This course is intended to be a core seminar in American Politics. 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--; (3) class participation, including presentations of the literature.

All of the books are on reserve in the library. The articles are all of GauchoSpace. The following books are required:

- Christopher Achen and Larry Bartels, *Democracy for Realists*
- 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 recommended. The following abbreviations are used for journals:

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

**Weekly Topics**

1. **Introductory Discussion: Measuring Public Opinion** (April 1)

   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. **Nature of Attitudes, the Survey Response, and Political Knowledge** (April 15)


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


* Howard Schuman & Stanley Presser, *Questions & Answers in Attitude Surveys*

* Scott Althaus, *Collective Preferences in Democratic Politics*

* W. Russell Neuman, Marion Just, and Ann Crigler, *Common Knowledge: News and the Construction of Political Meaning*


3. **Party Identification and Socialization** (April 15)


Morris Fiorina, *Retrospective Voting in America*, chap 5


* Bruce Keith et al, *The Myth of the Independent Voter*


4. **Belief Systems, Ideology, and Self-interest** (April 22)

Eric Smith, The Unchanging American Voter, chap. 3
Jennifer Hochschild, What’s Fair? chap. 1-2

* Jennifer Hochschild, What’s Fair? American Beliefs about Distributive Justice
* Eric Smith, The Unchanging American Voter
* George Marcus et al., Affective Intelligence and Political Judgment

5. Learning, Persuasion, and Framing (April 29)

Milton Lodge and Charles Taber, The Rationalizing Voter


* Howard Schuman & Stanley Presser, Questions & Answers in Attitude Surveys
* Elisabeth Noelle-Neumann, The Spiral of Silence, 2nd ed.
* Paul Sniderman et al, Reasoning and Choice
* Benjamin Page & Robert Shapiro, The Rational Public
6. **Presidential and Congressional Elections** (May 6)

- Jon Krasno, *Challengers, Competition and Reelection*, chaps 1-3, 5
- Tali Mendelberg, *The Race Card*, chaps 1, 6, 7

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

7. **Tolerance and Civil Liberties** (May 13)


* Donald Kinder and Lynn Sanders, *Divided by Color* (1996)
* Bob Altemeyer, *The Authoritarian Specter*
* Herbert McClosky and Alida Brill, *Dimensions of Tolerance*
* Howard Schuman, et al., *Racial Attitudes in America*

8. **Voter Turnout and Participation** (May 20)

Sidney Verba, Kay Schlozman, & Henry Brady, *Voice and Equality*
Jan Leighley and Jonathan Nagler, *Who Votes Now?* Chaps. 2-3

* Steven Rosenstone and John Mark Hansen, *Mobilization, Participation, and Democracy in America*
* Kay Schlozman, Sidney Verba, and Henry Brady, *The Unheavenly Chorus*
* Paul Abramson et al, *Change & Continuity in the 2016 Elections*, chap 4
* J. Rusk "Political Participation in American: A review essay" *APSR* 70:583- (1976)
* Frances Piven and Richard Cloward, *Why Americans Don’t Vote*
* Larry Bartels, *Unequal Democracy*
* Raymond Wolfinger and Steven Rosenstone, *Who Votes?*

9. **The Rise of Conservatives, Polarization, and Race in America** (to be determined)

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


Herbert McClosky, …

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

10. **Identity Groups, Political Parties, and Elections** (June 3)


* Walter Stone, *Candidates and Voters* Cambridge University Press, 2017