

POLS 511 American Political Institutions¹

Fall 2013

McGannon Hall 122

Thursday 7-9:30

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Course Description

This is a graduate seminar in American politics. It is designed to provide you with an overview of the literature and theoretical concepts associated with political science as it relates to American government and politics. There is no way to cover every topic, nor is it possible to evaluate a majority of literature within these topics. Therefore, we will examine major issues within American politics and some of the important research findings in a variety of seminal works. The intent is to provide you with a sample of key findings in the literature, as well as help you develop critical skills for evaluating this research.

Course Structure

This course is designed as a seminar. As such, an emphasis will be placed on critical discussion of the assigned reading material. Because we only meet once each week, each session must cover a lot of material. Students should come to class prepared and ready to participate actively in these discussions.

My Teaching Philosophy

I believe that my role in the classroom is to help you learn the class material, as well as skills such as clear writing, speaking, and critical thinking. Towards this end, I develop a class that calls upon students to engage in reading, writing, talking, and listening. I want you to learn; I try to help make the material and tasks as clear as possible so that you are able to learn. I have an open door policy and will work with you to help you master class and reading material, as well as critical thinking skills.

¹In future semesters, this course will be named “Core Seminar in American Politics.”

Your Learning Philosophy

If you want a high grade with a minimum amount of work, you should enroll in another class. You will need to be dedicated to keeping up with the reading load and course assignments. If you want to learn as much as possible on the topic of American politics, this class should be highly satisfactory. As graduate students, I expect that you will consistently come to class prepared and ready to participate. If you cannot do this, you should reconsider being in graduate school.

Readings

The following books have been ordered for the course. Please get the most recent editions listed below, as the content is different in some versions. These books are available at the University bookstore.

1. *An Economic Theory of Democracy*. Anthony Downs. 1957. ISBN: 9780060417505
2. *Congress: The Electoral Connections, 2nd Edition*. David Mayhew. 2004. ISBN: 9780300105872
3. *Why Parties? Second Look*. John Aldrich. 2011. ISBN: 9780226012742.
4. *The Nature and Origins of Mass Opinion*. John Zaller. 1992. ISBN: 9780521407861
5. *The Nature of Supreme Court Power*. Matthew Hall. 2013. ISBN: 9781107617827
6. *The American Voter-Unabridged*. Angus Campbell, Phillip Converse, Warren Miller, and Donald Stokes. 1960. ISBN: 9780226092546
7. *Red State, Blue States, Rich State, Poor State*. Andrew Gelman. 2008. ISBN: 9780691143934
8. *The Macro Polity*. Robert Erikson, Michael MacKuen, and James Stimson. 2002. ISBN: 9780521564854
9. *Agendas and Instability in American Politics: 2nd Edition*. 2009. Frank Baumgartner and Bryan Jones. ISBN: 9780226039498

Assignments and Grading

Exam: 25%

There will be a cumulative final exam. The exam will be essay format. The exam is scheduled for Thursday, December 12 at 6:30.

Attendance and Class Participation: 25%

You are expected to be an active participant in our discussions and classroom activities. An emphasis will be put not only on quantity of participation, but the quality of comments. If speaking in class is difficult for you, come see me. I reserve the right to administer quizzes if participation becomes a problem.

Class attendance is required. You will be allowed one unexcused absence over the course of the semester. After that, each additional unexcused absence will lower your attendance grade by one letter grade. If you know you will be missing a class, please let me know as soon as possible. If you are more than ten minutes late to class, I reserve the right to mark you absent.

Paper:30%

You will write a full blown research paper for this course. It should take the basic form of a refereed journal article (like many you will be reading for this course). That is, you need a research question grounded in theory, hypothesis generated from that theory, an empirical evaluation of those hypothesis and a conclusion. I won't require the paper be quantitative, but my tendency is to think in those terms. There is no specific page requirement, but my experience suggests that papers that are 15 pages of text or less tend to be under-developed, while papers over 25-30 pages of text would often be better if they were shorter. Note that one acceptable alternative would be a replication and extension of an existing published paper. However, the extension needs to be meaningful. Finally while the paper can be related to previous work you have done or are doing for another class, it needs to be a distinctively new paper. For those of you with ideas about a thesis, this might be a great opportunity to pursue that work. The paper is due Thursday, December 5th in class.

We will talk regularly about the paper over the course of the semester in class, and I expect I'll see most of you in my office outside of class as well. I have several deadlines throughout the semester where I expect you to show me progress. However, the only aspect of the paper that I will grade will be the final version of the paper you turn in. That said, it is **VERY** important that you get started right away. You cannot write a quality paper over the weekend, and you need to build in time for the inevitable problems with data, writing, etc. that occur.

Peer Review of Paper: 5%

On Thursday, November 14th, you will turn in a complete draft of your paper. At that point, you will give a draft to me and to another student in the clas. You will also receive a draft from a classmate. You will provide written feedback for the author. Your responsibility is to provide feedback that will help the author improve his/her paper. Point out the strengths, note the weaknsses, raise challenges, and make suggestions for alternatives.

Remember, you are not helping the paper improve if you only provide generic praise. I expect you to write at least one full, single-spaced page of comments. You should stop when

you get to 3 pages.

Presentation: 5%

You will give a 12-15 minute presentation of your research project to your classmates at the end of the semester. You should prepare a powerpoint presentation highlighting your theory, hypothesis, data, and findings.

Talking Points: 10%

You will be required to come up with 5-7 talking points for each weeks readings. These should be emailed to me 48 hours before our class meeting (Tuesday by 7). I will pick out the best of these discussion questions and begin class with these as a starting point. The talking points should include all of the following :

1. title of article/chapter;
2. several ideas that you found new, relevant, and/or critical in the reading;
3. critical comments about ideas with which you disagreed or believed were unsubstantiated, inconsistent, or requires further examination (drawing upon other readings to illustrate weakness/inconsistency if appropriate); and
4. five to seven questions that you would like discussed during the seminar

Grade Scale

Final grades for the course will be based on the following scale. I reserve the right to make adjustments to grades based on overall performance in the course. There will be no extra credit offered in the course, nor will there be curving grades.

Letter Grade	Percentage	Letter Grade	Percentage	Letter Grade	Percentage
A	93-100	B-	80-82	D+	67-69
A-	90-92	C+	77-79	D	63-66
B+	87-89	C	73-76	F	62 or below
B	83-87	C-	70-72		

Honor Code

Students are expected to be honest in their academic work. The University reserves the right to penalize any student whose academic conduct at any time is, in its judgment, detrimental to the University. Such conduct shall include cases of plagiarism, collusion, cheating, giving

or receiving or offering or soliciting information in examinations, or the use of previously prepared material in examinations or quizzes. Violations should be reported to me and will be investigated and adjudicated according to the Policy on Academic Honesty of the College of Arts and Sciences. If the charges are found to be true, the student may be liable for academic or disciplinary probation, suspension, or expulsion from the University. Please refer to the university policy at <http://www.slu.edu/x12657.xml>.

Expectations and Procedures

Technology

Put everything on mute. You do not need to use your lap top for this course. Please take notes the old fashion way. This will dissuade the trend of college students to browse the web, check e-mail, and frequent social networking sites during lecture. I will post all lecture powerpoints on blackboard after the daily lecture. If I use additional material I will post it on blackboard so you may access it at a later point.

Communication

I will post grades, send class e-mails, etc. . . with Blackboard. Be sure that you can access the e-mail address listed. I will only send e-mail out to your SLU e-mail accounts listed on the course roster in Blackboard. I will not keep track of any other e-mail addresses you may use.

I am very accessible both during and after normal work days. Please feel free to contact me or stop by my office if you need to talk. Also, please contact me immediately if you are going to miss an exam or need to reschedule. I do not like to give make up exams, but under extenuating situations, I will make allowances. Please contact me prior to the exam if you need to reschedule, I will not allow make up exams if contacted after the exam period.

Disabilities

In recognition that people learn in a variety of ways and that learning is influenced by multiple factors (e.g., prior experience, study skills, learning disability), resources to support student success are available on campus. Students who think they might benefit from these resources can find out more about:

- Course-level support (e.g., faculty member, departmental resources, etc.) by asking your course instructor.
- University-level support (e.g., tutoring/writing services, Disability Services) by visiting the Student Success Center (BSC 331) or by going to www.slu.edu/success.

Students who believe that, due to a disability, they could benefit from academic accommodations are encouraged to contact Disability Services at 314-977-8885 or visit the Student Success Center. Confidentiality will be observed in all inquiries.

Course instructors support student accommodation requests when an approved letter from Disability Services has been received and when students discuss these accommodations with the instructor after receipt of the approved letter.

Tentative Class Schedule

August 29 No Class: Annual Meeting of the American Political Science Association

September 5 **Democratic Theory**

Required Readings

- Downs, Anthony. 1957. *An Economic Theory of Democracy* 1-3, 5-10

Recommended Readings

- Olson, Mancur. 1965. *The Logic of Collective Action: Public Goods and the Theory of Groups*. Cambridge, MA: Harvard University Press.
- Quattrone, George A., and Amos Tversky. 1988. “Contrasting Rational and Psychological Analyses of Political Choice.” *American Political Science Review* 82: 719-736.
- Rahn, Wendy M., John L. Sullivan, and Thomas J. Rudolph. 2002. “Political Psychology and Political Science.” In James H. Kuklinski, ed., *Thinking about Political Psychology*. New York: Cambridge University Press.
- Riker, William. 1982. *Liberalism Against Populism*. San Francisco: CA, W.H. Freeman.
- Simon, Herbert A. 1985. “Human Nature in Politics: The Dialogue of Psychology with Political Science.” *American Political Science Review* 79: 293-304.
- Supplementary Readings for Those Focusing on This Week
- Bianco, William T. 1998. “Different Paths to the Same Result: Rational Choice, Political Psychology, and Impression Formation in Campaigns.” *American Journal of Political Science* 42: 1061-81
- Diermeier, Daniel, and Keith Krehbiel. 2003. “Institutionalism as a Methodology.” *Journal of Theoretical Politics* 15: 123-144.
- Fiorina, Morris P. 1995. “Rational Choice and the New(?) Institutionalism.” *Polity* 28: 107-115.
- McGraw, Kathleen M. 2000. “Contributions of the Cognitive Approach to Political Psychology.” *Political Psychology* 21: 805-832.

- Shepsle, Kenneth A. 1989. “Studying Institutions.” *Journal of Theoretical Politics* 1: 131-147.

September 12 **The Mass Public**

Required Readings

- Zaller, John. 1992. *Nature and Origins of Mass Opinion*.

Recommended Readings

- Aldrich, John H., John Sullivan, and Eugene Borgida. 1989. “Foreign Affairs and Issue Voting: Do Presidential Candidates Waltz Before a Blind Audience?” *American Political Science Review* 83: 123-141.
- Alvarez, R. Michael and John Brehm. 1995. “American Ambivalence Towards Abortion Policy: Development of a Heteroskedastic Probit Model of Competing Values.” *American Journal of Political Science* 39: 1055-1082.
- Conover, Pamela Johnston and Stanley Feldman. 1981. “The Origins and Meaning of Liberal-Conservative Self-Identifications.” *American Journal of Political Science* 25: 617-645.
- Jacoby, William G. 1991. “Ideological Identification and Issue Attitudes.” *American Journal of Political Science* 35: 178-205.
- Jacoby, William G. 1995. “The Structure of Ideological Thinking in the American Electorate.” *American Journal of Political Science* 39: 314-335.
- Jerit, Jennifer, Jason Barabas, and Toby Bolsen. 2006. “Citizens, Knowledge, and the Information Environment.” *American Journal of Political Science* 50: 266-282
- MacKuen, Michael B., Robert S. Erikson, and James A. Stimson. 1992. “Peasants or Bankers? The American Electorate and the U.S. Economy.” *American Political Science Review* 86: 597-611.

September 19 **Representation and Responsiveness**

Required Readings

- Erikson, Robert, Michael MacKuen, and James Stimson. 2002. *The Macro Polity*
- Hetherington, Marc J. 1998. “The Political Relevance of Political Trust.” *American Political Science Review* 92: 791-808.
- Merrill, III, Samuel, Bernard Grofman, and Thomas Brunell. 2008. “Cycles in American National Electoral Politics, 1854-2006: Statistical Evidence and an Explanatory Model.” *American Political Science Review* 102: 1-17.

Recommended Readings

- Bartels, Larry M. 1991. “Constituency Opinion and Congressional Policy Making: The Reagan Defense Buildup.” *American Political Science Review* 85: 457-474.
- Chappell, Henry W., Jr., and William R. Keech. 1985. “A New View of Political Accountability for Economic Performance.” *American Political Science Review* 79: 10-27.
- Durr, Robert H. 1993. “What Moves Policy Sentiment?” *American Political Science Review* 87: 158-170.
- Lapinski, John S. 2008. “Policy Substance and Performance in American Lawmaking, 1877-1994.” *American Journal of Political Science* 52: 235-251.
- McCarty, Nolan, Keith T. Poole and Howard Rosenthal. 2006. *Polarized America: The Dance of Political Ideology and Unequal Riches*. Cambridge, MA: MIT Press.
- Stimson, James A., Michael B. MacKuen, and Robert S. Erikson. 1995. “Dynamic Representation.” *American Political Science Review* 89: 543-565.
- Wlezien, Christopher. 1995. “The Public as Thermostat: Dynamics of Preferences for Spending.” *American Journal of Political Science* 39: 981-1000

September 26 **Elections I**

Required Readings

- Campbell, Angus, Phillip Converse, Warren Miller, and Donald Stokes. 1960. *The American Voter* Section I, II, and III. Skim IV and V

Recommended Readings

- Gelman, Andrew and Gary King. 1993. “Why Are American Presidential Election Polls So Variable When Voters Are So Predictable?” *British Journal of Political Science* 23: 409-451.
- Lupia, Arthur. 1996. “Shortcuts Versus Encyclopedias: Information and Voting Behavior in California Insurance Reform Elections.” *American Political Science Review* 88: 63-76.
- Jessee, Stephen A. 2009. “Spatial Voting in the 2004 Presidential Election.” *American Political Science Review* 103: 59-81.
- MacKuen, Michael, Robert S. Erikson, and James A. Stimson. 1992. “Peasants or Bankers: The American Electorate and the United States Economy.” *American Political Science Review* 86: 597-611.
- Markus Gregory B., and Philip E. Converse. 1979. “A Dynamic Simultaneous Equation Model of Electoral Choice.” *American Political Science Review* 73: 1055-1070.
- Rahn, Wendy M. 1993. “The Role of Partisan Stereotypes in Information Processing About Political Candidates.” *American Journal of Political Science* 37: 472-496.

- Tomz, Michael, and Robert P. Van Houweling. 2008. “Candidate Positioning and Voter Choice.” *American Political Science Review* 102: 303-318.

October 3 **Elections II**

Research question due in class *Required Readings*

- Gelman, Andrew, David Park, Boris Shor, and Jeronimo Cortina. 2008. *Red State, Blue State, Rich State, Poor State*
- Carsey, Thomas M. 2000. *Campaign Dynamics: The Race for Governor*, Chapter 3.
- Rabinowitz, George and Stuart Elaine Macdonald. 1989. “A Directional Theory of Issue Voting.” *The American Political Science Review* 83(1):93-121.
- Westholm, Anders. 1997. “The Illusory Defeat of the Proximity Theory of Electoral Choice.” *American Political Science Review* 91:865-85.
- Macdonald, Stuart Elaine, George Rabinowitz and Ola Listhaug. 1998. “On Attempting to Rehabilitate the Proximity Model: Sometimes the Patient Just Can’t Be Helped.” *The Journal of Politics* 60:653-90

Recommended Readings

- Enelow, James M. and Melvin J. Hinich. 1984. *The Spatial Theory of Voting*. Cambridge University Press.
- Hammond, Thomas H. and Brian D. Humes. 1993. “What This Campaign is All About Is . . . : A Rational Choice Alternative to the Downsian Spatial Model of Elections.” In *Information, Participation, and Choice*, ed. Bernard Grofman. Ann Arbor, University of Michigan Press.
- Hinich, Melvin J. and Michael C. Munger. 1997. *Analytical Politics*. Cambridge: Cambridge University Press.
- MacDonald, Stuart Elaine, Ola Listhaug, and George Rabinowitz. 1991. “Issues and Party Support in Multiparty Systems.” *The American Political Science Review* 85(4):1107-1131.
- Riker, William H. 1982. *Liberalism against Populism*. San Francisco: W.H. Freeman.
- Kedar, Orit. 2005. “When Moderate Voters Prefer Extreme Parties: Policy Balancing in Parliamentary Elections.” *American Political Science Review* 99: 185-199.
- Tomz, Michael, and Robert P. Van Houweling. 2008. “Candidate Positioning and Voter Choice.” *American Political Science Review* 102: 303-318.
- Canes-Wrone, Brandice, David Brady, and John Cogan 2002. “Out of Step Out of Office: Electoral Accountability and House Members’ Voting.” *American Political Science Review* 96: 127-140.

- Rabinowitz, George, Stuart Elaine Macdonald, Erik Engstrom, and Nicholas Pyeatt 2009. “Representation in the United States.” (Unpublished manuscript)
- Adams, James, Samuel Merrill III, and Bernard Grofman. 2005. *A Unified Theory of Party Competition*. Cambridge University Press.

October 10 **Political Parties**

Required Readings

- Aldrich, John. 2011. *Why Parties? Second Look*.

Recommended Readings

- Aldrich, John H. 1983. “A Downsian Spatial Model with Party Activism.” *American Political Science Review* 77: 974-990.
- Gibson, James L., Cornelius P. Cotter, John F. Bibby, and Robert J. Huckshorn. 1983. “Assessing Party Organizational Strength.” *American Journal of Political Science* 27: 193-222.
- Key, Jr., V. O. 1959. “Secular Realignment and the Party System.” *Journal of Politics* 21: 198-210
- Krehbiel, Keith. 1993. “Wheres the Party?” *British Journal of Political Science* 23: 235-266.
- Nardulli, Peter. 1995. “The Concept of a Critical Realignment, Electoral Behavior, and Political Change.” *American Political Science Review* 89: 10-22.
- 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: 1-99
- Cox, Gary W., and Mathew D. McCubbins. 1993. *Legislative Leviathan: Party Government in the House*. Berkeley, CA: University of California Press.
- Duverger, Maurice. 1954. *Political Parties: Their Organization and Activities in the Modern State*. New York: Wiley.
- Hofstadter, Richard. 1969. *The Idea of a Party System: The Rise of Legitimate Opposition in the United States, 1780-1840*. Berkeley, CA: University of California Press.
- Key, Jr., V. O. 1949. *Southern Politics in State in Nation*. New York: Vintage Books.
- Key, Jr., V. O. 1955. *Politics, Parties, and Pressure Groups*, 5th ed. New York: Crowell.
- Michels, Robert. 1962. *Political Parties: A Sociological Study of the Oligarchical Tendencies of Modern Democracy*. New York: The Free Press.
- Rohde, David W. 1991. *Parties and Leaders in the Post Reform House*. Chicago: University of Chicago Press.

- Schattschneider, E. E. 1942. *Party Government*. New York: Holt, Rinehart, and Winston.
- Schlesinger, Joseph A. 1991. *Political Parties and the Winning of Office*. Ann Arbor, MI: University of Michigan Press.
- Schlesinger, Joseph A. 1984. “On the Theory of Party Organization.” *Journal of Politics* 46: 369-400.
- Sundquist, James L. 1983. *Dynamics of the Party System: Alignment and Realignment of Political Parties in the United States*. Washington, DC: The Brookings Institution.

October 17 **Congressional Behavior**

Required Readings

- Mayhew, David. 1974. *Congress: The Electoral Connection*
- Fenno, Richard F., Jr. 1978. *Home Style: House Members in Their Districts*. Boston: Little Brown. Pp. 1-30, 214-248.
- Kingdon, John W. 1977. “Models of Legislative Voting.” *Journal of Politics* 39: 563-595.
- McCarty, Nolan, Keith Poole, and Howard Rosenthal. 2009. “Does Gerrymandering Cause Polarization?” *American Journal of Political Science* 53: 666-680.
- Miller, Warren E., and Donald E. Stokes. 1963. “Constituency Influence in Congress.” *American Political Science Review* 57: 45-56.

Recommended Readings

- Bartels, Larry M. 1991. “Constituency Opinion and Congressional Policy Making: The Reagan Defense Buildup.” *American Political Science Review* 85: 457-474.
- Erikson, Robert S. and Gerald C. Wright. 1997. “Voters, Candidates, and Issues in Congressional Elections.” In Lawrence C. Dodd and Bruce I. Oppenheimer, eds.
- *Congress Reconsidered*. 6th ed. Washington, DC: Congressional Quarterly Press.
- Hill, Kim Quaile, and Patricia Hurley. 1999. “Dyadic Representation Reappraised.” *American Journal of Political Science* 43: 109-137.
- Jacobson, Gary C. 1989. “Strategic Politicians and the Dynamics of U.S. House Elections, 1946-1986.” *American Political Science Review* 83: 773-793.
- Krehbiel, Keith. 1995. “Cosponsors and Wafflers from A to Z.” *American Journal of Political Science* 39: 906-923.
- Maestas, Cherie D., Sarah Fulton, L. Sandy Maisel, and Walter J. Stone. 2006. “When to Risk It? Institutions, Ambitions, and the Decision to Run for the U.S. House.”

- American Political Science Review 100: 195-208.

October 17 **The Presidency**

Required Readings

- Neustadt, Richard. 1990. *Presidential Power and the Modern Presidents*. NY: Free Press. Chapters 1-4.
- Hager, Gregory, and Terry Sullivan. 1994. “President-Centered and Presidency-Centered Explanations of Presidential Public Activity.” *American Journal of Political Science* 38: 1079-1103.
- Howell, William G., and David E. Lewis. 2002. “Agencies by Presidential Design.” *Journal of Politics* 64: 1095-1114.
- Ragsdale, Lyn, and John J. Theis, III. 1997. “The Institutionalization of the American Presidency, 1924-92.” *American Journal of Political Science* 41: 1280-1318.
- Sullivan, Terry. 1990. “Bargaining with the President: A Simple Game and New Evidence.” *American Political Science Review* 84: 1167-1195.

Recommended Readings

- Barber, James David. 1992 [1972]. *The Presidential Character: Predicting Performance in the White House*. Englewood Cliffs, NJ: Prentice Hall. Chapters 1, 2, and 5
- Cameron, Charles M. 2000. *Veto Bargaining: Presidents and the Politics of Negative Power*. New York: Cambridge University Press. Chapters 1-3
- Gronke, Paul and Brian Newman. 2003. “FDR to Clinton, Mueller to ?? A State of the Discipline Review of Presidential Approval.” *Political Research Quarterly* 56: 501-12.
- Corwin, Edward S. 1948. *The President, Office and Powers, 1787-1948: History and Analysis of Practice and Opinion*. New York: New York University Press.
- Edwards, George C. 1989. *At the Margins: Presidential Leadership of Congress*. New Haven, CT: Yale University Press.
- Fiorina, Morris P. 1996. *Divided Government*. Boston: Allyn and Bacon.
- Kernell, Samuel. 1978. “Explaining Presidential Popularity.” *American Political Science Review* 72: 506-522.
- Kiewiet, D. Roderick, and Mathew D. McCubbins. 1988. “Presidential Influence on Congressional Appropriations Decisions.” *American Journal of Political Science* 32: 713-736.
- Light, Paul. 1999. *The Presidents Agenda: Domestic Policy Choice from Kennedy to Clinton*. 3rd ed. Baltimore, MD: Johns Hopkins University Press.

- Lowi, Theodore. 1985. *The Personal President: Power Invested, Promise Unfulfilled*. Ithaca, NY: Cornell University Press.
- Mayhew, David. 1991. *Divided We Govern*. New Haven, CT: Yale University Press.
- Moe, Terry. 1985. “The Politicized Presidency.” In John E. Chubb and Paul E. Peterson. *The New Direction in American Politics*. Washington, D.C.: Brookings Institution.
- Mueller, John. 1973. *War, Presidents, and Public Opinion*. New York: Wiley and Sons.
- Nathan, Richard P. 1975. *The Plot that Failed: Nixon and the Administrative Presidency*. New York: Wiley and Sons.
- Rossiter, Clinton. 1960. *The American Presidency, 1917-1940*. New York: Harcourt, Brace.
- Skowronek, Stephen. 1997. *The Politics Presidents Make: Leadership from John Adams to Bill Clinton*. Cambridge, MA: Harvard University Press.
- Wildavsky, Aaron. 1966. “The Two Presidencies.” *Transaction* 4: 7-14.

October 24 **Paper Meeting Week. Paper prospectus due in class. No reading assignment but you must schedule a meeting with me during the week to discuss your papers.**

October 31 **Courts**

Required Reading

- Hall, Matthew E.K. 2012. *The Nature of Supreme Court Power*.
- Dahl, Robert A. 1958. “Decision Making in a Democracy: The Supreme Court as a National Policy Maker.” *Journal of Public Law* 6:279-95.
- Caldeira, Gregory A., and John R. Wright. 1988. “Organized Interests and Agenda Setting in the U.S. Supreme Court.” *American Political Science Review* 82:1109-1127.
- McGuire, Kevin T., and James A. Stimson. 2004. “The Least Dangerous Branch Revisited: New Evidence on Supreme Court Responsiveness to Public Preferences.” *Journal of Politics* 66:1018-1035.

Recommended Readings

- George, Tracey E., and Lee Epstein. 1992. “On the Nature of Supreme Court Decision Making.” *American Political Science Review* 86: 323-337.
- Hettinger, Virginia A., Stefanie Lindquist, and Wendy L. Martinek. 2004. “Comparing Attitudinal and Strategic Accounts of Dissenting Behavior on the U.S. Courts of Appeals.” *American Journal of Political Science* 48: 123-137.

- Johnson, Timothy R., Paul J. Wahlbeck, and James F. Spriggs, II. 2006. “The Influence of Oral Arguments on the U.S. Supreme Court.” *American Political Science Review* 100: 99-113.
- Maltzman, Forrest and Sarah Binder. 2002. “Senatorial Delay in Confirming Federal Judges.” *American Journal of Political Science* 46: 190-199.
- McGuire, Kevin. 2004. “The Institutionalization of the U.S. Supreme Court.” *Political Analysis* 12: 128-142.
- Segal, Jeffrey A., and Harold J. Spaeth. 1996. “The Influence of Stare Decisis on the Votes of United States Supreme Court Justices.” *American Journal of Political Science* 40: 971-1003.
- Songer, Donald R., Jeffrey A. Segal, and Charles M. Cameron. 1994. “The Hierarchy of Justice: Testing a Principal-Agent Model of Supreme Court-Circuit Court Interactions” *American Journal of Political Science* 38: 673-696.
- Spriggs, James F. Spriggs, II and Paul J. Wahlbeck. 1997. “Amicus Curiae and the Role of Information at the Supreme Court.” *Political Research Quarterly* 50: 365-386.
- Spriggs, James F., II, and Thomas G. Hansford. 2001. “Explaining the Overruling of U.S. Supreme Court Precedent.” *Journal of Politics* 63: 1091-1111.

November 7 **Agenda Setting**

Required Reading

- Baumgartner, Frank and Bryan Jones. 2009. *Agendas and Instability in American Politics, 2nd Ed.*

Recommended Readings

- Carmines, Edward B., and James A. Stimson. 1989. *Issue Evolution: Race and the Transformation of American Politics*. Princeton, N.J.: Princeton University Press.
- Cohen, Michael, James G. March, and Johan P. Olsen. 1972. A Garbage Can Theory of Organizational Choice. *Administrative Science Quarterly*
- Granovetter, Mark. 1978. Threshold Models of Collective Behavior. *American Journal of Sociology* 83: 1420-43.
- Jones, Bryan D., and Frank R. Baumgartner. 2005. *The Politics of Attention: How Government Prioritizes Problems*. Chicago: University of Chicago Press
- Jones, Bryan D., Tracy Sulkin, and Heather A. Larsen. 2003. “Policy Punctuations in American Political Institutions.” *American Political Science Review* 97:151-169.
- Kelly, Nathan J. 2005. “Political Choice, Public Policy, and Distributional Outcomes.” *American Journal of Political Science* 49(4):865-880.

– Kingdon, John W. 1995. *Agendas, Alternatives, and Public Policies*. 2d. ed.
New York: Harper Collins.

November 14 **Full rough drafts are due in class**

November 21 **Research Presentations**

November 28 **No Class: Thanksgiving**

December 5 **Research Presentations**

December 12 Final Exam