

PS 142/UEP 142
Seminar on Interest Groups and Democratic Theory
Professor Berry, X73465
Fall 2001

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 (four short papers) will be explained in class. Each paper counts for 20 percent of your grade and class participation is the final 20 percent.

Let me emphasize the importance of attending class. The class is interactive and there is very little note taking by students. Thus, you won't be able to "get the notes" for a class you miss because there won't be much in the way of notes to get. This course depends on everyone coming to class and actively engaging in the discussions.

Office hours are Mondays, 2:30-4:00 and Wednesdays, 10:00-11:30. If you can't make those times, let me know. My email address is jeffrey.berry@tufts.edu. Only use email for very brief communications. If I can't answer your query in more than a sentence, I want you to come to my office instead. Email is great for keeping in touch with friends, but it isn't a good medium for teaching. Indeed, it's lazy teaching. I'd much prefer to talk to you.

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.
Robert Putnam, Bowling Alone

SEPTEMBER 5: Introduction

SEPTEMBER 12: *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 19: *Alternative Models of Democracy*
Robert Dahl, A Preface to Democratic Theory

SEPTEMBER 26: *Is Atlanta Democratic?*

[PAPER #1 DUE]

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 3: *Is New Haven Democratic?*

Robert Dahl, Who Governs?

OCTOBER 10: *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 17: *Other Manifestations of Power*

[PAPER #2 DUE]

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

John Gaventa, Power and Powerlessness

OCTOBER 24: *Why Participation in Politics is Irrational*

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

Nathan Teske, Political Activists in America, Chap. 2

Jeffrey M. Berry, "Regulating Nonprofits"

OCTOBER 31: *Challenging the Government*

Sidney Tarrow, Power in Movements

NOVEMBER 7: *The Rise of Citizen Groups*

[PAPER #3 DUE]

Jeffrey Berry, The New Liberalism

NOVEMBER 14: *Participation, Groups, and Community*

Robert Putnam, Bowling Alone, Chapters 1-9

NOVEMBER 21: (Thanksgiving holiday—no class)

NOVEMBER 28: Robert Putnam, Bowling Alone, Chapters 10-11; 13-17; 20-21; 23-24

DECEMBER 5: [PAPER #4 DUE]

