

Interest Group Politics

POS 6933, Sect. 9071

Department of Political Science
University of Florida
Spring 2006

Professor: Michael T. Heaney
Office: Anderson 206
Office Hours: Tuesday 1-3pm; Wednesday 3-5pm; Thursday 2-4pm
Phone: 352-392-0262, ex. 236
FAX: 352-392-8127
E-mail: mtheaney@ufl.edu
Web: <http://plaza.ufl.edu/mtheaney/>

Time: Class Meets on Wednesday, 6:15-9:10pm (Sessions 11-E2)
Location: Dauer Hall 0342

COURSE DESCRIPTION

This course examines the ways that citizens, firms, and institutions struggle to gain representation through organized interest groups in the United States. We attempt to negotiate an understanding of groups that neither quixotically champions their representative functions nor cynically decries their supposed omnipotence. Instead, we situate groups within a larger context of multiple actors and institutions vying for political influence. The course begins by identifying the place of interest groups in the broader American political system. We then explore how groups face dilemmas of collective action and (sometimes) overcome them through the formation of social movements and lobbying organizations. We consider how groups form relationships with political parties and other political elites in Washington, DC. Finally, we evaluate group strategies for lobbying Congress and achieving influence over elections, bureaucratic decision making, and judicial processes.

COURSE REQUIREMENTS

1. *Preparation and Active Participation.* Students are expected to attend all sessions of the course and be prepared to offer informed commentary during class discussions. Participation is worth 20% of the course grade.
2. *Short Essays.* Students are required to write three short essays of approximately 1,000 words each on topics assigned by the instructor. **HARD PAPER COPIES** of the essays are due on February 15, March 22, and April 26. The essays are worth 40% of the course grade.

3. *Final Paper.* Students are required to submit a final paper pertinent to interest group politics of 20-25 pages in length. Recognizing the different learning objectives of master's and doctoral students, the nature of the expectation will differ for the two groups. A HARD COPY of the paper is due at class time on the day of the scheduled final exam (Monday, May 1, 10am). The paper is worth 40% of the course grade.
 - A. *Master's students* should produce a case study of an interest group of their own choosing, though the choice is subject to the approval of the professor. The assignment is to analyze the selected group using one or more of the theoretical perspectives discussed in the course. Are the theories adequate to understand the politics of this interest group, or is some new perspective required? Is there anything the leaders of this particular group might learn from political scientists who study interest groups? An excellent paper is one that uses this case study to offer new theoretical insights into interest group theory and proposes concrete, practical recommendations to the leadership of the group. Research papers must be based on original research conducted by the student. Evidence may be drawn from content analysis of newspapers or on-line media, statistical analysis of data available through on-line databases, interviews with interest group members or leaders, personal observation of events, or other sources.
 - B. *Doctoral students* should produce a research design modeled on a dissertation prospectus. The design should concisely identify inadequacies in the extant literature, offer a coherent theoretical perspective, and outline a manageable research project that would test hypotheses derived from that perspective. The design should address potential threats to the validity of the design and discuss strategies for countering these threats. Students are not expected to carry out the research, but the research should be on a scale that it could be carried out within a two-year period. An excellent research design is one that, if carried out, would likely lead to an important contribution to knowledge in the field of interest group politics.

REQUIRED READINGS

The following books are on reserve at the Marston Science Library and are available for purchase at Goerings Bookstore:

1. E. E. Schattschneider. 1975. [1960.] *The Semisovereign People: A Realist's View of Democracy in America*. Fort Worth: Harcourt Brace Jovanovich College Publishers.

2. Mancur Olson. 1971. [1965.] *The Logic of Collective Action: Public Goods and the Theory of Groups*. Cambridge, MA: Harvard University Press.
3. Kevin M. Esterling. 2004. *The Political Economy of Expertise: Information and Efficiency in American National Politics*. Ann Arbor: University of Michigan Press.
4. Fredrick J. Boehmke. 2005. *The Indirect Effect of Direct Legislation: How Institutions Shape Interest Group Systems*. Columbus: The Ohio State University Press.
5. Mark J. Rozell, Clyde Wilcox, and David Madland. 2006. *Interest Groups in American Campaigns: The New Face of Electioneering*. Washington, DC: CQ Press.

The following book should be ordered directly from the publisher, the Institute of Government Studies at the University of California, Berkeley. Contact Maria Wolf at 510-642-1428. The price is \$24.95:

6. David B. Truman. 1993. [1971.] *The Governmental Process: Political Interests and Public Opinion*, Second Edition. Berkeley: Institute of Governmental Studies.

The following book is out of print and should be purchased through your choice of an on-line out-of-print book service:

7. J. David Greenstone. 1977. *Labor in American Politics*. Chicago: University of Chicago Press.

A required course packet is available for purchase at Orange and Blue Textbooks, 309 NW 13th Street.

COURSE OUTLINE

1. January 11 – INTRODUCTION TO THE COURSE
2. January 18 – INTEREST GROUPS IN THE AMERICAN POLITICAL SYSTEM
 - Alexander Hamilton, James Madison, and John Jay. 1982. [1787-1788.] *The Federalist Papers*. New York: Bantam Books. Numbers 10 and 51.
 - Alexis de Tocqueville. 1988. [1850.] *Democracy in America*, 13th Edition. New York: Harper Perennial. Pages 189-195 and 513-524.

- David B. Truman. 1993. [1971.] *The Governmental Process: Political Interests and Public Opinion*, Second Edition. Berkeley: Institute of Governmental Studies. Introduction and Chapters 1-3.
- James Yoho. 1995. "Madison on the Beneficial Effects of Interest Groups: What Was Left Unsaid in Federalist 10." *Polity*, Vol. 27, No. 4. (Summer): 587-605.
- James Yoho. 1998. "The Evolution of a Better Definition of 'Interest Group' and its Synonyms." *Social Science Journal*, Vol. 35, No. 2: 231-243.

3. January 25 – THE POLITICAL DEVELOPMENT OF INTEREST GROUPS

- David B. Truman. 1993. [1971.] *The Governmental Process: Political Interests and Public Opinion*, Second Edition. Berkeley: Institute of Governmental Studies. Chapter 4.
- Elisabeth S. Clemens. 1997. *The People's Lobby: Organizational Innovation and the Rise of Interest Group Politics in the United States, 1890-1925*. Prologue and Chapters 1-2.
- Jocelyn Elise Crowley and Theda Skocpol. 2001. "The Rush to Organize: Explaining Associational Formation in the United States, 1860s-1920s." *American Journal of Political Science*, Vol. 45, No. 4 (October): 813-829.
- Daniel J. Tichenor and Richard A. Harris. 2005. "The Development of Interest Group Politics in America: Beyond the Conceits of Modern Times." *Annual Review Political Science*, Vol. 8: 251-270.

4. February 1 – THE COLLECTIVE ACTION PROBLEM

- Mancur Olson. 1971. [1965.] *The Logic of Collective Action: Public Goods and the Theory of Groups*. Cambridge, MA: Harvard University Press. Introduction, Chapters 1, 2, and 6.
- Joan Esteban and Debraj Ray. 2001. "Collective Action and the Group Size Paradox." *American Political Science Review*, Vol. 95, No. 3 (September): 663-672.
- Wendy L. Hansen, Neil J. Mitchell, and Jeffrey M. Drope. 2005. "The Logic of Private and Collective Action." *American Journal of Political Science*, Vol. 49, No. 1 (January): 150-167.

5. February 8 – OVERCOMING COLLECTIVE ACTION PROBLEMS

- Robert H. Salisbury. 1969. "An Exchange Theory of Interest Groups." *Midwest Journal of Political Science*, Vol. 13, No. 1 (February): 1-32.

- David B. Truman. 1993. [1971.] *The Governmental Process: Political Interests and Public Opinion*, Second Edition. Berkeley: Institute of Governmental Studies. Chapters 5-7.
- Jack L. Walker. 1983. "The Origins and Maintenance of Interest Groups in America." *American Political Science Review*, Vol. 77, No. 2 (June): 390-406.
- Robert H. Salisbury. 1984. "Interest Representation: The Dominance of Institutions." *American Political Science Review*, Vol. 78, No. 1 (March): 64-76.
- John Mark Hansen. 1985. "The Political Economy of Group Membership." *American Political Science Review*, Vol. 79, No. 1 (March): 79-96.

6. February 15 – FROM SOCIAL MOVEMENTS TO INTEREST GROUPS

- **FIRST SHORT PAPER DUE**
- John D. McCarthy and Mayer N. Zald. 1977. "Resource Mobilization and Social Movements: A Partial Theory." *American Journal of Sociology*, Vol. 82, No. 6 (May): 1212-1241.
- Anne N. Costain. 1981. "Representing Women: The Transition from Social Movement to Interest Group." *Western Political Quarterly* 34: 100-113.
- David A. Snow, E. Burke Rochford, Jr., Steven K. Worden, and Robert D. Benford. 1986. "Frame Alignment Processes, Micromobilization, and Movement Participation." *American Sociological Review*, Vol. 51, No. 4 (August): 464-481.
- Roberto M. Fernandez and Doug McAdam. 1988. "Social Networks and Social Movements: Multiorganizational Fields and Recruitment to Mississippi Freedom Summer." *Sociological Forum*, Vol. 3, No. 3 (Summer): 357-382.
- Brett M. Clifton. 2004. "Romancing the GOP: Assessing the Strategies Used the Christian Coalition to Influence the Republican Party." *Party Politics*, Vol. 10, No. 5 (September): 475-98.

7. February 22 – PARTY-GROUP INTERACTION

- David B. Truman. 1993. [1971.] *The Governmental Process: Political Interests and Public Opinion*, Second Edition. Berkeley: Institute of Governmental Studies. Chapter 9.
- E. E. Schattschneider. 1975. [1960.] *The Semisovereign People: A Realist's View of Democracy in America*. Fort Worth: Harcourt Brace Jovanovich College Publishers. Chapters 1-5 and 8.

- Marjorie Randon Hershey. 1993. "Citizens' Groups and Political Parties in the United States." *Annals of the American Academy of Political and Social Science*, Vol. 528, Citizens, Protest, and Democracy (July): 142-156.

8. March 1 – STRATEGIES IN CAMPAIGNS AND ELECTIONS

- David B. Truman. 1993. [1971.] *The Governmental Process: Political Interests and Public Opinion*, Second Edition. Berkeley: Institute of Governmental Studies. Chapters 8 and 10.
- Mark J. Rozell, Clyde Wilcox, and David Madland. 2006. *Interest Groups in American Campaigns: The New Face of Electioneering*, Second Edition. Washington, DC: CQ Press.

9. March 8 – CASE STUDY: THE LABOR MOVEMENT

- J. David Greenstone. 1977. *Labor in American Politics*. Chicago: University of Chicago Press. Introduction, Chapters 1-2 and Chapters 6-11.
- Margaret Levi. 2003. "Organizing Power: The Prospects for an American Labor Movement." *Perspectives on Politics*, Vol. 1, No. 1 (March): 45-68.
- Clayton Nall. 2005. "Gompers's Ghost and Labor's New Look." *Washington Post* (September 4): B3.

10. March 22 – ISSUE NETWORKS

- **SECOND SHORT PAPER DUE**
- Hugh Hecl. 1978. "Issue Networks and the Executive Establishment." In *The New American Political System*, Anthony King, ed. Washington, DC: The American Enterprise Institute, 87-124.
- Thomas L. Gais, Mark A. Peterson, and Jack L. Walker. 1984. "Interest Groups, Iron Triangles and Representative Institutions in American National Government." *British Journal of Political Science*, Vol. 14, No. 2 (April): 161-185
- William P. Browne. 1990. "Organized Interests and Their Issue Niches: A Search for Pluralism in a Policy Domain." *Journal of Politics*, Vol. 52, No. 2 (May): 477-509.
- John P. Heinz, Edward O. Laumann, Robert H. Salisbury, Robert L. Nelson. 1990. "Inner Circles or Hollow Cores? Elite Networks in National Policy Systems." *Journal of Politics*, Vol. 52, No. 2 (May): 356-390.

- Daniel P. Carpenter, Kevin M. Esterling, and David M. J. Lazer. 2004. “Friends, Brokers, and Transitivity: Who Informs Whom in Washington Politics.” *Journal of Politics*, Vol. 66, No. 1 (February): 224-246.

11. March 29 – INSIDE LOBBYING STRATEGIES

- David B. Truman. 1993. [1971.] *The Governmental Process: Political Interests and Public Opinion*, Second Edition. Berkeley: Institute of Governmental Studies. Chapter 11.
- John Mark Hansen. 1991. *Gaining Access: Congress and the Farm Lobby, 1919-1981*. Chicago: University of Chicago Press. Introduction, Chapter 1, Conclusion.
- Scott Ainsworth and Itai Sened. 1993. “The Role of Lobbyists: Entrepreneurs with Two Audiences.” *American Journal of Political Science*, Vol. 37, No. 3. (August): 834-866.
- David Austen-Smith and John R. Wright. 1994. “Counteractive Lobbying.” *American Journal of Political Science*, Vol. 38, No. 1. (February): 25-44.
- Marie Hojnacki and David C. Kimball. 1998. “Organized Interests and the Decision of Whom to Lobby in Congress.” *American Political Science Review*, Vol. 92, No. 4. (December): 775-790.
- Richard L. Hall and Alan V. Deardorff. 2006. “Lobbying as Legislative Subsidy.” *American Political Science Review*, Vol. 100, No. 1 (February): 69-84.

12. April 5 – COALITIONS, NICHEs, AND GRASSROOTS STRATEGIES

- David B. Truman. 1993. [1971.] *The Governmental Process: Political Interests and Public Opinion*, Second Edition. Berkeley: Institute of Governmental Studies. Chapters 12.
- Marie Hojnacki. 1997. “Interest Groups' Decisions to Join Alliances or Work Alone.” *American Journal of Political Science*, Vol. 41, No. 1 (January): 61-87.
- Ken Kollman. 1998. *Outside Lobbying: Public Opinion and Interest Group Strategies*. Princeton: Princeton University Press. Chapters 1-3.
- Frank Baumgartner and Beth Leech. 2001. “Interest Niches and Policy Bandwagons: Patterns of Interest Group Involvement in National Politics.” *The Journal of Politics*, Vol. 63, No. 4, (November): 1191-1213.
- Michael T. Heaney. 2004. “Outside the Issue Niche: The Multidimensionality of Interest Group Identity.” *American Politics Research*, V. 32, N. 6 (Nov): 611-651.

13. April 12 – DIRECT DEMOCRACY AND LOBBYING FOR INITIATIVES

- Frederick J. Boehmke. 2005. *The Indirect Effect of Direct Legislation: How Institutions Shape Interest Group Systems*. Columbus: The Ohio State University Press.

14. April 19 – INFLUENCING THE PRESIDENT, BUREAUCRACY, AND COURTS

- David B. Truman. 1993. [1971.] *The Governmental Process: Political Interests and Public Opinion*, Second Edition. Berkeley: Institute of Governmental Studies. Chapters 13-15.
- Mark A. Peterson. 1992. “The Presidency and Organized Interests: White House Patterns of Interest Group Liaison.” *American Political Science Review*, Vol. 86, No. 3. (September): 612-625.
- Steven J. Balla. 1998. “Administrative Procedures and Political Control of the Bureaucracy.” *American Political Science Review*, Vol. 92, No. 3 (September): 663-673.
- Gregory A. Caldeira and John R. Wright. 1990. “Amici Curiae before the Supreme Court: Who Participates, When, and How Much?” *Journal of Politics*, Vol. 52, No. 3 (August): 782-806.
- Gregory A. Caldeira and John R. Wright. 1998. “Lobbying for Justice: Organized Interests, Supreme Court Nominations, and United States Senate.” *American Journal of Political Science*, Vol. 42, No. 2. (April): 499-523.

15. April 26 – THE POLITICAL ECONOMY OF EXPERTISE

- **THIRD SHORT PAPER DUE**
- David B. Truman. 1993. [1971.] *The Governmental Process: Political Interests and Public Opinion*, Second Edition. Berkeley: Institute of Governmental Studies. Chapter 16.
- Kevin M. Esterling. 2004. *The Political Economy of Expertise: Information and Efficiency in American National Politics*. Ann Arbor: University of Michigan Press. Entire book.

FINAL PAPER DUE: At the time of the scheduled final exam (Monday, May 1, 10am).

HAVE A GREAT SUMMER!! ☺