POS 3463-0001 (21080), Interest Groups

Spring Term 2018 Syllabus

(January 8 – May 1)

(Traditional/ Lecture Course Format)

(Tuesday & Thursday, 4:30 – 5:45 P.M., CB1 0122)

(3 Credit hours)

Part 1: General Course Information.

Instructor: Alvin (AJ) Quackenbush

Email: alvin.quackenbush@ucf.edu

Office Hours: Spring 2018, Howard Phillips Hall, Room 302N

Phone: (407) 823-0012

Thursday, 11:15 A.M. – 1:15 P.M.

Political Science Department Office: Howard Phillips Hall, Room 302

Phone: (407) 823-2608

Website: http://politicalscience.cos.ucf.edu/

Required Materials:

1. "Interest Group Politics" 9th ed. by Cigler, Loomis, and Nownes, ISBN 9781483374819.

2. “Interest Groups and Lobbying, Pursuing Political Interests in America," by Thomas Holyoke. ISBN is 9780813345819

Course Description: (3 Credits)

Analyzes the non-electoral behavior of economics, ideological, and citizen groups; political action committees; and the proliferation of interest organizations over the past quarter century. PR: POS 2041 or C.I.

Objectives

This course is an introduction to interest groups and their role in American politics. It will consider ways to evaluate interest groups systematically and rigorously. The course will examine the following questions:

1. How do interest groups get started, and how do they maintain themselves?
2. Why do people join interest groups, and who is likely to be a member?
3. What do interest groups want?
4. How and when do interest groups lobby?
5. How does money affect public policy?
6. How do interest groups affect elections?
7. What are the effects of lobbying on public policy and democracy?
8. Are interest groups good or bad?

Part 2: Classroom Policies.

Attendance: Regular class attendance is expected. There is a direct correlation between class attendance and overall success in the course. All instructors/faculty are required to document students' academic activity at the beginning of each course. In order to document that you began this course, please complete the following academic activity by the end of the first week of classes or as soon as possible after adding the course. Failure to do so may result in a delay in the disbursement of your financial aid. There will be a 20 point syllabus quiz due on Friday, January 12th during the first week of the semester to ensure student attendance in the course.

Tardiness: Students are expected to be on time for class. Students who are tardy disrupt other students and the overall learning environment, so tardiness is not acceptable. Students who habitually disturb the class by talking, arriving late, *etc*., and have been warned may suffer a reduction in their final class grade.

Email: It is the policy of this professor to communicate with you via UCF email or the Webcourses message system. Failure to check for e-mail messages will not be accepted as an excuse for missed work.

Cell Phone**:** Students are required to turn off all cell phones and electronic devices before the beginning of class because they can disrupt the learning environment. This means no text messaging! If a cell phone vibrates or is audible, the student may be asked to leave for the remainder of the class. If there is an emergency situation warranting the use of a cell phone during

class time, the student must notify the professor in writing prior to the beginning of class. During a testing situation, if a cell phone vibrates or is audible, the student's test or examination will be collected and the student will be asked to leave without an option for completion.

Laptop Computers: Students may use their laptop, tablet, or "mini-computer' (smart phone) during class to take notes or to access the Internet for research. A student who uses this freedom in an inappropriate fashion may be asked to leave the class for that day or to turn off their laptop or phone. Furthermore, laptop computer use is only permitted in the first five rows of the class seating. Students who wish to use a laptop in class are encouraged to arrive early to obtain a front row seat.

Part 3: Assignments.

1. Syllabus Quiz: There will be a 20 point syllabus quiz due on Friday, January 12th during the first week of the semester to ensure student attendance in the course.

2. Tests: There will be three in-class tests during the semester and your lowest test score will be dropped. The tests will consist of a variety of multiple choice, true/false, and short answer type questions. Any student not completing a test will receive 0 of those possible points, and this will impact the final average in the course. **Late Work Policy**: The tests must be taken on or before the date indicated in the syllabus. Again, no makeup tests are available without the explicit consent of the instructor, which shall only be granted in cases of documented emergences. All make up tests will be short answer and essay format only.

3. Final Examination: The final exam in this course is cumulative and the date is listed in the schedule on the course syllabus. The test will consist of a variety of multiple choice, true/false, and short answer type questions. Any student not completing the examination will receive 0 of those possible points, and this will impact the final average in the course. **Late Work Policy**: The final exam must be taken on or before the date indicated in the syllabus. Again, no makeup exams are available without the explicit consent of the instructor, which shall only be granted in cases of documented emergences. All make up exams will be short answer and essay format only.

4. Written Assignments: During the semester, you will be required to write two short research papers. The assignments will be type written and due dates are listed in the course schedule of this syllabus. The paper assignments will be posted on webcourses during the semester with specific details. Papers will be submitted via webcourses and it is your responsibility to make sure that your paper is attached correctly. No late papers will be accepted for any reason.

All graded materials in this course will be returned individually only by request. You can access your scores at any time using the Grades section of Webcourses@UCF. Please note that scores returned mid-semester are unofficial grades.

Part 4: Basis for Grade.

Evaluation: Your grade will be determined by grades on a syllabus quiz, 3 Tests (your lowest test score will be dropped), 2 Written Assignments and 1 Final Examination.

1 Syllabus Quiz: 20 points, (4%)

3 Tests: 100 points each (200 total, (35%))

2 Written Assignments: 75 points each (150 total, (26%))

1 Final Exam: 200 points, (35%)

570 Total Points

Grading Scale (NO ROUNDING OF GRADES):

90 - 100 = A

80 - 89 = B

70 - 79 = C

60 - 69 = D

59 and below = F

Part 5: University Policies.

University Policies: The UCF Golden Rule Student Handbook is at http://goldenrule.sdes.ucf.edu/ and UCF policies and procedures can be found at http://policies.ucf.edu/.

Withdrawal Policy: Withdrawal for each term begins after "Late Registration and Add/Drop" ends. Students may withdraw from a class and receive the notation of "W" until the date noted in the "Academic Calendar" of the *Schedule Web Guide*. A student may withdraw from courses using myUCF at https://my.ucf.edu, or by visiting the Registrar's Office (Millican Hall 161), certain college advising offices, or a Regional Campus records office. For a complete policy more information on withdrawals please go tohttps://www.academicservices.ucf.edu/

Student Code of Classroom Conduct: UCF is dedicated not only to the advancement of knowledge and learning, but is concerned with the development of responsible personal and social conduct. By

enrolling at the university, a student assumes the responsibility for becoming familiar with and abiding by the general rules of conduct. The primary responsibility for managing the classroom environment rests with the professor. Students who engage in any prohibited or unlawful acts that result in disruption of a class may be directed by the professor to leave the class. Violation of any UCF policies/procedures or classroom rules may lead to disciplinary action up to and including expulsion from the University. Disciplinary action could include being withdrawn from the class, disciplinary warning, probation, suspension, expulsion, or other appropriate and authorized actions. So, act mature, treating others with respect, verbally or online. The UCF Student Code of Conduct is in the current Student handbook and more information can be found at http://osc.sdes.ucf.edu/.

Ethics: As reflected in the UCF creed, integrity and scholarship are core values that should guide our conduct and decisions as members of the UCF community. Plagiarism and cheating contradict these values, and so are very serious academic offenses. Penalties can include a failing grade in an assignment or in the course, or suspension or expulsion from the university. Students are expected to familiarize themselves with and follow the University's Rules of Conduct (see http://www.osc.sdes.ucf.edu/).

Academic Integrity/Plagiarism: Plagiarism and Cheating of any kind on an examination, quiz, or assignment will result at least in an "F" for that assignment (and may, depending on the severity of the case, lead to an "F" for the entire course) and may be subject to appropriate referral to the Office of Student Conduct for further action. See the UCF Golden Rule for further information. I will assume for this course that you will adhere to the academic creed of this University and will maintain the highest standards of academic integrity. In other words, don't cheat by giving answers to others or taking them from anyone else. I will also adhere to the highest standards of academic integrity, so please do not ask me to change (or expect me to change) your grade illegitimately or to bend or break rules for one person that will not apply to everyone.

Turnitin.com: In this course we may utilize turnitin.com, an automated system which instructors can use to quickly and easily compare each student's assignment with billions of web sites, as well as an enormous database of student papers that grows with each submission. Accordingly, you may be expected to submit assignments in both hard copy and electronic format. After the assignment is processed, as an instructor I receive a report from turnitin.com that states if and how another author's work was used in the assignment. For a more detailed look at this process, visit http://www.turnitin.com (Links to an external site.).

Religious Observances: Students are expected to notify their instructor in advance if they intend to miss class to observe a holy day of their religious faith. For a current schedule of major religious holidays, see the Faculty Center's main web page under "Calendars," and for additional information, contact the Office of Diversity Initiatives at 407-823-6479.

Course Accessibility: It is my goal that this class be an accessible and welcoming experience for all students, including those with disabilities that may impact learning in this class. If anyone believes the design of this course poses barriers to effectively participating and/or demonstrating learning in

this course, please meet with me (with or without a Student Accessibility Services (SAS) accommodation letter) to discuss reasonable options or adjustments. During our discussion, I may suggest the possibility/necessity of your contacting SAS (Ferrell Commons 185; 407-823-2371; sas@ucf.edu) to talk about academic accommodations. You are welcome to talk to me at any point in the semester about course design concerns, but it is always best if we can talk at least one week prior to the need for any modifications.

Disclaimer: Changes in the syllabus and/or schedule may be made at any time during the term by announcement of the professor. It is your responsibility to stay informed of any changes.

Part 6: Course Schedule.

Spring 2018, January 8 – May 1, Traditional Course Format

Course Schedule: (UCF Calendars are at http://calendar.ucf.edu/2018/spring)

All the dates and assignments listed below are tentative, and can be changed at the discretion of the professor with proper notification via UCF email.

Week 1: (January 8 – 14), **Drop Refund Deadline January 11.**

Syllabus Quiz due by 5:00 pm, on Friday, January 12.

Intro, Holyoke, First Shoot All the Lobbyists?

Intro, C & L, The Changing Nature of Interest Group Politics.

Week 2: (January 15 – 21), **Monday, January 15th, MLK Holiday (no classes).**

Chapter 1, Holyoke, Interests and Interest Groups.

Chapter 3, C&L, Interest Group “Policy Agendas”: What Are they? And How Might We Study Them?

Week 3: (January 22 – 28)

Chapter 2, Holyoke, Collective Action and Interest Group Organization.

Chapter 5, C&L, National Religious Lobbying: Dramatic Growth and Significance.

Week 4: (January 29 – February 4)

Chapter 3, Holyoke: Social Movements (Trying to Be Interest Groups?)

Chapter 2, C&L, Organized Labor, Adaptive Strategies in Challenging Times.

Chapter 4, C&L, Changing Policies/Changing Hearts and Minds: The Evolution of the LGBT Movement.

Week 5: (February 5 – 11)

Test 1: Tuesday, February 6.

Chapter 4, Holyoke, Lobbyists and Organization Management.

Chapter 14, C&L, Working the Angles: The Job of a Corporate Lobbyist.

Week 6: (February 12 – 18)

Written Assignment 1: Due Sunday, February 18.

Chapter 5, Holyoke, A Model of Interest Group Advocacy.

Chapter 11. C&L, Lobbying in the Shadows: How Private Interests Hide From Public Scrutiny and Why That Matters.

Week 7: (February 19 – 25)

Chapter 6, Holyoke, Lobbying Congress, the Most Permeable Branch.

Chapter 10, C&L, Tobacco Industry Efforts to Influence Policy: When Interest Groups Face Opposition.

Week 8: (February 26 – March 4)

Chapter 7, Holyoke, Executive Branch Lobying.

Chapter 12, C&L, Ethnic Interest Groups and American Foreign Policy: How Influential?

Week 9: (March 5 – 11)

Test 2: Thursday, March 8.

Chapter 15, C&L, The Power of Negative Lobbying.

Chapter 16, C&L, We Have Met the Lobbyists and They Are Us: When Governments Lobby Governments.

Week 10: (March 12 – 18), **Spring Break (no classes).**

Week 11: (March 19 – 25), **March 22 - Withdrawal deadline.**

Chapter 8, Holyoke, Interest Groups Going to Court.

Chapter 6, C&L, The Tea Party as an Interest: Movement? Group? Brand? Faction?

Week 12: (March 26 – April 1)

Chapter 9, Holyoke, Friends and Foes of Convenience.

Chapter 13, C&L, Interest Groups and America's "Invisible Governments": Patterns of Participation and Conflict in Special District Politics.

Week 13: (April 2 - 8)

Written Assignment 2: Due Sunday, April 8.

Chapter 10, Holyoke, Interest Groups, Elections, and Campaign Finance.

Chapter 7, C&L, The Rise of Dark Money.

Week 14: (April 9 - 15)

Chapter 8, C&L, Sources of Congressional Candidates' Funds: Does Interest Group Money Dominate?

Chapter 9, C&L, Interest Group Interests in Congressional Primaries.

Week 15: (April 16 - 22)

Test 3: Tuesday, April 17.

Conclusion, Holyoke, Representation in the Interest Group Age.

Chapter 17, C&L, Advocacy in an Era of Inequality.

Week 16: (April 23 – 29), **Tuesday, April 24, Study Day (no class).**

Final Examination: Thursday, April 26, 4:00 P.M. – 6:50 P.M.