

Political Science  
Political Behavior 5073  
Spring 2009

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### COURSE DESCRIPTION

This is a proseminar in political behavior. It examines the nongovernmental side of politics. Specifically, we will study participation, voting behavior, political parties and political protest in the United States. We will look at the concepts and theories which have been developed to explain political behavior, discuss the methodologies which are used to study it and speculate on the changing nature of American politics.

Cell Phones Cell phones should be turned off during class. Cell phones should be put away during examinations and when examinations are being discussed.

Disabilities Any student who has a documented disability that requires special accommodations should contact the Office of Disability Services (581-6583) and the instructor as soon as possible.

### TEXTS

Sidney Verba, Kay Scholzman and Henry Brady, Voice and Equality  
Herb Asher, Presidential Elections and American Politics (5th Edition)  
Sidney Tarrow, Power in Movement (2<sup>nd</sup> Edition)  
Richard Niemi and Herbert Weisberg, Controversies in Voting Behavior, (4th Edition)

Additional assigned reading will be available on electronic reserve and the graduate student office in Coleman Hall. Assigned reading may be taken out over night, but must be signed out and returned by 9 a.m. the next morning.

### Introduction

Niemi and Weisberg, Ch. 1

### Socialization

Dawson, Prewitt and Dawson, Ch. IV and V  
Niemi and Jennings, "Issues and Inheritance in the Formation of Party Identification", AJPS  
1991:970-88

### Participation

Niemi and Weisberg, Ch. 2 and 3  
Verba and Nie, Ch. 4  
Verba, Brady and Scholzman, Ch. 2, 3, 9, 10, 11, 12 and 13

### Public Opinion

Sullivan, Pierson and Marcus, "An Alternate Conceptualization of Political Tolerance", APSR  
73:781-794  
Miller, Arthur, "Political Issues and Trust in Government: 1964-1970." APSR 68: 951-72.

Darren Davis and Brian Silver, "Civil Liberties vs. Security: . . .", AJPS 2004 48:38-46

Mutz and Reeves, "The New Video Malaise: Effects of Televised Incivility on Political Trust", APSR 99: 1-16

#### Voting Behavior

Niemi and Weisberg, Ch. 10, 11, 12, 13

Kramer, Gerald, "Short-Term Fluctuations in U.S. Voting Behavior, 1896-1965," APSR, 71: 131-43.

#### Party id v. Issue Voting

Niemi and Weisberg, Ch. 17, 18 and 20

Asher, Ch. 4

#### Parties, Schlesinger, Ch. 7

#### Presidential/Elections

Asher, Ch. 5, Ch. 6

Schlesinger, Ch. 5

Niemi and Weisberg, Ch. 21 and 23

#### The Influence of Groups on Politics

Niemi and Weisberg, Ch. 22

Verba, Schlozman and Brady, Ch. 8

Ronald Inglehart, Culture Shift, Ch. 2

#### Gender

Box-Steffensmeier, De Boeb and Lin, "The Dynamics of the Partisan Gender Gap", APSR, 98: 515-528

Laura Stoker and Kent Jennings, 1995. "Life-Cycle Transitions and Political Participation: The Curse of Marriage," APSR 89:421-436

#### Class

Everett Ladd and Charles Hadley, Transformation of the American Party System, Ch. 4

Stonecash, Jeffery, Class and American Politics, Appendix

#### Race and Ethnicity

Michael Giles and Melanie Buckner, "David Duke and Black Threat," JOP, 55:702-713

R. Michael Alvarez and Lisa Garcia Bedolla, "The Foundations of Latino Voter Partisanship Evidence from the 2000 Elections," JOP 65:31-49

Bobo, Lawrence and Franklin Gilliam, "Race, Sociopolitical Participation, and Black Empowerment," APSR, 84: 377-393

## Biopolitics

John Alford, Carolyn Funk and John Hibbing, "Are Political Orientations Genetically Transmitted?"

APSR 99L:153-168

Evan Charney, "Genes and Ideologies" Perspectives on Politics 6:299-320.

## Protest

Tarrow, Ch. 1-5

## Oral Presentation of Term Papers

### EVALUATION

|                               |                |
|-------------------------------|----------------|
| Short Data Project            | 15 pts.        |
| Term Paper                    | 50 pts.        |
| Final Examination             | 50 pts.        |
| Bibliography and presentation | <u>15 pts.</u> |
| Total                         | 130 pts.       |

### SHORT DATA ANALYSIS PROJECT

Using data from the 1984, 1988, 1992, 1996, 2000, 2004 or 2006 election studies test four hypothesis which are suggested by the reading for one of the following topics:

- The influence of gender on participation or party choice and/or vote.
- The influence of religion on participation or party choice and/or vote.
- The influence of race on participation or party choice and/or vote..
- The influence of class on participation or party choice and/or vote.
- The influence of group membership on participation or party choice and/or vote.
- The influence of media exposure on participation or party choice and/or vote.
- The influence of family on participation or party choice and/or vote.
- The influence of residence on participation or party choice and/or vote.
- The influence of issues on participation or party choice and/or vote.
- The influence of party on participation and/or voting.
- The influence of ideology on attitudes and/or voting.
- The influence of party and ideology on candidate evaluations.
- Political explanations of tolerance.

You should use either ordinary least squares regression or logit to analyze your data. The project and write-up are not to exceed six typed pages in length. Be certain to type the tables in proper form, attach your computer printout and formally cite relevant literature when you develop your hypothesis.

Use APSA or APA citation style. The project is due on March 5, 2008.

### BIBLIOGRAPHY

Bibliographic citations and summaries of one of the assigned readings are due at the beginning of each class. The bibliographies should be typed and no more than ½ page in length. The reviews may summarize either a chapter or an article which was assigned for the class period. They will be graded and returned at the end of class. No late summaries will be accepted.

## TERM PAPER

- A. Write a data based paper which reviews the substantive literature in a subfield of voting behavior, derives appropriate hypotheses and tests those hypotheses using the 1984, 1988, 1992, 1996, 2000, 2004 or 2008 NES Studies or the 1972, 1973, 2002, 2004 or 2006 GSS Studies, voting behavior studies. This is a more developed version of the data analysis exercise.
- B. Potential Topics for both papers include:
- Has there been a change in the opportunity structure for presidential candidates?
  - Has there been a party realignment in the American South?
  - Has there been a political realignment in the United States?
  - Has there been a party realignment in the Midwest?
  - The influence of religion on politics.
  - The causes of political tolerance and intolerance.
  - The causes of political protest.
  - The effects of changing class structure on political behavior.
  - To what extent have American political attitudes changed over time?
  - The influence of performance in office on candidate evaluations.
  - The social characteristics of minor party voters.
  - The influence of issues on voting.
  - The influence of race on politics in America.
  - The influence of gender on politics in America.
  - The influence of education on political attitudes or behavior.
  - Any other topic previously approved by the instructor.
- C. The paper should be typed, double-spaced and approximately 15 pages excluding references.
- D. The paper should have formal citations and a list of references. APSA or APA style is required.
- E. The paper is due on April 15. You will give a brief in class summary of your paper on April 22.