

Advanced Topics in American Politics (84-421) & American Politics Graduate Seminar (84-721)

Instructor: Prof. Jonathan Cervas

Email: cervas@cmu.edu

Location: PH 226A ([Find it here](#))

Time: Tuesdays and Thursdays 2:00p-3:20p Eastern

Office Hours by appointment (arrange via email)

CMU Academic Calendar

Course Schedule

Class Meetings:	Tuesdays and Thursdays, 2:00 PM - 3:20 PM EST
Labor Day (University Closed):	September 4, 2023
Fall Break (University Closed):	October 16-20, 2023
Democracy Day (University Closed until 5pm):	November 7, 2023
Thanksgiving Break (University Closed):	November 22-24, 2023
Last Day of Classes:	December 8, 2023

Scope and Purpose

- This course examines prominent classic and contemporary works in the two major subfields in American politics, political institutions, and political behavior.
- The seminar will address topics such as Congress, presidency, and courts, but also public opinion, elections, campaigns, political parties, and the importance of geography, wealth, race and ethnicity, and gender, among other subjects.
- There will be an emphasis on analyzing and appraising the theory, methodology, and contributions of the selected readings.
- This course will include advanced undergraduates as well as graduate students.

Course Objectives

- The purpose of this course is to introduce students to major themes and some of the best scholarship from political science literature. The course emphasizes breadth over depth.
- To facilitate discussion, it is important that you write as well as read and think in advance about how the readings address the overall topic for that session. The course will include empirical data to better examine theoretical questions and to situate the course in modern politics and current events.
- The two most important skills that introductory graduate students need to master are the abilities to understand the development of literature and the ability to write critically, succinctly, and objectively about these literatures. To this end, the main writing requirements for this course are papers that seek to help students develop these skills. These papers are not summaries or personal responses (thus, lines of thoughts and phrases such as “I really liked...”, “My feelings on the matter...” etc. are irrelevant to these assignments).

Important Dates (Assignments due by 11:59 pm)

Date	Assignment
August 30, 2023 (Tuesday)	First day of class
September 26, 2023 (Tuesday)	First Draft of op-ed due, circulated for comments
September 30, 2023 (Thursday)	Return peer review to your classmate
October 7, 2023 (Thursday)	Final Draft of op-ed due
October 18 & 20, 2023	Fall Break
October 28, 2023 (Tuesday)	Book review papers due; topic selection for area specialization
November 8, 2023 (Tuesday)	Election Day, no class
November 23, 2023 (Thursday)	Thanksgiving break, no class
December 4, 2023 (Tuesday)	Area Specialization Paper due
December 5 & 7, 2023	Area Specialization presentations
December 9, 2023 (Thursday)	Last Day of class
December 20, 2023 (Thursday)	Grades Due (4:00 pm)

Syllabus

Download the syllabus here [ADD LINK](#)

Course Requirements

- **Participation (includes attendance and contributions to conversation):** 10%
- **Additional Reading Assignments:** 30%
- **Outlines (2% per week):** 22%
- **Presentations:** 8%
- **Op-ed/Editorial/Blog:**
 - First Draft: 5%
 - Peer Review: 5%
 - Final Draft: 15%
- **Book Review/Summary:** 15%
- **Area Specialization Paper:** 20%

Participation

It is important that you discuss the readings with your fellow students (who benefit from hearing how others interpret the literature); you will also be expected to contribute to the overall knowledge of the class. Your perspective on the political world, the news media you consume, and your interpretation of both historical and contemporary politics are different than others, and I expect that you will share those. To this end, you will be encouraged to track presidential approval ratings, political polls, election forecast predictions, economic indicators (like unemployment), and other such data. Following current events will help facilitate discussion throughout the semester.

Everyone will be reading from this core text:

A Different Democracy – Taylor, Steven L., Matthew Soberg Shugart, Arend Lijphard, and Bernard Grofman. 2014. *A Different Democracy: American Government in a 31-Country Perspective*. Yale University Press. ([Purchase here](#))

Everyone has an equal voice in this course. When you disagree, challenge, or respond to the idea, not the person. Nobody has a monopoly on opinion or time, and I will do my best to allow each of you to speak your mind and adjust the course accordingly so that everyone gets value from their time. My main goal is to give you value, and I am open to changes that allow for that.

I have divided the class into 8 sections/topics, some of which are reflected in the required readings, and others which are only part of the optional readings. Unfortunately, we will not have enough time to cover all topics pertinent to American politics in full. You will find additional topics and recommended readings at the end of the syllabus. If these topics are of interest to you, I encourage you to select papers from those sections and present them to the class.

Writing Assignments

- (1) **Weekly additional reading:** Every week (starting week 2, Sept 6), you are to select one paper from the list of optional readings at the end of this syllabus, or one not on the list but that fits the section we are currently focused on. You will read this paper and create an outline (a bullet point outline, literally) that tells us the thesis, findings, and conclusions. You may choose to write in prose (should not exceed one page, max), but it is not required. We will share these with the class for others to use when preparing their area specialization papers. My hope is, because you all have a variety of interests, that we will get significant variation on papers to cover most of those I have listed, or others you find interesting. That said, it is okay if several people read the same paper.

The purpose of this exercise is to help you find the key insights from the readings, understand the empirical or intellectual contribution, and how it fits into the field more broadly. This is additionally helpful because it will allow for quick reference if you are writing a term paper on the subject. This is the equivalent of an annotated bibliography, but you can structure them in whatever way is most helpful for you. These are the notes you take while you read. I am not interested in grading grammar or spelling for this task. We will combine everyone's contribution in a shared, editable document, so each person has a summary of all articles assigned this quarter and can contribute additional insights.

(1a) **Mini lecture:** On two occasions you will present one of these papers to the class; a mini "lecture." PowerPoints are not necessary, though you are welcome to use any additional presentation skills, including analyzing new data or sharing YouTube videos, PowerPoint, and other visual aids, if applicable. This is part of your participation grade, along with the reading assignment grade.

- (2) **Op-ed/Editorial/Blog:** Prepare a short essay advocating for (or against) any social or political issue of your choosing (topics relating to American politics). The idea is that you will write something that can be submitted to a newspaper or internet blog. There is a strict 1,250-word limit. Concise arguments made for a more general audience are the goal of this assignment; something your parents can read and understand. The use of data and visualizations is strongly encouraged and is not included in the word count. We will circulate drafts on September 26 to one other graduate student who will offer critiques and/or proofreading. On October 7, we will circulate all the final drafts. These will be the reading assignments for October 11.
- (3) **Book Review/Summary:** You are to choose one book of your choice of academic nature, regarding any subject on American politics. I have a wide selection of books you can choose from, or you can utilize the library to find a book. Your instructor will help you find something that is relevant to your interests along with being germane to the subjects in the course. In total, the book review should be no longer than 6-8 pages, double-spaced. It should tell the reader the subject of the book, what it did well, what it left out, and your own thoughts about its relevance or importance. You should choose a book that can help give insight into your area specialization paper.

(4) **Area Specialization Paper:** In lieu of a final exam, you are to choose either one of the subjects we explore during the course or a topic of your choosing (see below) and do a literature review and develop one, or several, hypotheses. The professor can help you find relevant articles and provide strategies for conducting research. You will submit a 5-8 single-spaced page paper (not including references and title page) that does the following:

- Synthesizes the contributions made by the assigned readings to current scholarly understanding in the specific field area (e.g., campaigns and elections; mass or elite polarization; judicial independence; gerrymandering)
- Identifies one or two lingering questions raised by the readings and explains specifically why those questions are important to furthering our understanding of the field area
- Outlines and discusses a research design with the potential to answer the lingering question(s). Explain why the design is optimal for addressing the question(s) and acknowledge limitations of the design.

The specialization paper will help you build your skills in the areas of synthesizing works for a literature review, formulating research questions, and devising appropriate methodologies for answering those questions. This paper is a critical evaluation that explains the literature's strengths and weaknesses with respect to the goals and process of social scientific research and that charts their impact on subsequent research. Students may find it helpful to consult many published articles in preparing their papers. Any information taken from these sources must be cited appropriately and is used to augment students' own analysis. To create a literature review you need not read thoroughly every paper you cite, just well enough to make the connection between your through/story and their findings. Though I am asking you to produce a research design that proposes tests for one or several hypotheses, you will not need to conduct empirical analyses (though you certainly may, and I encourage you to, if possible). You should describe the data that would be necessary to evaluate your hypotheses. The paper you write in this class may be the basis of your master's thesis or other future publications. Formatting should be consistent throughout, though no style is required. You will, during the final week, give the class a presentation of your papers, summarizing the books and articles you have read. ~20 mins

Examples of deep dives topics include incumbency advantage in American elections, state legislative professionalization, polarization (mass and elite), economic inequality, racial resentment, election forecasting, women in politics, segregation and other spatial context issues, gerrymandering, policy diffusion, and so on. The amount of research done on American politics is infinite, so we cannot cover everything during the semester. This assignment allows us to dial into a topic you find most interesting.

Readings

The assigned readings present only a starting point for people looking to specialize in American politics. You should consult the instructors for recommendations of further essential readings beyond those assigned here. It is expected that every week you will have engaged the readings closely and critically, and that you come to class prepared to participate in rigorous discussion of them. Specifically, you should be able to address the following upon reading each work.

- What are the main themes of the work?
- What are the main contributions of this work to our understanding of politics?

- What are the limitations of or areas for improvement for this work (focusing on its theoretical argument, hypotheses, evidence, analysis, interpretation of results, etc.)?
- What did you not understand about this work?
- What next steps can you envision to effectively build on the major contributions of this work?

Readings will draw heavily from the *Annual Review of Political Science*, a journal that “covers significant developments in the field of Political Science.” This allows you to get a considerable overview of the field, while not costing you any money!

My expectation is that you will “read” all the assigned articles, but I recognize that I have assigned quite a lot. You should minimally *skim* all the assigned readings. Learning good skimming skills is particularly important; arguably, the most important thing you can learn as a graduate student. Journal articles follow a very formulaic outline, which makes skimming easy. You will need to be sure to capture enough of the content to discuss the article with your peers. *Annual Review* articles are to be read more thoroughly since they cover a larger amount of literature than other types of one-issue articles.

Like American democracy itself, this syllabus is subject to amendment. The process of amendment is as follows: (1) all students and the professor get one vote; (2) a simple majority of voters agree to a change; (3) a student’s vote is weighted as $1/n$ where n =number of students and a professor has a vote weighted as $n+1$. All amendments will be announced publicly, and no student shall be injured by changes.

Class will be organized under several general topics, ranging from theory and design of American democracy to polarization, identity formation, political communication, and others. The readings listed below are required. You are also expected to choose from the other reading list a series of articles throughout the semester, as detailed above.

ADD JUDICIARY SECTION: Adam Bonica & Maya Sen, *The Judicial Tug of War: How Lawyers, Politicians, and Ideological Incentives Shape the American Judiciary* (Cambridge University Press) (2021)

Public Opinion Section: James A. Stimson, *Tides of Consent: How Public Opinion Shapes American Politics* (Cambridge University Press 2nd edition) (2015)

What is public opinion? Where does it come from?

Kinder and Kalmoe, *Neither liberal nor conservative*, chs. 1 and 2; Provides an excellent overview of Converse’s argument and subsequent debate Zaller, *Nature and origins*, Chs. 2, 3, 4, 7. Carefully review pages 53-54, summary of axioms on page 58, pages 74-75, 91-96, 113-114, figure 7.4 (p. 143), figure 8.2 (p. 156).

“Time for a Change.” <https://www.tandfonline.com/doi/epdf/10.1080/08913811.2018.1470859?needAccess=true&role=button> (Accessed August 13, 2023).

Class Schedule

- **Tuesday, August 29** - Introductions and discussion of the semester & syllabus

American Democracy Theory and Design

- **Thursday, August 31:**
 - Smith, Rogers M. 1993. “Beyond Tocqueville, Myrdal, and Hartz: The Multiple Traditions in America.” *The American Political Science Review* 87(3): 549–566. <https://www.jstor.org/stable/2938735> (Accessed August 13, 2023).
 - Fiorina, M. P. (2016). Is the US Experience Exceptional? In *A Hoover Institution Essay on Contemporary American Politics: Vol. Series 8*. Read Here
 - Fiorina, M. P. (2016). A Historical Perspective. In *A Hoover Institution Essay on Contemporary American Politics, Ser* (Vol. 9). Read Here
- **Tuesday, September 5:**
 - How Democratic Is the American Constitution? Dahl, R. A. (2003). Yale University Press. Read Here (Quick and Dirty Read)
- **Thursday, September 7:**
 - A Different Democracy (Preface, Chapter 1, 2, & 3)
- **Tuesday, September 12:**
 - A Different Democracy (Chapter 4, 5, & 6)
- **Thursday, September 14:**
 - A Different Democracy (Chapter 7, 8, 9, & 10)

Ideology, Attitudes, and Opinion Formation

- **Tuesday, September 19:**
 - Converse, P. E. (2000). Assessing the Capacity of Mass Electorates. *Annual Review of Political Science*, 3(1), 331–353. Read Here
 - Zaller, J. (2012). What *Nature and Origins* Leaves Out. *Critical Review*, 24(4), 569–642. Read Here
- **Thursday, September 21:**
 - Hatemi, P. K., & McDermott, R. (2016). Give Me Attitudes. *Annual Review of Political Science*, 19(1), 331–350. Read Here
 - Carmines, E. G., & D’Amico, N. J. (2015). The New Look in Political Ideology Research. *Annual Review of Political Science*, 18(1), 205–216. Read Here
- **Tuesday, September 26** - First Drafts of Op-Ed/Editorial/Blog Post Due and Circulated

Party Identification, Public Opinion

- **Wednesday, September 27:**
 - Canes-Wrone, B. (2015). From Mass Preferences to Policy. *Annual Review of Political Science*, 18, 147–165. Read Here
 - Sears, D. O., & Funk, C. L. (1990). The Limited Effect of Economic Self-Interest on the Political Attitudes of the Mass Public. *Journal of Behavioral Economics*, 19(3), 247–271. Read Here
- **Thursday, September 28:**
 - Dalton, R. J. (2016). Party Identification and Its Implications. In *Oxford Research Encyclopedia of Politics*. Oxford University Press. Read Here
 - Dalton, R. J. (2020). The Blinders of Partisanship. In *Research Handbook on Political Partisanship* (pp. 74–88).

Political Parties

- **Tuesday, October 10:**
 - McCarty, N., & Schickler, E. (2016). On the Theory of Parties. *Https://Doi.Org/10.1146/Annurev-Polisci-061915-123020*, 21, 175–193. Read Here
 - Muirhead, R., & Rosenblum, N. L. (2020). The Political Theory of Parties and Partisanship: Catching Up. *Annual Review of Political Science*, 23(1), 95–110. Read Here
- **Thursday, October 12** - Topic Selection for Book Review and Area Specialization Due

Political Polarization

- **Tuesday, October 24:**
 - Fiorina, M. P., & Abrams, S. J. (2008). Political Polarization in the American Public. *Annual Review of Political Science*, 11, 563–588. Read Here
 - Fiorina, M. P. (2016). Has the American Public Polarized? A Hoover Institution Essay on Contemporary American Politics, Ser, 2. Read Here
- **Thursday, October 26:**
 - Iyengar, S., Lelkes, Y., Levendusky, M., Malhotra, N., & Westwood, S. J. (2019). The Origins and Consequences of Affective Polarization in the United States. *Annual Review of Political Science*, 22, 129–146. Read Here
 - Prior, Markus. 2013. “Media and Political Polarization.” *Annual Review of Political Science* 16(1): 101–27. Read Here.
- **Friday, October 27** - Book Review/Summary Due
- **Tuesday, October 31:**
 - Lee, F. E. (2015). How Party Polarization Affects Governance. *Annual Review of Political Science*, 18(1), 261–282. Read Here
 - Abramowitz, A. I., & Webster, S. W. (2018). Negative Partisanship: Why Americans Dislike Parties But Behave Like Rabid Partisans. *Political Psychology*, 39(S1), 119–135. Read Here

Campaigns and Elections

- **Thursday, November 2:**
 - Carson, J. L., & Jenkins, J. A. (2011). Examining the Electoral Connection Across Time. *Annual Review of Political Science*, 14, 25–46. Read Here
 - Binder, S. (2015). The Dysfunctional Congress. *Annual Review of Political Science*, 18(1), 85–101. Read Here
 - Riker, W. H., & Ordeshook, P. C. (1968). A Theory of the Calculus of Voting. *American Political Science Review*, 62(1), 25–42. Read Here
- **Tuesday, November 7:**
 - Jacobson, G. C. (2015). How Do Campaigns Matter? *Annual Review of Political Science*, 18(1), 31–47. Read Here
 - Warshaw, C. (2019). Local Elections and Representation in the United States. *Https://Doi.Org/10.1146/Annurev-Polisci-050317-071108*, 22, 461–479.
- **Thursday, November 9:**

- Cain, B. E., & Levin, M. A. (1999). Term Limits. *Annual Review of Political Science*, 2(1), 163–188. Read Here
- Lawless, J. L. (2015). Female Candidates and Legislators. *Annual Review of Political Science*, 18, 349–366. Read Here
- **Thursday, November 16:**
 - Gelman, A. (2007). Rich State, Poor State, Red State, Blue State: What’s the Matter with Connecticut? *Quarterly Journal of Political Science*, 2(4), 345–367. Read Here
 - Stephens-Dougan, L. (2021). The Persistence of Racial Cues and Appeals in American Elections. <https://doi.org/10.1146/annurev-polisci-082619-015522>, 24, 301–320.

Political Participation

FIGURE OUT WHERE TO PUT THIS Kay Lehman Schlozman et al., *Unequal and Unrepresented: Political Inequality and the People’s Voice in the New Gilded Age* (Princeton University Press) (2018), <https://www.jstor.org/stable/j.ctvc7772p> - Introduction & Unequal Voice in an Unequal Age + one substantive chapter of your choice

- **Tuesday, November 21:**
 - Claire Willeck & Tali Mendelberg, Education and Political Participation, 25 *Annual Review of Political Science* 89–110 (2022)
 - Uhlaner, C. J. (2015). Politics and Participation. In *International Encyclopedia of the Social & Behavioral Sciences: Second Edition* (pp. 504–508). Elsevier Inc. Read Here
 - Hooghe, M., Hosch-Dayican, B., & van Deth, J. W. (2014). Conceptualizing Political Participation. *Acta Politica*, 49(3), 337–348. Read Here
- **Thursday, November 23** - Thanksgiving Day, no class
- **Tuesday, November 28** - Jimmy Guest Lecture:
 - Cox, G. W. (2015). Electoral Rules, Mobilization, and Turnout. *Annual Review of Political Science*, 18(1), 49–68. Read Here

Courts and Election Law

- **Thursday, November 30:**
 - McGhee, E. (2020). Partisan Gerrymandering and Political Science. *Annual Review of Political Science*, 23(1), 171–185. Read Here
 - Hasen, R. L. (2020). The Supreme Court’s Pro-Partisanship Turn. *The Georgetown Law Journal*, 109, 50–80. Read Here
 - Hasen, R. L. (n.d.). *Identifying and Minimizing the Risk of Election Subversion and Stolen Elections in the Contemporary United States*. Read Here
- **Monday, December 4** - Area Specialization Paper Due
- **Tuesday, December 5:**
 - Discuss Area Specialization Papers
 - No Readings
- **Thursday, December 7** - We will continue to discuss Area Specialization Papers
 - No Readings

Readings (Optional)

American Democracy Theory and Design

- The Federalist Papers, Numbers 10, 51, and 70 – *These are important foundational documents for understanding American political institutions*
- The Declaration of Independence and the U.S. Constitution – *You should be familiar with these documents*
- Mansbridge, Jane. 2014. “What Is Political Science For?” *Perspectives on Politics* 12(1): 8–17.
- Schmitter, Philippe C, and Terry Lynn Karl. 1991. “What Democracy Is... and Is Not.” *Journal of Democracy* 2(3): 75–88. [Read Here](#)
- Miller, Warren E., and Donald E. Stokes. 1963. “Constituency Influence in Congress.” *American Political Science Review* 57(1): 45–56. [Read Here](#)
- Fiorina, M. P. (2016). An Era of Tenuous Majorities. *A Hoover Institution Essay on Contemporary American Politics, Ser, 1*. [Read Here](#)
- Lutz, Donald S. 1994. “Toward a Theory of Constitutional Amendment.” *American Political Science Review* 88(2): 355–70. [Read Here](#)
- MacGilvray, E. (2016). Robert Dahl, A Preface to Democratic Theory. In J. T. Levy (Ed.), *The Oxford Handbook of Classics in Contemporary Political Theory*. Oxford University Press. [Read Here](#)
- Graham, M. H., & Svolik, M. W. (2020). Democracy in America? Partisanship, Polarization, and the Robustness of Support for Democracy in the United States. *American Political Science Review*, 114(2), 392–409. [Read Here](#)
- Dahl, R. A. (2005). James Madison: Republican or Democrat? In *Source: Perspectives on Politics* (Vol. 3, Issue 3).
- Democracy’s Meanings: Introduction: [Read Here](#)

Books

- Dahl, R. A. (2005). *Who Governs?: Democracy and Power in an American City*. Yale University Press.
- Dahl, R. A. (2020). *On Democracy*. Yale University Press.
- Alexis de Tocqueville, *Democracy in America*.
- Carpini, Michael X Delli, and Scott Keeter. 1996. *What Americans Know about Politics and Why It Matters*. Yale University Press.
- Dahl, R. A. (2006). *A Preface to Democratic Theory*. University of Chicago Press.
- Dahl, R. A. (2008). *Polyarchy: Participation and Opposition*. Yale University Press
- Bouk, D. B. (2022). *Democracy’s Data: The Hidden Stories in the U.S. Census and How to Read Them*. Macmillan. [Read Here](#)
- Davis, N., Goidel, K., & Gaddie, K. (2022). *Democracy’s Meanings*. University of Michigan Press. [Read Here](#)

Ideology and Opinion Formation; Cognition, Information, and Knowledge; Groups, Self-Interest, and Symbolic Politics

- Zaller, J., & Feldman, S. (1992). A Simple Theory of the Survey Response: Answering Questions versus Revealing Preferences. *American Journal of Political Science*, 36(3), 579. [Read Here](#)
- Freeder, Sean, Gabriel S. Lenz, and Shad Turney. 2019. “The Importance of Knowing ‘What Goes with What’: Reinterpreting the Evidence on Policy Attitude Stability.” *Journal of Politics* 81(1): 274–90.
- Lenz, G. S. (2009). Learning and opinion change, not priming: Reconsidering the priming hypothesis. *American Journal of Political Science*, 53(4), 821–837. [Read Here](#)
- Lupia, A. (1994). Shortcuts Versus Encyclopedias: Information and Voting Behavior in California Insurance Reform Elections. *American Political Science Review*, 88(1), 63–76. [Read Here](#)

- Simon, H. A. (1985). Human Nature in Politics: The Dialogue of Psychology with Political Science. *American Political Science Review*, 79(2), 293–304. [Read Here](#)
- Warshaw, C. (2019). Local Elections and Representation in the United States. *Annual Review of Political Science*, 22(1), 461–479. [Read Here](#)
- Bonica, A. (2014). Mapping the Ideological Marketplace. *American Journal of Political Science*, 58(2), 367–386. [Read Here](#)
- Gilens, Martin. 2001. “Political Ignorance and Collective Policy Preferences.” *American Political Science Review* 95(2): 379–96. [Read Here](#)
- Levendusky, M. S. (2010). Clearer Cues, More Consistent Voters: A Benefit of Elite Polarization. *Political Behavior*, 32(1), 111–131. [Read Here](#)
- Converse, P. E. (2006). The nature of belief systems in mass publics (1964). *Critical Review*, 18(1–3), 1–74. [Read Here](#)
- Sears, D. O., & Funk, C. L. (1990). The limited effect of economic self-interest on the political attitudes of the mass public. *Journal of Behavioral Economics*, 19(3), 247–271. [Read Here](#)
- Delli Carpini, M. X. (2005). An Overview of the State of Citizens’ Knowledge About Politics. In M. S. McKinney, L. L. Kaid, D. G. Bystrom, & D. B. Carlin (Eds.), *Communicating Politics: Engaging the Public in Democratic Life* (pp. 27–40). Peter Lang. [Read Here](#)
- Mason, L. (2018). Ideologues without issues: The polarizing consequences of ideological identities. *Public Opinion Quarterly*, 82(S1), 280–301. [Read Here](#)
- Uscinski, J. E., Enders, A. M., Seelig, M. I., Klostad, C. A., Funchion, J. R., Everett, C., Wuchty, S., Premaratne, K., & Murthi, M. N. (2021). *American Politics in Two Dimensions: Partisan and Ideological Identities versus Anti-Establishment Orientations*. 00(0), 1–19. [Read Here](#)

Books

- Lewis-Beck, Michael, Helmut Norpoth, William Jacoby, and Herbert Weisberg. 2008. *The American Voter Revisited*. University of Michigan Press.
- Delli Carpini, M. x., & Keeter, S. (1997). *What Americans Know about Politics and Why It Matters*. Yale University Press.
- Achen, C. H., & Bartels, L. M. (2016). *Democracy for Realists*. Princeton University Press.
- Mason, L. (2018). *Uncivil Agreement: How Politics Became Our Identity*. University of Chicago Press.

Party Identification and Polarization

- Bafumi, J., & Shapiro, R. Y. (2009). A New Partisan Voter. *The Journal of Politics*, 71(1), 1–24. [Read Here](#)
- Grofman, B. (2004). Downs and Two-Party Convergence. *Annual Review of Political Science*, 7(1), 25–46. [Read Here](#)
- Iyengar, S., Lelkes, Y., Levendusky, M., Malhotra, N., & Westwood, S. J. (2019). The origins and consequences of affective polarization in the United States. *Annual Review of Political Science*, 22, 129–146. [Read Here](#)
- Iyengar, S., & Westwood, S. J. (2015). Fear and Loathing across Party Lines: New Evidence on Group Polarization. *American Journal of Political Science*, 59(3), 690–707. [Read Here](#)
- Bullock, J. G., & Lenz, G. (2019). Partisan bias in surveys. *Annual Review of Political Science*, 22, 325–342. [Read Here](#)
- Fiorina, M. P., Abrams, S. A., & Pope, J. C. (2008). Polarization in the American Public: Misconceptions and Misreadings. *The Journal of Politics*, 70(2), 556–560. [Read Here](#)
- Abramowitz, A., & McCoy, J. (2018). United States: Racial Resentment, Negative Partisanship, and Polarization in Trump’s America. *The ANNALS of the American Academy of Political and Social Science*, 681(1), 137–156. [Read Here](#)
- Pildes, R. H. (2011). Why the Center Does Not Hold: The Causes of Hyperpolarized Democracy in America. *California Law Review*, 99(2). [Read Here](#)

- Druckman, J. N., & Levendusky, M. S. (2019). What Do We Measure When We Measure Affective Polarization? *Public Opinion Quarterly*, 83(1), 114–122. [Read Here](#)
- Bankert, A. (2020). Partisan Identity and Political Decision Making. In *Oxford Research Encyclopedia of Politics*. Oxford University Press.
- Abramowitz, A., & McCoy, J. (2019). United States: Racial Resentment, Negative Partisanship, and Polarization in Trump’s America. *Annals of the American Academy of Political and Social Science*, 681(1), 137–156. [Read Here](#)
- Stewart, A. J., Plotkin, J. B., & McCarty, N. (2021). Inequality, identity, and partisanship: How redistribution can stem the tide of mass polarization. *Proceedings of the National Academy of Sciences of the United States of America*, 118(50), e2102140118. [Read Here](#)
- FOWLER, A., HILL, S. J., LEWIS, J. B., TAUSANOVITCH, C., VAVRECK, L., & WARSHAW, C. (2022). Moderates. *American Political Science Review*, 1–18. [Read Here](#)
- Goren, P. (2005). Party Identification and Core Political Values. *American Journal of Political Science*, 49(4), 881–896. [Read Here](#)
- Elder, E. M., & O’brian, N. A. (2022). Social Groups as the Source of Political Belief Systems: Fresh Evidence on an Old Theory. *American Political Science Review*, 1–18. [Read Here](#)

Books

- Zingher, J. N. (2022). *Political Choice in a Polarized America: How Elite Polarization Shapes Mass Behavior*.
- Klein, Ezra. 2020. *Why We’re Polarized*. Simon & Schuster.
- Grossman, M., & Hopkins, D. A. (2016). *Asymmetric Politics: Ideological Republicans and Group Interest Democrats*. Oxford University Press.
- Fiorina, M. P. (2017). *Unstable Majorities*. Hoover Institution Press.
- Dalton, R. J. (2017). *The Participation Gap: Social Status and Political Inequality*. Oxford University Press.

Representation & Public Opinion

- Laver, M. (2014). Measuring Policy Positions in Political Space. *Annual Review of Political Science*, 17(1), 207–223. [Read Here](#)
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TimelyCare at CMU:

Counseling and Psychological Services has partnered with TimelyCare to offer virtual wellbeing services and programs for students. As an addition to the wide range of mental health services that CaPS provides, TimelyCare will expand availability of mental health services to a wider range of days, times and locations, offer on-demand self-care content through its app, and provide emotional support services with professional counselors 24/7. All of this will be available 24/7 from anywhere in the United States, with no cost to visit.

- *TalkNow*: 24/7, on-demand access to a mental health professional to talk about anything at anytime
- *Scheduled Counseling*: scheduled options to speak to a licensed counselor (up to 12 visits per year)-evening and weekend appointments are available
- *Health Coaching*: access to a nutritional specialist to help students adopt healthier lifestyle behaviors related to sleep issues, weight management and more
- *Group Sessions*: Weekly Guided Meditation and Yoga Group Sessions, plus specialized discussions throughout the year.

TimelyCare FAQs

[Food Insecurity:]

If you are worried about affording food or feeling insecure about food, there are resources on campus that can help. Email the CMU Food Pantry Coordinator to schedule an appointment:

Pantry Coordinator

cmu-pantry@andrew.cmu.edu

412-268-8704 (SLICE office)

Diversity Statement:

It is my intent that students from all diverse backgrounds and perspectives be well served by this course, that students' learning needs be addressed both in and out of class, and that the diversity that students bring to this class be viewed as a resource, strength, and benefit. It is my intent to present materials and activities that are respectful of diversity: gender, sexuality, disability, age, socioeconomic status, ethnicity, race, and culture. Your suggestions are encouraged and appreciated. Please let me know ways to improve the effectiveness of the course for you personally or for other students or student groups. In addition, if any of our class meetings conflict with your religious events, please let me know so that we can plan accordingly.

Late Work:

In general, submitting assignments on time lets me provide feedback in a more timely and efficient manner. Assignments build on each other, so timely submissions are crucial to your progress in the class. However, sometimes life happens. If you cannot submit an assignment on time, the default will be that you will be eligible for 90% of the grade the first 48 hours that the assignment is late. If you must submit beyond 48 hours past the due date, please contact me cervas@cmu.edu as soon as possible so we can plan.