American Politics Field Seminar II
Poli Sci 260B

UCLA
Fall 2016

Wednesdays 10:00-12:50
Bunche 4357

Kathy Bawn
kbawn@polisci.ucla.edu
Bunche 3363, Th 10-noon

Jeff Lewis
jeffreybyronlewis@gmail.com
Bunche 4289, W 3-5

Chris Tausanovitch
tcausanovitch@gmail.com
Bunche 3383, W 2-4

Political Science 260A-B is a two-quarter survey of American Politics, designed for first and second year Ph.D. students. The course has two goals: to help you understand what the discipline has learned about some of the most important questions in American Politics, and to help you begin the transition from consumers to producers of social science research. In 260A, we focused mainly on the political behavior of ordinary people. In 260B, we will focus on the choices and incentives of elected officials and political professionals. Issues of representation -- how well the choices of those in positions of power reflect the values and interests of the masses -- will be a common theme in both quarters.

Expectations
We expect you to read all assigned work, attend each seminar meeting, and fully participate in the discussion. If you don’t talk, we can’t assess whether you are engaging the material in a productive way. It is your responsibility to make sure that you contribute, listen and react thoughtfully and constructively throughout each discussion.

Class attendance is critical. If you have to miss class because of illness or personal emergency, email us ahead of time. But you should do everything you can to attend every class meeting.
Grading
Grades will be calculated as follows:

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<tr>
<td>Participation</td>
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<td>Weekly Page</td>
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<tr>
<td>Research Proposal</td>
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<td>Final Exam</td>
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Weekly Page
As in 260A, you will need to turn in a one-page summary of each week's reading. The weekly page consists of two parts, a reading distillation and cocktail party statements.

Reading Distillation: For one of the week's assigned readings, give brief responses to each of the following questions

1. What is the puzzle or question under investigation?
2. What is the main argument?
3. How does the evidence and/or reasoning support the argument?
4. How could the work be made better?

Cocktail Party Statements: For each assigned reading, give a single sentence summary of the main takeaway point. That is, in 15 years when someone mentions Converse 1964 at a cocktail party, what will you remember as the main point? The answer to question 2 from the reading distillation is often a good cocktail party statement. We will ask some of you to share your cocktail party statements and/or reading distillations in the course of class discussions.

Ideally, the reading distillation and cocktail party statements together will fit on a single page. Of course, you are encouraged to take more elaborate notes for your own use (in studying for the preliminary exam offered later this year, and beyond.) The point of the weekly page, however, is for you to think about the reading enough to distill it down to its essential components.

Weekly pages should be submitted on the course website by 5pm the day before class. Grading for each week's assignment is simple: 2 points if it is fine, 1 point if major improvement is needed, 0 points if you did not turn it in on time.

Research Proposal
The research proposal follows the same format as last quarter (see guidelines posted on the course website. You are free to write on a different question than your 260A proposal, or to bring a different analytic approach to a similar question. By “different analytic approach,” we mean a completely different research design, not just a revised version of your 260A project. For example, if you proposed an individual-level project about partisanship for 260A, you might use an institutional approach for 260B. If
you have questions about whether your second project is sufficiently different from your first, please ask us.

**Final Exam**
The final exam covers material from both 260A and 260B. It will be a take-home exam consisting of several essay questions. This exam is part of your course grade for PS 260B and fulfills the American Politics preliminary exam requirement.

**Books**
You should purchase the following books

*The Electoral Connection*, David Mayhew  
*Ideology and Congress*, Keith Poole and Howard Rosenthal  
*Setting the Agenda*, Gary Cox and Mathew McCubbins  
*Pivotal Politics*, Keith Krehbiel  
*Veto Bargaining*, Charles Cameron  
*Democracy for Realists*, Chris Achen and Larry Bartels.
Preliminary Schedule of Topics for Winter Quarter

**Week 1 Jan 11 Electoral Incentives** CT/JL

*The Electoral Connection*, David Mayhew


*The Logic of Congressional Action*, R. Douglas Arnold, CH. 1-4


**Week 2 Jan 18 Coalitions, Majority Rule and Legislative Decision-Making.** KB/CT


Further reading


**Week 3 Jan 25 Ideology and Dimensionality in Congress.** JL/CT


**Week 4 Feb 1 Dynamics of Gridlock** CT/KB

Krehbiel, Keith. 1998. *Pivotal Politics.* Ch. 1-4


Koger, Gregory. *Filibustering.* 2010. Ch. 1-2 and 6-8, plus the Afterword

**Week 5 Feb 8 Parties in Congress CT/KB**  

Schickler “Institutional Change in the House of Representatives, 1967-1998” *APSR 2000*

Cox, Gary and Mathew McCubbins. 2005. *Setting the Agenda.* Ch. 1-6

**Week 6 Feb 15 The Presidency JL/KB**  
Cameron, Charles, 2000. *Veto Bargaining,* Ch. 1, 2, 4, 5.


**Week 7 Feb 22 Bureaucracy and Policy Implementation KB/JL**  


Further reading:  


**Week 8 Mar 1 Parties KB/JL**  


Further reading:


Schwartz, Thomas. 2016. "Parties" MS, UCLA.

**Week 9 Mar 8 State and Local Government JL/CT**

Readings TBD

**Week 10 Mar 15 Manipulation or Accountability? KB/JL/CT**