In this course, we will read the literature on individual political behavior in the United States. We will discuss the nature and consequences of the public's understanding of politics, the nature of ideology and values, tolerance, public opinion, participation, and voting.

The course requirements are: (1) a term paper, which may be a research paper, a critical review and synthesis of the literature, or a prospectus and research design; (2) two short (4-5 pp) critical reviews of portions of the weekly readings—one of which will be on Alan Abramowitz, *The Disappearing Center* and Morris Fiorina and Samuel Abrams, *Disconnect*; (3) class participation, including presentations of the literature; (4) presentation of your term paper to the class; and (5) participation in the class research project. Term papers may be coauthored if they are original research papers.

All of the readings are on reserve in the library. The following books are required:

- Alan Abramowitz, *The Disappearing Center: Engaged Citizens, Polarization, and American Democracy*
- Morris Fiorina with Samuel Abrams, *Disconnect: The Breakdown of Representation in American Politics*
- Jan Leighley and Jonathan Nagler, *Who Votes Now?*
- Milton Lodge and Charles Taber, *The Rationalizing Voter*
- Christopher Parker and Matt Barreto, *Change They Can’t Believe In*
- Sidney Verba et al., *Voice and Equality: Civic Voluntarism in American Politics*

The readings marked with * are additional recommended reading. The following abbreviations are used for journals:

- **APSR**: *American Political Science Review*
- **AJPS**: *American Journal of Political Science*
- **POQ**: *Public Opinion Quarterly*

**Weekly Topics**

1. **Introductory Discussion: Measuring Public Opinion** (Jan 5)

   Demonstration of [http://sda.berkeley.edu/](http://sda.berkeley.edu/)

   Discussion of scaling methods (Cronbach’s alpha, principal components, IRT)

   * Michael Nering, *Polytomous Item Response Theory Models*
   * Edward Carmines and Richard Zeller, *Reliability and Validity Assessment*
   * Jae-On Kim and Charles Mueller, *Factor Analysis*
2. **Knowledge, Belief Systems, Ideologies, and Values** (Jan 12)


Michael Delli Carpini and Scott Keeter, *What Americans Know About Politics and Why It Matters*, chap. 6, “Consequences of Knowledge and Ignorance.”

Eric Smith, *The Unchanging American Voter*, chap. 3


* Scott Althaus, *Collective Preferences in Democratic Politics*
* Eric Smith, *The Unchanging American Voter*
* Jennifer Hochschild, *What’s Fair? American Beliefs about Distributive Justice*
* W. Russell Neuman, Marion Just, and Ann Crigler, *Common Knowledge: News and the Construction of Political Meaning*
* George Marcus et al., *Affective Intelligence and Political Judgment*

3. **Public Opinion, Learning, Persuasion and Framing** (week of Jan 19)

Milton Lodge and Charles Taber, *The Rationalizing Voter*


* Howard Schuman & Stanley Presser, *Questions & Answers in Attitude Surveys*
4. **Presidential Voting** (Jan 26)

James Enelow and Melvin Hinich, *The Spatial Theory of Voting*, chaps 2-3

* Warren Miller and Merrill Shanks, *The New American Voter*
* Samuel Popkin, *The Reasoning Voter*
* Steven Rosenstone et al., *Third Parties in America*, 2nd ed.
* Larry Bartels, *Presidential Primaries and the Dynamics of Public Choice*
* James Enelow and Melvin Hinich, *The Spatial Theory of Voting*

5. **Congressional Voting** (Feb 2)

Jon Krasno, *Challengers, Competition and Reelection*, chaps
Morris Fiorina, *Retrospective Voting in America*, chap 5

* Gary Jacobson, *The Politics of Congressional Elections*
* Kim Kahn & Patrick Kenney, *The Spectacle of U.S. Senate Campaigns*

6. **Tolerance and Civil Liberties** (Feb 9)

Paul Sniderman et al, *Reasoning and Choice*, chaps 4, 5, 12, 13

* Bob Altemeyer, *The Authoritarian Specter*
* Herbert McClosky and Alida Brill, *Dimensions of Tolerance*
* Howard Schuman, et al., *Racial Attitudes in America*

7. **The Tea Party and the Rise of Conservatives** (Feb 16)

Christopher Parker and Matt Barreto, *Change They Can’t Believe In*

* Richard Hofstadter, *The Paranoid Style in American Politics*
* Theda Skocpol and Vanessa Williamson, *The Tea Party and the Remaking of Republican Conservatism*

8. **Public Opinion and Representation** (Feb 23)

Alan Abramowitz, *The Disappearing Center*
Morris Fiorina and Samuel Abrams, *Disconnect*

9. **Participation** (March 2)

Sidney Verba, Kay Schlozman, & Henry Brady, *Voice and Equality*

* Kay Schlozman, Sidney Verba, & Henry Brady, *The Unheavanly Chorus: Unequal Political Voice and the Broken Promise of American Democracy*
* Hahrie Han, *Moved to Action*
* Paul Abramson et al, *Change & Continuity in the 2012 Elections*, chap 4
10. Voting Turnout and Equality (March 9)

Jan Leighley and Jonathan Nagler, *Who Votes Now?*

* Larry Bartels, *Unequal Democracy*
* Steven Rosenstone and John Mark Hansen, *Mobilization, Participation, and Democracy in America*