

**POLS 5703: Pro-Seminar in American Politics**  
Oklahoma State University  
Fall 2019  
Wednesdays  
4:30-7:10 pm  
Murray Hall 227

**I. Instructor Information**

Instructor: Dr. Joshua Jansa  
Email: joshua.jansa@okstate.edu  
Office Location: Murray Hall 233  
Office Hours: Monday & Wednesday 2:30-4  
Office Phone: 405-744-0420

**II. Course Overview**

This course introduces students to the scientific study of American politics. The course is a survey which will expose students to some of the seminal works in the field, as well as current research on important topics. Students will leave with a better understanding of the major theories and approaches to answering prominent political questions. Through discussion with one another, we will learn about the field of American politics in a collaborative and constructive environment.

**III. Assignments and Grading**

Your grade for the course will be determined in the following way:

Participation:	20%
Reaction Papers:	20%
Mock Comp 1:	30%
Mock Comp 2:	30%

*Participation*

Since this course is a seminar, class time will be devoted to discussions of the readings. Lectures by the instructor will be kept to a minimum. Instead, the instructor will help facilitate discussion and place the readings in a broader context. Each student should be prepared to discuss each of the assigned readings every week. Excellent participation includes *regularly* making comments that demonstrate that you've completed the readings and are making an effort to have a productive conversation. If you are called upon and are unprepared, your participation points will be negatively affected. You should not expect to earn an A on participation just by showing up.

To help spur participation each week, you will be expected to post one discussion question about the readings on the course website discussion page. You should do this

every week for full points. These should be posted by 10 PM on the Tuesday before class to allow the discussion leader time to organize.

You will be assigned as a discussion leader for at least one of the weeks. Discussion leaders should 1) post five discussion questions on the course discussion page, 2) come to class ready to provide a brief overview of the topic for the week, and 3) be responsible for facilitating class discussion by asking questions.

Together, your regular participation and service as discussion leader will count as 20% of your course grade.

### *Reaction Papers*

For two of the weeks (and not the same weeks you are discussion leader), you will be expected to write a short reaction paper. Papers should critique either the theoretical or methodological approaches of the readings by answering the following questions:

1. What are the major theoretical perspectives for this topic?
2. What are the strengths and weaknesses of these perspectives?
3. What is an important change to the theoretical perspective that future work should consider?

OR

1. What are the strengths and weaknesses of the methodological approaches?
2. To what degree are the substantive conclusions dependent upon the methods employed?
3. What methods would you use to study this topic?

Papers should be formatted as follows:

- Double spaced
- Times New Roman font
- 12-point font
- 1 inch margins
- 4-pages long
- APSA citation style
- Reference page does not count towards length

These are due by 10 PM on the Tuesday before class.

### *Mock Comprehensive Exams*

You will be given two mock comprehensive exams. These will simulate what you would encounter in a PhD program in political science. I will provide a set of essay questions electronically. You will choose two of the questions to answer. You will have a certain amount of time to submit your answers back to me. Each exam is worth 30% of your

grade. The exam will be your opportunity to demonstrate your understanding of the subjects covered, your ability to tie the topics together, and your ability to support your conclusions with the literature assigned. Mock Comp #1 will be during in mid-October. Mock Comp #2 will be during finals week.

### *Grade Scale*

The following grading scale will be used for assigning final letter grades:

A = 90.00 – 100.00

B = 80.00 – 89.99

C = 70.00 – 79.99

D = 60.00 – 69.99

F = 0 – 59.99

NOTE: There will be no extra credit opportunities, and no rounding of grades at the end of the semester.

## **IV. Communication**

If you do not understand the readings, or what we discussed in class, or if you have further questions about readings or class, please do not hesitate to ask questions! You are highly encouraged to attend office hours. If you would like to meet one-on-one, but cannot attend office hours, please email me to set up a time to meet. I am easy to reach if you need to communicate with me. It is important for you to stay in touch, particularly if any problems arise.

## **V. Academic Honesty**

You must always adhere to OSU's academic integrity standards. Violations of academic integrity, including unauthorized collaboration, plagiarism, cheating on examinations, helping another person cheat, and unauthorized advance access to examinations, will result in severe penalty. Penalties include: receiving a failing grade on an assignment, examination or course, receiving a notation of a violation of academic integrity on your transcript, and being suspended from the University.

You can learn more at <http://academicintegrity.okstate.edu>.

## **VI. Additional Course Policies**

Please see the Oklahoma State University Syllabus Attachment for all other policies in effect and resources available to you for this course.

## **VII. Required Books**

The following books are required for the course:

1. Achen, Christopher and Larry M. Bartels. 2016. *Democracy for Realists: Why Elections Do Not Produce Responsive Government*. Princeton: Princeton University Press.
2. Aldrich, John H and John D. Griffin. 2018. *Why Parties Matter? Political and Democracy in the American South*. Chicago: University of Chicago Press.
3. Baumgartner, Frank, Jeffrey Berry, Marie Hojnacki, David Kimball, and Beth Leech. 2009. *Lobbying and Policy Change: Who Wins, Who Loses, and Why*. Chicago: University of Chicago Press.
4. Mason, Lilliana. 2018. *Uncivil Agreement: How Politics Became Our Identity*. Chicago: University of Chicago Press.
5. Mayhew, David. 1974 [2004]. *Congress: The Electoral Connection, Second Edition*. New Haven: Yale University Press.

These books are available at the OSU Bookstore, or through online vendors. You may also be able to find copies at the library. You can access additional readings on Canvas.

### **VIII. Course Schedule**

Week 1: Aug 21 – Introduction

Week 2: Aug 28 – Power and Representation

- Dahl, Robert A. 1958. “A Critique of the Ruling Elite Model.” *American Political Science Review* 52, 2: 463-469.
- Bachrach, Peter and Morton S. Baratz. 1962. “Two Faces of Power.” *American Political Science Review* 56, 4: 947-952.
- Carnes, Nicholas. 2012. “Does the Numerical Underrepresentation of the Working Class in Congress Matter?” *Legislative Studies Quarterly* 37, 1: 5-34.
- Harden, Jeffrey J. and Christopher J. Clark. 2016. “A Legislature or a Legislator Like Me? Citizen Demand for Collective and Dyadic Political Representation.” *American Politics Research* 44, 2: 247-271.
- Miler, Kristina C. 2011. “The View from the Hill: Legislative Perceptions of the District.” *Legislative Studies Quarterly* 32, 4: 597-628.

Week 3: Sept 4 – Legislative Politics

- Mayhew, David. 1974 [2004]. *Congress: The Electoral Connection, Second Edition*. New Haven: Yale University Press.
- Herrick, Rebekah, Michael K. Moore, and John R. Hibbing. 1994. “Unfastening the Electoral Connection: The Behavior of U.S. Representatives when Reelection Is No Longer a Factor.” *The Journal of Politics*, 56, 1: 214-227.
- Harden, Jeffrey J. 2013. “Multidimensional Responsiveness: The Determinants of Legislators’ Priorities.” *Legislative Studies Quarterly* 38, 2: 155-184.
- Lebo, Matthew J., Adam McGlynn, and Gregory Koger. 2007. “Strategic party government: Party influence in congress, 1789-2000.” *American Journal of Political Science* 51, 3: 464-481.

- Anzia, Sarah F. and Molly C. Jackman. 2013. “Legislative Organization and the Second Face of Power: Evidence from U.S. State Legislatures.” *The Journal of Politics* 75, 1: 210-224.

#### Week 4: Sept 11 – Candidates, Campaigns, & Elections

- Lee, Frances E. 2016. *Insecure Majorities*. Chicago: University of Chicago Press. Chapter 3 and Chapter 7.
- Abramowitz, Alan, Brad Alexander, and Matthew Gunning. 2006. “Incumbency, Redistricting, and the Decline of Competition in U.S. House Elections.” *Journal of Politics* 68, 1: 75-88.
- Maestas, Cherie D., Sarah Fulton, L. Sandy Maisel, and Walter J. Stone. 2006. “When to Risk It? Institutions, Ambitions, and the Decision to Run for the U.S. House.” *American Political Science Review* 100, 2: 195-208.
- Fox, Richard L. and Jennifer L. Lawless. 2014. “Uncovering the Origins of the Gender Gap in Political Ambition.” *American Political Science Review* 108, 3: 499-519.

#### Week 5: Sept 18 – Political Parties

- Aldrich, John H and John D. Griffin. 2018. *Why Parties Matter? Political and Democracy in the American South*. Chicago: University of Chicago Press.
  - Everyone read chs 2, 7-9; individuals will also be assigned Ch. 3, 4, 5, or 6.
- Grossman, Matt and David A. Hopkins. 2016. *Asymmetric Politics: Ideological Republicans and Group Interest Democrats*. Oxford University Press. Chapter 3.
- Cohen, Marty, David Karol, Hans Noel, and John Zaller. 2008. *The Party Decides: Presidential Nominations Before and After Reform*. Chicago: University of Chicago Press. Chapter 7.
- Koger, Gregory, Seth Masket, and Hans Noel. 2009. “Partisan Webs: Information Exchange and Party Networks.” *British Journal of Political Science* 39, 3: 633-653.

#### Week 6: Sept 25 – The Presidency

- Neustadt, Richard. 1990. “The Power to Persuade.” In *Presidential Power: The Politics of Leadership from Roosevelt to Reagan, Revised Edition*. New York: The Free Press.
- Canes-Wrone, Brandice. 2001. “The President’s Legislative Influence From Public Appeals.” *American Journal of Political Science* 45: 313-329.
- Lee, Frances E. 2008. “Dividers, Not Unifiers: Presidential Leadership and Senate Partisanship, 1981-2004.” *Journal of Politics* 70, 3: 914-928.
- Grossback, Lawrence J., David A.M. Peterson, James A. Stimson. 2007. “Electoral Mandates in American Politics.” *British Journal of Political Science* 37: 711-730.
- Moe, Terry M. and William G. Howell. 1999. “Unilateral Action in Presidential Power: A Theory.” *Presidential Studies Quarterly* 29, 4: 850-873.

#### Week 7: Oct 2 – The Supreme Court

- Black, Ryan C. and Ryan J. Owens. 2009. "Agenda Setting in the Supreme Court: The Collision of Policy and Jurisprudence." *Journal of Politics* 71, 3: 1062-1075.
- Caldeira, Gregory A. and John R. Wright. 1988. "Organized Interests and Agenda Setting in the U.S. Supreme Court." *American Political Science Review* 82, 4: 1109-1127.
- Bartels, Brandon L. 2009. "The Constraining Capacity of Legal Doctrine on the U.S. Supreme Court." *American Political Science Review* 103, 3: 474-495.
- Ringsmuth, Eve M. 2015. "Voting Fluidity throughout the Decision-Making Process on the U.S. Supreme Court." *Justice System Journal* 36, 3: 197-211.
- Christenson, Dino P. and David M. Glick. 2018. "Reassessing the Supreme Court: How Decisions and Negativity Bias Affect Legitimacy." *Political Research Quarterly*.

Week 8: Oct 9 – Lobbying and Interest Groups

- Baumgartner, Berry, Hojnacki, Kimball, and Leech. 2009. *Lobbying and Policy Change: Who Wins, Who Loses, and Why*.
  - Chapters 1-5, 8-11
- Schlozman, Kay L. 2010. "Who Sings in the Heavenly Chorus?: The Shape of the Organized Interest System." In *The Oxford Handbook of Political Parties and Interest Groups*, ed. Maisel, Berry, and Edwards.
- Hall, Richard L. and Frank W. Wayman. 1990. "Buying Time: Moneyed Interests and the Mobilization of Bias in Congressional Committees." *American Political Science Review* 84, 3: 797-820.
- Yackee, Susan Webb and Jason Webb Yackee. 2006. "A Bias Towards Business? Assessing Interest Group Influence on the U.S. Bureaucracy." *Journal of Politics* 68, 1: 128-139.

Week 9: Oct 16 – NO CLASS

- **Mock Comp #1 Due**

Week 10: Oct 23—Voting and Political Participation

- Achen, Christopher and Larry M. Bartels. 2016. *Democracy for Realists*. Chapters 1-2, 4-6.
- McClurg, Scott. 2003. "Social Networks and Political Participation: The Role of Social Interaction in Explaining Political Participation" *Political Research Quarterly* 56, 4: 449-464.
- Brady, Henry E., Sidney Verba, and Kay Lehman Schlozman. 1995. "Beyond SES: A Resource Model of Political Participation." *American Political Science Review* 89: 271-94.

Week 11: Oct 30 – Assessing the Quality of Voting Decisions

- Achen, Christopher and Larry M. Bartels. 2016. *Democracy for Realists*. Chapters 7-11.
- Downs, Anthony. 1957. "The Basic Logic of Voting" In *An Economic Theory of Democracy*. New York: Harper and Row.

- Ansolabehere, Stephen, and Philip Edward Jones. 2010. "Constituents' Responses to Congressional Roll-Call Voting." *American Journal of Political Science* 54, 3: 583–97.

Week 12: Nov 6 – Public Opinion and Ideology

- Converse, Philip E. 1964. "The Nature of Belief Systems in Mass Publics." In *Ideology and Discontent*, ed. David Apter. New York: The Free Press: 206-261.
- Ellis, Christopher and James A. Stimson. 2009. "Symbolic Ideology in American Politics." *Electoral Studies* 28: 388–402.
- Stimson, James A. Michael B. Mackuen, Robert S. Erikson. 1995. "Dynamic Representation." *American Political Science Review* 89, 3: 543-565.
- Gilens, Martin and Benjamin I. Page. 2014. "Testing Theories of American Politics: Elites, Interest Groups, and Average Citizens." *Perspectives on Politics* 12, 3: 564-581.
- Branham, J. Alexander, Stuart N. Soroka, and Christopher Wlezien. 2017. "When Do The Rich Win?" *Political Science Quarterly* 132, 1: 43-62.

Week 13: Nov. 13 – Race, Gender, Class, Place

- Tesler, Michael. 2012. "The Spillover of Racialization into Health Care: How President Obama Polarized Public Opinion by Racial Attitudes and Race." *American Journal of Political Science* 56, 3: 690-704.
- Walsh, Katherine Cramer. 2012. "Putting Inequality In Its Place: Rural Consciousness and the Power of Perspective." *American Political Science Review* 106, 3: 517-532.
- Carnes, Nicholas and Noam Lupu. 2016. "Do Voters Dislike Working-Class Candidates? Voter Biases and the Descriptive Underrepresentation of the Working Class." *American Political Science Review* 110, 4: 832-844.
- Anzia, Sarah F., and Christopher R. Berry. 2011. "The Jackie (and Jill) Robinson Effect: Why Do Congresswomen Outperform Congressmen?" *American Journal of Political Science* 55, 3: 478–93.

Week 14: Nov 20 – Political Culture, Polarization, and Political Identity

- Mason, Lilliana. 2018. *Uncivil Agreement: How Politics Became Our Identity*. Chicago: University of Chicago Press.
- Motta, Matthew P. 2017. "The Dynamics and Implications of Anti-Intellectualism in the United States." *American Politics Research*.
- Druckman, James N., Erik Peterson, and Rune Slothuus. 2013. "How Elite Partisan Polarization Affects Public Opinion Formation." *American Political Science Review* 107, 1: 57–79.
- Levendusky, Matthew. 2018. "Americans, Not Partisans: Can Priming American National Identity Reduce Affective Polarization?" *Journal of Politics* 80, 1: 59-70.

Week 15: Nov 27 – NO CLASS

- Thanksgiving Break

Week 16: Dec. 4 – Framing, Political Psychology, and Its Impact on Policy

- Druckman, James N. 2001. "On the Limits of Framing Effects." *Journal of Politics* 63, 4: 1041-66.
- Nelson, Thomas E., Rosalee A. Clawson and Zoe M. Oxley. 1997. "Media Framing of a Civil Liberties Conflict and Its Effect on Tolerance." *American Political Science Review* 91, 3: 567-83.
- Taber, Charles S. and Milton Lodge. 2006. "Motivated Skepticism in the Evaluation of Political Beliefs." *American Journal of Political Science* 50, 3: 755-769.
- Stone, Deborah A. 1989. "Causal stories and the formation of policy agendas." *Political Science Quarterly* 104, 2: 281-300.
- Schneider, Anne and Helen Ingram. 1993. "Social Construction of Target Populations: Implications for Politics and Policy." *American Political Science Review* 87, 2: 334-347.

#### Finals Week

- **Mock Comp #2 Due**