

POLS 513: Political Behavior

**Washington State University, Spring 2015
Wednesdays, 2:10 – 5 p.m., College 235**

Instructor: Dr. Travis Ridout
Email: tnridout@wsu.edu
Phone: 509-335-2264
Office Hours: Mondays 10-12 noon
816 Johnson Tower
Course webpage: www.wsu.edu/~tnridout/ps513.htm

Introduction

This course offers an overview of the field of mass political behavior. In other words, our focus will be on the individual and his or her relationship with the political system. Accordingly, much of what we study will be about what happens inside citizens' minds. Yet our approach will not be purely psychological as we will also explore how the institutions and rules of the system affect people's political thinking and behavior. In sum, we will be careful not to remove the politics from political behavior and political science.

Readings

There are six books available for purchase:

Citrin, Jack and David O. Sears. 2014. *American Identity and the Politics of Multiculturalism*. Cambridge University Press.

Green, Donald, Bradley Palmquist and Eric Schickler. 2004. *Partisan Hearts and Minds*. Yale University Press.

Lodge, Milton and Charles Taber. 2013. *The Rationalizing Voter*. Cambridge University Press.

Mattes, Kyle and David P. Redlawsk. 2015. *The Positive Case for Negative Campaigning*. University of Chicago Press.

Stimson, James A. and Christopher Ellis. 2012. *Ideology in America*. Cambridge University Press.

Zaller, John. 1992. *The Nature and Origins of Mass Opinion*. Cambridge University Press.

Grading

Your final grade in this course will depend on your success in five areas:

1. Four response papers (20%). You will write 4 response papers for this course, each in the range of 3-4 double-spaced pages in length. Each paper should express your reaction to the readings for the week. These papers should NOT simply be a summary of the readings. Instead, you might raise questions provoked by the readings, compare the arguments of different authors, critique the authors' methodology, or propose alternative explanations for the authors' findings. **These papers are due to me by 9 a.m. the day of class.** You may submit them to me at my office or send them to me via email.

2. Research paper proposal (15%). This assignment is essentially the initial step in writing your research paper for this course. This proposal should 1) raise the research question you want to study, 2) present a review of relevant literature, 3) present your theory and hypotheses derived therefrom, and 4) describe how you will answer your question. Ten to twelve pages is a good length for this assignment. DUE FRIDAY, MARCH 25, 5 p.m.

3. Research paper (25%). Here you will write a full-blown research paper of the type that might be presented at an academic conference. Indeed, I will encourage you to submit your papers for presentation at a political science conference (or the conference of an associated discipline). This paper should include all of the elements of the research proposal, but instead of merely describing how you will answer your question, you will answer it in the final section through the use of statistical analysis, game theory, experiments, survey research, the comparative method, non-participant observation, or any other methodology. DUE FRIDAY, MAY 1, 5 p.m.

4. A final exam (20%). This take-home final exam will consist of four questions similar to the type that would appear on a preliminary exam. You will choose to answer two of the four in no more than 4 pages each (double-spaced, 1-inch margins, 12-point Times font). You may NOT use your notes or other sources when taking the exam. You will have 8 hours to take the exam. I will email you the questions on MONDAY, MAY 4, but do not look at the questions until you are ready to write the exam. You will have until 5 p.m. on FRIDAY, MAY 8, to return your answers to me.

5. Class participation and attendance (20%). Class participation and attendance are required. Notify me beforehand if you will be absent from class. I also expect that everyone will make contributions to our class discussions.

Learning Outcomes and Assessment

Student Learning Outcomes for this course: At the end of this course, students should be able to:	Course Topics/Dates The following topic(s)/dates(s) will address this outcome:	Evaluation of Outcome: This outcome will be evaluated primarily by:
Understand how research is situated in a scholarly discourse embedded in the literature.	Throughout course	Reading assignments; four response papers; research paper proposal; research paper; final examination
Develop graduate-level writing	Throughout course	Four response papers; research

skills.		paper proposal; research paper; final examination
Synthesize research systematically.	Throughout course	Four response papers; research paper proposal; research paper; final examination
Evaluate critically existing literature in the field of political behavior.	Throughout course	Four response papers; research paper proposal; research paper; final examination
Select appropriate methods to examine research questions	Throughout course	Research paper proposal; research paper.

Other information

If there are things I talk about in class that you do not understand, do not hesitate to talk to me about them. I am here to help you learn the course material. And if there are other matters that you think should be brought to my attention, let me know.

LATE ASSIGNMENTS. Assignments must be at my office by 5 p.m. on the due date or they will be considered late. For each day an assignment is late, I will subtract 10 percent of the assignment's total point value from your score.

ACADEMIC MISCONDUCT. Academic integrity will be strongly enforced in this course. Any student caught cheating on any assignment will **FAIL THE COURSE** and will be reported to the Office Student Standards and Accountability. Cheating is defined in the Standards for Student Conduct WAC 504-26-010 (3). It is strongly suggested that you read and understand these definitions.

STUDENTS WITH DISABILITIES: Students with Disabilities: Reasonable accommodations are available for students with a documented disability. If you have a disability and may need accommodations to fully participate in this class, please visit the Access Center (Washington Building 217) to schedule an appointment with an Access Advisor. All accommodations **MUST** be approved through the Access Center.

SAFETY AND EMERGENCY NOTIFICATION: Washington State University is committed to enhancing the safety of the students, faculty, staff, and visitors. It is highly recommended that you review the Campus Safety Plan (<http://safetyplan.wsu.edu/>) and visit the Office of Emergency Management web site (<http://oem.wsu.edu/>) for a comprehensive listing of university policies, procedures, statistics, and information related to campus safety, emergency management, and the health and welfare of the campus community.

Course Outline

1. Political Socialization

Dolan, Kathleen. 1995. "Attitudes, Behaviors, and the Influence of the Family: A Reexamination

of the Role of Family Structure.” *Political Behavior* 17: 251-64.

Hobbs, William R., Nicholas A. Christakis, and James H. Fowler. 2014. “Widowhood Effects in Voter Participation.” *American Journal of Political Science* 58: 1-16.

Jennings, M. Kent. 1987. “Residues of a Movement: The Aging of the American Protest Generation.” *American Political Science Review* 81: 367-82.

Sapiro, Virginia. 2004. “Not Your Parents’ Political Socialization: Introduction for a New Generation.” *Annual Review of Political Science* 7: 1-23

Sears, David O. and Carolyn L. Funk. 1999. “Evidence of the Long-Term Persistence of Adults’ Political Predispositions.” *Journal of Politics* 61: 1-28.

2. Origins of Mass Opinion

Zaller, John. 1992. *The Nature and Origins of Mass Opinion*. Cambridge University Press.

3. Structure of Mass Opinion

Althaus, Scott L. 2003. *Collective Preferences in Democratic Politics: Opinion Surveys and the Will of the People*. Cambridge University Press. Chapter 2.

Barabas, Jason, Jennifer Jerit, William Pollock, and Carlisle Rainey. 2014. “The Question(s) of Political Knowledge.” *American Political Science Review* 108: 840-855.

Bullock, John G. 2011. “Elite Influence on Public Opinion in an Informed Electorate.” *American Political Science Review* 105: 496-515.

Converse, Philip E. 1964. “The Nature of Belief Systems in Mass Publics.” In *Ideology and Discontent*, Ed. David E. Apter. New York: Free Press, p.206-261.

Druckman, James N. 2014. “Pathologies of Studying Public Opinion, Political Communication, and Democratic Responsiveness.” *Political Communication* 31: 467-492.

Jerit, Jennifer, Scott Clifford, Carlisle Rainey, and Matt Motyl. Forthcoming. “Moral Concerns and Policy Attitudes: Investigating the Influence of Elite Rhetoric.” *Political Communication*.
Page, Benjamin and Robert Shapiro. 1992. *The Rational Public*. Chicago: U Chicago Press. Chs. 1-2.

4. Ideology in America

Conover, Pamela and Stanley Feldman. 1981. “The Origins and Meaning of Liberal/Conservative Self-Identification,” *American Journal of Political Science* 25: 617-645.

Jennings, M. Kent. 1992. "Ideological Thinking among Mass Publics and Political Elites." *Public Opinion Quarterly* 56: 419-41.

Stimson, James A. and Christopher Ellis. 2012. *Ideology in America*. Cambridge: Cambridge University Press.

5. Partisanship

Green, Donald, Bradley Palmquist and Eric Schickler. 2004. *Partisan Hearts and Minds*. New Haven: Yale University Press.

Hayes, Danny. 2005. "Candidate Qualities through a Partisan Lens: A Theory of Trait Ownership." *American Journal of Political Science* 49: 908-23.

Sniderman, Paul and Edward H. Stiglitz. 2012. *The Reputational Premium: A Theory of Party Identification and Policy Reasoning*. Princeton: Princeton University Press. Chapters 1-2.

6. Voting Behavior

Campbell, Angus, Philip Converse, Warren Miller, and Donald Stokes. 1960. *The American Voter*. Chicago: University of Chicago Press. Chapters 1-4, 6-7

Carmines, Edward G. and James A. Stimson. 1980. "The Two Faces of Issue Voting." *American Political Science Review* 74: 78-91.

Downs, Anthony. 1957. *An Economic Theory of Democracy*. Chapters 3, 11-14.

Fiorina, Morris P. 1978. "Economic Retrospective Voting in American National Elections: A Micro-Analysis." *American Journal of Political Science* 22(2): 426-443.

Kam, Cindy D., and Elizabeth J. Zechmeister. 2013. "Name Recognition and Candidate Support." *American Journal of Political Science* 57: 971-986.

7. Political Psychology

Lodge, Milton and Charles Taber. 2013. *The Rationalizing Voter*. Cambridge University Press.

8. Political Psychology: Emotions

Brader, Ted. "Striking a Responsive Chord: How Political Ads Motivate and Persuade Voters by Appealing to Emotions." *American Journal of Political Science* 49: 388-405.

Groenendyk, Eric. 2011. "Current Emotion Research in Political Science: How Emotions Help Democracy Overcome Its Collective Action Problem." *Emotion Review* 3: 455-463.

Jones, Philip Edward, Lindsay H. Hoffman, and Dannagal G. Young. 2012. "Online Emotional Appeals and Political Participation: The Effect of Candidate Affect on Mass Behavior." *New Media & Society* 15: 1132-1150

Spezio, Michael L. and Ralph Adolphs. 2007. "Emotional Processing and Political Judgment: Toward Integrating Political Psychology and Decision Neuroscience." In *The Affect Effect: Dynamics of Emotion in Political Thinking and Behavior*, W. Russell Neuman, George E. Marcus, Ann N. Crigler and Michael MacKuen, eds. Chicago: University of Chicago Press.

Valentino, Nicholas A., Ted Brader, Eric W. Groenendyk, Krysha Gregorowicz, and Vincent L. Hutchings. 2011. "Election Night's Alright for Fighting: The Role of Emotions in Political Participation." *Journal of Politics* 73: 156-170.

9. Political Psychology: An Application

Mattes, Kyle and David Redlawsk. 2015. *The Positive Case for Negative Campaigning*. Chicago: University of Chicago Press.

10. Race, Ethnicity and Public Opinion

Citrin, Jack and David O. Sears. 2014. *American Identity and the Politics of Multiculturalism*. Cambridge: Cambridge University Press.

11. Political Communication: Interpersonal Communication and Deliberation

Delli Carpini, Michael X., Fay Lomax Cook, and Lawrence R. Jacobs. 2004. "Public Deliberation, Discursive Participation, and Citizen Engagement: A Review of the Empirical Literature." *Annual Review of Political Science* 7: 315-44.

Eveland, William P., Alyssa C. Morey, and Myiah J. Hutchens. 2011. "Beyond Deliberation: New Directions for the Study of Informal Political Conversation from a Communication Perspective." *Journal of Communication* 61: 1082-1103.

Granovetter, Mark. 1973. "The Strength of Weak Ties." *American Journal of Sociology* 78: 1360-1380.

Mutz, Diana and Jeffrey J. Mondak. 2006. "The Workplace as a Context for Cross-Cutting Political Discourse." *Journal of Politics* 68: 140-155.

Walsh, Katherine Cramer. 2007. *Talking about Race: Community Dialogues and the Politics of Difference*. Chicago: University of Chicago Press. Ch 1-3, 10.

12. Political Communication: Media Effects

Bennett, W. Lance and Shanto Iyengar. 2008. "A New Era of Minimal Effects? The Changing Foundations of Political Communication." *Journal of Communication* 58(4): 707-731.

Druckman, James N. and Dennis Chong. 2007. "A Theory of Framing and Opinion Formation in Competitive Elite Environments," *Journal of Communication* 57: 99-118.

LaCour, Michael J., and Lynn Vavreck. 2014. "Improving Media Measurement: Evidence from the Field." *Political Communication* 31: 408-420.

Lenz, Gabriel. 2009. "Learning and Opinion Change, Not Priming: Reconsidering the Evidence for the Priming Hypothesis." *American Journal of Political Science* 53:4.

Scheufele, Dietram and David Tewksbury. 2007. "Framing, Agenda Setting and Priming: The Evolution of Three Media Effects Models." *Journal of Communication* 57: 9-20.

13. Political Communication: The Changing Media Environment and Polarization

Arceneaux, Kevin and Martin Johnson. 2013. *Changing Minds or Changing Channels? Partisan News in an Age of Choice*. University of Chicago Press. Chapters 1-2.

Dilliplane, Susanna. 2014. "Activation, Conversion, or Reinforcement? The Impact of Partisan News Exposure on Vote Choice." *American Journal of Political Science* 58: 79-94.

Druckman, James N., Erik Peterson, and Rune Slothuus. 2013. "How Elite Partisan Polarization Affects Public Opinion Formation." *American Political Science Review* 107: 57-79.

LaCour, Michael J. 2014. "The Echo Chambers Are Empty: Direct Evidence of Balanced, Not Biased, Exposure To Mass Media." Working paper.

Levendusky, Matthew S. 2013. "Why Do Partisan Media Polarize Viewers?" *American Journal of Political Science* 57: 611-623.

Smith, Glen, and Kathleen Searles. 2014. "Who Let the (Attack) Dogs Out? New Evidence for Partisan Media Effects." *Public Opinion Quarterly*.

Stroud, Natalie Jomini. 2008. "Media Use and Political Predispositions: Revisiting the Concept of Selective Exposure." *Political Behavior* 30: 341-366.

14. Political Participation

Brady, Henry, Sidney Verba and Kay Schlozman. 1995. "Beyond SES: A Resource Model of Participation." *American Political Science Review* 89: 271-294.

Fowler, James H., Laura A. Baker and Christopher T. Dawes. 2008. "Genetic Variation in Political Participation." *American Political Science Review* 102: 233-248.

McDonald, Michael P. and Samuel L. Popkin. 2001. "The Myth of the Vanishing Voter." *American Political Science Review* 95: 963-974.

Riker, William and Peter Ordeshook. 1968. "A Theory of the Calculus of Voting." *American Political Science Review* 62: 25-41.

Schlozman, Kay, Sidney Verba and Henry E. Brady. 1995. "Participation's Not a Paradox: The View from American Activists." *British Journal of Political Science* 25: 1-36.