Political Science 100DA
M W F 3:00 – 3:50 Pepper Canyon 122
Professor Samuel Popkin (spopkin@ucsd.edu)
Office Hours: SSB 396, Friday 11:00 – 1:00
Will Hobbs, SSB 345, Friday 12:45 – 2:45

Course Outline and Reading Assignments

The grade for this course is based on take-home mid-term and final exams. Each exam will consist of two three-page papers. The paper topics will be chosen to assess your ability to integrate and synthesize the readings and lectures into a lucid, clearly stated argument backed by the readings.

Laptops may not be used during class. Ample research shows that “The Pen is mightier than the sword” when it comes to comprehension and learning. Using your own words to rephrase and distill the lecture requires active engagement with the material while transcribing the discussion requires little or no mental processing. Students with a medical accommodation should speak with me after class.

Reading Assignments. All articles assigned are available in advance of the lecture as downloads at pscourses.ucsd.edu/ps100da The first readings are already posted. Download the articles as soon as possible. Until you have downloaded them, you are vulnerable to unexpected outages, server crashes, and troubles with your on- and off-campus connections.

Required Book:

Samuel L. Popkin, The Candidate: What it Takes to Win – and Hold – the White House (also available as an e-book from Amazon). Note: The book is not is not assigned until Week 6, and will be in stock before then at UCSD Bookstore.

Both the midterm and final exams will require you to be familiar with the Republican and Democratic politicians expected to be candidates in the 2016 presidential election. The midterm exam questions will require you to develop a strategy for one of the major Republican primary contenders and the final exam will require you to develop a strategy for the race between the (hypothetical) Democratic and Republican nominees. You do not need detailed knowledge of all the issues but you should follow the races in a newspaper like The New York Times, Washington Post or Wall Street Journal online; in a magazine like The Economist, or at Politico.com

Maintaining Academic Integrity: By taking this course, students agree that all required papers will be subject to submission for textual similarity review to Turnitin.com for the detection of plagiarism. All submitted papers will be included as source documents in the Turnitin.com reference database solely for the purpose of detecting plagiarism of such papers. Use of the Turnitin.com service is subject to the terms of use agreement posted on the Turnitin.com site.

Reading Assignments

Each lecture will cover the readings assigned for that day. The questions following each day’s readings have been chosen to help you integrate the readings with the lectures.
Week One

Monday January 5

Shirky 2014, Why I Just Asked My Students to Put Their Laptops Away,
Popkin 1994, The Reasoning Voter, Prologue, Chapter 1
[Sociological, psychological and economic contributions to voting theory. How is choosing a candidate different from choosing a PC or buying Jeans?

Wednesday January 7

Lupia 2006, How Elitism Undermines the Study of Voter Competence,
Reread Popkin The Reasoning Voter, Chapter 1;
[How competent are voters?]

Friday January 9

Lupia and Mccubbins 1998, The Democratic Dilemma, Chapter 3, How People Learn from Others
[From whom can voters learn? When can we learn from our enemies?]

Week Two

Monday January 12

[When will people spend time gathering information about politics and government?]

Wednesday January 14

Hamilton 2007, News That Sells: Media Competition and News Content,
[Where are people spending their leisure time and why does it matter? What kind of news is available?]}

Friday January 16

Popkin 2007, Changing Media and Changing Political Organization,
[How do changes in media affect what voters learn? How do politicians react to changes in media? Is the internet as important a change in politics as were printing presses, the telegraph, radio, or television?]
Week Three

Monday January 19

Popkin 1994, The Reasoning Voter, Chapter 3, Going Without Data: Information Shortcuts

[What information shortcuts do voters use about political parties and candidates?]

Wednesday January 21

Williamson, Skocpol and Coggin 2011, The Tea Party and the Remaking of Republican Conservatism,

Tesler 2012, The Spillover of Racialization into Health Care: How President Obama Polarized Public Opinion by Racial Attitudes and Race,

[Was Racialization of Healthcare avoidable?]

[Why is the Tea Party so influential if it is unpopular? How can a candidate win a presidential nomination without making it nearly impossible to win in November]

Friday January 23

Popkin 1994, The Reasoning Voter, Chapter 4, Going beyond the Data

Fiske, Cuddy and Glick 2007, Universal Dimensions of Social Cognition,

[Why do candidate biographies get so much coverage and attention? How do we incorporate information and assemble narratives about candidates and government?]

Week Four

Monday January 26

Popkin 1994, The Reasoning Voter, Chapter 5, Attributable Benefits and Political Symbols

Wednesday January 28

Brader, Valentino and Suhay 2008, What Triggers Public Opposition to Immigration,

Hajnal and Rivera 2014, Immigration, Latinos, and White Partisan Politics: The New Democratic Defection,
Friday January 30

Bidinotto 1988, Getting Away with Murder,

Note: The Willie Horton video that will be discussed in class is available on YouTube.

Toure ́2011, The Most Racist Thing That Ever Happened to Me,

[When does ‘Race baiting gain votes? When do parties try to make an issue a “taboo topic”?]

Week Five

Monday February 2

Kam and Kinder 2007, Terror and Ethnocentrism; Glenn 2004, On Death and Voting, “;

[How do terrorism and fear change perceptions of leaders?]

Wednesday February 4

Stephens-Davidowitz 2012, Google’s Crystal Ball,

Midterm Handed Out: Due at beginning of class February 9

Friday February 6

No Class – additional office hours that afternoon

Week Six

Monday February 9

Midterms due beginning of class

Two videos will be shown

Wednesday February 11

Fallows 2012, Ask Dr. Popkin: The Three Myths of the Romney Campaign,

Fallows 2012, Ask Dr. Popkin: Gay Marriage,

Popkin 2007, Public Opinion and Collective Obligations,

[How objective are politicians when they explain a defeat for their party?]

Friday February 13

Popkin 2012, The Candidate, Prologue; Chapter 1 "Campaign Juggling"
Week Seven

Monday February 16

No Class – Presidents Day

Wednesday February 18


[How do the hurdles facing challengers and successors differ? Why is a candidate’s last war a bad guide for this war?]

Friday February 20

Popkin 2012, The Candidate, Chapter 3, "Challengers: The Search for an Experienced Virgin"

[What are the main differences between the advantages and disadvantages of Senators and Governors? Who will the “right enemies” be for Republican candidates in 2016?]

Week Eight

Monday February 23

Popkin 2012, The Candidate, Chapter 5, "Incumbents: Regicide or More of the Same"

[How can presidents take advantage of divided government for the benefit of their party? How can leaders of the other party sabotage rivals in their party?]

Wednesday February 25

Toobin 2014, The Absolutist: Ted Cruz Is an Unyielding Debater—and the Far Right’s Most Formidable Advocate,

Campbell and Kay 2014, Solution Aversion: On the Relation between Ideology and Motivated Disbelief,

Lizza 2013, Where the G.O.P.’s Survival Caucus Lives,

[Why would a politician vote “no” and pray “yes” wins on important legislation?]

Friday February 27

Popkin 2012, The Candidate, Chapter 7, "Successors: Lapdogs or Leaders?"
Week Nine

Monday March 2

Sheehan 1995, Ain't No Middle Class,
Sheehan 1996, Kid, Twelve,
[Your final exam will have a compulsory question in which you devise a strategy
focusing on these two families in a presidential primary.]

Wednesday March 4

Popkin 2012, The Candidate, Chapter 4, "The Challenger who Couldn't Lose: Hillary
Clinton in 2008"

Friday March 6

Gore in 2008"

Week Ten

Monday March 9

Cook and Lewandowsky 2012, The Debunking Handbook,
Rogers and Norton 2011, The Artful Dodger,

Wednesday March 11

Final Exam Handed Out
Due 3:00 PM March 18

Friday March 13

No class: additional office hours
Bibliography


Tesler, Michael (2012). "The Spillover of Racialization into Health Care: How President