POLI 100V – Organized Interests in American Politics: Interest Groups, Social Movements, and Political Parties
Fall 2019
MWF 11:00 - 11:50am
York Hall, Room 4080A

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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?

Course Learning Outcomes: 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: David Lowery and Holly Brasher (2004), Organized Interests and American Government, Waveland Press, Inc.
- Many reading materials are accessible online via www.libraries.ucsd.edu. I will upload to the Canvas 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:

- Weekly Assignments 15%
  - Think Pieces (5 total, 2% each)
    - at least 2 must be submitted before Midterm
  - Discussion Questions (5 total, 1% each)
- Participation 20%
- Midterm Exam 30%
- Final Exam 35%

Assignments

- Weekly Assignments: There are 10 weekly assignments to be completed during the course. The weekly assignments are meant to prepare you for class discussions so the weekly assignments must be completed the night before class. Submit each weekly assignment by clicking on the assignment in the Weekly Assignments content folder in Canvas. Only one weekly assignment can be submitted each week.
  - Think Pieces – You are required to submit 5 short papers (250-500) during the quarter. You may only submit one think piece per week. Think Piece #1 and #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 Canvas by 7pm the night before the reading is discussed during class.
  - Questions – On weeks that you do not submit a think piece, you must submit a question to Canvas. The question can be a clarification question on something you read or that we’ve discussed in class. I may also be a discussion question regarding a topic you would like to be addressed during an upcoming class. The questions must be submitted by 7pm the night 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. I may also randomly call on students throughout the course to ensure that everyone has the opportunity to participate during class. Active participation will increase your engagement, reinforce learning, and allow you to learn from each other. 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 is intended to gauge your understanding of all material from lectures, discussions, and readings.

- Final Exam – The final exam will be given on Tuesday, December 10, 2018 from 11:30 am to 2:30 pm. Bring a blue book. 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 when I distribute the graded assignments back to the class. 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.

Accommodations: Students requesting accommodations for this course due to a disability must provide a current Authorization for Accommodation (AFA) letter issued by the Office for Students with Disabilities (https://osd.ucsd.edu/). Students are required to discuss accommodation arrangements with instructors and OSD liaisons in the department well in advance of any exams or assignments. The OSD Liaison for the Department of Political Science is Joanna Peralta; please connect with her via in-person advising (SSB 301) or the Virtual Advising Center as soon as possible.

Academic Integrity: Any violation of UCSD’s academic integrity policy will be formally reported to the Academic Integrity Office. The policy can be consulted here: 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 27 – Course Introduction

Mon, Sep. 30 – Foundations of Organized Interests
  https://www.congress.gov/resources/display/content/The+Federalist+Papers#TheFederalistPapers-10
Wed, Oct. 2 – Definitions and Perspectives
- Lowery and Brasher, Chapter 1

Fri, Oct. 4 – Pluralism
- Lowery and Brasher (pgs. 29-31)
- Truman, David B. 1951. Excerpt from The Governmental Process

Mon. Oct. 7 – Elistism/Transactions Theory
- Lowery and Brasher (pgs. 32-37)

Wed, Oct. 9 – Neopluralism
- Lowery and Brasher (pgs. 37-45)

Part II: Interest Groups and Social Movements

Friday, Oct. 11 – Interest Organization Mobilization, Part I
- Review Lowery and Brasher, Chapter 1
- Lowery and Brasher, Chapter 2 (pp 29-45)

Mon, Oct. 14 – Social Movement Mobilization

Wed, Oct. 16 – The Who and Why of Participation
- Excerpt from Rosenstone and Hansen (American Politics Reader pp. 351-368)

Fri, Oct. 18 – Interest Organization Mobilization, Part II
Mon, Oct. 21 – Who participates in social movements?


Wed, Oct. 23 – Organization Maintenance

- Lowery and Brasher, Chapter 2 (pp 49-65)

Fri, Oct. 25 – Interest Community Bias

- Lowery and Brasher, Chapter 3 (pp. 70-103)

Mon, Oct. 28 – Midterm

Wed, Oct. 30 – Political Process Model of Social Movements


Fri, Nov. 1 – Interest Community Bias


Mon, Nov. 4 – Organized Interests and the Public

- Lowery and Brasher, Chapter 4 (pp. 108-118)

Wed, Nov. 6 – Inside and Outside Lobbying

- Kollman, Ken, Excerpt from Outside Lobbying pp. 404-418

Fri, Nov. 8 – Lobbying Effectiveness and Strategies (Guest lecture)


Mon, Nov. 11 – Veteran’s Day Holiday, No Class
Part III: Political Parties
Wed, Nov. 13 – Interest Organizations and Political Parties
• Lowery and Brasher, Chapter 4 (pp. 118-142)

Fri, Nov. 15 – Political Parties and Interest Organizations

Mon, Nov. 18 – What is a Political Party? Part I

Wed, Nov. 20 – What is a Political Party? Part II

Fri, Nov. 22 – 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

Mon, Nov. 35 – Interest Organizations and The Legislature
• Lowery and Brasher, Chapter 5

Wed, Nov. 27 – No Class

Mon, Dec. 2 – Interest Organization Influence

Wed, Dec. 4 – Social Movements and Political Parties
Fri, Dec. 6 – Reforms
  • Lowery and Brasher, Chapter 8

Final Exam – Tuesday, December 10, 2018 (11:30am to 2:30pm)