

Campaigns and Elections PO 300*

CAS 224

9am to 10am; Monday, Wednesday, and Friday

1 Teaching Staff

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Course Home Page: http://courseinfo.bu.edu/courses/09sprgcaspo300_d1/

2 Introduction

We are a democracy because we have democratic elections. Selecting representatives is the fundamental democratic right of the citizenry. This class is an examination of the state of and development of this system. First, we examine the basic components of our system – the voter. What shapes the opinions and explains the actions of the individual voter? Why does she vote the way that she does? Why does she chose to be a Democratic or a Republican? Is it because of political ideology or is it because her friends and family are of a particular party? Second, we explore campaigns – the battlefield of electoral politics. Do campaigns matter? If we can predict individual vote choice using behavior characteristics and aggregate vote outcomes using economic and presidential approval data, what room is there for campaigns to shift the electorate? Finally, we will examine the rules of elections. Does the principle of ‘one man, one vote’ established in *Baker v. Carr* matter for public policy? Is there too much money in U.S. electoral politics?

*Last updated Sunday 26th April, 2009; 19:49.

3 Grading and Course Policies

3.1 Grading

Pop quizzes in lecture 5% Unannounced quizzes will consist of questions based on lecture and the assigned reading.

Section attendance 15% At each section, TFs will take attendance and may also assign short assignments.

Medium length research paper 25%

Midterm Exam 25%

Final Exam 30%

3.2 Course Policies

Academic Integrity. Plagiarism is unacceptable. The student should see the teaching staff if he or she has the slightest question about or concern of potentially committing this most horrendous academic offense.

Rescheduling exams. Exams will be rescheduled only under extraordinary (and well-documented) circumstances.

Late work. Missed pop quizzes cannot be rescheduled. The grade for papers turned in one minute to twenty-four hours will be deducted by one letter grade. The grade for papers turned in twenty-four to forty-eight hours will be deducted by two letter grades (an A becomes a C), and so on.

Regrades. A student may feel that their assignment has been unfairly graded by the TF and wish to request that the professor regrades the assignment. If a student wishes to do so, he or she must prepare a one page memo describing why they feel their assignment was graded incorrectly and submit it in hard copy to the professor within one week of receiving the grade. If the professor accepts the request, he will regrade the *entire* assignment and *may* render a lower grade than original. Except in the case of an obvious oversight on the teaching staff, there will be no partial or spot regrades of an assignment.

Graded assignments. Please keep all of your graded assignments until you have received your final grade. Although we double check our records, mistakes may (although they have yet to) happen. If you are sure you received a '92' on your exam, and we have recorded a '62,' the *only* way we can correct this error is if you have the originally graded assignment.

4 Books Required for Purchase

Holbrook, T. M. (1996). *Do Campaigns Matter?* Sage Publications, Thousand Oaks. ISBN 978-0803973459.

Rosenstone, S. and Hansen, J. M. (2002). *Mobilization, Participation, and Democracy in America.* Longman. ISBN 978-0321121868.

Jacobson, G. C. (2009). *The Politics of Congressional Elections*. Longman Classics in Political Science. Longman, New York, seventh edition. ISBN: 978-0-205-57702-6.

In addition to the books required for purchase, students should stay informed by reading a newspaper such as the *New York Times*, *Washington Post*, *Wal Street Journal*, or any other national newspaper.

5 Preliminary Course Outline

1/14	Organizational Meeting
1/16	Introduction and Models of Political Science Shepsle, K. A. and Bonchek, M. S. (1997). <i>Analyzing Politics: Rationality, Behaviors, and Institutions</i> . W.W. Norton, New York. Chapters 1 and 2. March, J. G. and Lave, C. A. (1975). <i>Introduction to Models in the Social Sciences</i> . Harpercollins, New York. Chapter 1.
	I. Voters
1/19	No class.
1/21 and 1/23	Political participation. Rosenstone and Hansen, Chapters 1 and 2; skim Chapter 3.

1/26, 1/28, and 1/30

Voter turnout.

Rosenstone and Hansen, Chapters 6, 7, and 8.

Green, D. P. and Gerber, A. S. (2004). *Get out the Vote! How to Increase Voter Turnout*. Brookings, Washington, DC. **Chapters 1 and 2.**

Sack. K. (1998). The 1998 Election: Black Turnout in the South Led to Surge by Democrats. *New York Times*.

Recommended:

Gerber, A. and Green, D. (2001). Do Phone Calls Increase Voter Turnout?: A Field Experiment. *The Public Opinion Quarterly*, 65(1):75–85.

Citrin, J., Schickler, E., and Sides, J. (2003). What If Everyone Voted? Simulating the Impact of Increased Turnout in Senate Elections. *AJPS*, 47(1):75–90.

Highton, B. (2004). Voter Registration and Turnout in the United States. *Perspectives on Politics*.

2/2, 2/4, and 2/6

How do voters decide?

Menand, L. (2004). The Unpolitical Animal: How Political Science Understands Voters. *The New Yorker*, 80(23):92–96.

Popkin, S. (1994). *The Reasoning Voter: Communication and Persuasion in Presidential Campaigns*. University of Chicago Press, Chicago. **Prologue and Chapters 1 to 4.**

2/9, 2/11, and 2/13

Does lack of political information matter?

Shenkman, R. (2008). *Just How Stupid Are We?: Facing the Truth about the American Voter*. Basic Books, New York. **Chapters 1, 2, and 3.**

Zaller, J. (1992). *The Nature and Origins of Mass Opinion*. Cambridge University Press, New York. ISBN 978-0521407861. **Chapters 2, 3, and 6.**

Recommended

Delli Carpini, M. X. and Keeter S. (1997). *What Americans Know about Politics and Why It Matters*. Yale University Press, New Haven.

Berinsky, A. (2007). Assuming the Costs of War: Events, Elites, and American Public Support for Military Conflict. *Journal of Politics*.

2/17¹, 2/18, and 2/20

Are voters polarized?

Phillips, Kevin P. (1969). *The Emerging Republican Majority*. Arlington House, New Rochelle. **Chapters 1 and 6.**

President (then Candidate for U.S. Senate) Barack Obama's speech at the 2004 Democratic National Convention. <http://www.washingtonpost.com/wp-dyn/articles/A19751-2004Jul27.html>.

Gelman, A. (2008). *Red State, Blue State, Rich State, Poor State: Why Americans Vote the Way They Do*. Princeton University Press, Princeton. **Chapters 1, 2, 3, and 10.**

Yglesias, M. (2008). "The Case for Partisanship: Why Polarization is Good for Us." *The Atlantic Monthly*. <http://www.theatlantic.com/doc/print/200804/comment>.

Recommended

Frank, T. (2004). *What's the Matter with Kansas?*. Metropolitan Books, New York.

Fiorina, M., Abrams, S., and Pope, J. (2005). *Culture War? The Myth of a Polarized America*. Pearson Longman, New York. **Selected Chapters.**

Brooks, D. (2001). One Nation, Slightly Divisible. *Atlantic Monthly*, (December):53—65.

II. Campaigns

- 2/23, 2/24, 2/26, and 3/2 Do campaigns matter?
Holbrook, Chapters 1, 2, and 3.
Tood, C. and S. Gawiser. *How Obama Won: A State-by-state Guide to the Historic 2008 Presidential Election*. Vintage, New York. **Introduction**.
Recommended
Ansolabehere, S. (2006). The Paradox of Minimal Effects in *Capturing Campaign Effects*. The University of Michigan Press, Ann Arbor, 29–44.
- 3/4 Midterm review session
- 3/6 **Midterm**
No Sections this week.
- 3/9 to 3/13 Spring Break
- 3/16 Campaign advertising.
Ansolabehere, S., Iyengar, S., Simon, A., and Valentino, N. (1994). Does Attack Advertising Demobilize the Electorate? *The American Political Science Review*, 88(4):829–838.
- 3/18 **Paper assignment handed out.**
3/18 Presidential nominating conventions.
Holbrook, Chapter 4.
Recommended
Mailer, N. (2008). *Miami and the Siege of Chicago*. New York Review Books Classics. New York Review of Books, New York. **Selected Chapters**.
- 3/20 Presidential Debates.
Holbrook, Chapter 5.

3/23, 3/25, and 3/27	Media. Patterson, T. E. (1993). <i>Out of Order</i> . Alfred A. Knopf, New York. Chapters 1 and 2.
3/30 and 4/1	Congressional elections: context and candidates. Jacobson, Chapters 2 and 3.
4/3	The internet and elections.
4/6	Discussion of papers.
4/8, 4/10	Congressional elections: campaigns and voters. Jacobson, Chapter 4 and 5.
4/13, 4/15, and 4/17	Congressional elections: national politics. Jacobson, Chapter 6.
4/22 and 4/23	2006, 2008, 2010, 2012. Mayhew. David (2009). “The Meaning of the 2008 Election” in <i>The Elections of 2008</i> ed. Michael Nelson. CQ Press. Jacobson. Gary (2009). “Congress: The Second Democratic Wave” in <i>The Election of 2008</i> ed. Michael Nelson. CQ Press.
4/24 and 4/27	Third parties. Abramson, P., Aldrich, J., Paolino, P., and Rohde, D. (1995). Third-Party and Independent Candidates in American Politics: Wallace, Anderson, and Perot. <i>PSQ</i> Gargill, D. (2008). Not What It Takes: Running for President on Less Than \$2,000 A Day. <i>Harper’s Magazine</i> , 316(1893):60–65
4/29	Wrap-up.

Important university-wide dates

- January 19: No class.
- February 16: No class.
- February 17: Substitute Monday Schedule of Classes.

- February 19: Last day to drop class without a 'W.'
- March 9 to March 13: Spring break.
- March 30: Last day to drop class with a 'W.'
- April 20: No class.
- April 23: Substitute Monday Schedule of Classes.

Important class dates

- March 6 (in class): Midterm.
- May 8, 3PM to 5PM: Final Exam.