

POSC 255
SEMINAR IN AMERICAN ELECTORAL BEHAVIOR
Spring 2013

Martin Johnson
Department of Political Science
University of California, Riverside

Office: Watkins Hall, Room 2222
Telephone: 827-4612 (ext. 2-4612)
e-mail: martin.johnson@ucr.edu

Hours: Tuesday, 1-3 p.m. and by appointment

This course explores voting and political participation with a focus on U.S. elections. In this, we will read on major models of voting behavior scholars have used since the 1940s. This course is intended to provide you with a thorough review of literature and prepare you to demonstrate this knowledge on a field examination treating mass political behavior. While the readings, coursework, and most of our discussion will likely focus on U.S. behavior, we may from time to time discuss electoral behavior and related issues in other countries.

Required Books

Berelson, Bernard R., Paul F. Lazarsfeld, and William N. McPhee. 1954. *Voting*. Chicago: University of Chicago Press. (Midway Reprint) ASIN: 0226043509

Campbell, Angus, Phillip E. Converse, Warren E. Miller, and Donald T. Stokes. 1980 [1960]. *The American Voter*. University of Chicago Press; Reprint edition ISBN: 0226092542

Downs, Anthony. 1957. *An Economic Theory of Democracy*. Addison Wesley. ISBN: 0060417501

Keyssar, Alexander. 2000. *The Right to Vote: The Contested History of American Civic Life*. New York: Free Press. ISBN: 0465029698

Issenberg, Sasha. 2012. *The Victory Lab: The Secret Science of Winning Campaigns*. Crown. ISBN-10: 030795479X

Lau, Richard R., and David P. Redlawsk. 2006. *How Voters Decide: Information Processing during Election Campaigns*. New York: Cambridge University Press. ISBN: 052161306X

Sinclair, Betsy. 2012. *The Social Citizen*. Chicago, IL: University of Chicago Press. ISBN: 9780226922829

In addition to these books, there will be a number of supplementary readings, discussed below. Most of these will be available either through J-STOR (www.jstor.org) or through other electronic resources at the library (library.ucr.edu).

Weekly Reaction Memoranda

In order to help you prepare for class discussion, I would like you to write a memo each week responding to some aspect of the main readings for that week. The reaction memos should discuss issues raised by the readings, incorporating your own thoughts about them. Compare and contrast the readings, critique theory and methodology. Pay particular attention to how these readings might integrate with your own research. These should be 2 pages, but the important thing is your insight, not the length of the writing.

These memos are due by 9 a.m. each Tuesday. You should either place your work in my mailbox or e-mail it to me at martin.johnson@ucr.edu. These weekly writing assignments are worth 30 percent of your course grade.

Directed Literature Review

After the first five weeks of class, I will ask you to begin work on a longer writing project. This will be an expansion of your reaction memos, 10-15 pages in length.

Your literature review will be tailored to your on-going research interests. In the service of this paper, I will plan to schedule a brief meeting with each of you during the week of May 6. The literature review is due June 7. It is worth 30 percent of your grade.

Final Exam

In addition to these writing assignments, you will have a final exam. This final will roughly mirror a field examination in mass political behavior, with questions focused on elections, participation, and decision-making. The exam will be self-scheduled during exam week (June 8-14). You will pick up the exam from me and have 48 hours to complete it. The deadline for completing this exam and turning it in to me is 5 p.m. Friday, June 14. You will need to pick-up and begin the exam by the close of business Wednesday afternoon (5 p.m.). This will be a take-home open-book examination, worth 40 percent of your grade.

While these are not assigned readings for the course, as you prepare for the exam you might find the following review articles on political behavior of interest:

Bartels, Larry M. 2008. "The Study of Electoral Behavior". In Jan E. Leighley, ed., *The Oxford Handbook of American Elections and Political Behavior*. Princeton University.
<http://www.princeton.edu/~bartels/electoralbehavior.pdf>

Carmines, Edward G., and Robert Huckfeldt. 1996. "Political Behavior: An Overview." In R.E. Goodin and H.-D. Klingemann, eds. *A New Handbook of Political Science*. New York: Oxford Univ. Press.

Leighley, Jan E. 1995. "Attitudes, Opportunities, and Incentives: A Field Essay on Political Participation." *Political Research Quarterly* 48:181-209.

Course Outline

April 3 Introduction

The class, scheduling issues

Issenberg, Sasha. 2012. *The Victory Lab: The Secret Science of Winning Campaigns*. Crown. ISBN-10: 030795479X

April 10 Voting Rights

Keyssar, Alexander. 2000. *The Right to Vote: The Contested History of American Civic Life*. New York: Free Press.

Manza, Jeff, and Christopher Uggen. 2004. "Punishment and Democracy: The Disenfranchisement of Nonincarcerated Felons in the United States." *Perspectives on Politics* 2:491-505

April 17 Voting Rules and Convenience

Barreto, Matt A., Stephen A. Nuno, and Gabriel R. Sanchez. "The Disproportionate Impact of Voter-ID Requirements on the Electorate—New Evidence from Indiana." *PS: Political Science & Politics* 42.01 (2009): 111-116.

Gronke, Paul, Eva Galanes-Rosenabum, Peter A. Miller, and Daniel Toffey. 2008. "Convenience Voting." *Annual Review of Political Science*. 11: 437-455.

Highton, Benjamin. 2004. "Registration and Voting in the United States." *Perspectives on Politics*. 2:507-15.

Jackman, Robert W. 1987. "Political Institutions and Voter Turnout in the Industrial Democracies." *American Political Science Review* 81:405-424.

Key, V.O., Jr. 1984[1949]. *Southern Politics in State and Nation: A New Edition*. Chapters 26-29. Knoxville: Univ. of Tennessee Press.

Mitchell, Glenn E., II, and Christopher Wlezien. 1995. "The Impact of Legal Constraints on Voter Registration, Turnout and the Composition of the Electorate." *Political Behavior* 17:179-202.

April 24 The Columbia School and the Effects of Context

Berelson, Bernard R., Paul F. Lazarsfeld, and William N. McPhee. 1954. *Voting*. Chicago: University of Chicago Press.

Huckfeldt, Robert, Paul Allen Beck, Russell J. Dalton and Jeffrey Levine. 1995. "Political Environments, Cohesive Social Groups, and the Communication of Public Opinion." *American Journal of Political Science*, 39(4): 1025-1054

May 1 Social Networks and Norms

Sinclair, Betsy. 2012. *The Social Citizen*. University of Chicago Press. ISBN: 9780226922829

Gerber, Alan S., Donald P. Green, and Chris W. Larimer. 2008. "Social Pressure and Voter Turnout: Evidence from a Large-Scale Field Experiment." *American Political Science Review* 102(1):33-48
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Knack, Stephen. 1992. "Civic Norms, Social Sanctions, and Voter Turnout" *Rationality and Society* 4:133-156.

McClurg, Scott D. 2006. "The Electoral Relevance of Political Talk: Examining Disagreement and Expertise Effects in Social Networks on Political Participation." *American Journal of Political Science* 50(3): 737-754.

Nickerson, David W. 2008. "Is Voting Contagious? Evidence from Two Field Experiments." *American Political Science Review* 102(1):49-57

May 8 Michigan, Partisanship, and Affect

Campbell, Angus, Phillip E. Converse, Warren E. Miller, and Donald T. Stokes. 1980 [1960]. *The American Voter*. University of Chicago Press; Reprint edition.

Converse, Philip E. 2006. "Researching Electoral Politics." *American Political Science Review* 100(4):605-12.

May 15 Rational Choice Approaches to Voting Behavior

Aldrich, John. 1993. "Rational Choice and Turnout." *American Journal of Political Science* 37:246-78.

Downs, Anthony. 1957. *An Economic Theory of Democracy*. Addison Wesley.

Green, Donald P. and Ian Shapiro. 1994. *Pathologies of Rational Choice*. Yale University Press. Ch. 4. "The Paradox of Voter Turnout." pp. 47-71.

May 22 Voter Decision-making

Lau, Richard R., and David P. Redlawsk. 2006. *How Voters Decide: Information Processing during Election Campaigns*. New York: Cambridge University Press.

Lodge, Milton, Marco R. Steenbergen, Shawn Brau. 1995. "The Responsive Voter: Campaign Information and the Dynamics of Candidate Evaluation." *American Political Science Review* 89(2):309-326

Zaller, John R. 1996. "The Myth of Massive Media Impact Revived: New Support for a Discredited Idea." In Diana C. Mutz, Paul M. Sniderman, and Richard A. Brody, eds. *Political Persuasion and Attitude Change*. Ann Arbor: University of Michigan Press. pp. 17-79.

May 29 Biological Basis for Electoral Behavior

Freese, Jeremy. 2008. "Genetics and Social Science Explanations of Individual Outcomes." *American Journal of Sociology* S1-35.

Hatemi, Peter K., Enda Byrne, and Rose McDermott. 2012. "Introduction: What Is a 'Gene' and Why Does It Matter for Political Science?" *Journal of Theoretical Politics* 24(3): 305-327.

Klemmensen, Robert, Peter K. Hatemi, Sara Binzer Hobolt, Inge Petersen, Axel Skytthe, and Asbjørn S. Nørgaard. 2012. "The Genetics of Political Participation, Civic Duty, and Political Efficacy across Cultures: Denmark and the United States." *Journal of Theoretical Politics* 24(3):409-427.

Fowler, James H., and Christopher T. Dawes. 2008. "Two Genes Predict Voter Turnout." *Journal of Politics* 70 (3): 579-594.

Charney, Evan, and William English. 2012. "Candidate Genes and Political Behavior." *American Political Science Review* 106(1):1-34.

Fowler, James H., and Christopher T. Dawes. 2013. "In Defense of Genopolitics." *American Political Science Review*, forthcoming. http://jhfowler.ucsd.edu/in_defense_of_genopolitics.pdf

June 5 Personality

Chirumbolo, Antonio, and Luigi Leone. 2010. "Personality and politics: The role of the HEXACO model of personality in predicting ideology and voting." *Personality and Individual Differences* 49(1): 43-48.

Gerber, Alan S., Gregory A. Huber, David Doherty, Conor M. Dowling, Connor Raso, and Shang E. Ha. 2011. "Personality Traits and Participation in Political Processes." *Journal of Politics* 74(3): 692-706.

Lewis, Gary J., and Timothy C. Bates. 2011. "From Left to Right: How the Personality System Allows Basic Traits to Influence Politics via Characteristic Moral Adaptations." *British Journal of Psychology* 102:546-558.

Mondak, Jeffery J., Matthew V. Hibbing, Damarys Canache, Mitchell A. Seligson, and Mary R. Anderson. 2010. "Personality and Civic Engagement: An Integrative Framework for the Study of Trait Effects on Political Behavior." *American Political Science Review* 104(1): 85-110.

Vecchione, Michele, and Gian Vittorio Caprara. 2009. "Personality determinants of political participation: The contribution of traits and self-efficacy beliefs." *Personality and Individual Differences* 46(4): 487-492.

Verhulst, Brad, Lyndon J. Eaves, Peter K. Hatemi. 2012. "Correlation Not Causation: The Relationship between Personality Traits and Political Ideologies." *American Journal of Political Science* 56: 34-51.

DIRECTED LITERATURE REVIEW DUE June 7

June 14 Final Exam Period Ends for POSC 255