Interest Groups POS3463 BR01 & BV59

Pollock / Summer B 2015

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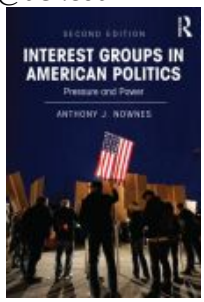

Interest groups occupy a paradoxical place in American politics—essential to pluralist democracy, yet widely seen as a threat to it. By one perspective, interest organizations are manifestations of the underlying biases in the social structure. By another perspective, groups are signs of inclusiveness and democratic mobilization. This course explores the theoretical and empirical bases for these (and other) competing views of interest groups. The basic text, Nownes, covers all major topics in interest group politics: mobilization, maintenance, lobbying, policy, and influence. Supplemental readings provide in-depth analyses and case studies. These readings illuminate key points made by the basic text. Other course resources include real-time and video-streamed lectures, Power Point presentations, posted articles, and supplemental material.

There is a real-time section of the course (BR01), which has a room (CB1-Rm 218) and time (M&W, 6:00 - 8:50 p.m.), and a recorded section (BV59), which is fully online. During the real-time meetings, my lectures will be recorded on video, which you can subsequently view by accessing Tegrity (https://ucf.tegrity.com. Log in using your NID). Despite the format difference, the requirements for both sections are the same. **Physical attendance is not required**. All course material will be equally available to both sections online. All quizzes and exams will be online.

Grades. Your grade will be based on online **quizzes** (30 percent of course grade) and online **exams** (70 percent of course grade). During the term, you will take **four quizzes.** I will drop your lowest quiz score. Your three best quiz scores will count 30 percent of your course grade. You will take **two exams**. Each of your exams will count 35 percent of your course grade. Scheduling and time parameters of the quizzes and exams:

Quiz or Exam	**Open day / date / time**	**Close day / date / time**	**Reading/lecture material covered**
Quiz 1	Th /July 2 / 8 a.m.	Sun/July 5/11 p.m.	June 29, July 1
Quiz 2	Th /July 9 / 8 a.m.	Sun/July 12/11 p.m.	July 6, 8
Exam 1	Th /July 16/ 8 a.m.	Sun/July 19/11 p.m.	June 29, July 1, 6, 8, 13, 15
Quiz 3	Th /July 23 / 8 a.m.	Sun/July 26/11 p.m.	July 20, 22
Quiz 4	Th /July 30/ 8 a.m.	Sun/Aug 2/11 p.m.	July 27, 29
Exam 2	Mon /Aug 3/9 p.m.	Th/Aug 6/11 p.m.	July 20, 22, 27, 29, Aug 3

Note: No class will be held on August 5.

Quizzes. The quizzes will be multiple-choice format. The quizzes will test you on material that has been covered in the reading and in lecture. For example, Quiz 1, which opens on July 2, will cover material presented in the reading and lectures for June 29 and July 1. Quizzes 2, 3, and 4 are based on the same rationale: do the reading, view the lecture, and then take the quiz. Within the availability window, there is no limit on the amount of time you may take to complete the quizzes. **However, you must take each quiz during the scheduled availability window.** I will drop your lowest quiz score. Your three best quiz scores will count 30 percent of your course grade.

Exams. The exams will have multiple-choice questions and short essay questions. These are non-cumulative exams. The first exam, which opens on July 16, will cover material from the lectures of June 29, July 1, 6, 8, 13, and 15. The second exam, which opens August 3, will cover material from July 20, 22, 27, 29, and August 3. Within the availability window, there is no limit on the amount of time you may take to complete the exams. **However, you must take each exam during the scheduled availability window.** Each of your exams will count 35 percent of your course grade.

If you wish discuss your exam: Come to my office during office hours. If you have a question about how your exam was graded: Bring the following materials to my office—your textbook, your notes on the reading, and the notes you have written while viewing the lecture.

I do not give extra credit.

You must work alone in completing the quizzes and exams. Giving or receiving assistance on any quiz or exam constitutes a violation of Academic Behavior Standards as specified in UCF's Rules of Conduct (UCF-5.008). Any student who violates these standards will receive an F in the course.

Grading Scale. Your course grade will be determined by this numeric scale:

>=90	86-89	80-85	76-79	70-75	66-69	60-65	<=59
A	B+	B	C+	C	D+	D	F

Schedule for the term:

Lecture	Topic:	Reading:∞
June 29	Interest groups in American politics	Nownes ch1 Madison, The Federalist #10 Lowery and Gray, "A Neopluralist Perspective on Research on Organized Interests"
July 1	Evolution of Groups	Nownes ch2 Cigler and Loomis, "The Changing Nature of Interest Group Politics"
July 2- July 5*	**Quiz 1**	
July 6	Group mobilization	Nownes ch3 Hayes, "The New Group Universe" Nownes and Cigler, "Big-Money Donors to Environmental Groups: What They Give and What They Get"
July 8	Group maintenance I	Nownes ch4 Bosso and Rodrigues, "Emerging Issues, New Organizations: Interest Groups and the Making of Nanotechnology Policy"
July 9- July 12*	**Quiz 2**	*[Syllabus continues on next page…]*

July 13	Group maintenance II	Gray and Lowery, "A Niche Theory of Interest Representation" Heaney, "Identity Crisis: How Interest Groups Struggle to Define Themselves in Washington" Nownes, "The Population Ecology of Interest Group Formation: Mobilizing for Gay and Lesbian Rights in the United States, 1950–98"
July 15	Direct lobbying I	Nownes ch5: pp. 89-102 Chin, Bond, and Geva: "A Foot in the Door"
July 16-July 19*	**Exam 1**	
July 20	Direct lobbying II	Nownes ch5: pp. 102-138 Godwin et al, "Is Corporate Lobbying Rational or Just a Waste of Money?"
July 22	Groups in elections	Nownes ch6 Guth et al, "Getting the Spirit? Religious and Partisan Mobilization in the 2004 Elections"
July 23-July 26*	**Quiz 3**	
July 27	Indirect lobbying	Nownes ch7 Patterson and Singer, "Targeting Success: The Enduring Power of the NRA" Merry, "Emotional Appeals in Environmental Group Communications"
July 29	The question of group influence	Nownes ch9 Strolovitch, "A More Level Playing Field or a New Mobilization of Bias? Interest Groups and Advocacy for the Disadvantaged"
July 30-Aug 2*	**Quiz 4**	
Aug 3	Interest groups in perspective	Nownes ch8, ch10
Aug3-Aug6*	**Exam 2**	

*See first page of this syllabus for precise dates and times.
∞Additional material will be assigned at the discretion of instructor.
Note: No class will be held on August 5.