Keith E. Whittington

There has been a great deal of discussion in recent years about the role and influence of "special interests" in American politics. The course examines the manner in which social and political interests are and should be represented in government institutions and policy-making. We will consider various theoretical arguments about the nature and purpose of representative government and how mediating institutions relate interests to government. The course will focus in particular on parties and interest groups as two alternative mechanisms of representation, and will include discussions of how they represent, who they represent, how they develop and survive, and what influence they have on government policy.

The class format will emphasize class discussions. In addition to attending class, completing the readings, and engaging in discussions, the course requirements include completion of one short (3-5 pages) paper, a take-home midterm exam, and a final exam. Papers will be penalized five points for every day late. Each exam will count for one-third of the grade. The short paper and class participation will count for the final third of the grade.

The short papers are to focus on one of the sections outlined in the syllabus. The short papers are not simply to summarize the readings (or lectures), but are to identify and analyze a key issue in the readings. Obviously, given the length constraints, they will not be exhaustive, but they should be argumentative and direct. They may take an issue in a new direction, supplement it with additional evidence or application, criticize it, or analyze it with reference to other readings. The papers should be clear, focused and analytical. Short papers for each topic are due on the last date given for that part (regardless of whether the lecture pace matches these tentative dates). In addition, oral presentations will be scheduled, in which a student will introduce the material for the day and begin class discussion.

The following books are available for purchase:
- Hanna Pitkin The Concept of Representation
- William Browne Cultivating Congress
- John Aldrich Why Parties?
- Theodore Lowi The End of Liberalism, Second Edition
- James Wilson Political Organization
- John Mark Hansen Gaining Access
- Allan Cigler and Burdett Loomis, eds. Interest Group Politics, Fourth Edition

The remaining readings are on reserve in the library.

Part 1: Introduction: Interests, Representation, and Democracy

Monday, January 13—Introduction (no readings)

Wednesday, January 15—no class (begin readings!!)
Monday, January 20—no class for MLK day (continue readings!)

Wednesday, January 22
Hanna Pitkin *The Concept of Representation* ch. 3-4, 6 (ch. 1-2, 5 recommended)

Monday, January 27
Hanna Pitkin *The Concept of Representation* ch. 7-9 (ch. 10 recommended)
James Madison *The Federalist Papers* Nos. 10, 35, 56-57, 63

Part 2: The Nature of Parties

Theories of Parties

Wednesday, January 29
Campbell, et al. *The American Voter* ch. 1-4, 6-7
Frank Sorauf *Political Parties in the American System* ch. 1
Theodore Lowi "Parties, Policy, and Constitution in America," in *American Party Systems*

Monday, February 3
E.E. Schattschneider *Party Government* ch. 1-2, 8-9
Anthony Downs *The Economic Theory of Democracy* ch. 1-2, 8

Wednesday, February 5
John Aldrich *Why Parties?* ch. 1-2

The Rise and Fall of Parties

Monday, February 10
John Aldrich *Why Parties?* ch. 3
Richard Hofstadter *The Idea of a Party System* ch. 6
Amy Bridges *A City in the Republic* ch. 4

Wednesday, February 12
Martin Shefter "Trade Unions and Political Machines: The Organization & Disorganization of American Working Class in the Late Nineteenth Century," in *Working-Class Formation*
Amy Bridges *A City in the Republic* ch. 6

Monday, February 17
John Aldrich *Why Parties?* ch. 4
Joel H. Silbey *The Partisan Imperative* ch. 3-4
Richard L. McCormick *The Party Period and Public Policy* ch. 5-6

Wednesday, February 19
Michael McGerr *The Decline of Popular Politics* ch. 3, 7
Martin Wattenberg *The Decline of American Political Parties* ch. 1, 4
Monday, February 24
Steven Erie Rainbow's End ch. 5
Sidney Milkis "Franklin Roosevelt and the Transcendence of Partisan Politics" Political Science Quarterly (1985)

Wednesday, February 26
John Aldrich Why Parties? ch. 6-8

Monday, March 3—no class for Spring Break

Wednesday, March 5—no class for Spring Break

From Parties to Interest Groups

Monday, March 10
Thedore Lowi The End of Liberalism ch. 1-3
Grant McConnell Private Power and American Democracy ch. 2-3

Wednesday, March 12 — Midterm Exam available in class
Thedore Lowi The End of Liberalism ch. 4-5
Grant McConnell Private Power and American Democracy ch. 5

Monday, March 17 — Midterm Exam due in class
Thedore Lowi The End of Liberalism ch. 8, 10-11

Part 3: The Nature of Interest Groups

Organization

Wednesday, March 19
James Wilson Political Organization ch. 1-5 (ch. 6-9 recommended)

Monday, March 24
James Wilson Political Organization ch. 10-12
Allan J. Cigler and Anthony J. Nownes "Public Interest Entrepreneurs and Group Patrons," in Interest Group Politics

Influence

Wednesday, March 26
Jeffrey M. Berry, "Subgovernments, Issue Networks, and Political Conflict," in Remaking American Politics

Monday, March 31—no class for Easter
Wednesday, April 2
Kevin Hula "Rounding Up the Usual Suspects: Forging Interest Group Coalitions in Washington," in Interest Group Politics
Loree Bykerk and Ardith Maney "Consumer Groups and Coalition Politics on Capital Hill," in Interest Group Politics

Monday, April 7
Larry Sabato Paying For Elections ch. 1
Frank Sorauf "Parties and Political Action Committees in American Politics," in When Parties Fail
M. Margaret Conway and Joanne Conner Green "Political Action Committees and the Political Process in the 1990s," in Interest Group Politics

Wednesday, April 9
Raffaella Nanetti "Community Groups as Alternative Political Organizations in Chicago," in When Parties Fail
Dan Balz and Ronald Brownstein Storming the Gates pp. 301-305, 316-324
Christopher Foreman, "Grassroots Victim Organizations: Mobilizing for Personal and Public Health," in Interest Group Politics

A Case Study: Agriculture

Monday, April 14
John Mark Hansen Gaining Access ch. 1-3

Wednesday, April 16
John Mark Hansen Gaining Access ch. 4-6

Monday, April 21
William Browne Cultivating Congress ch. 1-3

Wednesday, April 23
William Browne Cultivating Congress ch. 4-6

Monday, April 28
William Browne Cultivating Congress ch. 7-10

Wednesday, April 30—Conclusion (no readings)