

POLS 292-01: Seminar in American Politics

Fall 2022 Thursday 5:10-7:30PM, Douglass 211

Instructor: Robinson Woodward-Burns, robinson.woodward@howard.edu
Instructor Office Hours: Thursday 2-3:40PM Douglass 306

Course Overview

This course is a graduate field seminar in American politics. The course addresses approaches to the study of American politics, constitutional design, Congress, the executive, and the federal judiciary, federalism, bureaucracy, and interest groups. The second half of the class concerns mass political behavior, with an emphasis on parties, media, voting behavior, elections, and polarization. The course thus prepares students for coursework and the comprehensive examination in the American Government subfield.

Course Requirements and Grading

Your course grade has two parts:

- 1) Paper(s), worth 65% of the total grade. All papers must be submitted by the last day of the semester, **Dec. 13**. Papers should include citations and/or a bibliography. Students may choose the citation style. Please use 10 to 12 pt. font and one-inch margins. Students can choose one of two paper options:
 - A single article-length research paper of roughly 20 pages on a topic of the student's choice. The paper should engage a thinker, reading, or concept and the secondary scholarly sources on that topic. Students should submit a one-paragraph abstract and several sources on their topic by email to the instructor by **Oct. 6**.
 - Three short response papers of roughly 6-8 pages each, each on a separate class topic or concept. For example, these papers can for example compare or contrast readings within a given topic.
- 2) Participation, worth 35% of the total grade. Students are required to give one in-class presentation of roughly 10-15 minutes on the reading of their choice. Presentations should 1) give an overview of the reading's context, 2) summarize the main points of the reading, and 3) include question(s) to prompt discussion. If a student misses his or her assigned presentation date, he or she may reschedule, but will lose a third of a letter grade for each time rescheduled. Students should email the instructor their reading choice by **Sept. 8**.

All grades are assigned as letter grades, i.e. A+, A, A-, B+, B, etc.

Students are expected to read and follow Howard University's [Academic Code of Student Conduct](#), including rules on cheating, plagiarism, etc. Please note plagiarism includes copying and rewording material from another source, even with citation. Plagiarized assignments will receive a zero.

If you do not have regular access to a computer, need accommodation because of a disability, or if you other have questions, please email me. If you have issues with Blackboard, please see the university's [Blackboard orientation site](#) or contact ETS at helpdesk@howard.edu or 202-806-2020. Students should also note College and University deadlines on the university's [academic calendar](#).

This syllabus is subject to change at the instructor's discretion.

Course Schedule and Readings

Students are required to purchase:

- Beeman, Richard. 2010. *The Penguin Guide to the United States Constitution: A Fully Annotated Declaration of Independence, U.S. Constitution and Amendments, and Selections from The Federalist Papers*. New York: Penguin.
- Mayhew, David R. *Congress: The Electoral Connection*. Yale University Press, 1975.

Other readings are available on Blackboard as a course packet.

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| Aug. 25 | <p>Studying American Politics</p> <ol style="list-style-type: none">1. Gunnell, John G. "The Founding of the American Political Science Association: Discipline, Profession, Political Theory, and Politics." <i>The American Political Science Review</i> 100, no. 4 (2006): 479-86. http://www.jstor.org/stable/27644373.2. Bond, Jon R. "The Scientification of the Study of Politics: Some Observations on the Behavioral Evolution in Political Science." <i>The Journal of Politics</i> 69, no. 4 (2007): 897-907. https://doi.org/10.1111/j.1468-2508.2007.00597.x.3. Hall, Peter A., and Rosemary C. R. Taylor. "Political Science and the Three New Institutionalisms." <i>Political Studies</i> 44, no. 5 (1996): 936-57. https://doi.org/10.1111/j.1467-9248.1996.tb00343.x. <p>Recommended:</p> <ol style="list-style-type: none">4. Orren, Karen, and Stephen Skowronek. <i>The Search for American Political Development</i>. Cambridge: Cambridge University Press, 2004. <p>Reading Questions: How does Gunnell describe the founding of the discipline of political science? What was the "behavioral revolution" in political science? What is "new institutionalism?" What, according to Hall and Taylor, are its types?</p> |
| Sept. 1 | <p>The American Constitution</p> <ol style="list-style-type: none">1. Elster, Jon. 1979. <i>Ulysses and the Sirens: Studies in Rationality and Irrationality</i>. Cambridge University Press.<ul style="list-style-type: none">o Ch. 1-2, pp.36-472. Beeman, Richard. 2010. <i>The Penguin Guide to the United States Constitution: A Fully Annotated Declaration of Independence, U.S. Constitution and Amendments, and Selections from The Federalist Papers</i>. New York: Penguin.3. Dahl, Robert Alan. 2003. <i>How Democratic Is the American Constitution?</i> New Haven, Conn: Yale University Press.<ul style="list-style-type: none">o Ch.1-2, 6, pp.1-40, 121-140 <p>Recommended:</p> <ol style="list-style-type: none">4. Levinson, Sanford. 2006. <i>Our Undemocratic Constitution: Where the Constitution Goes Wrong (And How We the People Can Correct It)</i>. Oxford University Press.<ul style="list-style-type: none">o Intro., Ch.1-2, pp.3-24 <p>Reading Questions: Why make constitutions? How does Beeman describe the framing of the American Constitution? Is the American Constitution democratic?</p> |

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| Sept. 8 | <p>Congress</p> <ol style="list-style-type: none"> 1. Mayhew, David R. <i>Congress: The Electoral Connection</i>. Yale University Press, 1975. 2. Fenno, Richard F. "US House members in their constituencies: An exploration." <i>American Political Science Review</i> 71, no. 3 (1977): 883-917. 3. Cox, Gary W., and Mathew D. McCubbins. <i>Legislative Leviathan: Party Government in the House</i>. Cambridge University Press, 2007. <ol style="list-style-type: none"> a. Ch.5, pp.99-126 4. Schickler, Eric. <i>Disjointed Pluralism: Institutional Innovation and the Development of the U.S. Congress</i>. Princeton University Press, 2001. <ol style="list-style-type: none"> a. Ch.1, pp.3-26 <p>Recommended:</p> <ol style="list-style-type: none"> 5. Polsby, Nelson W. "The Institutionalization of the U.S. House of Representatives." <i>The American Political Science Review</i> 62, no. 1 (March 1, 1968): 144–68. https://doi.org/10.2307/1953331. 6. Fenno, Richard F. <i>Congressmen in Committees</i>. Boston: Little, Brown, 1973. 7. Fenno, Richard F. <i>Home Style: House Members in Their Districts</i>. Longman, 1978. 8. Kingdon, John W. "Models of Legislative Voting." <i>The Journal of Politics</i> 39, no. 3 (August 1, 1977): 563–95. https://doi.org/10.2307/2129644. 9. Douglas. <i>The Logic of Congressional Action</i>. New Haven: Yale University Press, 1990. 10. Krehbiel, Keith. <i>Pivotal Politics: A Theory of U.S. Lawmaking</i>. University of Chicago Press, 1998. 11. Hall, Richard L. <i>Participation in Congress</i>. Yale University Press, 1998. 12. Lee, Frances E. <i>Beyond Ideology: Politics, Principles, and Partisanship in the U.S. Senate</i>. University of Chicago Press, 2009. <p>Reading Questions:</p> <p>How does Mayhew describe the electoral connection?</p> <p>According to Fenno, how do members interact with their constituents?</p> <p>Why, according to Cox and McCubbins, do members of Congress form parties?</p> <p>Why, according to Schickler, do institutional arrangements in Congress change over time?</p> |
| Sept. 15 | Instructor at conference – no class |
| Sept. 22 | <p>The Presidency</p> <ol style="list-style-type: none"> 1. Neustadt, Richard E. <i>Presidential Power and the Modern Presidents: The Politics of Leadership from Roosevelt to Reagan</i>. New York: Free Press, 1990. <ol style="list-style-type: none"> a. Ch.1-2, pp.3-28 2. Howell, William G. 2003. <i>Power Without Persuasion: The Politics of Direct Presidential Action</i>. Princeton, N.J: Princeton University Press. <ol style="list-style-type: none"> a. Ch.1, pp.1-23 3. Canes-Wrone, B., W. Howell, and D. Lewis. 2008. "Toward a Broader Understanding of Presidential Power: A Reevaluation of the Two Presidencies Thesis," <i>Journal of Politics</i> 70:1, 1-16. 4. Skowronek, Stephen. 1993. <i>The Politics Presidents Make: Leadership from John Adams to George Bush</i>. Cambridge, Mass: Belknap Press. <ol style="list-style-type: none"> a. Ch.1-3, pp.3-58 <p>Recommended:</p> |

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| | <ol style="list-style-type: none"> 5. Wildavsky, Aaron. "The Two Presidencies," <i>Transaction</i> 4 (December, 1966), pp. 7-14 6. Schlesinger, Arthur M. 1989. <i>The Imperial Presidency</i>. Boston: Houghton Mifflin. 7. Rudalevige, Andrew. 2005. <i>The New Imperial Presidency: Renewing Presidential Power After Watergate</i>. Ann Arbor: University of Michigan Press. 8. Cameron, Charles M. 2000. <i>Veto Bargaining: Presidents and the Politics of Negative Power</i>. Cambridge University Press. 9. McCarty, Nolan, Keith Poole and Howard Rosenthal. 2001. "The Hunt for Party Discipline in Congress." <i>The American Political Science Review</i> 95(3):673-687. 10. Kernell, Samuel. 2007. <i>Going Public: New Strategies of Presidential Leadership</i>. 4th ed. Washington: CQ Press. 11. Edwards, George C. 2003. <i>On Deaf Ears: The Limits of the Bully Pulpit</i>. New Haven: Yale University Press. 12. Canes-Wrone, Brandice, and Kenneth W. Shotts. 2004. "The Conditional Nature of Presidential Responsiveness to Public Opinion." <i>American Journal of Political Science</i> 48 (4): 690–706. doi:10.1111/ajps.2004.48.issue-4, 10.1111/j.0092-5853.2004.00096.x. 13. Tulis, Jeffrey K. <i>The Rhetorical Presidency</i>. Second Ed. Princeton University Press, 2017. https://www.jstor.org/stable/j.ctvc77bq6.1. <p>Reading Questions: Is the president a bargainer or a unilateral actor? How might this answer change relative to foreign and domestic policy? How might the answer to this question vary over time?</p> |
| Sept. 29 | <p>The Judiciary</p> <ol style="list-style-type: none"> 1. Segal, Jeffrey A., and Albert D. Cover. 1989. "Ideological Values and the Votes of U.S. Supreme Court Justices." <i>The American Political Science Review</i> 83(2): 557–65. 2. Epstein, Lee, and Jack Knight. 1998. <i>The Choices Justices Make</i>. Washington: CQ Press. <ol style="list-style-type: none"> a. Ch.1, 3, pp.1-21, 56-111 3. Dahl, Robert Alan. 1957. "Decision-Making in a Democracy: The Supreme Court as a National Policy-Maker." <i>Journal of Public Law</i> 6: 279. 4. Graber, Mark A. 1993. "The Nonmajoritarian Difficulty: Legislative Deference to the Judiciary." <i>Studies in American Political Development</i> 7(01): 35–73. 5. Rosenberg, Gerald N. 2008. <i>The Hollow Hope: Can Courts Bring About Social Change?</i> 2nd ed. Chicago: University of Chicago Press. <ol style="list-style-type: none"> a. Intro., Ch.1-2, pp.1-71 <p>Recommended:</p> <ol style="list-style-type: none"> 6. Casper, Jonathan D. 1976. "The Supreme Court and National Policy Making." <i>The American Political Science Review</i> 70(1): 50–63. 7. Bickel, Alexander M. 1986. <i>The Least Dangerous Branch: The Supreme Court at the Bar of Politics</i>. Yale University Press. 8. George, Tracey E., and Lee Epstein. 1992. "On the Nature of Supreme Court Decision Making." <i>The American Political Science Review</i> 86(2): 323–37. 9. Clayton, Cornell W, and Howard Gillman, eds. 1999. <i>Supreme Court Decision-Making: New Institutional Approaches</i>. Chicago: University of Chicago Press. 10. Segal, Jeffrey Allan. 2002. <i>The Supreme Court and the Attitudinal Model Revisited</i>. Cambridge: Cambridge University Press. |

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| | <ol style="list-style-type: none"> 11. Whittington, Keith E. 2005. “‘Interpose Your Friendly Hand’: Political Supports for the Exercise of Judicial Review by the United States Supreme Court.” <i>American Political Science Review</i> 99(4): 583–96. 12. Whittington, Keith E. <i>Political Foundations of Judicial Supremacy: The Presidency, the Supreme Court, and Constitutional Leadership in U.S. History</i>. Princeton University Press, 2007. 13. Hirschl, Ran. 2009. <i>Towards Juristocracy: The Origins and Consequences of the New Constitutionalism</i>. Harvard University Press. 14. Smith, Rogers M. 2009. “Judicial Power and Democracy: A Machiavellian View.” In <i>The Supreme Court and the Idea of Constitutionalism</i>, eds. Steven Kautz, Arthur Melzer, Jerry Weinberger, and M. Richard Zinman. University of Pennsylvania Press, 199–218. <p>Reading Questions: How do federal judges make decisions? Does the Supreme Court act independently of elected majorities? Does the federal judiciary protect the interests of electoral minorities?</p> |
| Oct. 6 | <p>Bureaucracy</p> <ol style="list-style-type: none"> 1. McCubbins, Mathew D., and Thomas Schwartz. 1984. “Congressional Oversight Overlooked: Police Patrols versus Fire Alarms.” <i>American Journal of Political Science</i> 28 (1): 165–79. doi:10.2307/2110792. 2. Wilson, James Q. <i>Bureaucracy: What Government Agencies Do and Why They Do It</i>. New ed. New York: Basic Books, 2000. <ol style="list-style-type: none"> a. Preface, Ch.7 3. Howell, William G., and David E. Lewis. 2002. “Agencies by Presidential Design.” <i>The Journal of Politics</i> 64 (4): 1095–1114. 4. Carpenter, Daniel P. 2000. “State Building Through Reputation Building: Coalitions of Esteem and Program Innovation in the National Postal System, 1883–1913.” <i>Studies in American Political Development</i> 14 (2): 121–55. <p>Recommended:</p> <ol style="list-style-type: none"> 5. Skowronek, Stephen. <i>Building a New American State: The Expansion of National Administrative Capacities, 1877-1920</i>. Cambridge University Press, 1982. 6. McCubbins, Matthew D., Roger G. Noll, and Barry R. Weingast. 1989. “Structure and Process, Politics and Policy: Administrative Arrangements and the Political Control of Agencies.” <i>Virginia Law Review</i> 75 (2): 431–82. doi:10.2307/1073179. 7. Skocpol, Theda. <i>Protecting Soldiers and Mothers</i>. Harvard University Press, 1995. 8. Carpenter, Daniel P. <i>The Forging of Bureaucratic Autonomy: Reputations, Networks, and Policy Innovation in Executive Agencies, 1862-1928</i>. Princeton University Press, 2001. <p>Reading Questions:</p> |
| Oct. 13 | <p>Federalism, State and Local Politics</p> <ol style="list-style-type: none"> 1. Key, V. O. <i>Southern Politics in State and Nation</i>. New York: Vintage Books, 1949. <ol style="list-style-type: none"> a. Preface, Ch.1, pp.ix-x, 3-18 2. Dahl, Robert Alan. <i>Who Governs?: Democracy And Power In An American City</i>. Yale University Press, 2005. <ol style="list-style-type: none"> a. Ch.1, 7, 19, pp.1-11, 85-86, 222-228 |

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| | <ol style="list-style-type: none"> 3. Grant, Keneshia. <i>The Great Migration and the Democratic Party: Black Voters and the Realignment of American Politics in the 20th Century</i>. Philadelphia: Temple University Press, 2019. <ol style="list-style-type: none"> a. Intro., Ch. 1, p.1-38 4. Grumbach, Jacob. <i>Laboratories against Democracy</i>. Princeton: Princeton University Press, 2022. <ol style="list-style-type: none"> a. Ch.1-3, 7-8, pp.1-70, 151-194 <p>Recommended:</p> <ol style="list-style-type: none"> 5. Key, V. O. <i>American State Politics: An Introduction</i>. New York: Knopf, 1956. 6. Elazar, Daniel J. <i>American Federalism: A View from the States</i>. Crowell, 1972. 7. Peterson, Paul E. <i>City Limits</i>. University of Chicago Press, 1981. 8. Peterson, Paul E. <i>The Price of Federalism</i>. Washington: Brookings Institution, 1995. <p>Reading Questions:</p> <p>How do subnational and national politics interact? Who governs American cities, according to Dahl? How did the great migration affect urban politics?</p> |
| Oct. 20 | <p>Interest Groups</p> <ol style="list-style-type: none"> 1. Bachrach, Peter, and Morton S. Baratz. “Two Faces of Power.” <i>American Political Science Review</i> 56, no. 04 (1962): 947–52. https://doi.org/10.2307/1952796. 2. Hall, Richard L., and Alan V. Deardorff. “Lobbying as Legislative Subsidy.” <i>The American Political Science Review</i> 100, no. 1 (February 1, 2006): 69–84. 3. Hacker, Jacob S., and Paul Pierson. <i>Winner-Take-All Politics: How Washington Made the Rich Richer--and Turned Its Back on the Middle Class</i>. Simon and Schuster, 2010. <ol style="list-style-type: none"> a. Ch.1-2 <p>Recommended:</p> <ol style="list-style-type: none"> 4. Olson, Mancur. <i>The Logic of Collective Action: Public Goods and the Theory of Groups</i>. New York: Schocken Books, 1971. 5. Schattschneider, Elmer Eric. <i>The Semi-Sovereign People: A Realist’s View of Democracy in America</i>. Holt, Rhineart, and Winston, 1975. 6. Gaventa, John. <i>Power and Powerlessness: Quiescence and Rebellion in an Appalachian Valley</i>. Champaign: University of Illinois Press, 1982 7. Gilens, Martin. <i>Affluence and Influence: Economic Inequality and Political Power in America</i>. Princeton University Press, 2012. <p>Reading Questions:</p> <p>How do Bachrach and Baratz describe the exercise of power? How might this critique Dahl? According to Hall and Deardorf, why do legislators rely on lobbyists? How do hacker and Pierson describe contemporary politics?</p> |
| Oct. 27 | <p>Parties</p> <ol style="list-style-type: none"> 1. Aldrich, John Herbert. <i>Why Parties?: The Origin and Transformation of Political Parties in America</i>. Chicago: The University of Chicago Press, 1995. <ol style="list-style-type: none"> a. 2. Green, Donald P., Bradley Palmquist, and Eric Schickler. <i>Partisan Hearts and Minds: Political Parties and the Social Identities of Voters</i>. Yale University Press, 2004. |

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| | <p>a. Ch.1-4, pp.1-108</p> <p>Recommended:</p> <ol style="list-style-type: none"> 1. Schattschneider, Elmer Eric. <i>Party Government: American Government in Action</i>. Transaction Publishers, 1942. 2. Key, Valdimer Orlando. <i>Politics, Parties, & Pressure Groups</i>. Crowell, 1964. 3. Hillygus, D. Sunshine, and Todd G. Shields. <i>The Persuadable Voter: Wedge Issues in Presidential Campaigns</i>. Princeton University Press, 2009. 4. Gerber, Alan S., and Gregory A. Huber. "Partisanship, Political Control, and Economic Assessments." <i>American Journal of Political Science</i> 54, no. 1 (January 1, 2010): 153–73. https://doi.org/10.2307/20647977. <p>Reading Questions: Why do parties form? How does party identification affect voters' behavior?</p> |
| Nov. 3 | <p>Voting Behavior and Party Identification</p> <ol style="list-style-type: none"> 1. Berelson, Bernard, Paul F. Lazarsfeld, and William N. McPhee. <i>Voting: A Study of Opinion Formation in a Presidential Campaign</i>. University of Chicago Press, 1954. <ol style="list-style-type: none"> a. Intro., Ch.2, pp.viii-xiii, 14-34 2. Downs, Anthony. <i>An Economic Theory of Democracy</i>. New York: Harper, 1957. <ol style="list-style-type: none"> a. Ch.3, 7-8, pp.36-50, 96-141 3. Converse, Philip E. "The Nature of Belief Systems in Mass Publics (1964)." <i>Critical Review</i> 18, no. 1–3 (2006): 1–74. https://doi.org/10.1080/08913810608443650. 4. Bartels, Larry M. "Beyond the Running Tally: Partisan Bias in Political Perceptions." <i>Political Behavior</i> 24, no. 2 (June 1, 2002): 117–50. https://doi.org/10.2307/1558352. <p>Recommended</p> <ol style="list-style-type: none"> 5. Campbell, Angus, Philip E. Converse, Warren E. Miller, and Donald E. Stokes. <i>The American Voter</i>. University of Chicago Press, 1960. 6. Converse, Philip E. "Information Flow and the Stability of Partisan Attitudes." <i>Public Opinion Quarterly</i> 26, no. 4 (December 21, 1962): 578–99. https://doi.org/10.1086/267129. 7. Fiorina, Morris P. <i>Retrospective Voting in American National Elections</i>. Yale Univ Press, 1981. 8. Popkin, Samuel L. <i>The Reasoning Voter: Communication and Persuasion in Presidential Campaigns</i>. University of Chicago Press, 1994. 9. Lewis-Beck, Michael S., William G. Jacoby, Helmut Norpoth, and Herbert F. Weisberg. <i>The American Voter Revisited</i>. University of Michigan Press, 2008. <p>Readings Questions: How do voters make decisions according to Berelson, Lazarsfeld, and McPhee, Downs, and Converse?</p> |
| Nov. 10 | <p>Mass Opinion</p> <ol style="list-style-type: none"> 1. Carmines, Edward G., and James A. Stimson. <i>Issue Evolution: Race and the Transformation of American Politics</i>. Princeton University Press, 1989. <ol style="list-style-type: none"> a. Ch.1, 6-7 2. Zaller, John. <i>The Nature and Origins of Mass Opinion</i>. Cambridge University Press, 1992. <ol style="list-style-type: none"> a. Ch.3, pp.40-52 |

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| | <ol style="list-style-type: none"> 3. Stimson, James A., Michael B. Mackuen, and Robert S. Erikson. "Dynamic Representation." <i>The American Political Science Review</i> 89, no. 3 (September 1, 1995): 543–65. https://doi.org/10.2307/2082973. 4. Bartels, Larry M. 2010. <i>Unequal Democracy: The Political Economy of the New Gilded Age</i>. Princeton University Press. <ol style="list-style-type: none"> a. Introduction, Ch.1, pp.1-28 <p>Recommended:</p> <ol style="list-style-type: none"> 5. Page, Benjamin I., and Robert Y. Shapiro. "Effects of Public Opinion on Policy." <i>The American Political Science Review</i> 77, no. 1 (March 1, 1983): 175–90. https://doi.org/10.2307/1956018. 6. Wlezien, Christopher. "The Public as Thermostat: Dynamics of Preferences for Spending." <i>American Journal of Political Science</i> 39, no. 4 (November 1, 1995): 981–1000. https://doi.org/10.2307/2111666. 7. Gilens, Martin. <i>Affluence and Influence: Economic Inequality and Political Power in America</i>. Princeton University Press, 2012. <p>Reading Questions:</p> <p>How does public opinion shift according to Carmines and Stimson?</p> <p>How does the public turn information into mass political opinion according to Zaller's Receive-Accept-Sample model?</p> <p>Does mass public opinion shape public policy outcomes?</p> |
| Nov. 17 | <p>Elections and Participation</p> <ol style="list-style-type: none"> 1. Cohen, Cathy J., and Michael C. Dawson. "Neighborhood Poverty and African American Politics." <i>The American Political Science Review</i> 87, no. 2 (June 1, 1993): 286–302. https://doi.org/10.2307/2939041. 2. Gerber, Alan S., and Donald P. Green. "The Effects of Canvassing, Telephone Calls, and Direct Mail on Voter Turnout: A Field Experiment." <i>The American Political Science Review</i> 94, no. 3 (2000): 653–63. https://doi.org/10.2307/2585837. 3. Citrin, Jack, Eric Schickler, and John Sides. "What If Everyone Voted? Simulating the Impact of Increased Turnout in Senate Elections." <i>American Journal of Political Science</i> 47, no. 1 (January 2003): 75–90. https://doi.org/10.1111/1540-5907.00006. 4. Gay, Claudine. "The Effect of Black Congressional Representation on Political Participation." <i>The American Political Science Review</i> 95, no. 3 (September 1, 2001): 589–602. https://doi.org/10.2307/3118235. <p>Recommended:</p> <ol style="list-style-type: none"> 1. Key, V. O. "Secular Realignment and the Party System." <i>The Journal of Politics</i> 21, no. 02 (May 1959): 198–210. https://doi.org/10.2307/2127162. 2. Burnham, Walter Dean. <i>Critical Elections: And the Mainsprings of American Politics</i>. W. W. Norton & Company, 1970. 3. Rosenstone, Steven J., and Raymond E. Wolfinger. "The Effect of Registration Laws on Voter Turnout." <i>The American Political Science Review</i> 72, no. 1 (March 1, 1978): 22–45. https://doi.org/10.2307/1953597. 4. Sundquist, James L. <i>Dynamics of the Party System: Alignment and Realignment of Political Parties in the United States</i>. Brookings Institution Press, 1983. 5. Mayhew, David R. <i>Electoral Realignments: A Critique of an American Genre</i>. Yale University Press, 2002. <p>Reading Questions:</p> |

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| | What affects participation and turnout? Does high turnout affect electoral outcomes? |
| Nov. 25 | No Class - Thanksgiving |
| Dec. 1 | <p>Polarization</p> <p>Meeting via Zoom: link passcode POLSPOLS</p> <ol style="list-style-type: none"> 1. APSA Committee on Parties. “Summary of Conclusions and Proposals.” <i>The American Political Science Review</i> 44, no. 3 (1950): 1–14. https://doi.org/10.2307/1950998. 2. Mutz, Diana C. <i>Hearing the Other Side: Deliberative versus Participatory Democracy</i>. Cambridge University Press, 2006. <ol style="list-style-type: none"> a. Ch.3, pp.57-87 3. Prior, Markus. <i>Post-Broadcast Democracy: How Media Choice Increases Inequality in Political Involvement and Polarizes Elections</i>. Cambridge University Press, 2007. <ol style="list-style-type: none"> a. Ch.1, pp.1-26 4. Lee, Frances. <i>Insecure Majorities</i>. University of Chicago Press, 2016. <ol style="list-style-type: none"> a. Ch.1-2, p.1-41 <p>Recommended:</p> <ol style="list-style-type: none"> 5. Abramowitz, Alan I., and Kyle L. Saunders. “Why Can’t We All Just Get Along? The Reality of a Polarized America.” <i>The Forum</i> 3, no. 2 (2005). https://doi.org/10.2202/1540-8884.1076. 6. Klein, Ezra. <i>Why We’re Polarized</i>. New York: Simon and Schuster, 2020. <p>Reading Questions: What causes contemporary polarization?</p> |