Lilliana. "'I disrespectfully agree': The Differential Effects of Partisan Sorting on Social and Issue Polarization." *American Journal of Political Science*. 2015. 59(1): 128-145.
- Orr, Lilla V., and Gregory A. Huber. "The Policy Basis of Measured Partisan Animosity in the United States." *American Journal of Political Science*. 2020. 64(3): 569-586.
- Krupnikov, Yanna and John Barry Ryan. *The Other Divide*. Cambridge University Press. 2022. Chapters 1 and 8.
- Druckman, James, and Samara Klar. Yanna Krupnikov, Matthew Levendusky, and John Barry Ryan. "(Mis-) Estimating Affective Polarization." *Journal of Politics*. 2020. 84(2):1106-1117.

**Tuesday, 10/31** Social Influence and Context

- Berelson, Bernard, Paul F. Lazarsfeld, and William N. McPhee. Voting: A Study of Opinion Formation in a Presidential Campaign. University of Chicago Press, 1954. "Social Process." Chapter 6.
- Mutz, Diana C. "Impersonal Influence: Effects of Representations of Public Opinion on Political Attitudes." *Political Behavior*. 1992. 14(2): 89-122.
- Huckfeldt, Robert, and John Sprague. "Networks in Context: The Social Flow of Political Information." *American Political Science Review*. 1987. 81(4): 1197-1216.
- Hopkins, Daniel J. "Politicized Places: Explaining Where and When Immigrants Provoke Local Opposition." *American Political Science Review*. 2010. 104(1): 40-60.
- Nickerson, David W. "Is Voting Contagious? Evidence from Two Field Experiments." *American Political Science Review*. 2008. 102(1): 49-57.
- Enos, Ryan D. "Causal Effect of Intergroup Contact on Exclusionary Attitudes." *Proceedings of the National Academy of Sciences*. 2014. 111(10): 3699-3704.
- Broockman, David E., and Daniel M. Butler. "The Causal Effects of Elite Position-Taking on Voter Attitudes: Field Experiments with Elite Communication." *American Journal of Political Science*. 2017. 61(1): 208-221.

- Getmansky, Anna, and Thomas Zeitzoff. "Terrorism and Voting: The Effect of Rocket Threat on Voting in Israeli Elections." *American Political Science Review*. 2014. 108(3): 588-604.
- Kasara, Kimuli. "Separate and Suspicious: Local Social and Political Context and Ethnic Tolerance in Kenya." *The Journal of Politics*. 2013. 75(4): 921-936.
- Acharya, Avidit, MattheErDE(Blackw)4lito



- Gerber, Alan S., and Donald P. Green. "The Effects of Canvassing, Telephone Calls, and Direct Mail on Voter Turnout: A Field Experiment." *American Political Science Review*. 2000. 94(3): 653-663.
- Ansolabehere, Stephen, and Eitan Hersh. "Validation: What Big Data Reveal About Survey Misreporting and the Real Electorate." *Political Analysis*. 2012. 20(4): 437-459.
- Blais, André. "What Affects Voter Turnout?" *Annual Review of Political Science*. 2006. 9(1): 111-125.

## **Tuesday, 11/21 Voting Behavior I: Political Campaigns**

- Bartels, Larry M. "Candidate Choice and the Dynamics of the Presidential Nominating Process." *American Journal of Political Science*. 1987. 31(1).
- Gelman, Andrew, and Gary King. "Why Are American Presidential Election Campaign Polls So Variable When Votes Are So Predictable?" *British Journal of Political Science*. 1993. 23(4): 409-451.
- Huber, Gregory A., and Kevin Arceneaux. "Identifying the Persuasive Effects of Presidential Advertising." *American Journal of Political Science*. 2007. 51(4): 957-977.
- Gerber, Alan S., James G. Gimpel, Donald P. Green, and Daron R. Shaw. "How Large and Long-Lasting Are the Persuasive Effects of Televised Campaign Ads? Results from a Randomized Field Experiment." *American Political Science Review*. 2011. 105(1): 135-150.
- Jacobson, Gary C. "How Do Campaigns Matter?" *Annual Review of Political Science*. 2015. 18: 31-47.
- Gelman, Andrew, Sharad Goel, Douglas Rivers, and David Rothschild. "The Mythical Swing Voter." *Quarterly Journal of Political Science*. 2016. 11(1): 103-130.
- Scarrow, Susan E. "Political Finance in Comparative Perspective." *Annual Review of Political Science*. 2007. 10: 193-210.
- Vavreck, Lynn. *The Message Matters: The Economy and Presidential Campaigns*. Princeton University Press. 2009.

## **Tuesday, 11/28 Voting Behavior II: Vote Choice and Political Accountability**

- Fiorina, Morris. *Retrospective Voting in American National Elections*. Yale University Press. 1981. "Theories of Retrospective Voting." Chapter 1.
- Huber, Gregory A., Seth J. Hill, and Gabriel S. Lenz. "Sources of Bias in Retrospective Decision Making: Experimental Evidence on Voters' Limitations in Controlling Incumbents." *American Political Science Review*. 2012. 106(4): 720-741.
- Achen, Christopher H., and Larry M. Bartels. *Democracy for Realists: Why Elections Do Not Produce Responsive Government*. Princeton University Press. 2016. Chapters 5, 6.

- Evans, Geoffrey, and Robert Andersen. "The Political Conditioning of Economic Perceptions." *Journal of Politics*. 2006. 68(1): 194-207.
- Lewis-Beck, Michael S., Richard Nadeau, and Angelo Elias. "Economics, Party, and the Vote: Causality Issues and Panel Data." *American Journal of Political Science*. 2008. 52(1): 84-95.
- Powell Jr, G. Bingham, and Guy D. Whitten. "A Cross-National Analysis of Economic Voting: Taking Account of the Political Context." *American Journal of Political Science*. (1993): 391-414.
- Powell Jr, G. Bingham. "Political Representation in Comparative Politics." *Annual Review of Political Science*. 2004. 7: 273-296.
- Bartels, Larry M. "Beyond the Running Tally: Partisan Bias in Political Perceptions." *Political Behavior*. 2002. 24(2): 117-150.

### **Tuesday, 12/05 Other Political Participation**

- Verba, Sidney, Kay Lehman Schlozman, and Henry E. Brady. *Voice and Equality: Civic Voluntarism in American Politics*. Harvard University Press. 1995. Pages 1-48.
- Karpowitz, Christopher F., Tali Mendelberg, and Lee Shaker. "Gender Inequality in Deliberative Participation." *American Political Science Review*. 2012. 106(3): 533-547.
- Hill, Seth J., and Gregory A. Huber. "Representativeness and Motivations of the Contemporary Donorate: Results from Merged Survey and Administrative Records." *Political Behavior*. 2015 39(1): 3-29.
- Lerman, Amy E., and Vesla Weaver. "Staying Out of Sight? Concentrated Policing and Local Political Action." *The ANNALS of the American Academy of Political and Social Science*. 2014. 651(1): 202-219.
- McAdam, Doug, Sidney Tarrow, and Charles Tilly. *Dynamics of Contention*. Cambridge University Press. 2001. Chapters 1, 2.
- McAdam, Doug. *Political Process and the Development of Black Insurgency, 1930-1970*. University of Chicago Press 2010.
- Gillion, Daniel O. *The Political Power of Protest: Minority Activism and Shifts in Public Policy*. Cambridge University Press. 2013.
- Huff, Connor, and Dominika Kruszewska. "Banners, Barricades, and Bombs The Tactical Choices of Social Movements and Public Opinion." *Comparative Political Studies*. 2016. 49(13): 1774-1808.
- Han, Hahrie. *Moved to Action: Motivation, Participation, and Inequality in American Politics*. Stanford University Press. 2009.

**Tuesday, 12/12 Immigrant Political Identity**

- Wong, Janelle, S. Karthick Ramakrishnan, Taeku Lee and Jane Junn. *Asian American Political Participation: Emerging Constituents and Their Political Identities*. Russell Sage Foundation. 2011. Chapter 4.
- Ramakrishnan, S. Karthick Ramakrishnan. *Democracy in Immigrant America: Changing Demographics and Political Participation*. Stanford University Press. 2005. Chapters 1, 4, 5.
- Wals, Sergio C. "Does What Happens in Los Mochis Stay in Los Mochis?" *Political Research Quarterly*. 2011. (64)3:600-611.
- Just, Aida. "The Far Right, Immigrants, and the Prospects of Democracy Satisfaction in Europe." *Party Politics*. 2017. 23:507-525.