Course Overview: Society is full of groups with competing interests based on occupation, class, religion, race, gender, sexuality, ideology, etc. Competing theories exist on how well these interests are represented in the American political system. Pluralists argue that competing interests mean that no one group dominates the political process. Others maintain that some groups have greater influence in the political system than others. This course is intended to provide students with an introduction to interest groups, social movements, and political parties. As students engage the course materials each week, they should consider the following themes: What are the similarities and differences between types of organized interests? How do organized interests influence the policy process? Are some interests better represented than others? Are some types of organized interests more influential in the political process than others? What, if any, efforts are necessary to protect against “special” or dominate interests?

By course’s end, students should have a comprehensive introduction to organized interests in American politics. They should also be able to engage in central debates concerning the influence of interest groups, social movements, and political parties on policy formation and implementation using evidence grounded in fact and scientific research methods. Finally, students should develop the analytical skills necessary to process and critically evaluate political information, behavior, and opinions.

Required Materials
Students are required to purchase:

I will upload to the TritonEd course website any readings that are not easily accessible online. You are expected to complete the readings before coming to class.

Course Evaluation
Grades will be calculated as follows:
- Think Pieces (5 total, at least 2 submitted before Midterm) 10%
- Discussion Questions (5 total for 1% each) 5%
- Participation 20%
- Midterm Exam 30%
- Final Exam 35%
Assignments

• **Think Pieces** – You are required to submit 5 short papers (250-500) during the quarter. You may only submit one think piece per week and at least 2 must be submitted before the midterm exam. These short assignments should not be a summary of the readings, but it should be clear from the paper that the course materials were read. Each 250-500 word short paper should: (1) include a thesis statement in the first paragraph, (2) analyze the argument, evidence, methods or implications of at least one reading that has yet to be discussed in class, and (3) connect the reading with at least one other reading, a current event, or political phenomenon. I recommend that you write these think pieces to help you think about the questions in the course description. The think pieces are due to TritonEd by midnight before the reading is discussed during class.

• **Discussion Questions** – On weeks that you do not submit a think piece, you must submit a question to TritonEd. The question can be a clarification question or it can be a discussion question regarding a topic you would like to be addressed during class. The questions must be submitted by midnight before class.

• **Participation** – Participation by every student is integral for the success of the course. We will learn not only from the course material, but also from our diverse perspectives and experiences. Throughout the course, I will give you in-class assignments that will contribute to your participation grade. Missing class frequently will hurt your participation grade.

• **Midterm Exam** – The midterm will assess your understanding of course concepts. Questions for the exam will be drawn from the readings and information presented during class. The midterm will consist of multiple choice, short answer, and identification questions. It is intended to gauge your understanding of all material from lectures, discussions, and readings.

• **Final Exam** – The final exam will be given on Friday, December 14, 2018 from 8:00 am to 11:00 am. Bring a blue book. In the final exam, you will be asked to apply what you have learned in the course to answer questions about organized interests in the United States. The final is cumulative. Your course readings, discussions, and assignments will help you prepare for the final.

Late Assignments and Make-Up Exams: Think pieces and questions will not receive credit if late. There are three days most weeks to submit these assignments. So, plan accordingly. A make-up exam will only be granted under extraordinary circumstances and only with proper written documentation (e.g., doctors note). Please contact me as soon as possible so that we can make arrangements.

Grade Grievances: Any requests for a grade change must be submitted to me within 72 hours of your receiving the graded assignment. The written request must be typed and no longer than one page long. Your request for grade reconsideration should include a detailed explanation with evidence from course materials. I will review the entire assignment to determine whether the grade should be increased, decreased, or remain the same.

Academic Integrity: Any violation of UCSD’s academic integrity policy will result in failing this class. The policy can be consulted here: [http://senate.ucsd.edu/Operating-Procedures/Senate-Manual/Appendices/2](http://senate.ucsd.edu/Operating-Procedures/Senate-Manual/Appendices/2).
Sexual Misconduct/Title IX Statement: UC San Diego prohibits sexual violence and sexual harassment and will respond promptly to reports of misconduct. If you wish to speak confidentially about an incident of sexual misconduct, please contact CARE at the Sexual Assault Resources Center at (858) 534-5793. Students should be aware that faculty members are considered responsible employees and are not a confidential resource; as such, if you disclose an incident of sexual misconduct to a faculty member, they have an obligation to report it to UC San Diego’s Title IX office, the Office for the Prevention of Harassment & Discrimination (OPHD). To learn more about sexual misconduct, visit: https://students.ucsd.edu/sponsor/sarc/index.html. To report an incident to the University, please contact OPHD at ophd@ucsd.edu

Course Readings

Part I: Foundations and Perspectives
Fri, Sept 28 – Course Introduction

Mon, Oct. 1 – Foundations of Organized Interests
- Madison, James. 1787. “Federalist 10.” [link]

Wed, Oct. 3 – Definitions and Perspectives
- Lowery and Brasher, Chapter 1

Fri, Oct. 5 – Pluralism
- Lowery and Brasher (pgs. 29-31)
- Truman, David B. 1951. Excerpt from The Governmental Process

Mon. Oct. 8 – Elistism/Transactions Theory
- Lowery and Brasher (pgs. 32-37)

Wed, Oct. 10 – Neopluralism
- Baumgartner, Frank and Bryan Jones. Excerpt from Agendas and Instability in American Politics pp. 517-528
- Lowery and Brasher (pgs. 37-45)
**Part II: Interest Groups and Social Movements**

Friday, Oct. 12 – Interest Organization Mobilization, Part I
- Review Lowery and Brasher, Chapter 1
- Lowery and Brasher, Chapter 2 (pp 29-45)

Mon, Oct. 15 – Interest Organization Mobilization, Part II

Wed, Oct. 17 – Social Movement Mobilization

Fri, Oct. 19 – The Who and Why of Participation
- Excerpt from Rosenstone and Hansen (American Politics Reader pp. 351-368)

Mon, Oct. 22 – Who participates in social movements?

Wed, Oct. 24 – Organization Maintenance
- Lowery and Brasher, Chapter 2 (pp 49-65)

Fri, Oct. 26 – Interest Community Density and Diversity
- Lowery and Brasher, Chapter 3 (pp. 70-103)

Mon, Oct. 29 – Midterm

Wed, Oct. 31 – Political Process Model of Social Movements
Fri, Nov. 2 – Interest Community Bias Part I

Mon, Nov. 5 – Interest Community Bias Part II

Wed, Nov. 7 – Organized Interests and the Public
- Lowery and Brasher, Chapter 4 (pp. 108-118)

Fri, Nov. 9 – Inside and Outside Lobbying
- Kollman, Ken, Excerpt from *Outside Lobbying* pp. 404-418

Mon, Nov. 12 – Veteran’s Day Holiday

**Part III: Political Parties**

Wed, Nov. 14 – Interest Organizations and Political Parties
- Lowery and Brasher, Chapter 4 (pp. 118-142)

Fri, Nov. 16 – Political Parties and Interest Organizations

Mon, Nov. 19 – What is a Political Party? Part I

Wed, Nov. 21 – No Class

Mon, Nov. 26 – What is a Political Party? Part II

Wed, Nov. 28 – Sources of Economic Biases in Political Parties
- McCarty, Poole, and Rosenthal, excerpt from *Polarized America: The Dance of Ideology and Unequal Rights*, pp. 474-490

Fri, Nov. 30 – Interest Organizations and The Legislature
- Lowery and Brasher, Chapter 5
Mon, Dec. 3 – Interest Organization Influence

Wed, Dec. 5 – Social Movements and Political Parties

Fri, Dec. 7 – Reforms
- Lowery and Brasher, Chapter 8

**Final Exam – Friday, December 14 (8:00 am – 11:00 am)**