

PS 142/UEP 142

Seminar on Interest Groups and Democratic Theory

Professor Berry, X3465

Fall 1999

This course will examine the views of democratic theorists on the role of interest groups in American politics. It will be run as a seminar; there will be no lectures. Instead we will use oral reports as a starting point for our discussions. The oral reports and required written work will be explained in class. The books listed below are available for purchase at the bookstore. All the readings have been placed on reserve at the library.

Mancur Olson, The Logic of Collective Action

Robert Dahl, A Preface to Democratic Theory

John Gaventa, Power and Powerlessness

Robert Dahl, Who Governs?

Jeffrey Berry, The New Liberalism

Sidney Tarrow, Power in Movements, 2nd ed.

Jeffrey Berry, The Interest Group Society, 3rd ed.

SEPTEMBER 8: Introduction

SEPTEMBER 15: *Selfishness as the Basis for Political Action*

James Madison, The Federalist, #10

Charles Beard, An Economic Interpretation of the Constitution, Chap. 6, "The Constitution as an Economic Document"

Jeffrey Berry, The Interest Group Society, Chaps. 1-4, 6-10

SEPTEMBER 22: *Alternative Models of Democracy*

Robert Dahl, A Preface to Democratic Theory

SEPTEMBER 29: *Is Atlanta Democratic?*

Robert and Helen Lynd, Middletown in Transition,
Chap. 9, "The Machinery of Government"

Floyd Hunter, Community Power Structure, Chap. 4

Clarence Stone, Regime Politics, Chaps. 1, 6, and 11

OCTOBER 6: *Is New Haven Democratic?*

Robert Dahl, Who Governs?

OCTOBER 13: *The Power Elite: Theory and Evidence*

C. Wright Mills, The Power Elite, Chaps. 1
and 12

Michael Useem, The Inner Circle, Chaps. 1-3

John P. Heinz, Edward O. Laumann, Robert L. Nelson, and Robert H. Salisbury, The Hollow Core, pp. 17-22, and Chap. 10

OCTOBER 20: *Other Manifestations of Power*

Peter Bachrach and Morton Baratz, "Two Faces of Power"

John Gaventa, Power and Powerlessness

OCTOBER 27: *Why Participation in Politics is Irrational*

Mancur Olson, The Logic of Collective Action, Chaps. 1-2, 5-6

Jack Walker, "The Origins and Maintenance of Interest Groups"

Nathan Teske, Political Activists in America, Chap. 2

NOVEMBER 3: *Challenging the Government*

Sidney Tarrow, Power in Movements

NOVEMBER 10: (No class—Thursday's Schedule)

NOVEMBER 17: *Participation, Groups, and Community*

Robert Putnam, "Bowling Alone"

Robert Putnam, "Tuning In, Tuning Out"

Anna Greenberg, "The Church and the Revitalization of Urban Democracy"

NOVEMBER 24: No class—early Thanksgiving

DECEMBER 1: *The Rise of Citizen Groups*

Jeffrey Berry, The New Liberalism

DECEMBER 6: (evening session): Student Reports

DECEMBER 8: Student Reports