

PS 7900 -- Seminar in American Politics, Spring 2021

Class Time: M 1:30 – 4:20pm
Classroom: Zoom-land
Professor: Dr. Kathleen Searles
E-mail: ksearles@lsu.edu
Office: Stubbs 213
Office Hours: Th 2-4pm; sign-up for a time slot via <https://searles-universitycollege.youcanbook.me/>

Introduction Much of what political science and other disciplines consider to be true about American politics has been challenged in the last few years. This disruption makes the study of American politics today exciting, challenging, and vital. In this course we will draw on the classics as well as more recent additions to the canon to ensure we hear from a range of voices and perspectives. We will leverage this period of political turbulence in American politics to glean insights into the institutions – both political and disciplinary – that shape our understanding. We will read a small fraction of an expansive body of work, but in so doing, students will be granted a solid foundation for which to gain mastery in the subfield.

Access the journal via the library website or via Google Scholar. I have tried to copy chapters of texts when possible. There are some texts where the amount of material required exceeds copyright laws; these are required:

Mayhew, David. 1974. *Congress: The Electoral Connection*.

Settle, Jaime E. *Frenemies: How social media polarizes America*. Cambridge University Press, 2018.

Skocpol, Theda. *Protecting soldiers and mothers*. Harvard University Press, 1995.

~~Mansbridge, Jane J. *Beyond adversary democracy*. University of Chicago Press, 1983.~~

Hibbing, John. *The Securitarian Personality*. Oxford University Press. 2020.

White, Ismail and Chryl Laird. *Steadfast Democrats*. Princeton University Press. 2020.

Evaluation

Final grades in this course are based on your success in 3 areas for a total of 100 points.

1. Two times over the course of the semester, you will have responsibility for leading the discussion on readings and distributing

discussion questions at least 24-hours in advance of the seminar. We will coordinate discussion leading during the first week of class. Since on most weeks, we will have two discussants, you should coordinate with your collaborator. Your job as discussion leader is to focus our attention on the following:

- a. In your view, what are some of the major *theoretical* perspectives that structure research in a given area, what are their major strengths and weaknesses, and how do they compare with other perspectives you're familiar with (encountered in the course or elsewhere)?
- b. In your view, what do you see as some of the major strengths and weaknesses of the *methods* used to investigate the subject? What methodologies, broadly conceived (e.g., basic issues of design, measurement, etc.) do you feel are most appropriate, given the subject of inquiry, and to what degree do you think the substantive conclusions drawn are dependent on the particular methods employed?
- c.

open books and notes and will be taken on a computer. Exam will be conducted during exam week; date TBD.

University policy is to utilize a plus/minus grading scale. Below is the 10-point +/- grading scale I will use for this class.

96.5 and above	A+
93.50 – 96.49	A
90.00–93.49	A-
86.50–89.99	B+
83.50–86.49	B
80.00–83.49	B-
76.50–79.99	C+
73.50–76.49	C
70.00–73.49	C-
69.99 and below*	F
*there are no D grades in grad. courses	

Class Policies

We will be meeting synchronously via Zoom. This is a graduate seminar, which depends on participation and discussion, both of which are difficult in an online environment. To ensure maximum efficacy during unusual times, I ask you to uphold a “camera-on” norm in this course. If there are circumstances which preclude your participation in this norm, please notify me in advance.

You may not film or record this class without permission.

Attendance and participation is integral to your success in this class. Each class will build on preceding class lectures, so it is very important you attend each class. If you miss a class it is your responsibility to get notes from a peer. As a general policy, for each hour you are in class, you (the student) should plan to spend at least two hours preparing for the next class. Since this course is for three credit hours, you should expect to spend around six hours outside of class each week reading or writing assignments for the class.

No late assignments will be accepted.

Missing an exam or an assignment will result in a zero grade except BT/F1 12 Tf1 0 0

do not tolerate plagiarism or cheating. Success

one's own. This means not only copying passages of writing or direct quotations but also paraphrasing or using structure or ideas without citation." Please review the University's

*Frederick Douglass, "What to the Slave is the Fourth of July?" 1852.

*Hibbing, John. 2020. *The Securitarian Personality*. (all)

*Jardina, Ashley. "In-Group Love and Out-Group Hate: White Racial Attitudes in Contemporary US Elections." *Political Behavior* (2020): 1-25.

*Olson, Mancur. 1965. The Logic of Collective Action. Harvard University Press. Chapter 1.

*Harris-Lacewell, Melissa V. "The heart of the politics of race: Centering Black people in the study of White racial attitudes." *Journal of Black Studies* 34, no. 2 (2003): 222-249.

*Jefferson, Hakeem. Respectability of Punishment among Black Americans.

*White, Ismail and Chryl Laird. 2020. *Steadfast Democrats*. (all)

*Klar, Samara, and Yanna Krupnikov. *Independent politics*. Cambridge University Press, 2016. Chapters 2, 4.

*Cohen, Martin, David Karol, Hans Noel, John Zaller. 2016. Party versus Faction in the Reformed Presidential Nominating System. *PS: Political Science & Politics*, October 2016, Vol. 43 No. 4: 701-707.

*Green, Donald P., Bradley Palmquist, and Eric Schickler. *Partisan Hearts and Minds: Political Parties and the Social Identities of Voters*. Yale University Press, 2004. Chapters 1-2.

*Aldrich, John. 1995. *Why Parties?* Chapters 1.

*Groeling, Tim. 2010. *When Politicians Attack*. Chapter 1.

*Baldassarri, Delia, and Andrew Gelman. "Partisans without constraint: Political polarization and trends in American public opinion." *American Journal of Sociology* 114, no. 2 (2008): 408-446.

*Druckman, James N., Samara Klar, Yanna Krupnikov, Matthew Levendusky, and John Barry Ryan. "Affective polarization, local contexts and public opinion in America." *Nature Human Behaviour* (2020): 1-11.

*Cramer, Katherine J. *The politics of resentment: Rural consciousness in Wisconsin and the rise of Scott Walker*. University of Chicago Press, 2016. Chapters 1-2, 5.

*McGregor, Shannon C. "Social Media as Public Opinion: How Journalists Use Social Media to Represent Public Opinion." *Journalism* 20, no. 8 (August 2019): 1070-86.

*Darr, Joshua P., Matthew P. Hitt, and Johanna L. Dunaway. "Newspaper closures polarize voting behavior." *Journal of Communication* 68, no. 6 (2018): 1007-1028.

*Bishin, Benjamin G., Thomas J. Hayes, Matthew B. Incantalupo, and Charles Anthony Smith. "Opinion backlash and public attitudes: Are political advances in gay rights counterproductive?" *American Journal of Political Science* 60, no. 3 (2016): 625-648.

*Settle, 2018. (all)

*Andersen, Asger Lau, David Dreyer Lassen, and Lasse Holbøll Westh Nielsen. 2020. "Irresponsible Parties, Responsible Voters? Legislative Gridlock and Collective Accountability." *PLoS ONE* 15 (3): 1-19. doi:10.1371/journal.pone.0229789.

- * Lee, 2016. Chapters 1, 5.
- * Mayhew, 1974. (all)
- * Grimmer, Justin. 2013. "Appropriators not Position Takers: The Distorting Effects of Electoral Incentives on Congressional Representation." 2013. *American Journal of Political Science*: 624-640.
- * Krehbiel, Keith. 1998. *Pivotal Politics: A Theory of U.S. Lawmaking*. Chapter 1.
- * Harbridge, Laurel. (2015). *Is Bipartisanship Dead?* Cambridge University Press. Chapters 1.
- * Sanbonmatsu, Kira. 2020. "Women's Underrepresentation in the U.S. Congress." *Daedalus* 149 (1): 40-55. doi:10.1162/daed_a_01772.
- * Binder, Sarah. 2015. "The Dysfunctional Congress," *Annual Review of Political Science*.
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- * Clark, Tom S. "The separation of powers, court curbing, and judicial legitimacy." *American Journal of Political Science* 53, no. 4 (2009): 971-989.
- * Epstein Lee, Lindstädt René, Segal Jeffrey A., and Westerland Chad. 2006. "The Changing Dynamics of Senate Voting on Supreme Court Nominees." *The Journal of Politics* 68 (2): 296. doi:10.1111/j.1468-2508.2006.00407.x.
- * Epstein, Lee, and Jack Knight. "Reconsidering judicial preferences." *Annual Review of Political Science* 16 (2013).
- * Keck, Thomas M. 2007. "Party, Policy, or Duty: Why Does the Supreme Court Invalidate Federal Statutes?" *American Political Science Review* 101: 321-338.
- * Bonica, Adam, and Maya Sen. 2017. "Judicial Reform as a Tug of War: How Ideological Differences Between Politicians and the Bar Explain Attempts at Judicial Reform." *Vanderbilt Law Review* 70 (6): 1781-1811.
- * Hall, Melinda Gann. "State supreme courts in American democracy: Probing the myths of judicial reform." *American political Science review* (2001): 315-330.
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- * Acharya, Avidit, Matthew Blackwell, and Maya Sen. 2016. "The Political Legacy of American Slavery." *Journal of Politics* 78 (3): 621-641.
- * Dawson, Michael C. 1994. *Behind the Mule: Race and Class in African-American Politics*. Princeton, N.J.: Princeton University Press. Chapters 1-4.
- * Hajnal, Zoltan L., and Jeremy D. Horowitz. "Racial winners and losers in American party politics." *Perspectives on Politics* (2014): 100-118.
- * Weaver, Vesla. 2007. "Frontlash: Race and the Development of Punitive Crime Policy." *Studies in American Political Development* 21: 230-265.
- * DeSante, Christopher D., and Candis Watts Smith. "Less Is More: A Cross-Generational Analysis of the Nature and Role of Racial Attitudes in the Twenty-First Century." *The Journal of Politics* 82, no. 3 (2020): 000-000.
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- * Corder, J. Kevin, and Christina Wolbrecht. *Counting Women's Ballots*. Cambridge University Press, 2016. Chapters 1, 4-5.

*Karpowitz, Christopher F., Tali Mendelberg, and Lee Shaker. (2012). "Gender Inequality in Deliberative Participation." *American Political Science Review*. 106: 533-547.

* Dowe, Pearl K. Ford. "Resisting marginalization: Black women's political ambition and agency." *PS: Political Science & Politics* 53, no. 4 (2020): 697-702.

* Osborn, Tracy, Rebecca J. Kreitzer, Emily U. Schilling, and Jennifer Hayes Clark. "Ideology and Polarization Among Women State Legislators." *Legislative Studies Quarterly* 44, no. 4 (2019): 647-680.

* Bauer, Nichole M. "Shifting standards: How voters evaluate the qualifications of female and male candidates." *The Journal of Politics* 82, no. 1 (2020): 1-12.

*The instructor reserves the right to make changes to the schedule and syllabus.