

# AMERICAN & COMPARATIVE POLITICAL BEHAVIOR

PSCI 7108.005                      FALL 2009  
THURSDAY 11 A.M. - 1:30 P.M.                      KETCHUM 116

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This course concerns the joy and magic that is the study of political behavior. In many ways, public opinion is the currency of a representative democracy. It is the expression of what people expect, desire, and think of their government. And it is what politicians follow, influence, and are held accountable to. We will consider the structure and dynamics of public opinion from the perspectives of both American politics and comparative politics. We will analyze what influences public opinion as well as how it shapes other aspects of politics and public life.

This course is part of a two-semester sequence. Participants in the course this semester will be expected to enroll for the second portion of the course next semester.

## READING ASSIGNMENTS

Course readings are drawn from several texts as well as journal articles. Journal articles are accessible through the library's website, while book chapters have been placed on the library's e-reserves.

In addition, the following books will be used the course:

- Dalton, Russell J., and Hans-Dieter Klingemann. 2007. *The Oxford Handbook of Political Behavior*. New York: Oxford University Press.
- Marcus, George E., W. Russell Neuman, and Michael B. MacKuen. 2000. *Affective Intelligence and Political Judgment*. Chicago: University of Chicago Press.
- Howard, Marc Morjé. 2003. *The Weakness of Civil Society in Post-Communist Europe*. New York: Cambridge University Press.

## REQUIREMENTS

participation (20% of your final grade)

One important prerequisite of participation is class attendance. Class attendance is vital and required.

It is essential to read all of the assigned readings and think carefully about what you have read in advance of the class session. Frantically skimming the articles in the minutes before class begins will limit the quality of our class discussion and impede your ability to learn anything useful. Your education and our class discussion of the readings will both benefit from your careful reading of the articles as well as the time you spend in advance of class reflecting on what you have read and learned.

You will also be expected actively participate in class discussions in a thoughtful way.

### discussion leadership (10% of your final grade)

For two weeks during the semester, you will be responsible for leading class discussion. Your goal is to ensure that the class engages in thoughtful reflection about what we can learn from that week's readings. How you do this is up to you and your fellow discussion leaders. You could spend time discussing the articles individually, engaging the themes that cross different articles, connecting that week's topic to prior readings, or discussing ways to extend and elaborate on the week's readings. Your grade will reflect the quality of your preparation, as well as the quantity and quality of class discussion you generate.

### short research memos (each is worth 5% of your final grade)

Throughout the course, you will be responsible for writing four short papers that respond to a given week's readings. These papers should not be summaries of the readings, nor critiques. Instead, you should use the week's readings as inspiration to propose a possible future research project.

In your memo, develop a plan for how you could empirically extend ideas raised in that week's readings. Your proposal might extend ideas raised in the studies, or you might propose an interesting question that the authors do not consider. Describe your research question, why it is important and how it would contribute to the literature, the central hypotheses you would want to test, and how you would test your hypotheses.

These papers should be single-spaced and two to three pages in length.

### research paper (50% of your final grade)

The final project for this class will be to develop a research paper that tests an interesting question about political behavior in the American context or from a comparative perspective.

This paper should resemble the format of the kinds of academic papers read in class – including development of a research question, a review of relevant literature, theory, tests of these explanations, and interpretation of what you find.

Throughout the semester, there will be a variety of short assignments related to the development of your research paper, such as memos describing your research question, hypotheses, and literature review.

In week 5, you will present the plan for your paper to the rest of the class for feedback, and in week 15, you will present results of your research to the class.

More details about these assignments will be outlined on separate handouts.

## CULEARN IS YOUR FRIEND

This syllabus, assignments, and other exciting material can be accessed on the class website on [culearn.colorado.edu](http://culearn.colorado.edu).

## SPECIAL ACCOMMODATIONS

If you qualify for accommodations because of a disability, please submit to me a letter from Disability Services in a timely manner so that your needs may be addressed. You can contact the Disability Services office for more information at [www.colorado.edu/disabilityservices](http://www.colorado.edu/disabilityservices).

## SOME IMPORTANT COMMENTS ON ACADEMIC INTEGRITY

Plagiarism and other academic dishonesty will not be tolerated. If you are not familiar with the rules of citing sources in written work or what constitutes plagiarism, you should contact me or refer to the University Honor Code at [www.colorado.edu/academics/honorcode](http://www.colorado.edu/academics/honorcode). Academic dishonesty will result in an F in the course and referral to the Honor Court for additional non-academic sanctions.

All papers are expected to be original work, not previously or simultaneously handed in for credit in another course (unless prior approval of all instructors involved is obtained).

# AMERICAN AND COMPARATIVE POLITICAL BEHAVIOR

## COURSE SCHEDULE

### 1. INTRODUCTION

**Thursday, August 27**

*The study of political behavior, approaches and methods*

### 2. BEHAVIOR FROM THE AMERICAN PERSPECTIVE

**Thursday, September 3**

*Approaches to the study of political behavior in American politics, the importance of political context*

- Kinder, Donald R. 2004. "Pale Democracy: Opinion and Action in Postwar America." In Edward D. Mansfield and Richard Sisson, eds., *The Evolution of Political Knowledge*. Columbus, OH: Ohio State University Press.
- Huckfeldt, Robert, and John Sprague. 1995. *Citizens, Politics, and Social Communication: Information and Influence in an Election Campaign*. Cambridge: Cambridge University Press. Chapter 1.
- MacKuen, Michael B. 2002. "Political Psychology and the Micro-Macro Gap in Politics." In James H. Kuklinski, ed. *Thinking about Political Psychology*. New York: Cambridge University Press.
- Jerit, Jennifer, Jason Barabas, and Toby Bolsen. 2006. "Citizens, Knowledge, and the Information Environment." *American Journal of Political Science* 50(2): 266-282.
- MacKuen, Michael B., Robert S. Erikson and James A. Stimson. 1989. "Macropartisanship." *American Political Science Review* 83(4): 1125-1142.

### 3. BEHAVIOR FROM THE COMPARATIVE PERSPECTIVE

**Thursday, September 10**

*Comparative approaches to behavior, political psychology and political sociology*

- Zuckerman, Alan S. 2009. "Advancing Explanation in Comparative Politics: Social Mechanisms, Endogenous Processes and Empirical Rigor." In Mark I. Lichbach and Alan S. Zuckerman, eds., *Comparative Politics: Rationality, Structure and Culture*, 2<sup>nd</sup> ed. Cambridge: Cambridge University Press.
- Dalton, Russell J., and Hans-Dieter Klingemann. 2007. "Citizens and Political Behavior." In Russell J. Dalton and Hans-Dieter Klingemann, eds. *The Oxford Handbook of Political Behavior*. New York: Oxford University Press.
- Anderson, Christopher J. 2007. "The Interaction of Structures and Voter Behavior." In Russell J. Dalton and Hans-Dieter Klingemann, eds. *The Oxford Handbook of Political Behavior*. New York: Oxford University Press.
- Rose, Richard. 2007. "Perspectives on Political Behavior in Time and Space." In Russell J. Dalton and Hans-Dieter Klingemann, eds. *The Oxford Handbook of Political Behavior*. New York: Oxford University Press.
- Lustick, Ian S. 1997. "The Disciplines of Political Science: Studying the Culture of Rational Choice." *PS: Political Science and Politics* 30(2): 175-179.

## 4. PARTISANSHIP AND IDEOLOGY

**Thursday, September 17**

*The roots of partisanship, genes, socialization*

- Alford, John R., Carolyn L. Funk, and John R. Hibbing. 2005. "Are Political Orientations Genetically Transmitted?" *American Political Science Review* 99:153-167.
- Zuckerman, Alan S., Josip Dasović and Jennifer Fitzgerald. 2007. *Partisan Families: The Social Logic of Bounded Partisanship in Germany and Britain*. Cambridge: Cambridge University Press. Chapters 1 and 2.
- Campbell, Angus, Philip E. Converse, Warren E. Miller, and Donald E. Stokes. 1960. *The American Voter*. New York: Wiley. Chapters 6 and 7.
- Achen, Christopher. 2002. "Parental Socialization and Rational Party Identification." *Political Behavior* 24(2): 141-170.
- Fleury, Christopher J., and Michael S. Lewis-Beck. 1993. "Anchoring the French Voter: Ideology versus Party." *The Journal of Politics* 55(4):1100-1109.

## 5. PRESENTATION OF RESEARCH IDEAS

**Thursday, September 24**

*Student research proposals*

## 6. POLITICAL DECISION-MAKING

**Thursday, October 1**

*Ideology. Civic competence. Decision-making. Online versus memory-based processing.*

- Converse, Philip E. 1964. "The Nature of Belief Systems in Mass Publics." In David Apter, ed. *Ideology and Discontent*. New York: The Free Press. (Skip pages 249-261.)
- Kuklinski, James H., and Buddy Peyton. 2007. "Belief Systems and Political Decision-Making." In Russell J. Dalton and Hans-Dieter Klingemann, eds. *The Oxford Handbook of Political Behavior*. New York: Oxford University Press.
- Lau, Richard R., and David P. Redlawsk. 2006. *How Voters Decide: Information Processing during Election Campaigns*. Cambridge: Cambridge University Press. Chapters 1, 2, 5, 8.
- Lodge, Milton, Marco R. Steenbergen, and Shawn Brau. 1995. "The Responsive Voter: Campaign Information and the Dynamics of Candidate Evaluation." *American Political Science Review* 89:309-326.

## 7. MORE ABOUT POLITICAL DECISION-MAKING

**Thursday, October 8**

*Affective intelligence. Motivated reasoning. Ambivalence.*

- Marcus, George E., W. Russell Neuman, and Michael B. MacKuen. 2000. *Affective Intelligence and Political Judgment*. Chicago: University of Chicago Press.
- Taber, Charles, and Milton Lodge. 2007. "The Rationalizing Voter: Unconscious Thought in Political Information Processing." Working paper.

- Taber, Charles, and Milton Lodge. 2006. "Motivated Skepticism in the Evaluation of Political Beliefs." *American Journal of Political Science* 50(3):755-769.
- Basinger, Scott J., and Howard Lavine. 2005. "Ambivalence, Information, and Electoral Choice." *American Political Science Review* 99:169-184.

## 8. ECONOMIC VOTING

**Thursday, October 15**

*Economic self-interest as a political motive.*

- Tucker, Joshua A. 2006. *Regional Economic Voting: Russia, Poland, Hungary, Slovakia, and the Czech Republic, 1990-1999*. New York: Cambridge University Press. Chapter 3.
- Anderson, Christopher J. 2000. "Economic Voting and Political Context: A Comparative Perspective." *Electoral Studies* 19(2-3): 151-170.
- Van der Brug, Wouter, Cees van der Eijk and Mark Franklin. 2007. *The Economy and the Vote: Economic Conditions and Elections in Fifteen Countries*. Cambridge University Press. Chapters 1, 4, and 5.
- Duch, Raymond, and Randy Stevenson. 2006. "Assessing the Magnitude of the Economic Vote over Time and Across Nations." *Electoral Studies* 25:528-547.

## 9. PERSUASION AND INFLUENCE

**Thursday, October 22**

*Political socialization, internal versus external influences*

- Sears, David O., and Rick Kosterman. 1994. "Mass Media and Political Persuasion." In Sharon Shavitt and Timothy C. Brock, eds., *Persuasion: Psychological Insights and Perspectives*. Allyn & Bacon.
- Pattie, Charles, and Ron Johnston. 2000. "'People Who Talk Together Vote Together': An Exploration of Contextual Effects in Great Britain." *Annals of the Association of American Geographers* 90(1): 41-66.
- Mutz, Diana. 1992. "Impersonal Influence: Effects of Representations of Public Opinion on Political Attitudes." *Political Behavior* 14(2): 89-122.
- Huckfeldt, Robert. 2007. "Information, Persuasion, and Political Communication Networks." In Russell J. Dalton and Hans-Dieter Klingemann, eds. *The Oxford Handbook of Political Behavior*. New York: Oxford University Press.
- Krosnick, Jon A., and Duane F. Alwin. 1989. "Aging and Susceptibility to Attitude Change." *Journal of Personality and Social Psychology* 57(3): 416-425.

## 10. PARTICIPATION IN SOCIAL MOVEMENTS

**Thursday, October 29**

*Social and political identities, religion, participation in social movements*

- Simon, Bernd, Michael Loewy, Stefan Stuermer, Ulrike Weber, Peter Freytag, Corinna Habig, Claudia Kampmeier, and Peter Spahlinger. 1998. "Collective Identification and Social Movement Participation." *Journal of Personality and Social Psychology* 74: 646-658.
- Koopmans, Ruud. 2009. "Social Movements." In Russell J. Dalton and Hans-Dieter Klingemann, eds. *The Oxford Handbook of Political Behavior*. New York: Oxford University Press.

- Wald, Kenneth D., Adam L. Silverman and Kevin S. Fridy. 2005. "Making Sense of Religion in Political Life." *Annual Review of Political Science* 8: 121-143.
- Della Porta, Donatella. 2006. *Social Movements, Political Violence, and the State: A Comparative Analysis of Italy and Germany*. Cambridge University Press. Ch. 1, 6, 7

## 11. TRUST IN GOVERNMENT

### Thursday, November 5

*Why do people trust government?*

- Newton, Kenneth. 2007. "Social and Political Trust." In Russell J. Dalton and Hans-Dieter Klingemann, eds. *The Oxford Handbook of Political Behavior*. New York: Oxford University Press.
- Miller, Arthur H. 1974. "Political Issues and Trust in Government: 1964-1970." *American Political Science Review* 68: 951-972.
- Citrin, Jack. 1974. "Comment: The Political Relevance of Trust in Government." *American Political Science Review* 68: 973-988.
- Anderson, Christopher J., and Christine A. Guillory. 1997. "Political Institutions and Satisfaction with Democracy: A Cross-National Analysis of Consensus and Majoritarian Systems." *American Political Science Review* 91(1): 66-82.
- Rohrschneider, Robert. 2002. "The Democracy Deficit and Mass Support for an EU-wide Government." *American Journal of Political Science* 46(2): 463-475.

## 12. SOCIAL CAPITAL & CIVIL SOCIETY

### Thursday, November 12

*Why do people engage in associational life? And why does it matter?*

- Hero, Rodney E. 2003. "Social Capital and Racial Inequality in America." *Perspectives in Politics* 1(1):113-122.
- Stolle, Dietlind. 2007. "Social Capital." In Russell J. Dalton and Hans-Dieter Klingemann, eds. *The Oxford Handbook of Political Behavior*. New York: Oxford University Press.
- Howard, Marc Morjé. 2003. *The Weakness of Civil Society in Post-Communist Europe*. Cambridge University Press.

## 13. VOTER TURNOUT

### Thursday, November 19

*Why do people turn out to vote? Why do people participate in politics?*

- Brady, Henry, Sidney Verba, and Kay Lehman Schlozman. 1995. "Beyond SES: A Resource Model of Participation." *American Political Science Review* 89(2):271-294.
- Franklin, Mark N. 2004. *Voter Turnout and the Dynamics of Electoral Competition*. New York: Cambridge University Press. Chapters 4 and 5.
- Powell, Jr., G. Bingham. 1986. "American Voter Turnout in Comparative Perspective." *American Political Science Review* 80:17-43.

- Jackman, Robert W. 1987. "Political Institutions and Voter Turnout in the Industrial Democracies." *American Political Science Review* 81:405-423.
- Blais, André. 2007. "Turnout in Elections." In Russell J. Dalton and Hans-Dieter Klingemann, eds. *The Oxford Handbook of Political Behavior*. New York: Oxford University Press.

### **Thursday, November 26**

Fall break – class does not meet

## **14. OUTCOMES AND REPRESENTATION**

### **Thursday, December 3**

*What are the consequences of public opinion?*

- Wlezien, Christopher, and Stuart N. Soroka. 2007. "The Relationship Between Public Opinion and Policy." In Russell J. Dalton and Hans-Dieter Klingemann, eds. *The Oxford Handbook of Political Behavior*. New York: Oxford University Press.
- Stimson, James. 2007. "Perspectives on Representation: Asking the Right Questions and Getting the Right Answers." In Russell J. Dalton and Hans-Dieter Klingemann, eds. *The Oxford Handbook of Political Behavior*. New York: Oxford University Press.
- Stimson, James A., Michael B. MacKuen, and Robert S. Erikson. 1995. "Dynamic Representation." *American Political Science Review* 89(3):543-565.
- Soroka, Stuart N., and Christopher Wlezien. 2005. "Opinion-Policy Dynamics: Public Preferences and Public Expenditure in the United Kingdom." *British Journal of Political Science* 35: 665-89.
- Griffin, John D. and Patrick Flavin. 2007. "Racial Differences in Information, Expectations, and Accountability." *Journal of Politics* 69(1): 220-36.
- Adams, James, and Lawrence Ezrow. 2009. "Who Do European Parties Represent? How Western European Parties Represent the Policy Preferences of Opinion Leaders." *Journal of Politics* 71:206-223.

## **15. RESEARCH PRESENTATIONS**

### **Thursday, December 10**

*Students present the results of their research*