American Politics Seminar

Requirements:

Each student must be fully prepared to discuss each week’s readings.

1. Two-page summary of each week’s readings due at class time on Monday. Bring paper copy to class for submission and grading. These are integrative analyses of the theory, methodology, findings, strengths and weaknesses of the week’s readings.

2. Once during the semester, each student will present an oral report on a book listed on the syllabus. In addition, the student will complete a three-page written report. Along with participation in class discussions, these two assignments account for 10% of final grades.

Take-home midterm on first seven weeks readings (Sept. 8 – October 20). Due October 27 (30% of final grades). Bring paper copy to class for submission.

Extended literature review on one week’s topic due December 8. Maximum length is 10 typed pages (double spaced). Must review a minimum of 10 articles beyond the required readings. Must be organized around theoretical or methodological questions and not around separate articles. (30% of final grades).

Take-home final due December 17, 4 p.m. (in my mailbox in Social Science 315) (30% of final grades).

No late weekly summaries will be accepted. Late papers and exams will be penalized 10 percent per day. In an emergency, papers may be submitted to the class DROPBOX on the D2L webpage. Do not send them as e-mail attachments.
September 8: Public Opinion
Required Readings:

Book Report:

Optional Readings:

September 15: Structure in Public Opinion
Required Readings:
of Political Science 50 (July): 706-723.


Book Report:

Optional Readings:

September 18 Partisanship
Required Readings:


Book Report:

Optional Readings:


Rapoport, Ronald B. 1997. “Partisanship Change in a Candidate-Centered Era.” *Journal of
Politics 59 (February): 185-99.

September 25 Participation
Required Reading:

Book Report:

Optional Readings:


**October 2 Social Psychological Model of Voting**

**Required Readings:**


**Book Report:**


**Optional Readings:**


Axelrod, Robert. 1972. “Where the Votes Come From: An Analysis of Electoral Coalitions,

**October 9  Rational Choice and Spatial Models of Elections**

Required Readings:

Book Report:

Optional Readings:
October 20  Congressional Elections

Required Reading:

Optional Reading:
October 27  Political Parties

Required Readings:

Book Report:

Optional Readings:

November 3:  Presidential Nominations

Required Readings
Morton, Rebecca B., and Kenneth C. Williams. 1999. “Information Asymmetries and


Optional Readings:

See bibliography at [http://www.u.arizona.edu/~norrande](http://www.u.arizona.edu/~norrande)

**November 10 Congress**

**Required Readings:**


**Book Report:**


**Optional Readings:**


**November 17 Roll Call Voting and Representation**

**Required Readings:**

**Optional Readings:**

**November 24 Presidential Behavior**

**Required Readings:**

**Book Report:**

**Optional Readings:**
December 1       Judicial Behavior

Required Readings:


Book Report:


Optional Readings:


December 8: State Courts and Public Policy

Required Readings:

Optional Readings: