



Course PSCI 6333, Political and Civic Organizations
Professor Robert Lowry
Term Fall 2018
Meetings Monday 1-3:45 pm, CB 1.214

Professor's Contact Information

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General Course Information

Course Description	<p>Political and civic organizations are the chief vehicles enabling individual citizens to come together and pursue common interests in politics and public life in democracies. The academic political science literature has traditionally focused on political parties and “interest groups,” but in recent years political scientists have focused more of their attention on organizations that are not overtly political, but that nonetheless provide opportunities for civic engagement and the creation of social capital.</p> <p>This course presents an institutional perspective on political parties, interest groups, and other organizations such as labor unions and non-profit organizations that are important actors in political and civic affairs. The emphasis is on their strategic behavior and interactions with government, including both regulation by the state and attempts to influence public decision makers.</p>
Learning Objectives/Outcomes	<p>On completing this course, students should:</p> <ol style="list-style-type: none">1. Understand important theories and controversies regarding the formation, operation and impact of political and civic organizations in the United States.2. Be able to synthesize and critique the academic literature on political and civic organizations.
Required Texts & Materials	<p>The following books are in the bookstore and should be purchased:</p> <p>John H. Aldrich, <i>Why Parties? A Second Look</i>. The University of Chicago Press 2011. 978-0-226-01274-2</p> <p>Seth E. Maskett. <i>The Inevitable Party: Why Attempts to kill the Party System Fail and How they Weaken Democracy</i>. Oxford University Press 2016. 978-0-19-060844-6</p> <p>Frank R. Baumgartner, Jeffrey M. Berry, Marie Hojnacki, David C. Kimball, and Beth L. Leech, <i>Lobbying and Policy Change: Who Wins, Who Loses, and Why</i>. University of Chicago Press 2009. 978-0-226-</p>

	<p>03945-9</p> <p>The following books are available at the bookstore, but are also available as e-books through the UTD Library website:</p> <p>Raymond J. La Raja, <i>Small Change: Money, Political Parties and Campaign Finance Reform</i>. University of Michigan Press 2008. 978-0-472-05028-4</p> <p>Matt Grossman, <i>The Not-so-Special Interests: Interest Groups, Public Representation, and American Governance</i>. Stanford University Press 2012. 978-0-8047-8116-9</p> <p>The remainder of the readings are listed and numbered at the end of the syllabus and are available through the UTD Library website or the course eLearning page.</p>
<p>Suggested Texts, Readings, & Materials</p>	<p>Students who have not had an undergraduate course on political parties in the U.S. may want to get a copy of a text such as Marjorie Randon Hershey, <i>Party Politics in America</i>. Routledge, 17th ed. 2017.</p>

Assignments & Academic Calendar

Date	Topic(s)	Assignment*
Aug. 20	Course Introduction	
Aug. 27	What's a party? Party formation in the U.S.	Aldrich ch. 1-5
Sept. 3	No class – Labor Day	
Sept. 10	Evolution of U.S. parties	Aldrich ch. 6-9, [1]
Sept. 17	Reforming State Party Systems	Masket
Sept. 24	Parties and Money	La Raja ch. 1-5 [2]
Oct. 1	More on Parties	[3]-[8] Paper research questions due
Oct. 8	Midterm Exam	
Oct. 15	Mobilizing interests I	[9], Grossman Intro, ch. 4-6, conclusion
Oct. 22	Mobilizing interests II	[10]-[15]
Oct. 29	Lobbying & influence I	Baumgartner et al., ch. 1-8 & Appendix
Nov. 5	Lobbying & influence II Student presentations	Baumgartner et al., ch. 9-12
Nov. 12	Student presentations	
Nov. 19	No Class – Thanksgiving	
Nov. 26	More on interest groups & influence	[16]-[20]
Dec. 3	Nonprofit organizations and labor unions	[21]-[25] Take-home exam distributed; Papers due

* Numbers in brackets refer to readings listed at the end of the syllabus.

Course Policies

Grading Criteria	<p>In addition to weekly readings and discussion, there will be an in-class midterm exam on <u>October 8</u> a take-home exam handed out on the last day of class and due <u>December 10</u> (Monday) and a paper due <u>December 3</u>. Paper topics are due <u>October 1</u>. Students will make in-class presentations on their paper projects <u>November 5 or 12</u>. See page 4 of this syllabus for additional notes on papers.</p> <p>Course grades will be based on the following weights:</p> <table data-bbox="467 594 824 762"> <tr> <td>Class participation</td> <td>20%</td> </tr> <tr> <td>Midterm exam</td> <td>25</td> </tr> <tr> <td>Take-home final</td> <td>25</td> </tr> <tr> <td>In-class presentation</td> <td>5</td> </tr> <tr> <td>Paper</td> <td>25</td> </tr> </table>	Class participation	20%	Midterm exam	25	Take-home final	25	In-class presentation	5	Paper	25
Class participation	20%										
Midterm exam	25										
Take-home final	25										
In-class presentation	5										
Paper	25										
Late Work	<p>Make-up midterm exams will be allowed only if you provide documentation of a family or medial excuse. Late term papers will be penalized 20 % for each day they are late, including weekends.</p>										
Class Attendance and Participation	<p>Attendance is expected, and unexcused absences will affect your class participation score. Students are expected to do the assigned readings before class and come prepared to discuss them.</p>										
University Policies	<p>Additional UTD policies regarding student conduct and discipline, campus carry, academic integrity, email use, withdrawing from class, grievance procedures, incomplete grades, disability services, religious holy days, and resources to help you succeed can be found at http://coursebook.utdallas.edu/syllabus-policies/.</p>										

These descriptions and timelines are subject to change at the discretion of the Professor.

Notes on the Term Paper

For the term paper, you have the choice of writing a critical analysis of the literature, a case study, or a design for an empirical research project. A one-page statement of your proposed research question and type of paper is due in class October 1. Presentations of work-in-progress will occur in class November 5 or 12. Final papers are due December 3. Papers should not exceed 15 double-spaced pages of text and footnotes (minimum 11-point font), plus a list of references and any appendices, tables or figures.

Below are a few thoughts on each of the options:

Critical Analysis

A critical analysis of the literature is not just a summary. The goal is to draw on existing research to analyze and answer an important question about political or civic organizations.

The paper should start by identifying a research question and explaining why it is important. Examples of the kinds of questions that might be addressed include:

- What are the effects of “dark money” on political campaigns and policy?
- Should public sector unions be allowed to charge agency fees and engage in collective bargaining?
- What are the barriers to third parties in the United States? Should any of them be changed?
- Is the ‘top two’ primary system adopted by California and Washington a good idea?

It should then summarize existing research that is relevant to the question, identify the strengths and weaknesses of different arguments, and seek to come to a conclusion. If further research is required on a specific topic in order to answer the larger question, identify the topic and state how the answer could influence your final conclusion.

Case Study

A case study seeks to answer a research question through a detailed examination of one (or perhaps more) real political systems or events. Interesting case studies often are those that test a theory by applying it to a situation where it may seem counterintuitive, or explain why some cases may be exceptions to the general rule.

A well-written case study must do at least two things in addition to analyzing the case itself: (1) explain why the case to be studied is an interesting and important one for the development of research and political and civic organizations; (2) address the issue of generalizability. Is this a “representative” case that gives us insights into other situations and if so, how do you define the population that this case represents? Is it an exceptional case and if so, how does it limit the extent to which the theory can be generalized?

It is often useful to contrast two or more cases that represent different variations, but the tradeoff is that the more cases you address, the less detail you can present on each one.

A few possible topics:

- How does interest group XXX determine its agenda and public policy positions?

- Does the success of Donald Trump disprove theories of political parties developed by John Aldrich and the UCLA crowd?

Empirical Research Design

The goal for this option is to develop a plan that could be used to conduct an original, empirical investigation. It should include the following elements:

1. A statement of the research question. Why is it an interesting/important question? What contribution will be made to the academic literature or contemporary policy debates?
2. A brief summary of previous research on this question.
3. One or more testable hypotheses to be explored. Explain the reasoning behind each hypothesis.
4. Identification of the relevant dependent, independent, and control variables to be studied.
5. A plan for operationalizing key variables and collecting data.
6. Identification of techniques for analyzing the data and testing the hypotheses, to the extent you can.
7. Discussion of problems that you might encounter.

The project should be one that a graduate student might actually complete. Possible research questions might include:

- Do differences in state regulations regarding lobbying impact public policy?
- Does interest group participation in administrative rulemaking influence outcomes?
- Does the extent to which political candidates represent different people with different incomes (see Rigby and Wright) depend on state campaign finance laws?

Style

The paper should begin with a short (no more than 150 words) abstract.

Papers should be well organized and use subheadings to denote major sections.

Pages should be numbered.

You don't have to use either footnotes or endnotes, but if you do I prefer footnotes.

For citation style, consult "The Chicago Manual of Style Online" (http://www.chicagomanualofstyle.org/tools_citationguide.html) and use the author-date system.

Additional Readings

Readings labeled **eBook** can be found through the library website by searching for the journal or book title in the catalog. **eLearning** indicates that a link is posted there. All others can be found by searching for the journal on the library website.

- [1] Kathleen Bawn, Martin Cohen, David Karol, Seth Masket, Hans Noel, and John Zaller. 2012. "A Theory of Political Parties: Groups, Policy Demands and Nominations in American Politics." *Perspectives on Politics*, 10(September): 571-597.
- [2] Raymond J. La Raja. 2013. "Richer Parties, Better Politics? Party-Centered Campaign Finance Laws and American Democracy." *The Forum: A Journal of Applied Research on Contemporary Politics* 11(October): 313-338.
- [3] Theda Skocpol and Alexander Hertel-Fernandez. 2016. "The Koch Network and Republican Party Extremism" *Perspectives on Politics* 14(September) 681-699
- [4] Eric McGhee and Boris Shor, 2017. "Has the Top Two Primary Elected More Moderates?" *Perspectives on Politics* 15(December):1053-1066
- [5] Shigeo Hirano and James M. Snyder, Jr. 2007. "The Decline of Third-Party Voting in the United States." *The Journal of Politics* 69(February): 1-16.
- [6] John H. Aldrich and Daniel J. Lee. 2016. "Why Two Parties? Ambition, Policy and the Presidency." *Political Science Research and Methods* 4(May): 275-292.
- [7] Elizabeth Rigby and Gerald C. Wright. 2013. "Political Parties and Representation of the Poor in the American States." *American Journal of Political Science* 57(July): 552-565.
- [8] Devin Caughey, Christopher Warshaw, and Yiqing Xu. 2017. "Incremental Democracy: The Policy Effects of Partisan Control of State Government." *The Journal of Politics* 79(October):1342-1358
- [9] Mancur Olson. 1971. "The 'By-Product' and 'Special Interest' Theories." In *The Logic of Collective Action: Public Goods and the Theory of Groups*, 132-168. Cambridge, MA: Harvard University Press. **eLearning**
- [10] John R. Wright. 2003. "The History, Organization and Regulation of Interest Groups." In *Interest Groups and Congress: Lobbying, Contributions, and Influence*, 9-36. Longman. **eLearning**
- [11] Kay Lehman Schlozman, Philip Edward Jones, Hye Young You, Traci Burch, Sidney Verba, and Henry E. Brady. 2015. "Organizations and the Democratic Representation of Interests: What Does It Mean When Those Organizations Have No Members?" *Perspectives on Politics* 13(December): 1017-1029.
- [12] Robert C. Lowry.2013. "Mobilizing Money: Political Action Committees and Political Participation." *American Politics Research*. 41(September):839-862.

- [13] Terry M. Moe. 2011. "The Rise of Teachers Unions." In *Special Interest: Teachers Unions and America's Public Schools*, 26-65. Washington, DC: Brookings Institution Press. **eBook**
- [14] Alexander Hertel-Fernandez. 2018. "Policy Feedback as Political Weapon: Conservative Advocacy and the Demobilization of the Public Sector Labor Movement." *Perspectives on Politics* 16(June) 364-379
- [15] Daniel Chand. 2015. "Anonymous Money in Campaigns: Is Sunlight the Best Disinfectant?" *The Forum: A Journal of Applied Research on Contemporary Politics* 13(July): 269-288.
- [16] Richard L. Hall and Frank Wayman. 1990. "Buying Time: Moneyed Interests and the Mobilization of Bias in Congressional Committees." *American Political Science Review* 84(November): 797-820.
- [17] Wendy L. Hansen, Michael S. Rocca and Brittany Leigh Ortiz. 2015. "The Effects of *Citizens United* on Corporate Spending in the 2012 Presidential Election." *The Journal of Politics* 77(April):535-545.
- [18] Alexander Fourinaies and Andre B. Hall. 2018. "How Do Interest Groups Seek Access to Committees?" *American Journal of Political Science* 62(January): 132-147
- [19] Andrew B. Hall. 2016. "Systemic Effects of Campaign Spending: Evidence from Corporate Contribution Bans in US State Legislatures." *Political Science Research and Methods* 4(May): 343-359.
- [20] Susan M. Miller, Christopher Witko, and Neal D. Woods. 2018. "How the Unorganized Mass Public (Sometimes) Gets Represented in Regulatory Politics." *Political Research Quarterly* 71(March):88-101.
- [21] Jeffrey M. Berry with David F. Arons. 2003. "Nonprofits as Interest Groups" and "The Regulation of Lobbying." In *A Voice for Nonprofits*, 24-65. Washington, DC: Brookings Institution Press. **eBook**
- [22] Kristin A. Goss (editor). 2016. "Why Political Scientists Should Study Organized Philanthropy." *PS: Political Science and Politics* 49(July): 433-471.
- [23] Jan E. Leighley and Jonathan Nagler. 2007. "Unions, Voter Turnout, and Class Bias in the U.S. Electorate, 1964-2004." *The Journal of Politics* 69(May): 430-441.
- [24] Sarah F. Anzia and Terry M. Moe. 2015. "Public Sector Unions and the Costs of Government." *The Journal of Politics* 77(January):114-127.
- [25] Sung Eun Kim and Yotam Margalit. 2017. "Informed Preferences? The Impact of Unions on Workers' Policy Views" *American Journal of Political Science* 61(July) 728-743