This course is intended to be a core seminar in American Politics. The course covers the literature on individual political behavior in the United States. Topics include the nature and consequences of the public’s knowledge about politics, persuasion, political identity, ideology, values, tolerance, prejudice, 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 on assigned topics regarding Lodge & Tabor and Achen & Bartels; (3) class participation, including leading discussions of the literature.

All of the books are on reserve in the library. The articles are all on 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)


2. **Nature of Attitudes, the Survey Response, and Political Knowledge** (April 8)


* 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? 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*

**Paper 1 due** – Lodge & Taber

* Howard Schuman & Stanley Presser, *Questions & Answers in Attitude Surveys*
* Paul Sniderman et al, *Reasoning and Choice*
* Benjamin Page & Robert Shapiro, *The Rational Public*
* Ronald Inglehart, “Political Value Orientations,” in M. Kent Jennings et al., *Continuities in Political Action*
* Ronald Inglehart, *Culture Shift in Advanced Industrial Democracies*
6. **Presidential and Congressional Elections** (May 6)


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

Jon Krasno, *Challengers, Competition and Reelection*, chaps 1-3, 5


Tali Mendelberg, *The Race Card*, chaps 1, 6, 7

7. **Voter Turnout and Participation** (May 13)

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?*

8. **Identity Groups, Political Parties, and Elections** (May 20)


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

**Paper 2 due** – Achen & Bartels

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


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


* Alan Abramowitz, *The Disappearing Center*
* Morris Fiorina and Samuel Abrams, *Disconnect*
10. Tolerance and Civil Liberties (June 3)


* 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*