

Preview of “Are opinions responsive?”

Department of Political Science and Government
Aarhus University

October 9, 2013

Overview for two weeks from today

No class on October 16

Syllabus change

- Optional: Lodge et al. – “The Responsive Voter”
- Refresher on online (OL) models

Readings for Two Weeks from Today

- Taber and Lodge – “Motivated Skepticism”
- Page et al. “What Moves Public Opinion?”
- Healy – “Random Events, Economic Losses, and Retrospective Voting”

Readings for Two Weeks from Today

- Taber and Lodge – “Motivated Skepticism”

Taber and Lodge

- What is motivated reasoning? (What is reasoning? What is motivation?)
- What kinds of processes are associated with motivated reasoning?
- What are the implications of citizens as motivated reasoners? Is this good or bad for democracy?
- Are opinions formed through motivated reasoning “quality” opinions? Are they rational?

Readings for Two Weeks from Today

- Taber and Lodge – “Motivated Skepticism”
- Page et al. “What Moves Public Opinion?”

Page et al.

- How do Page et al. think of “public opinion”?
- What is their analytic strategy? How does it differ from what we've seen before?
- How well do their results generalize beyond time, context, and geography?

Readings for Two Weeks from Today

- Taber and Lodge – “Motivated Skepticism”
- Page et al. “What Moves Public Opinion?”
- Healy – “Random Events, Economic Losses, and Retrospective Voting”

Healy and Malhotra

- They look at the effect of tornadoes on voting behavior
- What is their research design and what do they find?
- What do their results say about voter rationality?

Who will write papers for next time (in two weeks)?

