American Politics: Behavior

This course is designed to help prepare graduate students in political science to pass the comprehensive examination in the field of American Politics. Its companion course, PS 251, focuses on the formal institutions of American Government. This course focuses on the political behavior of individual citizens and informal political organizations such as parties and interest groups.

Books you should have:


Assignments:

I. Public Opinion: Political Values

*Alexis de Toqueville, *Democracy in America*, Part I, Sections 2, 3, and 5; Part II, Sections 3-9.
Herbert McCloskey and Ada Brill, *Dimensions of Tolerance* (1983), chs. 7-9

II. Public Opinion: Ideology

Kay Schlozman and Sidney Verba, “Unemployment, Class Consciousness, and Radical Politics:

III. Public Opinion: Influences


IV. Political Participation

Sidney Verba and Norman Nie, Participation in America: Political Democracy and Social Equality (1972), chs. 1, 8, 10, 14, 15, 20

V. Party Identification and Voting Behavior I: Classics and Critics
VI. Party Identification and Voting Behavior II: Revisionists and Others


VII. Voting Behavior in Congressional Elections


VIII. Political Parties

*Downs, Economic Theory of Democracy*, chs. 1 and 3 and Parts III and IV.
IX. Interest Groups

*Mancur Olson, The Logic of Collective Action (1965), chs 1, 2, 5, 6
Grant McConnell, Private Power and American Democracy (1966), chs. 5, 8, 9, 10.
*Theodore Lowi, The End of Liberalism, 2nd ed (1979), chs. 3, 5, 8, 10
*James Q. Wilson, Political Organizations (1973), chs. 1-6, 9.
Kay L. Schlozman and John Tierney, Organized Interests and American Democracy (1986)
Bauer, Pool and Dexter, American Business and Public Policy (1963)