

Political Science 5208
Seminar in Political Behavior
Dr. Todd Makse
Summer 2022

Class Meetings: Wednesdays 11:45am-3:05pm in PC 445

Office Hours: Tuesdays 3:30pm-4:30pm (on Zoom*); Wednesdays 10:30am-11:30am (in person)

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*To request a Zoom meeting, please email me thirty minutes in advance (in case I'm with another student) and you will be sent a link.

Course Description:

This class will focus on classic and contemporary research in American political behavior, with a focus on voting behavior and political participation, as well as related topics such as information, knowledge, partisanship, and ideology. In addition to familiarizing students with the central concepts, theories, and methods in the field of political behavior, the class is designed to prepare students for comprehensive exams in the American politics field. Successful completion of POS 5045 is helpful, but not required. You should, however, have an undergraduate-level understanding of the American political system.

Grading components:

Article summaries 40%

Research proposal 40%

Participation/discussion leadership 20%

The grading scale for final grades will be as follows:

93-100 A	90-92 A-	87-89 B+	83-86 B	80-82 B-
77-79 C+	70-76 C	60-69 D	59 and below F	

Textbook and Readings

There are no required texts for the class. All readings can be accessed through the hyperlinks in the readings section of the syllabus.

Grading criteria:

Article Summaries:

At the beginning of the semester, you will be assigned several articles throughout the semester. On the day we read the article in class, you will submit a brief, analytical summary of the article and its place in the broader literature. The summary should highlight key aspects of the article: the research question and its importance, the theory and hypotheses, the methodology (and any innovative or crucial aspects of it), and the conclusions. Summaries should be one page, single-spaced (approximately 500 words). Late submissions will receive half credit. At the end of the semester, a compendium of all summaries will be collated and provided to students as a study guide for comprehensive exams.

Discussion leadership: Although you will write a summary on just one article, your article will be paired with a second article on a similar topic. In addition to leading discussion in class, the two discussion leaders will work together to write three questions that will form the basis of some class discussion. These questions should be about broader themes in the literature which the articles are a part of and should not focus solely on details of the individual articles. Discussion questions might include the following types of questions:

- (a) Theoretical, e.g., what do you think of some assumption this study implicitly or explicitly makes, and is that assumption valid or defensible?
- (b) Methodological, e.g., what do you think are the strengths or weakness of this measurement strategy, sampling strategy, or research design?
- (c) Sociology of the discipline, e.g., why do you think scholars tend to view things through this lens or focus on this aspect of the research question and what could they focus on instead?

These questions must be posted on Canvas by Monday evening. Students not assigned to the articles should be prepared to answer these questions (and familiar enough with the readings to do so).

Research Proposal: Each student must produce a proposal for an original research project on any topic in American political behavior. The paper will include: (a) an introduction identifying the research question and its significance to the field; (b) a literature review that situates the research question and argument relative to existing research; (c) a theory section that makes a novel argument that answers the research question and articulates one or more testable hypotheses; and (d) a proposed research design for empirically testing these hypotheses. (No data collection or analysis is required for this project). **The assignment is due via email by July 29.** Late submissions are penalized one letter grade. More detailed instructions will be available on Canvas. A preliminary proposal (1-2 pages) which describes the research question and a *brief* overview of the relevant literature is **due June 24.**

Participation: Class sessions will be conducted in a seminar format. Discussion leaders should be prepared to introduce their article and discuss it in substantial detail and should also have a fairly detailed understanding of the article paired with theirs. Other students should familiarize themselves with the article in broad terms and be prepared to discuss the questions submitted by the discussion leaders. Obviously, you must be present to participate and consistent attendance and promptness are expected. You have one “free” absence. Additional unexcused absences will result in a two-point deduction from your final grade. Absences are excused for religious and medical reasons (including university COVID policies). Late arrivals are treated as one half absence.

Class Policies:

Incomplete Grades: Grades of “Incomplete” are only given when the student has completed the vast majority of work for the semester and emergency circumstances prevent submission of assignments in the final weeks of class.

Academic Misconduct: Florida International University is a community dedicated to generating and imparting knowledge through excellent teaching and research, the rigorous and respectful exchange of ideas, and community service. All students should respect the right of others to have an equitable opportunity to learn and to honestly demonstrate the quality of their learning. Therefore, all students are expected to adhere to a standard of academic conduct, which demonstrates respect for themselves, their fellow students, and the educational mission of the University. All students are deemed by the University to understand that if they are found responsible for academic misconduct, they will be subject to the Academic Misconduct procedures and sanctions, as outlined in the

Student Handbook. Violations include cheating, plagiarism, academic negligence or dishonesty. Plagiarism results when students neglect to acknowledge in footnotes, endnotes or other forms of documentation their use of the words and ideas of others. If you have questions about what constitutes proper citation, please speak to me.

Disability Accommodations: Students with disabilities, as defined by law, have the right to receive appropriate accommodations if their disabilities make it difficult to perform academic tasks in the usual way or in the allotted time frame. However, in order to receive accommodations, students must register with the Disability Resource Center. This office will keep the student's written request, notify faculty who have a student with a disability enrolled in his or her class, and indicate what kinds of arrangements should be made. Please contact the DRC at the beginning of the semester.

Availability: Students should feel free to contact me by email with any concerns about the class or course material. I will make every effort to respond to all messages within 24 hours. Please send emails through your FIU email (or Canvas) and check your FIU email daily.

Schedule for Class Topics and Readings

May 11: Class Introduction

Note: These first week readings are just to familiarize you with some broad paradigms and perspectives in political behavior. No need to come to class with detailed notes; just think about the broader themes raised by the authors.

Huckfeldt, Robert and John Sprague. 1993. "[Citizens, contexts and politics.](#)" In Ada Finifter, ed., *Political Science: The State of the Discipline II*. APSA, Washington, DC.

McGraw, Kathleen M. 2000. "[Contributions of the Cognitive Approach to Political Psychology.](#)" *Political Psychology* 21: 805-32.

Zuckerman, Alan S. 2005. "[Returning to the Social Logic of Politics.](#)" In *The Social Logic of Politics*, ed. Alan S. Zuckerman, pp. 3–20. Philadelphia: Temple University Press.

Webster, Steven W. and Bethany Albertson. 2022. "[Emotion and Politics: Noncognitive Psychological Biases in Public Opinion.](#)" *Annual Review of Political Science*, forthcoming.

May 18: Public Opinion and Political Knowledge I

Review Readings (these are readings you may have read in POS 5045; if you didn't take that class, just look over these articles briefly)

Converse, Philip E. 1964. "[The Nature of Belief Systems in Mass Publics.](#)" In *Ideology and Discontent*, D. E. Apter, editor. New York: Free Press, p. 206-261.

Zaller, John, and Stanley Feldman. 1992. "[A Simple Theory of the Survey Response: Answering Questions or Revealing Preferences?](#)" *American Journal of Political Science* 36(3): 579-616.

Introductory Reading (these are classic readings in the field; we will discuss their main themes in class but will not have extensive, detailed discussion about them)

Page, Benjamin and Robert Shapiro. 1992. [*The Rational Public*](#). Chicago: University of Chicago Press. Chapters 1-2.

Article Pair I

Delli Carpini, Michael X. and Scott Keeter. 1993. [“Measuring Political Knowledge: Putting First Things First.”](#) *American Journal of Political Science* 37(4): 1179-1206.

Dolan, Kathleen. 2011. [“Do Women and Men Know Different Things? Measuring Gender Differences in Political Knowledge.”](#) *The Journal of Politics* 73(1):97-107.

Article Pair II

Prior, Markus. 2014. [“Visual Political Knowledge: A Different Road to Competence?”](#) *Journal of Politics* 76: 41-57.

Cohen, Cathy J. and Matthew Luttig. 2020. [“Reconceptualizing Political Knowledge: Race, Ethnicity, and Carceral Violence.”](#) *Perspectives on Politics* 18: 805-18.

May 25: Public Opinion and Political Knowledge II

Article Pair I

Nyhan, Brendan and Jason Reifler. 2010. [“When Corrections Fail: The Persistence of Political Misperceptions.”](#) *Political Behavior* 32: 303-30.

Peterson, Erik and Shanto Iyengar. 2021. [“Partisan Gaps in Political Information and Information-Seeking Behavior: Motivated Reasoning or Cheerleading?”](#) *American Journal of Political Science* 65: 133-47.

Article Pair II

Conover, Pamela Johnston and Stanley Feldman. 1981. [“The Origins and Meaning of Liberal/Conservative Self-Identifications.”](#) *American Journal of Political Science* 25: 617-45.

Claassen, Christopher, Patrick Tucker, and Steven Smith. 2015. [“Ideological Labels in America.”](#) *Political Behavior* 37: 253-78.

June 1: Partisan Identity and Polarization I

Introductory Reading

Campbell, Angus, Phillip E. Converse, Warren E. Miller, and Donald E. Stokes. 1960. [*The American Voter*](#). New York: John Wiley & Sons, Inc. Chapters 1-4, 6, 10.

Article Pair I

Weisberg, Herbert. 1980. [“A Multidimensional Conception of Party Identification.”](#) *Political Behavior* 2: 33-60.

Uscinski, Joseph et al. 2021. [“American Politics in Two Dimensions: Partisan and Ideological Identities versus Anti-Establishment Orientations.”](#) *American Journal of Political Science* 65: 877-95.

Article Pair II

Kane, John, Lilliana Mason, and Julie Wronski. 2021. [“Who’s at the Party? Group Sentiments, Knowledge, and Partisan Identity.”](#) *Journal of Politics* 83: 1783-99.

Barker, David C., Ryan Detamble, Morgan Marietta. 2022. [“Intellectualism, Anti-Intellectualism, and Epistemic Hubris in Red and Blue America.”](#) *American Political Science Review* 116: 38-53.

June 8: Partisan Identity and Polarization II

Review Readings

Mason, Lilliana. 2015. [“I Disrespectfully Agree: The Differential Effects of Partisan Sorting on Social and Issue Polarization.”](#) *American Journal of Political Science* 51(1): 128-145.

Abramowitz, Alan I., and Steven W. Webster. 2018. [“Negative Partisanship: Why Americans Dislike Parties but Behave Like Rabid Partisans.”](#) *Political Psychology* 39(1): 119-135.

Article Pair I

Iyengar, Shanto, and Sean J. Westwood. 2015. [“Fear and Loathing Across Party Lines: New Evidence on Group Polarization.”](#) *American Journal of Political Science* 59(3): 690-707.

Druckman, James N., Samara Klar, Yanna Krupnikov, Matthew Levendusky, and John Barry Ryan. 2022. [“\(Mis\)estimating Affective Polarization.”](#) *Journal of Politics*, forthcoming.

Article Pair II

Williamson, Thad. 2008. [“Sprawl, Spatial Location, and Politics How Ideological Identification Tracks the Built Environment.”](#) *American Politics Research* 36: 903-33.

Mummolo, Jonathan and Clayton Nall. 2017. [“Why Partisans Do Not Sort: The Constraints on Political Segregation.”](#) *Journal of Politics* 79: 45-59.

June 15: Voting Behavior I

Review Readings

Bartels, Larry M. 1996. [“Uninformed Votes: Information Effects in Presidential Elections.”](#) *American Journal of Political Science* 40: 194-230.

Lau, Richard R., and David P. Redlawsk. 2001. ["Advantages and Disadvantages of Cognitive Heuristics in Political Decision Making."](#) *American Journal of Political Science* 45: 951-971.

Article Pair I

Rahn, Wendy M. 1993. ["The Role of Partisan Stereotypes in Information Processing about Political Candidates."](#) *American Journal of Political Science* 37: 472-496.

Henderson, Michael. 2015. ["Finding the Way Home: The Dynamics of Partisan Support in Presidential Campaigns."](#) *Political Behavior* 37: 889-910.

Article Pair II

Burden, Barry and David Kimball. 1998. ["A New Approach to the Study of Ticket Splitting."](#) *American Political Science Review* 92: 533-44.

Smidt, Corwin D. 2017. ["Polarization and the Decline of the American Floating Voter."](#) *American Journal of Political Science* 61(2): 365-81

June 22: Voting Behavior II

Article Pair I

Gomez, Brad T. and J. Matthew Wilson. 2001. ["Political Sophistication and Economic Voting in the American Electorate: A Theory of Heterogeneous Attribution."](#) *American Journal of Political Science* 54: 899-914.

Brady, David W. et al. 2022. ["Cognitive Political Economy: A Growing Partisan Divide in Economic Perceptions."](#) *American Politics Research* 50: 3-16.

Article Pair II

McGraw, Kathleen et al. 1990. ["On-Line Processing in Candidate Evaluation: The Effects of Issue Order, Issue Importance, and Sophistication."](#) *Political Behavior* 12(1): 41-58.

Bernhard, Rachel and Sean Freeder. 2020. ["The More You Know: Voter Heuristics and the Information Search."](#) *Political Behavior* 42: 603-23.

June 29: Voting Behavior III

Note: only one reading pair today; second half of class will be spent workshopping your proposals.

Introductory Reading

Berelson, Bernard, Paul F. Lazarsfeld, and William N. McPhee. 1954. [*Voting: A Study of Public Opinion Formation in a Presidential Campaign.*](#) Chicago: University of Chicago Press. Chapters 1-2, 6-7.

Article Pair I

Panagopoulos, Costas et al. 2017. [“Are Voters Mobilized by a ‘Friend-and-Neighbor’ on the Ballot? Evidence from a Field Experiment.”](#) *Political Behavior* 39: 865-82.

Jacobs, Nicholas F. and B. Kal Munis. 2019. [“Place-Based Imagery and Voter Evaluations: Experimental Evidence on the Politics of Place.”](#) *Political Research Quarterly* 72(2): 263-77.

July 6: Turnout and Political Participation I

Review Readings

Brady, Henry E., Sidney Verba, and Kay Lehman Schlozman. 1995. [“Beyond SES: A Resource Model of Political Participation.”](#) *American Political Science Review* 89: 271-294.

McDonald, Michael P., and Samuel L. Popkin. 2001. [“The Myth of the Vanishing Voter.”](#) *American Political Science Review* 95(4): 963-974.

Introductory Reading

Rosenstone, Steven J. and John Mark Hansen. 1993. [Mobilization, Participation, and Democracy in America.](#) Chapters 2-3, 5.

Article Pair I

Pacheco, Julianna and Jason Fletcher. 2015. [“Incorporating Health into Studies of Political Behavior: Evidence for Turnout and Partisanship.”](#) *Political Research Quarterly* 68: 104-16.

Newman, Benjamin, Joshua Johnson, and Patrick Lown. 2014. [“The Daily Grind: Work, Commuting, and Their Impact on Political Participation.”](#) *American Politics Research* 42: 141-70.

Article Pair II

Barreto, Matt, Mara Cohen-Marks and Nathan Woods. 2009. [“Are All Precincts Created Equal?”](#) *Political Research Quarterly* 62: 445-58.

Fraga, Bernard and Michael Miller. 2022. [“Who Do Voter ID Laws Keep from Voting?”](#) *Journal of Politics*, forthcoming.

July 13: Turnout and Political Participation II

Article Pair I

LeVan, Carrie. 2020. [“Neighborhoods That Matter: How Place and People Affect Political Participation.”](#) *American Politics Research* 48: 286-94.

Nuamah, Sally and Thomas Ogorzalek. 2021. [“Close to Home: Place-Based Mobilization in Racialized Contexts.”](#) *American Political Science Review* 115: 757-74.

Article Pair II

Gerber, Alan S., Donald P. Green, Christopher W. Larimer. 2008. "[Social Pressure and Voter Turnout: Evidence from a Large-Scale Field Experiment.](#)" *American Political Science Review* 102: 33-48.

Valentino, Nicholas A., et al. 2011. "[Election Night's Alright for Fighting: The Role of Emotions in Political Participation.](#)" *Journal of Politics* 73: 156-70.

July 20: Networks, Discussion and Context I

Introductory Reading

Huckfeldt, Robert and John Sprague. 1987. "[Networks in Context: The Social Flow of Political Information.](#)" *American Political Science Review* 81: 1197-1216.

Article Pair I

Mutz, Diana C. 2002. "[The Consequences of Cross-Cutting Networks for Political Participation.](#)" *American Journal of Political Science* 46: 838-55.

Wolak, Jennifer and Anand Edward Sokhey. 2022. "[Enraged and Engaged? Emotions as Motives for Discussing Politics.](#)" *American Politics Research* 50: 186-98.

Article Pair II

Minozzi, William et al. 2021. "[The Incidental Pundit: Who Talks Politics with Whom, and Why?](#)" *American Journal of Political Science* 64: 135-151.

Carlson, Taylor N. 2019. "[Through the Grapevine: Informational Consequences of Interpersonal Political Communication.](#)" *American Political Science Review* 113: 325-39.

July 27: Networks, Discussion and Context II

Note: only one reading pair today; second half of class will be spent workshopping your final papers.

Article Pair I

Cramer Walsh, Katherine. 2012. "[Putting Inequality in Its Place: Rural Consciousness and the Power of Perspective.](#)" *American Political Science Review* 106: 517-32.

Fishkin, James et al. 2021. "[Is Deliberation an Antidote to Extreme Partisan Polarization? Reflections on 'America in One Room.'](#)" *American Political Science Review* 115: 1464-81.