

**POLI 102G: Organized Interests in American Politics**  
**Interest Groups, Social Movements, and Political Parties**

Fall 2017

MWF 11:00 - 11:50am

Peterson Hall, Room 103

Professor: LaGina Gause  
Email: [lgause@ucsd.edu](mailto:lgause@ucsd.edu)  
Office: 348 Social Sciences Building  
Office Hours: Wednesday 12pm – 1pm

**Course Overview:** Society is full of groups with competing interests based on occupation, class, religion, race, gender, sexuality, ideology, etc. Competing theories exist on how well these interests are represented in the American political system. Pluralists argue that competing interests mean that no one group dominates the political process. Others maintain that some groups have greater influence in the political system than others. This course is intended to provide students with an introduction to interest groups, social movements, and political parties. As students engage the course materials each week, they should consider the following themes: What are the similarities and differences between types of organized interests? How do organized interests influence the policy process? Are some interests better represented than others? Are some types of organized interests more influential in the political process than others? What, if any, efforts are necessary to protect against “special” or dominate interests?

By course’s end, students should have a comprehensive introduction to organized interests in American politics. They should also be able to engage in central debates concerning the influence of interest groups, social movements, and political parties on policy formation and implementation using evidence grounded in fact and scientific research methods. Finally, students should develop the analytical skills necessary to process and critically evaluate political information, behavior, and opinions.

**Required Materials**

Students are required to purchase:

David Lowery and Holly Brasher (2004), *Organized Interests and American Government*, Waveland Press, Inc.

I will upload to the TritonEd course website any readings that are not easily accessible online. You are expected to complete the readings before coming to class.

**Course Evaluation**

Grades will be calculated as follows:

- |   |     |
|---|-----|
| • Think Pieces (5 total, at least 2 submitted before Midterm) | 10% |
| • Discussion Questions (5 total for 1% each)                  | 5%  |
| • Participation   | 20% |
| • Midterm Exam  | 30% |
| • Final Paper   | 35% |

## **Assignments**

- **Think Pieces** – You are required to submit 5 short papers (250-500) during the quarter. You may only submit one think piece per week and at least 2 must be submitted before the midterm exam. These short assignments should not be a summary of the readings but it should be clear from the paper that the course materials were read. Each 250-500 word short paper should: (1) include a thesis statement in the first paragraph, (2) analyze the argument, evidence, methods or implications of at least one reading that has yet to be discussed in class, and (3) connect the reading with at least one other reading, a current event, or political phenomenon. I recommend that you write these think pieces to help you prepare for the final paper. The think pieces are due to TritonEd by midnight before the reading is discussed during class.
- **Discussion Questions** – On weeks that you do not submit a think piece, you must submit a question to TritonEd. The question can be a clarification question or it can be a discussion question regarding a topic you would like to be addressed during class. The questions must be submitted by midnight before class.
- **Participation** – Participation by every student is integral for the success of the course. We will learn not only from the course material, but also from our diverse perspectives and experiences. Throughout the course, I will give you in-class assignments that will contribute to your participation grade. Missing class frequently will hurt your participation grade.
- **Midterm Exam** – The midterm will assess your understanding of course concepts. Questions for the exam will be drawn from the readings and information presented during class. The midterm will consist of multiple choice, short answer, and identification questions. It is intended to gauge your understanding of all material from lectures, discussions, and readings.
- **Final Paper** – Use the readings from this course to write an 8-10 page paper on organized interests in the United States. The thesis should answer whether certain organized interests have greater influence in the political system than others and whether efforts to guard against dominate interests have been successful. To guide the paper, think about an issue that is important to you. Discuss how at least two interest groups, social movements, or political parties represent your interest (i.e., any combination of at least two organized interest groups). Are some organized interests better than others in advocating for your interest? How do organized interest groups support or impede each other's efforts to advocate for your interest? In the conclusion discuss efforts that exist or should exist to protect against undue influence. The final paper is due to TritonEd by 2:30pm on December 12, 2017.

**Late Assignments and Make-Up Exams:** Think pieces and questions will not receive credit if late. There are three days most weeks to submit these assignments. So, plan accordingly. A make-up exam will only be granted under extraordinary circumstances and only with proper written documentation (e.g., doctors note). Please contact me as soon as possible so that we can make arrangements. Your grade will be deducted 10% for each day that the final paper is late. It is late if not submitted by 2:30pm on December 12.

**Grade Grievances:** Any requests for a grade change must be submitted to me within 72 hours of your receiving the graded assignment. The written request must be typed and no longer than one

page long. Your request for grade reconsideration should include a detailed explanation with evidence from course materials. I will review the entire assignment to determine whether the grade should be increased, decreased, or remain the same.

**Academic Integrity:** Any violation of UCSD's academic integrity policy will result in failing this class. The policy can be consulted here: <http://senate.ucsd.edu/Operating-Procedures/Senate-Manual/Appendices/2>.

**Sexual Misconduct/Title IX Statement:** UC San Diego prohibits sexual violence and sexual harassment and will respond promptly to reports of misconduct. If you wish to speak confidentially about an incident of sexual misconduct, please contact CARE at the Sexual Assault Resources Center at (858) 534-5793. Students should be aware that faculty members are considered responsible employees and are not a confidential resource; as such, if you disclose an incident of sexual misconduct to a faculty member, they have an obligation to report it to UC San Diego's Title IX office, the Office for the Prevention of Harassment & Discrimination (OPHD). To learn more about sexual misconduct, visit: <https://students.ucsd.edu/sponsor/sarc/index.html>. To report an incident to the University, please contact OPHD at [ophd@ucsd.edu](mailto:ophd@ucsd.edu)

## **Course Readings**

### **Part I: Foundations and Perspectives**

Fri, Sept 29 – Course Introduction

Mon, Oct 2 – Foundations of Organized Interests

- Fri, Oct 6 Madison, James. 1787. "Federalist 10."  
<https://www.congress.gov/resources/display/content/The+Federalist+Papers#TheFederalistPapers-10>
- James Yoho, "What Was Left Unsaid in 'Federalist' 10," *Polity* 27, 4 (Summer 1995), 587-605

Wed, Oct 4 – Definitions and Perspectives

- Lowery and Brasher, Chapter 1

Friday, Oct 6 – Pluralism

- Truman, David B. 1951. Excerpt from *The Governmental Process*
- Dahl, Robert. 1961 and 1956. Excerpts from *Who Governs* and *A Preface to Democratic Theory*.

Monday, Oct 9 – Elitism/Transactions Theory

- Schattschneider, E.E. 1960. *The Semisovereign People: A Realist's View of Democracy in America*. Holt, Rinehart and Winston, Chapter 2

Wed, Oct 11 – Neopluralism

- Moe, Terry. Excerpt from “The Organization of Interests: Incentives and the Internal Dynamics of Political Interest Groups” pp. 391-403.
- Baumgartner, Frank and Bryan Jones. Excerpt from *Agendas and Instability in American Politics* pp. 517-528

## **Part II: Interest Groups and Social Movements**

Friday, Oct 13 – Defining Interest Groups and Social Movements

- Review Lowery and Brasher, Chapter 1
- David Snow, Sarah Soule and Hanspeter Kriesi (2006), “Mapping the Terrain.” (Chapter 1) in *The Blackwell Companion to Social Movements*.

Mon, Oct 16 – Interest Organization Mobilization

- Lowery and Brasher, Chapter 2 (pp 29-48)

Wed, Oct 18 – The Who and Why of Participation

- Excerpt from Rosenstone and Hansen (American Politics Reader pp. 351-368)
- Corrigan-Brown, Catherine (2010). *Patterns of Protest: Trajectories of Participation in Social Movements*. Stanford: Stanford University Press. Read Chapter 1 online from Library website ([ucsd.worldcat.org](http://ucsd.worldcat.org))

Fri, Oct 20 – Who participates in social movements?

- Milkman, Ruth. 2017. “A New Political Generation: Millennials and the Post-2008 Wave of Protest” *American Sociological Review* 82(1): 1-31.
- Meyer, David S (August 12, 2011) “Americans are Angry. Why aren’t they Protesting?” *Washington Post*. [https://www.washingtonpost.com/opinions/americans-are-angry-why-arent-they-protesting/2011/08/11/gIQAILQTBJ\\_print.html](https://www.washingtonpost.com/opinions/americans-are-angry-why-arent-they-protesting/2011/08/11/gIQAILQTBJ_print.html)

Mon, Oct 23 – Organized Interest Community

- Scholzman, Kay L. 2010. “Who Sings in the Heavenly Chorus? The Shape of the Organized Interest System.” In *The Oxford Handbook of American Political Parties and Interest Groups*, eds. L. Sandy Maisel and Jeffrey M. Berry. Oxford, UK: Oxford University Press, pp. 425-450.

Wed, Oct 25 – Organization Maintenance

- Lowery and Brasher, Chapter 2 (pp 49-65)
- Tremayne, Mark (2014). “Anatomy of Protest in the Digital Era: A Network Analysis of Twitter and Occupy Wall Street.” *Social Movement Studies*. Vol. 13 (1): 110-126. <http://www.tandfonline.com/doi/pdf/10.1080/14742837.2013.830969>

Fri, Oct 27 – Subsidizing and Funding Movements and IGs

- Skocpol, Theda, Marshall Ganz and Ziad Munson. 2000. “A Nation of Organizers: The Institutional Origins of Civic Volunteerism in the United States” *APSR* 94: 527-546

Mon, Oct 30 – Interest Community Bias Part I

- Lowery and Brasher, Chapter 3 (skim 70-90, read 90-103)
- Heflt, Miguel and Matt Richtel. 2011. “Facebook Prepares to Add Friends in Washington.” *The New York Times*. 28 March.  
<http://www.nytimes.com/2011/03/29/technology/29facebook.html?mcubz=3>

Wed, Nov 1 – Interest Community Bias Part II

- Strolovitch, Dara Z. 2006. “Do Interest Groups Represent the Disadvantaged? Advocacy at the Intersections of Race, Class, and Gender.” *Journal of Politics* 68(4): 894-910.

Fri, Nov 3 – Midterm

Mon, Nov 6 – Organized Interests and the Public

- Lowery and Brasher, Chapter 4 (pp. 108-118)

Wed, Nov 8 – Inside and Outside Lobbying

- Kollman, Ken, Excerpt from *Outside Lobbying* pp. 404-418

Fri, Nov 10 – Veteran’s Day Holiday

### **Part III: Political Parties**

Mon, Nov 13 – Interest Organizations and Political Parties

- Lowery and Brasher, Chapter 4 (pp. 118-142)

Wed, Nov 15 – Political Parties and Interest Organizations

- Koger, Gregory, Seth Masket, and Hans Noel. 2009. “Partisan Webs of Information Exchange and Party Networks.” *British Journal of Political Science* 39: 633-653.

Fri, Nov 17 – What is a Political Party? Part I

- Kathleen Bawn, Martin Cohen, David Karol, Seth Masket, Hans Noel, and John Zaller, “A Theory of Political Parties: Groups, Policy Demands and Nominations in American Politics,” *Perspectives on Politics* 10 (2012), 571-591.

Mon, Nov 20 – What is a Political Party? Part II

- Aldrich, John. Excerpt from “Why Parties? The Origin and Transformation of Party Politics in America” pp. 427-444

Wed, Nov 22 – No Class

Mon, Nov 27 – Sources of Economic Biases in Political Parties

- McCarty, Poole, and Rosenthal, excerpt from *Polarized America: The Dance of Ideology and Unequal Rights*, pp. 474-490
- Carnes, Nicholas. 2012. "Does the Numerical Underrepresentation of the Working Class in Congress Matter." *Legislative Studies Quarterly* 37(1):5–34.

Wed, Nov 29 – Interest Organizations and The Legislature

- Lowery and Brasher, Chapter 5

Fri, Dec 1 – Interest Organization Influence

- Richard L. Hall and Alan V. Deardorff. 2006. "Lobbying as Legislative Subsidy." *American Political Science Review* 100(1): 69-84.
- Levitin, Michael. (June 10, 2015) "The Triumph of Occupy Wall Street" *The Atlantic* <https://www.theatlantic.com/politics/archive/2015/06/the-triumph-of-occupy-wall-street/395408/>

Mon, Dec 4 – Social Movements and Political Parties

- Michael T. Heaney and Fabio Rojas. 2015. *Party in the Street: The Antiwar Movement and the Democratic Party after 9/11* (New York: Cambridge University Press). Chapter 7 (pp 205-228).
- Williamson, Vanessa, Skocpol, Theda, and Coggin, John, (2011). "The Tea Party and the Remaking of Republican Conservatism." *Perspectives on Politics*. Vol. 9 (1): 25-43. [http://journals.cambridge.org/download.php?file=%2FPPS%2FPPS9\\_01%2FS153759271000407Xa.pdf&code=640508e3f3c52f8b1339879b90c07d0c](http://journals.cambridge.org/download.php?file=%2FPPS%2FPPS9_01%2FS153759271000407Xa.pdf&code=640508e3f3c52f8b1339879b90c07d0c)

Wed, Dec 6 – Reforms Pt I

- Lowery and Brasher, Chapter 8

Fri, Dec 8 – Reforms Pt II

- Walsh, Katherine Cramer. "Talking about Race: Community Dialogues and the Politics of Difference" pp. 419-424
- Citizens United

Tues, December 12 (11:30am-2:30pm) – Final Paper due by 2:30pm