

PS 472 Politics of Pressure Group
Spring Semester, 99-00
386 Ingraham
M, W 2.30 to 3.45.
Professor Wilson

Office Hours: 11-12 R in Political Science or by appointment at La Follette
Phone (o)2-3908
(h) 273-8250
email: Wilson@lafollete.wisc.edu

Course Objectives

This course has dual concerns. **Course Objectives**

This course has two objectives.

The first is to study interest group politics in the United States. As in all my writing and teaching on American politics I attempt to teach this course from a comparative perspective. At the end of the course you should be able to

- describe the role that interest groups play in American politics
- explain how this differs from the role of interest groups in other political systems
- assess whether interest groups improve or diminish the representativeness and responsiveness of our system of government
- and express your own opinion on whether interest groups make a useful contribution to our politics or are a danger to the public interest.

The second objective of the course is to improve your writing; as you know this is a "writing intensive" course. The course requirements are designed to give you practice in different types of writing as well as to help you master the substance of the course. In particular, you will be given opportunities to revise work after receiving my comments and members of the course will comment on each others' writing.

Course Requirements

Do you want the good news or the bad new first? The good news is that there is no mid term or final exam! The bad news is that there are ten writing assignments. **You must complete all assignments to receive a grade for the course.**

The assignments are;

- a short recruiting letter for an interest group of your choice
- a memo for a politician (Governor, Senator, Representative, President)

recommending action on an issue (such as supporting or opposing a bill) where interest groups will be active

- four "reaction papers" written AFTER we have covered a topic setting out what you found the most interesting aspect of this topic and why you found it interesting
- four short (no longer than six pages) papers on topics we cover in the course.

You are required to attend class regularly and participate in discussions including the end of semester debate.

The due dates for papers are as follows.

January 31st. Recruiting letter.

Wednesday February 16th. First Short Paper.

Wednesday March 8th . Second Short paper

Wednesday April 5th Third Short paper.

Wednesday 3rd of May. Fourth short paper.

Remember you must also give in **four reaction papers** on topics and on a date of your choice.

Warning. All work submitted by you must be entirely your own. Submission of work by you that has been supplied by others or copied from others will result in an F for the course.

Books To Buy

I have ordered two required books at the University Bookstore.

These are

Allan J Cigler and Burdett Loomis (eds) *Interest Group Politics* 5th ed. (Washington DC: CQ Press, 1998.)

Paul S Herrnson, Ronald G Shaiko and Clyde Wilcox (eds) *The Interest Group Connection: Electioneering, Lobbying and Policymaking in Washington* (Chatham NJ: Chatham House, 1998.)

I am also recommending the following.

Frank R Baumgartner and Beth I Leech *Basic Interests: The Importance of Groups in Politics and Political Science* (Princeton: Princeton University Press, 1998.)

Mark Rozell and Clyde Wilcox *Interest Groups in American Campaigns* (Washington DC: Congressional Quarterly, 1999.)

Ken Kollman *Outside Lobbying: Public Opinion and Interest Group* (Princeton NJ: Princeton University Press, 1998.)

They will also be on reserve in Helen C White. You will also see other readings on the syllabus. They are here to give you ideas for readings for your short papers and in case I have stimulated you to read further on interest groups.

Email

Email is a good way to contact me; I check it several times a day. There is also a classlist email that I shall use to contact you, for example to draw your attention to relevant newspaper articles I've noticed.

Topics and Dates

Please note that I am likely to change these dates slightly in order to accommodate visitors to the course whom I am inviting.

January 24 and 26. *Perspectives on Interest Groups*

Baumgartner and Leech, *Basic Interests* ch 3.

Cigler and Loomis "Introduction" in Cigler and Loomis *Interest Group Politics*

Further readings.

Federalist Papers 10 and 51

Graham K Wilson "Interest Groups and the State" in Graham K Wilson *Interest Groups* (Oxford: Basil Blackwell, 1990.)

January 31st and February 2nd *The Origins of Interest Groups*

Paul E Johnson "Interest Group Recruiting: Finding Members and Keeping Them" in Cigler and Loomis (eds) *Interest Group Politics*.

Kelly Patterson "The Political Firepower of the National Rifle Association" in Cigler and Loomis, *Interest Group Politics*.

Frank Baumgartner and Beth Leech *Basic Interests* Chapter 4.

Further Reading.

Jack Walker *Mobilizing Interest Groups in America: Patrons, Professions and Social Movements* (Ann Arbor: University of Michigan Press 1993) chs 2-5 and 10.

February 7 and 9 *Some Basic Strategies; Campaign Contributions*

Paul Herrnson "Interest Groups, PACs and Campaigns" in Herrnson et al (eds) *The Interest Group*

Connection.

Candice Nelson “Partisanship, Committee Leadership Change and PAC contributions in the House” in Herrnson et al (eds) *The interest Group Connection*.

Stephen J Wayne “Interest Groups on the Road to the White House; Traveling the Hard and Soft Routes” in Herrnson et al (eds) *The Interest Group Connection*.

Paul Herrnson “Parties and Interests in the Postreform Congressional Elections” in Cigler and Loomis (eds) *Interest Group Politics*.

Further Reading

John R Wright *Interest Groups and Congress: Lobbying, Contributions and Influence* (Boston: Allyn and Bacon, 1996.)

Thomas Ferguson *Golden Rule; The Investment Theory of party Competition and the Logic of Money-Driven Political Systems* (Chicago: University of Chicago Press, 1995.)

February 14. *The Growing Role of Interest Groups in Campaigns?*

Mark J Rozell and Clyde Wilcox *Interest Groups in American Campaigns; The New Face Of Electioneering* (Washington DC: Congressional Quarterly, 1999.)

February 16 and 21. *Lobbying.*

Clyde Wilcox “The Dynamics of Lobbying the Hill” in Herrnson et al *The Interest Group Connection*.

James G Gimpel “Grassroots Organizations and Equilibrium Cycles in Group Mobilization and Access” in Herrnson et al *The Interest Group Connection*.

Christine DeGregorio “Assets and Access; Linking Lobbyists and Lawmakers” in Herrnson et al *The Interest Group Connection*.

Frank Baumgartner and Beth L Leech “Lobbying Friends and Foes in Washington” in Cigler and Loomis (eds) *Interest Group Politics*.

Baumgartner and Leech *Basic Interests* ch. 7.

February 23rd. *Lobbying Beyond Washington*

William P Browne “Lobbying the Public: All Directional Advocacy” in Cigler and Loomis (eds) *Interest Group Politics*.

Ken Kollman *Outside Lobbying: Public Opinion and Interest Group Strategies* ((Princeton; Princeton University Press, 1998.)

February 28th and March 1st. *The Executive*

Eric Uslaner “Lobbying the President and the Bureaucracy” in Herrnson et al *The Interest Group Connection*.

William T Gormley “Interest Group Interventions in the Administrative Process” in Herrnson et al *The Interest Group Connection*.

Ronald Shaiko “Reverse Lobbying; Interest Group Mobilization from the White House and Hill” in Cigler and Loomis (eds) *Interest Group Politics*.

Mark Peterson “Clinton and Organized Interests: Splitting Friends, Unifying Enemies” in Colin Campbell and Bert A Rockman (eds) *The Clinton Legacy* (Chatham NJ: Chatham House, 2000.)

March 6th and 8th *The Courts*

Karren O’Connor “Lobbying the Justices or Lobbying for Justice?” in Herrnson et al *The Interest Group Connection*.

Gregg Ivers “Please God Save This Honorable Court” in Herrnson et al *The Interest Group Connection*.

Wayne MacIntosh and Cynthia Gates “Interest Groups and the Courts: Free Speech For Corporations” in Thomas Ferguson *Golden Rule; The Investment Theory of party Competition and the Logic of Money-Driven Political Systems* (Chicago: University of Chicago Press, 1995.)

.

March 13th to 19th. *SPRING BREAK!*

In the second part of the course we turn to examining the tactics and influence of specific interests in American politics and to comparisons with the role of interest groups in other democratic political systems.

March 22nd *Women as an Interest Group*.

Laura Woliver “Abortion interests: From the Usual Suspects to Expanded Coalitions” in Cigler and Loomis (eds) *Interest Group Politics*.

Anne Costain *Inviting Womens’ Rebellion: A Political Process Interpretation of the Women’s Movement* (Baltimore: Johns Hopkins University Press, 1992.)

March 27th and 29th *Public Interest Groups*

Jeffrey M Berry *The New Liberalism: The Rising Power of Citizen Groups* 9Washington DC:

Brookings Institution, 1999.)

John Tierney and William Frasure “Culture Wars on the Frontier: Interests, Values and Policy Narratives in Public Lands Politics” in Cigler and Loomis (eds) *Interest Group Politics*.

April 3. *The NRA*

Kelly Patterson “The Political Firepower of the NRA” in Cigler and Loomis (eds) *Interest Group Politics*.

Robert J Spitzer *The Politics of Gun Control* (Chatham NJ: Chatham House, 1995.)

Osha Gray Davidson *Under Fire: The NRA and the Battle For Gun Control* (New York: Henry Hot, 1993.)

April 5th *Agriculture*

William P Browne *Cultivating Congress* (Lawrence: University of Kansas Press, 1995.)

Private Interests, Public Policy and American Agriculture (Lawrence: University of Kansas Press, 1988.)

John Mark Hansen *Gaining Access* (Chicago; University of Chicago Press, 1991.)

David Orden, Robert Paarlberg, Terry Roe, *Policy Reform in American Agriculture* (Chicago: University of Chicago Press, 1999.)

April 10th and 12th. *Labor*.

Michael Goldfield *The Decline of Organized Labor in the United States* (Chicago: University of Chicago Press, 1987) esp pp 3-38.

Theda Skocpol, Kenneth Feingold and Michael Goldfield “Explaining New Deal Labor Policy” *American Political Science Review* 84 (1990.)

April 17th and 19th *Business*

Charles E Lindblom *Politics and Markets* (New York: Basic, 1977)

David Vogel *Fluctuating Fortunes The Political Power of Business in America* (New York: Basic, 1989) esp. Chs 2 and 4 and pages 228-239.

Dennis P Quinn and Robert Y Shapiro “Business Political Power: The Case of Taxation” *American Political Science Review* Vol 85 No. 3 (September 1991).

Cathie Jo Martin *Shifting The Burden; The Struggle For Growth and Corporate Taxation* (Chicago; University of Chicago Press, 1991.)

Cathie Jo Martin *Stuck in Neutral: Business and the Politics of Human Capital Investment Policy* (Princeton: Princeton University Press, 2000.)

Thomas Ferguson *Golden Rule; The Investment Theory of party Competition and the Logic of Money-Driven Political Systems* (Chicago: University of Chicago Press, 1995.)

April 24th and 26th *The Water's Edge and Beyond*

Ernest Wilson "Interest Groups and Foreign policymaking: A View from the White House" in Herrnson et al *The Interest Group Connection*.

Eric Uslaner "All in the Family? Interest Groups and Foreign Policy" in Cigler and Loomis (eds) *Interest Group Politics*.

Mitchell Geoffrey Bard *The Water's Edge and Beyond; Defining the Limits to Domestic Influence on United States Middle East Policy* (New Brunswick: Transaction Publishers, 1991.)

Judith Goldstein *Ideas, Interests and American Trade Policy* (Ithaca: Cornell University Press, 1993.)

I. M Destler *American Trade Politics* (Washington DC: Institute of International Economics/Twentieth Century Fund, 1995.)

I. M. Destler and Peter J Balint *The New Politics of American Trade: Trade, Labor and the Environment* (Washington DC: Institute for International Economics, 1999.)

John Audley *Green Politics and Global Trade: NAFTA and the Future of Environmental Politics* (Washington DC: Georgetown University Press, 1997.)

May 1 and 3 *Foreign Comparisons*

Jeremy Richardson (ed) *Pressure Groups* (Oxford: OUP, 1993.)

Graham K Wilson *Interest Groups* (Oxford: Basil Blackwell, 1990.)

May 8th and 10th. *Conclusions and Overview*.

You will be formed into teams to debate the proposition "The power of Interest Groups has Increased, Is Increasing And Ought To Be Diminished."

Allan J Cigler and Burdett A Loomis "From Big Bird to Bill gates: Organized Interests and the Emergence of Hyperpolitics" in Cigler and Loomis (eds) *Interest Group Politics*.

Baumgartner and Leech *Basic Interests* ch.7.

Herrnson, Wilcox and Shaiko "Interest Groups at the Dawn of a New Millennium" in Herrnson et al *The Interest Group Connection*.