

POLITICAL SCIENCE 5050.

INTEREST GROUP RESEARCH

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Office Hours: M 1:00-4:30, Tu: 12:30-2:00 and by appointment.

Almost anytime that I am in my office I will be glad to meet with you. Also, you may call me at home.

I. Goals and Objectives:

The primary goals of this course are to assist you in understanding the role of interest groups in American politics, to give you practice in critical thinking about research, and to have you prepare a research paper that will improve our understanding of interest groups. To achieve these goals you will:

1. Read materials concerning the theories of interest group formation, activity, and influence.
2. Prepare each week a *written* critique of a piece of research from the assigned readings. This critique will provide a short summary of the material and indicate its strengths and weaknesses. If it is a research piece, you should present an alternative research design (or alterations in the design) that would improve it. You will present your critique to the class and respond to questions. Your presentation should last no more than 15 minutes, and you should use the board to explain the material. This requires that you practice your presentation before giving it in class. Good teaching by you is rewarded with good grades by me.

Make sufficient copies of your critique to distribute to all other members of the class. You should provide me a copy of the critique by 4:00 p.m. on Monday.

3. Prepare a research project that examines interest groups. You may do this project individually or as a member of a group.

II. Tests, Assignments, and Grading

A midterm and a final exam will cover readings and class discussion. The first test counts 20% of your grade and the final counts 30%. The final is cumulative. The research project counts 25% and the weekly assignments count 25%.

Research papers: As this is a research seminar, you will turn in a research paper that analyzes some aspect of interest group politics. The paper should follow the format of a journal article and follow the style of the *APSR*.

III. Classroom participation and decorum

This is a seminar, and I value and encourage discussion. Do not hesitate to challenge me or other members of the class *in a constructive manner*. My job in this class is not to teach you about interest groups; that is your job. My responsibility is to expand on what you teach, to point out any errors or alternative interpretations, and to assist you in learning how to do research. You have similar responsibilities to me and to all other members of the class. To fulfill your responsibilities you must come to class prepared. Failure to come to class, and to come prepared, will harm your grade and decrease everyone's learning.

IV. Consultation and Extra Help

Please feel free to consult with me outside of class. I normally will hold one extra session per week to discuss the readings or your research topics. Also, you may contact me at any time between 8:00 am and 8:00 p.m. (except Monday evenings as I am in class). If you are having difficulties, do not delay until it is too late to correct the problem. You may call me at my office or home.

V. Texts

Browne (B) *Cultivating Congress*

Wright, J. *Interest Groups and Congress*

**Birnbaum, Jeffrey, *The Lobbyists: How Influence Peddlers Work Their Way in Washington* (Times Books, 1992). You must order this book for yourself.

**Wolpe and Levine, *Lobbying Congress*, 2nd. edition

Mancur Olson, Jr. *The Logic of Collective Action* (Harvard: Harvard University Press)

Baumgartner and Leech, *Basic Interests* (You must order for yourself.)

** Order only one of these books.

Schedule of Readings

Week 1 Introduction Interest groups, pluralism, and the state

Week 2 (J. 25) The current state of interest group research. Baumgartner & Leech (B & L), Chapters 5 - 9. E

Week 3 (Feb. 1) Bias in the interest group system:

1. Olson, Chapters 1,2, 5 & 6
2. Scholzman and Tierney, Chap. 4
3. B&L, Chapters 3 & 4

Week 4 (Feb. 8) Does Lobbying Affect Policy

2. R. Smith, 1995 *Interest Group Influence in the U.S. Congress* @ *LSQ*, 20: 89-139
1. B & L, Chapter 7
3. Hall and Wayman, 1990 *Buying Time . . .* @ *APSR* 84: 797-820.
4. Austin-Smith and Wright. 1994. , *Counteractive Lobbying*, @ *AJPS* 38: 2544.
5. Baumgartner & Leech, *The Multiple Ambiguities of Counteractive Lobbying*, @ *AJPS*, 40: 521-42. Also read Austin-Smith and Wright's response.

Week 5 (Feb. 15) Lobbying in Context

1. Browne, *Cultivating Congress* (entire)

Week 6 (Feb. 22) Lobbying through PACs

1. Grenzky. 1989. *PACs and the Congressional Supermarket*, @ *AJPS* 33: 1-24.
2. Wright. 1990. *Contributions, and Roll Calls . . .* @ *APSR* 84: 417-38.
3. Grier and Roberts. 1994. *APSR* 88: 911-926.
4. Austin-Smith. 1995. *Campaign Contributions and Access*, @ *APSR* 89: 566-81.
5. Kau *et al.* 1982. *A General Equilibrium Model of Congressional Voting*, @ *Quarterly Journal of Economics* 97: 271-93.
6. Calcagno and Jackson. 1998. *Political Action Committee Spending and Senate Roll Call Voting*, @ *Public Choice* 97: 569-585.
7. Wright, Chapter 5

Week 7: (Feb. 29) Midterm

Week 8: (Mar. 7) Formal models of lobbying

1. Mitchell and Munger. 1991. *Economic Models of Interest Groups*, @ *AJPS* 35: 512-46
2. Denzau and Munger. 1986. *Legislators and Interest Groups: How Unorganized Interests get Represented*, @ *APSR* 80: 89-106.
3. Seldon & Godwin. 1998. *Firms investment in Lobbying . . .* @ mimeo
4. Ainsworth and Sened. 1993. *The Role of Lobbyists . . .* @ *AJPS* 37: 834-66.

Week 9: (Mar. 21) Present your research designs on this date. They must be turned into the instructor no later than March 10th.)

Topic: Organizing Interest Groups

1. Salisbury, *An Exchange Theory of Interest Groups*, @ *AJPS* (Old Midwest) 13 (Feb. 1969): 1-32.
2. James Q. Wilson, *Political Organizations*, Chapter 10; CL Chapters 2 & 4.
3. Lowry, *The Private Production of Public Goods*, @ *APSR* 91 (June 1997).

Week 10 (March 28) Organizing Interest Groups, Part 2

1. B&L Chapter 4.
2. Hildreth, AThe Importance of Purposes in APurposive Groups: Incentives and Participation in the Sanctuary Movement,@AJPS, (May, 1994).
3. King and Walker, AThe Provision of Benefits by Interest Groups in the US,@JOP, May, 1992).
4. Rothenberg, AOrganizational Maintenance and . . .@APSR 82, (December, 1988)
5. Sabatier, et al. ABelief Congruence . . .@JOP 52 (August 1990).
6. Hansen, AThe Political Economy of Group Membership,@APSR, 79 (March 1985).

Week 11 (Apr. 4) How do groups lobby, Part 1

1. Birnbaum or Wolpe
2. Wright, chapter 4
2. Kollman. 1997. AInviting Friends to Lobby . . .@AJPS 41.
3. Hojnacki. 1997. AInterest Groups= Decisions to Join Alliances or Work Alone,@ AJPS 41: 61-87.
4. Salisbury et al. 1987. AWho Works with Whom . . .@ APSR 81 (Dec. 1987).
5. Schlozman and Tierney. 1986. Chapter 7

Strongly recommended for Comprehensive Exams

Baumgartner & Jones 1993 *Agendas and Instability in American Politics*. Chicago: University of Chicago Press.

Hansen, *Gaining Access*. 1991. Chicago: University of Chicago Press.

Week 12 (April 11) Lobbying the Executive

1. B & L, chapter 8.
2. Heclo, AIssue networks and the executive establishment,@in Gary King, ed. *The New American Political System*, 1978.
3. Heinz et al. 1993. *The Hollow Core*, chapters 4, 7 & 8.

Week 13 (Apr. 18) Rent-Seeking as an Approach to Interest Groups

1. Tullock, (handout)
2. Tollison, ARent Seeking=
- 3 Seldon and Godwin (handout)

Week 14 (Apr 25) Student Presentations

Week 14 (May 2) Student Presentations

Week 15 (May 9) Final examination