

**Public Policy 316:
Political Institutions and the Policy Process
Winter 2006**

Monday/Wednesday, 1:30-2:50 pm

Professor

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Teaching Assistants

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Description

This course has two fundamental aims. The first is to introduce students to a set of analytical tools and concepts for understanding how political institutions generate public policy. The second is to apply these tools in examining the major institutions of democracy in the United States.

Texts

The following books are available at the Seminary bookstore:

- Martha Derthick, *Up in Smoke: From Legislation to Litigation in Tobacco Politics* [second edition] (Washington, DC: CQ Press, 2005)
- Morris Fiorina, *Culture War? The Myth of a Polarized America* (New York: Pearson Longman, 2005)
- Keith Krehbiel, *Pivotal Politics: A Theory of U.S. Lawmaking* (Chicago: University of Chicago Press, 1998)
- Gerald Rosenberg, *The Hollow Hope: Can Courts Bring About Social Change?* (Chicago: University of Chicago Press, 1991)
- Charles Stewart III, *Analyzing Congress* (New York: Norton, 2001).

There are no formal prerequisites for this course. However, I do work from the assumption that students have a basic familiarity with American government institutions. Students who require a basic introduction, or reintroduction, to American government may want to consult the following (optional) book, which is also available at the Seminary bookstore:

- James Q. Wilson, *American Government: Brief Version* (Boston: Houghton Mifflin, 2003).

All other readings are available on an e-reserve at Regenstein or on the course website, which can be reached at <https://chalk.uchicago.edu>.

Requirements and Course Grading

Assignments:

Students will complete three written assignments.

- Two Problem Sets (each accounts for 10% of your course grade)
 - #1 distributed in class Jan. 18. Due at the *beginning* of class Jan. 23.
 - #2 distributed in class Feb. 22. Due at the *beginning* of class Feb. 27.
- Brief paper, 3 pages (20%)
 - Topic distributed in class March 1. Due at the *beginning* of class March 6.

Policy on late assignments

Late assignments will be greeted with ill humor. Students will be penalized one grade for each day late (e.g., from B+ to B). The penalty may be relaxed in extenuating circumstances, such as illness or family/personal emergencies. If you must submit an assignment late, contact your TA *before the due date* to make arrangements.

Exams

- Mid-term examination (20%): In class February 6.
- Final examination (40%): Exam week, date to be determined.

Online Survey

Students are required to complete a brief online survey, which can be found on the course Chalk site. Data from the survey will be used to illustrate course material during lectures. The survey must be completed by January 11. Students who fail to complete the survey will have one point deducted from their final course grade.

Lectures

Attendance at the Monday/Wednesday lectures is mandatory. The lectures will cover some material that is not addressed in the assigned readings. Students are responsible for mastery of all material covered in the lectures as well as the readings.

TA Sessions

The purpose of the TA sessions is twofold: to answer student questions regarding the material covered in the lectures and readings, and to facilitate discussion among students of the major substantive issues raised in course. Attendance at TA sessions is recommended but not required. However, if your final course grade is on a borderline (say between A-/B+), participation in TA sessions will be used to determine whether your grade should be “bumped up” to the higher level. In addition, if you have questions about the readings or lectures, I expect you to attend the TA session *before* seeing me in office hours. Office hours are not a substitute for TA sessions.

The schedule for the TA sessions is as follows:

- Thursdays, 1:30 to 2:30pm (Woodlawn Room)
- Thursdays, 2:30 to 3:30pm (Woodlawn Room)
- Fridays, 9:00 to 10:00am (Room 140B)
- Fridays, 10:00 to 11:00am (Room 140B)

Reading Schedule

***Wednesday, Jan 4* Introduction to the Course**

- *Recommended:* Reread Kenneth Shepsle and Mark Bonchek. 1997. *Analyzing Politics*. (New York: Norton). Chapters 3-5. (Assigned last quarter in PEPP.)

***Monday, Jan 9* Spatial Models I: Chaos**

- Charles Stewart. 2001. *Analyzing Congress*. Chapter 1.
- William Riker. 1982. *Liberalism Against Populism: A Confrontation Between the Theory of Democracy and the Theory of Social Choice* (Waveland Press). Chapters 6 and 7.
- *Recommended:* Melvin Hinich and Michael Munger. 1997. *Analytical Politics* (Cambridge). Chapters 3 and 8.
- *Recommended:* William Riker. 1980. "Implications from the Disequilibrium of Majority Rule for the Study of Institutions." *American Political Science Review* (with comments and reply).

***Wednesday, Jan 11* Spatial Models II: Stability**

- Kenneth Shepsle and Barry Weingast. 1981. "Structure-Induced Equilibrium and Legislative Choice." *Public Choice*.
- Kenneth Shepsle. 1989. "Studying Institutions: Some Lessons from the Rational Choice Approach." *Journal of Theoretical Politics*.
- Nicholas Miller. 1983. "Pluralism and Social Choice." *American Political Science Review*.
- *Recommended:* Keith Poole and Howard Rosenthal. 1991. "Patterns of Congressional Voting." *American Political Science Review*.

***Monday, Jan 16* No Class Meeting: Martin Luther King Day**

Wednesday, Jan 18 Voting and Representation

- Bernard Manin, Adam Przeworski, and Susan Stokes. 1999. "Introduction" and "Elections and Representation" in Manin, Przeworski, and Stokes, eds., *Democracy, Accountability, and Representation* (Cambridge University Press).
 - Charles Stewart. 2001. *Analyzing Congress*. Chapters 4 and 5.
 - Kenneth Shepsle and Mark Bonchek. 1997. *Analyzing Politics*. (New York: Norton). Chapter 7.
 - *Recommended*: Loren Lomasky and Geoffrey Brennan. 2000. "Is there a Duty to Vote?" *Social Philosophy and Policy*.
 - *Recommended*: Jonathan Wand, et al. 2001. "The Butterfly Did It: The Aberrant Vote for Buchanan in Palm Beach County, Florida." *American Political Science Review*.
- Reminder: Problem Set 1 distributed today.

Monday, Jan 23 Minority Representation

- Jane Mansbridge. 1999. "Should Blacks Represent Blacks and Women Represent Women? A Contingent 'Yes'" *Journal of Politics*.
 - Lani Guinier. 1995. "The Representation of Minority Interests." In *Classifying by Race*, Paul Peterson, ed. (Princeton University Press).
 - Charles Stewart. 2001. *Analyzing Congress*. Pages 194 - 213.
 - Charles Cameron, David Epstein, and Sharyn O'Halloran. 1996. "Do Majority-Minority Districts Maximize Substantive Black Representation in Congress?" *American Political Science Review*.
- Reminder: Problem Set 1 due today.

Wednesday, Jan 25 Parties I: Why Parties?

- John Aldrich. 1995. *Why Parties?* (The University of Chicago Press). Chapters 1 and 2.
- Anthony Downs. 1957. *An Economic Theory of Democracy* (Addison Wesley). Chapters 7 and 8.

Monday, Jan 30 Parties II: Parties in the Electorate

- Marjorie Randon Hershey. 2005. *Party Politics in America* (Longman, 11th edition). Chapters 6 and 7.
- *Recommended:* Janet Box-Steffensmeier, Suzanna De Boef, and Tse-min Lin. 2004. "The Dynamics of the Partisan Gender Gap." *American Political Science Review*.

Wednesday, Feb 1 Interest Groups: Money, Information, and Influence

- Scott Ainsworth. 2002. *Analyzing Interest Groups* (New York: Norton). Chapters 6 and 9.
- Richard Hall and Frank Wayman. 1990. "Buying Time: Moneyed Interests & Mobilization of Bias in Congressional Committees." *American Political Science Review*.
- Stephen Ansolabehere, John de Figueiredo, and James Snyder. 2003. "Why is There so Little Money in U.S. Politics?" *The Journal of Economic Perspectives*.
- *Recommended:* Gary Becker. 1983. "A Theory of Competition among Pressure Groups for Political Influence." *Quarterly Journal of Economics*.

Monday, Feb 6 Case 1: Polarization in American Politics

- Morris Fiorina. 2005. *Culture War? The Myth of a Polarized America*. Entire.
- Reminder: In-class midterm examination today.

Wednesday, Feb 8 Congress I: Organization

- Charles Stewart. 2001. *Analyzing Congress*. Chapters 7 and 8.
- David King. 1994. "The Nature of Congressional Committee Jurisdictions." *American Political Science Review*.
- Kenneth Shepsle and Barry Weingast. 1994. "Positive Theories of Congressional Institutions." *Legislative Studies Quarterly*.

Monday, Feb 13 Congress II: Process and Politics

- Charles Stewart. 2001. *Analyzing Congress*. Chapter 9.
- Barbara Sinclair. 2000. *Unorthodox Lawmaking: The New Legislative Processes in the U.S. Congress* (CQ Press). Chapters 2 and 3.
- R. Douglas Arnold. 1990. *The Logic of Congressional Action* (Yale University Press). Chapters 6 and 9.
- *Recommended:* Walter Oleszek. 2004. *Congressional Procedures and the Policy Process* (CQ Press). Chapter 2.
- *Recommended:* Calvin Mouw and Michael Mackuen. 1992. "The Strategic Agenda in Legislative Politics." *American Political Science Review*.

Wednesday, Feb 15 Pivotal Politics

- Keith Krehbiel. 1998. *Pivotal Politics* (University of Chicago Press). Chapters 1-3, and 9. Skim chapters 4-8.

Monday, Feb 20 The Executive

- Charles Cameron and Jee-Kwang Park. 2005. "A Primer on the President's Legislative Program," in *Presidential Leadership: The Vortex of Power*, Rockman and Waterman, eds. (Roxbury Press).
- William Howell. 2003. *Power Without Persuasion: The Politics of Direct Presidential Action* (Princeton). Chapters 2 and 4.
- Charles Cameron and Nolan McCarty. 2004. "Models of Vetoes and Veto Bargaining." *Annual Review of Political Science*.
- *Recommended:* Samuel Kernell and Steven Smith. 2004. *Principles and Practices of American Politics* (CQ Press). Chapter 7.

Wednesday, Feb 22 Courts I: Politics

- Jeffrey Segal and Harold Spaeth. 2002. *The Supreme Court and the Attitudinal Model Revisited* (Cambridge). Chapter 1.
- Jeffrey Segal and Harold Spaeth. 1996. "The Influence of *Stare Decisis* on the Votes of U.S. Supreme Court Justices." *American Journal of Political Science*.

- Jack Knight and Lee Epstein. 1996. "The Norm of *Stare Decisis*." *American Journal of Political Science*.
 - Pablo Spiller and Rafael Gely. 1992. "Congressional Control or Judicial Independence? The Determinants of U.S. Supreme Court Labor-Relations Decisions, 1949-1988." *Rand Journal of Economics*.
 - *Recommended*: Kenneth Shepsle. 1992. "Congress Is a 'They' Not an 'It'" *International Review of Law and Economics*.
- Reminder: Problem Set 2 distributed today.

Monday, Feb 27 Courts II: Policy Impact

- Gerald Rosenberg. 1991. *The Hollow Hope: Can Courts Bring About Social Change?* Chapter 1 plus your choice of either Part 1 (Civil Rights, Chapters 2-5) or Part 2 (Abortion and Women's Rights, Chapters 6-9).
 - Michael McCann. 1999. "How the Supreme Court Matters in American Politics: New Institutional Perspectives," in *The Supreme Court in American Politics*, Gillman and Clayton, eds. (Lawrence: University of Kansas Press).
- Reminder: Problem Set 2 due today.

Wednesday, Mar 1 Federalism, State and Local Government

- Robert Inman and Daniel Rubinfeld. 2000. "Federalism," in *The Encyclopedia of Law and Economics*, Bouchaert and DeGeest, eds., Volume V, available online at <http://encyclo.findlaw.com>.
 - Sarah Morehouse and Malcolm Jewell. 2004. "States as Laboratories: A Reprise." *Annual Review of Political Science*.
 - Paul Peterson. 1981. *City Limits* (The University of Chicago Press). Chapters 2, 3, and 6.
- Reminder: Paper topics distributed today.

Monday, Mar 6 Beyond the U.S.

- Kenneth Shepsle and Mark Bonchek. 1997. *Analyzing Politics*. (New York: Norton). Chapter 16.
 - George Tsbelis. 1999. “Veto Players and Law Production in Parliamentary Democracies: An Empirical Analysis.” *The American Political Science Review*.
 - Carles Boix. 1999. “Setting the Rules of the Game: The Choice of Electoral Systems in Advanced Democracies.” *The American Political Science Review*.
 - *Recommended*: Michael Laver. 1997. *Private Desires, Political Action* (London: Sage). Chapters 6 and 7.
- Reminder: Papers due today.

Wednesday, Mar 8 Case 2: Up in Smoke

- Martha Derthick. 2005. *Up in Smoke*. Selections TBA.