

POSC 6221/233  
Interest Groups  
Fall 2009  
Tuesday 4-6:30 PM

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Mon, Wed 11-1, Tuesday 9-12

### **Overview**

This course is designed to provide an in-depth survey of key political science works related to the study of interest groups. The focus of our efforts will be two-fold: 1) the organization of groups and 2) interest group lobbying, with the purpose of preparing you to conduct research on interest groups, to incorporate theoretical concepts and conceptual frameworks into your other classes and comprehensive exams, and to prepare you for future endeavors within and beyond academia. By the end of this class you should have a firm understanding of the major works and debates in the field of interest groups, you will have written an original research paper that is theoretically grounded and empirically supported, and you will have reflected on the role of interest groups in the larger political system.

### **Requirements**

I expect you to attend every class and to have completed all of the readings prior to the start of class. You should be prepared to discuss and debate the readings in class.

You will take a midterm exam and complete a 25-30 page research paper that tackles a pertinent research question, engages a scholarly debate, and demonstrates the capacity to conduct research.

Please consult the University's guidelines on Academic Honesty at [http://www.marquette.edu/cur\\_students/bulletin.shtml](http://www.marquette.edu/cur_students/bulletin.shtml).

### **Course Materials**

Books have been ordered at the Bookmarq and Sweeneys and are also widely available online. Supplementary readings will be archived on D2L. We will utilize the resources of D2L for extending class discussions and presenting research findings.

### **Book List**

1) Frank R. Baumgartner, Jeffrey M. Berry, Marie Hojnacki, David C. Kimball, Beth L. Leech, *Lobbying and Policy Change: Who Wins, Who Loses, and Why* (Chicago: University Of Chicago Press, 2009)

- 2) Olson, Mancur, *The Logic of Collective Action: Public goods and the theory of groups* (Cambridge, Mass.: Harvard University Press, 1971)
- 3) Baumgartner, Frank R. and Beth Leech, *Basic Interests: The importance of groups in politics and in political science* (Princeton, N.J.: Princeton University Press, 1998).
- 4) James Q. Wilson, *Political Organizations* (New York: Basic Books, 1974)
- 5) Christine Mahoney, *Brussels Versus the Beltway: Advocacy in the United States and the European Union*, (Washington, D.C.: Georgetown University Press, 2008)

**Remaining readings can be found on D2L course page.**

### **Weekly Schedule**

September 1 – Introduction to Interest Groups

September 8 – Interest Group Theory

- Baumgartner and Leech, *Basic Interests*, Chapters 1-3
- Mancur Olson, *Logic of Collective Action*, Chapter 5
- Lowery and Gray, “A Neo-Pluralist Theory of Interest Groups”

September 15 – Collective Action, Part I

- Mancur Olson, *Logic of Collective Action*, Chapters 1, 2, 6
- Baumgartner and Leech, *Basic Interests*, Chapters 4, 5

September 22 – An Organizational Alternative to Collective Action

- James Q. Wilson, *Political Organizations*, chapters 1-5, 10-12
- David Knocke. 1988. “Incentives in Collective Action Organizations” *American Sociological Review* 53: 311-329.

### **Research Paper Topics Due**

September 29 – Collective Action, Part II: The Critics

- Norman Frohlich, and Joe Oppenheimer. 1970. “I Get By With a Little Help From My Friends,” *World Politics* 23: 104-120
- Robert Salisbury. 1969. “An Exchange Theory of Interest Groups,” *Midwest Journal of Political Science* 13: 1-32
- Walker, Jack L., Jr. 1983. “The Origins and Maintenance of Interest Groups in America,” *American Political Science Review* 77: 390-406
- Jocelyn Elise Crowley, and Theda Skocpol. 2001. “The Rush to Organize: Explaining Organizational Formation in the United States, 1860s-1920s,” *American Journal of Political Science* 45: 813-829

October 6 – Collective Action, Part III: The Next Generation

- Terry Moe. 1980. “A Calculus of Group Membership,” *American Journal of Political Science* 24: 593-632.
- John Mark Hansen. 1985. “The Political Economy of Group Membership,” *American Political Science Review* 79: 79-96.

- Robert C. Lowry. 1997. "The Private Production of Public Goods: Organizational Maintenance, Managers' Objectives, and Collective Goods," *American Political Science Review* 91: 308-323.
- Robert Salisbury. 1984. "Interest Representation: The Dominance of Institutions." *American Political Science Review*, 78: 64-76.
- Virginia Gray, David Lowery, Jennifer Anderson, and Adam J. Newmark. 2004. "Collective Action and the Mobilization of Institutions," *Journal of Politics* 66: 684-705.

**Research Paper Literature Reviews Due**

October 13 – Behavior within Interest Group Communities

- James Q. Wilson, *Political Organizations*, Chapter 13
- Frank Baumgartner, and Beth Leech. 2001. "Interest Niches and Policy Bandwagons: Patterns of Interest Group Involvement in National Politics," *Journal of Politics* 63: 1191-1213.
- William P. Browne. 1992. "Organized Interests and Their Issue Niches," *Journal of Politics* 54: 477-509, in Alexander, ed., ch. 19.
- Virginia Gray and David Lowery. 1996. "A Niche Theory of Interest Representation," *Journal of Politics* 58: 91-111.
- Michael T. Heaney. 2004. "Outside the Issue Niche: The Multidimensionality of Interest Group Identity" *American Politics Research* 32: 611-651.

October 20 – Interest Groups and Political Development

- Elisabeth Clemens, *The People's Lobby* (Chicago: University of Chicago Press, 1997), chapters 1, 2
- Elisabeth Clemens and James Cook. 1999. "Politics and Institutionalism: Explaining Durability and Change" *Annual Review of Sociology* 25: 441-466.
- Robert C. Lieberman. 2002. "Ideas, Institutions and Political Order: Explaining Political Change" *American Political Science Review* 96: 697-712.
- Adam Sheingate. 2003. "Political Entrepreneurship, Institutional Change, and American Political Development." *Studies in American Political Development* 17: 185-203

**October 26 – Take Home Exam Due by 5pm**

October 27 – Interest Groups in Politics

- Andrew McFarland. 1991. "Interest Groups and Political Time: Cycles in America" *British Journal of Political Science* 21: 257-284.
- Cathie Jo Martin and Duane Swank, "The Political Origins of Coordinated Capitalism," *American Political Science Review* (May 2008).
- Richard Harris and Daniel Tichenor. 2006. "The Development of a Washington Lobbying Community: Mobilization and Bias" Presented at the Policy History Conference, Charlottesville, VA.

**Summary of Empirical Research Due**

November 3 – Interest Group Lobbying

- Baumgartner and Leech, *Basic Interests*, Chapter 7

- Frank Baumgartner, Jeffrey M. Berry, Marie Hojnacki, David Kimball, and Beth Leech, *Lobbying and Policy Change: Who Wins, Who Loses, and Why* (University Of Chicago Press 2009)

November 10 – Lobbying Strategies

- James Q. Wilson, *Political Organizations*, Chapter 14.
- Richard L. Hall and Frank Wayman. 1990. "Buying Time: Moneyed Interests and the Mobilization of Bias in Congressional Committees." *American Political Science Review* 84: 797-820.
- John P. Heinz, et al. 1990. "Inner Circles or Hollow Cores: Elite Networks in National Policy Systems." *Journal of Politics* 52: 356-390.
- Daniel Carpenter, Kevin Esterling, and David Lazer. 2004. "Friends, Brokers, and Transitivity: Who Informs Whom in Washington Politics." *Journal of Politics* 66: 224-246.

November 17 – Business Lobbying Strategies

- James Q. Wilson, *Political Organizations*, Chapter 8.
- Holly Brasher and David Lowery. 2006. "The Corporate Context of Lobbying Activity" *Business and Politics* 8(1).
- Henry Brady, et al. 2007. "Corporate Lobbying Activity in American Politics." Presented at the Annual Meeting of the American Political Science Association.
- David Hart. 2001. "Why Do Some Firms Give? Why Do Some Give A Lot?" *Journal of Politics* 63: 1230-1249.
- Ozer, Mine and Lee, Seung-Hyun (2009) "When Do Firms Prefer Individual Action to Collective Action in The Pursuit of Corporate Political Strategy? A New Perspective on Industry Concentration," *Business and Politics* 11(1).

November 24 – Venue Selection as Lobbying Strategy

- James Q. Wilson, *Political Organizations*, Chapter 16.
- Thomas T. Holyoke. 2003. "Choosing Battlegrounds: Interest Group Lobbying Across Multiple Venues." *Political Research Quarterly*, 56: 325-336.
- Sarah Pralle. 2003. "Venue Shopping, Political Strategy, and Policy Change." *Journal of Public Policy* 23: 233-260.
- Chad Damro, "The new trade politics and EU competition policy: Shopping for convergence and co-operation" *Journal of European Public Policy*, 1466-4429, Volume 13, Issue 6, 2006, Pages 867 – 886.

December 1 – Lobbying from a Comparative Perspective

- Christine Mahoney, *Brussels Versus the Beltway: Advocacy in the United States and the European Union*, (Georgetown University Press, 2008).

December 8 – Wrap up and research presentations

**FINAL PAPERS DUE BY THE END OF FRIDAY, DECEMBER 11<sup>TH</sup>**

## **Grades**

Midterm Exam – 20%

Term Paper – 50%

Participation – 30%

## **Research Paper Assignment**

Your research paper will constitute the greater part of your work for this class and thus should be attended to with the greatest of care and appreciation. The component parts of your paper will be assembled over the course of the semester, and then will be combined and refined in the last weeks. A good research paper is always the product of extensive deliberation, so we will be getting an early start on your projects to maximize our time.

Your topics should be developed with an eye toward the core debates within the interest group field, but are otherwise not limited in terms of theoretical or empirical topic areas. When you submit your topics to me, you should have a well-developed question that in nearly all cases will be accompanied by a testable hypothesis. Of course this means that you will want to become sufficiently familiar with your topic before choosing it to be able to identify an appropriate research question.

The literature review that you submit will consist of relevant theoretical and empirical work that dovetails with your research paper. You will likely ground your argument in an existing theoretical paradigm, though you may find it necessary to move beyond the current state of the literature, but you should acknowledge your intellectual debts here by placing yourself in a scholarly conversation. On the empirical side, you should review the studies that have attempted to answer a similar question as you or who have examined the same topic but perhaps from a different perspective. This process allows you to demonstrate the relevance and contribution of your research to the study of interest groups.

The empirical research that you conduct can take any number of forms. It may be qualitative, quantitative, historical, cross-sectional, or case study. You may draw from secondary sources, primary sources, databases, interviews, etc. The important consideration is how well your empirical research allows you to evaluate your research hypothesis. What specifically does your empirical research allow you to answer and what will remain unknown after you finish your project?

Your final paper should be of journal length – about 25-30 pages, formatted and copy edited. Parenthetical citations are the standard, though if you prefer footnotes I won't quibble. The paper should present your argument in a clear and straightforward manner, provide a literature review that places your research in its appropriate theoretical and empirical context, and present your data in an accessible manner. Summary tables and charts are encouraged where possible. Your discussion and conclusion should recognize the limits of your research and point the reader in the direction of future research that would better assess the question you presented at the beginning. Rough drafts submitted at least two weeks before the final due date are encouraged.