

**Core Seminar in American Politics  
Fall 2019**

**Professors:**

**John Aldrich—Duke**

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**Aldrich Office Hours: M/Th 1:30-3:00**

**Jason Roberts—UNC**

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**Roberts Office Hours: Wed. 9-12 and by appointment**

**UNC Meeting Place: Bingham 108**

**Duke Meeting Place: Gross 111**

**Tuesday: 3:30 – 6:20**

**Overview:** The purpose of this course is to expose you to some of the influential works in the field of American politics. Given that we only have one semester, it is impossible to cover more than a small fraction of these readings. The reading list below should not be considered comprehensive.

**Structure:** The class will be run as a seminar. That means the professors will not lecture. Our role is to facilitate the discussion of the readings, not carry the discussion. All students are expected to do all of the assigned readings before each class. You should expect to spend 8-10 hours each week on these readings and write one reaction paper, so plan accordingly. Your role is to engage with each other and the material — laptops should not be used during class.

**Discussion Leaders:** Each week, seminar members will have responsibility for leading the discussion on individual readings and distributing discussion questions at least 24 hours in advance of the seminar. Your job as discussion leader is to focus our attention on the following:

1. What are the key research questions?
2. How are the key concepts defined and measured?
3. What's the theoretical framework? What are the key hypotheses?
4. What is the research design? Can it answer the question being asked?
5. What methodological strategies are employed to test the hypotheses?
6. What are the key findings? Are the findings persuasive? Why or why not?
7. How do the findings connect to other things we have read?

**Reaction Papers:** On weeks that you are not leading discussion you should submit a short (1-2 page) reaction paper on one of the assigned readings. These papers are due by 5:00 p.m. each Sunday. These papers should focus on your reactions to the theory,

research design, and/or findings of the reading. The questions listed above are a good starting point. Reaction papers should NOT include a summary of the work.

### **Assignments and Grades:**

There are three components to your grade for this class:

Class Participation and Reaction Papers:	40%
Writing Assignments:	40%
Final Examination:	20%

The short writing assignments will be due on October 1st, October 29th, and November 26th.

**Books:** We will read all or most of the following books. You may find it worthwhile to purchase these for your collection.

Mayhew, David. 1974. *Congress: The Electoral Connection*. New Haven: Yale University Press.

Olson, Mancur. 1971. *The Logic of Collective Action. Public Goods and the Theory of Groups*. Harvard University Press.

Aldrich, John H. 2011. *Why Parties? A Second Look*. Chicago: University of Chicago Press

Rohde, David W. 1991. *Parties and Leaders in the Post-Reform House*. University of Chicago Press.

Cox, Gary W. and Mathew D. McCubbins. 2005. *Setting the Agenda: Responsible Party Government in the U.S. House of Representatives*. Cambridge: Cambridge University Press,

“pdf” denotes that the reading is in pdf (or scanned) format on Sakai  
(<http://sakai.unc.edu>)

**August 19, 2019—Introductions & Expectations  
UNC only**

desJardins, Marie. 1994. "How to Succeed in Graduate School: A Guide for Students and Advisors.

<https://www.csee.umbc.edu/~mariedj/papers/advice.pdf>

Murdie, Amanda. 2012. "Rejection."

<http://duckofminerva.com/2012/10/rejection.html>

Bowers, Jake. 2011. "Six Steps to a Better Relationship with Your Future Self."

[http://www.jakebowers.org/PAPERS/tpm\\_v18\\_n2.pdf](http://www.jakebowers.org/PAPERS/tpm_v18_n2.pdf)

**August 26, 2019—Introductions & Expectations  
Duke only**

desJardins, Marie. 1994. "How to Succeed in Graduate School: A Guide for Students and Advisors.

<https://www.csee.umbc.edu/~mariedj/papers/advice.pdf>

Murdie, Amanda. 2012. "Rejection."

<http://duckofminerva.com/2012/10/rejection.html>

Bowers, Jake. 2011. "Six Steps to a Better Relationship with Your Future Self."

[http://www.jakebowers.org/PAPERS/tpm\\_v18\\_n2.pdf](http://www.jakebowers.org/PAPERS/tpm_v18_n2.pdf)

**September 3, 2019—Theory  
Meeting Place: Duke**

Aldrich, John, Calvin Jillson, and Rick Wilson. "Why Congress? What the Failure of the Confederation Congress and the Survival of the Federal Congress Tell Us About the New Institutionalism." *In Process, and Political Change in Congress: New Perspectives on the History of Congress*, edited by David Brady and Mathew D. McCubbins, Stanford University Press.

pdf

Mayhew, David. 1974. *Congress: The Electoral Connection*. New Haven: Yale University Press.

“Policy Goals and Opinion Coalitions in the Supreme Court,” David W. Rohde. *Midwest Journal of Political Science*, Vol. 16, No. 2 (May, 1972), pp. 208-224

<http://www.jstor.org/stable/10.2307/2110056>

“Motivated Skepticism in the Evaluation of Political Beliefs,” Charles S. Taber and Milton Lodge. *American Journal of Political Science*, Vol. 50, No. 3 (Jul., 2006), pp. 755-769

<http://www.jstor.org/stable/10.2307/3694247>

**September 10, 2019—Classic Questions**  
**Meeting Place: UNC**

Federalist #10 & #51

Hetherington, Marc. 1998. “The Political Relevance of Political Trust.” *American Political Science Review*, 92: 791-808.

<http://www.jstor.org/stable/2586304>

Dahl, Robert A. “A Critique of the Ruling Elite Model,” *American Political Science Review*, Vol. 52, No. 2 (Jun., 1958), pp. 463-469.

<http://www.jstor.org/stable/1952327>

Walker, Jack L. “A Critique of the Elitist Theory of Democracy,” *American Political Science Review*, Vol. 60, No. 2 (Jun., 1966), pp. 285-295.

<http://www.jstor.org/stable/1953356>

Downs, Anthony. 1957. *An Economic Theory of Democracy*, Chs. 3, 4, 8

pdf

Douglass C. North and Barry R. Weingast. 1989. "Constitutions and Commitment: The Evolution of Institutions Governing Public Choice in Seventeenth-Century England." *The Journal of Economic History* 49: 803-832.

<http://www.jstor.org/stable/2122739>

**September 17, 2019—Public Opinion I**  
**Meeting Place: Duke**

Converse, Philip E. 1964. "The Nature of Belief Systems in Mass Publics." In David Apter. Ed. *Ideology and Discontent*. New York: The Free Press. Pages 206-249.

pdf

Lupia, Arthur, and Mathew D. McCubbins. 1998. *The Democratic Dilemma: Can Citizens Learn What They Really Need to Know?* New York: Cambridge University Press, Ch. 2

pdf

Achen, Christopher and Larry Bartels. 2016. *Democracy for Realists*. Princeton: Princeton University Press. Chs. 2 & 3.

pdf

Ansolabehere, Stephen, Jonathan Rodden, and James M. Snyder. "The strength of issues: Using multiple measures to gauge preference stability, ideological constraint, and issue voting." *American Political Science Review* 102, no. 2 (2008): 215-232.

Jerit, Jennifer, Jason Barabas, and Toby Bolsen. "Citizens, knowledge, and the information environment." *American Journal of Political Science* 50, no. 2 (2006): 266-282.

**September 24, 2019—Public Opinion II**  
**Meeting Place: UNC**

Campbell, Angus, Philip Converse, Warren Miller, and Donald Stokes. 1960. *The American Voter*. New York: Wiley, esp., chaps. 2 and 9.

pdf

Johnston, Richard. 2006. "Party Identification: Unmoved Mover or Sum of Preferences?" *Annual Review of Political Science*, 9: 329-315.

Kramer, Gerald F., "Short-Term Fluctuations in U.S. Voting Behavior, 1896-1964," *American Political Science Review*, Vol. 65, No. 1 (Mar., 1971), pp. 131-143

<http://www.jstor.org/stable/1955049>

Michael B. MacKuen, Robert S. Erikson, James A. Stimson, "Macropartisanship," *American Political Science Review*, Vol. 83, No. 4 (Dec., 1989), pp. 1125-1142

<http://www.jstor.org/stable/1961661>

Hainmueller, Jens, and Daniel J. Hopkins. "The Hidden American Immigration Consensus: A Conjoint Analysis of Attitudes Toward Immigrants." *American Journal of Political Science* 59.3 (2015): 529-548.

<http://onlinelibrary.wiley.com/doi/10.1111/ajps.12138/epdf>

Achen, Christopher and Larry Bartels. 2016. *Democracy for Realists*. Princeton: Princeton University Press. Ch. 5.

**October 1, 2019—Race and Politics  
Meeting Place: Duke**

Hajnal, Zoltan, and Jessica Trounstine. 2014. "What Underlies Urban Politics? Race, Class, Ideology, Partisanship and the Urban Vote." *Urban Affairs Review* 50(1): 63-99

Acharya, Avidit, Matthew Blackwell and Maya Sen. 2016. "The Political Legacy of American Slavery." *Journal of Politics* 78(3): 621-641.

Penner, Andrew and Aliya Saperstein. 2012. "Racial Fluidity and Inequality in the United States." *American Journal of Sociology* 118(3): 676-727.

Kinder, Donald R. and Lynn M. Sanders. 1996. *Divided by Color: Racial Politics and Democratic Ideals*. Chs. 1-3, 5 and 7.

Hutchings, Vincent L., Ismail K, White and Nicholas A. Valentino. 2002. "Cues that Matter: How Political Ads Prime Racial Attitudes during Campaigns." *American Political Science Review* 96(1): 75-90.

Juenke, Eric Gonzalez, and Robert R. Preuhs. 2012. "Irreplaceable Legislators? Rethinking Minority Representatives in the New Century." *American Journal of Political Science* 56(3): 705-715

**October 8, 2019 — No Class – Fall Break**

**October 15, 2019—Congressional Elections  
Meeting Place: UNC**

Fenno, Richard F., Jr. 1977. "U.S. House Members in Their Constituencies." *American Political Science Review* 71: 883-916.

<http://www.jstor.org/stable/1960097>

Jacobson, Gary C. 1989. "Strategic Politicians and the Dynamics of U.S. House Elections, 1946-86." *American Political Science Review* 83: 773-793.

<http://www.jstor.org/stable/1962060>

Maestas, Cherie D., Sarah Fulton, L. Sandy Maisel, and Walter J. Stone. 2006. "When to Risk It? Institutions, Ambitions, and the Decision to Run for the U.S. House." *American Political Science Review* 100: 195-208.

<http://www.jstor.org/stable/27644344>

Carson, Jamie L., Erik Engstrom, and Jason Roberts. 2007. "Candidate Quality, the Personal Vote, and the Incumbency Advantage in Congress." *American Political Science Review*. 101: 289-301.

<http://www.jstor.org/stable/27644446>

Jacobson, Gary J. 2015. "It's Nothing Personal: The Decline of the Incumbency Advantage in Congress." *Journal of Politics* 77: 861-873.

Jacobson, Gary J. 2018. "Extreme Referendum: Donald Trump and the 2018 Midterm Elections," *Political Science Quarterly*, 134: 9-38.

**October 22, 2019—Congressional Institutions  
Meeting Place: Duke**

Lee, Frances. 2016. *Insecure Majorities: Congress and the Perpetual Campaign*. University of Chicago Press. Selections.

pdf

Shepsle, Kenneth A., and Barry Weingast. 1994. "Positive Theories of Congressional Institutions." *Legislative Studies Quarterly* 19: 149-179.

<http://www.jstor.org/stable/440423>

Rohde, David W. 1991. *Parties and Leaders in the Post-Reform House*. University of Chicago Press, Chaps 1-4

pdf

Krehbiel, Keith. 1993. "Where's the Party?" *British Journal of Political Science* 23: 235-66.

<http://www.jstor.org/stable/194249>

Cox, Gary W. and Mathew D. McCubbins. 2005. *Setting the Agenda: Responsible Party Government in the U.S. House of Representatives*. Cambridge: Cambridge University Press, chaps 2-5.

pdf

Roberts, Jason M. and Steven S. Smith. 2003. "Procedural Contexts, Party Strategy, and Conditional Party Voting in the U.S. House of Representatives, 1971-2000." *American Journal of Political Science* 47: 305-317.

<http://www.jstor.org/stable/3186140>

Fenno, Richard. 1973. *Congressmen in Committees*. Chs. 2, 3, 4.

pdf

**October 29, 2019—Political Parties  
Meeting Place: UNC**



Aldrich, John H. 2011. *Why Parties? A Second Look*. Chicago: University of Chicago Press. Focus on Chs. 2, 6-9.

Required Book

McCarty Polarization

Hetherington, Marc. 2001. "Resurgent Mass Partisanship: The Role of Elite Polarization." *American Political Science Review* 95: 619-631.

<http://www.jstor.org/stable/3118237>

**November 5, 2019—Bicameralism and Institutions of Democracy  
Meeting Place: Duke**

Krehbiel, Keith. 1999. "Pivotal Politics: A Refinement of Nonmarket Analysis for Voting Institutions," *Business and Politics*, 1: 63-81.

pdf

Chergosky, Anthony and Jason M. Roberts. 2018. "The De-Institutionalization of Congress," *Political Science Quarterly*, 133: 475-495.

Jones, Bryan D., Sean M. Theriault, and Michelle Whyman. 2019. *The Great Broadening*, University of Chicago Press. Selections.

pdf

Binder, Sarah A. 2015. "The Dysfunctional Congress," *Annual Review of Political Science* 18 (2015): 85-101.

<http://www.annualreviews.org/doi/pdf/10.1146/annurev-polisci-110813-032156>

**November 12, 2019—The Presidency  
Meeting Place: UNC**

Neustadt, Richard E. *Presidential Power and the Modern Presidents*

pdf

Kernell, Samuel. 1997. *Going Public: New Strategies of Presidential Leadership*. Washington: CQ Press, selections.

pdf

Cameron, Charles. 2000. *Veto Bargaining: Presidents and the Politics of Negative Power*. Cambridge University Press, Chs. 1, 2, 4.

pdf

Howell, Will. 2003. *Power without Persuasion: The Politics of Direct Presidential Action*. Princeton, NJ: Princeton University Press, selections.

pdf

## **November 19, 2019 — Interest Groups & Bureaucracy**

### **Meeting Place: Duke**

McCubbins, Mat and Thomas Schwartz. 1984. "Congressional Oversight Overlooked: Police Patrols vs. Fire Alarms." *American Journal of Political Science* 28: 165-179.

<http://www.jstor.org/stable/2110792>

McCubbins, Mat, Roger Noll, and Barry Weingast. 1987. "Administrative Procedure as Instruments of Political Control." *Journal of Law, Economics, and Organization* 3: 243-277.

<http://www.jstor.org/stable/764829>

Olson, Mancur. 1971. *The Logic of Collective Action. Public Goods and the Theory of Groups*. Harvard University Press, Chs. 1, 2

pdf

Schattschneider, E.E. 1960. *The Semisovereign People*. New York: Holt, Rinehart, & Winston, 1960, Ch. 2.

pdf

Brehm, John and Scott Gates. 1993. "Donut Shops and Speed Traps: Evaluating Models of Supervision on Police Behavior." *American Journal of Political Science* 37: 555-581.

<http://www.jstor.org/stable/2111384>

**November 26, 2019—Judicial System  
Meeting Place: UNC**

Wahlbeck, Paul, James Spriggs, and Forrest Maltzman. 1998. "Marshalling the Court: Bargaining and Accommodation on the U.S. Supreme Court." *American Journal of Political Science*. 42: 294-315.

<http://www.jstor.org/stable/2991757>

Epstein, Lee and Jack Knight. 1996. "On the Struggle for Judicial Supremacy." *Law and Society Review*. 30: 87-120.

<http://www.jstor.org/stable/3054035>

Caldeira, Gregory and John R. Wright. 1988. "Organized Interests and Agenda Setting in the U.S. Supreme Court." *American Political Science Review* 82: 1109-1127.

<http://www.jstor.org/stable/1961752>

Clark, Tom S. 2009. "The Separation of Powers, Court-curbing and Judicial Legitimacy," *American Journal of Political Science* 53(4):971-989

<https://www.jstor.org/stable/pdf/20647961.pdf>

Martin, Andrew, Kevin Quinn, Theodore Ruger, and Pauline Kim. 2004. "Competing Approaches to Predicting Supreme Court Decision Making." *Perspectives on Politics*. 2: 761-767.

<http://www.jstor.org/stable/3688543>