1   PS 811 Exercise 3

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4   Abstract

5   Looking at 10 different readings from the past week, with summaries, conclusions, data

6   collection information, and methods.

⁷ PS 811 Exercise 3

⁸ **Reading 1**

⁹ Class: PS 826-Legislative Process

¹⁰ Main Argument: The valence component of a party's reputation, or brand, has been
¹¹ less scrutinized than other components of party-based theories of legislatures. This lack of
¹² scrutiny results from the difficulty of isolating the valence component from policy-related
¹³ components and the difficulty of studying legislators' motives.

¹⁴ Data: Data is from a survey

¹⁵ Methods: Used survey experiments

¹⁶ Conclusion: Party brand can be divided into two distinct elements: The party
¹⁷ valence brand The party policy brand Questions and Answers: Question 1: Does a party's
¹⁸ record of legislative accomplishment influence the constituent's voting decisions?

¹⁹ Answer: Yes. Voters reward legislators for their party's record of non-ideological
²⁰ performance. Further, the size of this effect is comparable, and sometimes even larger, in
²¹ magnitude to other important determinants of vote choice.

²² Question 2: Do legislative leaders act in anticipation of affecting the party valence
²³ brand? Answer: Yes. Legislators believe that leaders exert more pressure when the
²⁴ outcome of a legislative performance vote (passing the budget) is likely to affect
²⁵ constituents' voting decisions at the polls.

²⁶ Question 3: Does the party brand ever influence the legislator's voting decisions
²⁷ directly in the absence of pressure from the leadership? Answer: Yes and no. When
²⁸ constituents are strongly opposed to a bill, a stronger party brand will not induce a
²⁹ legislator to vote with the party. When constituents are split on a bill, a stronger party
³⁰ brand will induce legislators to vote with the party Butler and Powell (2014).

Reading 2

Class: PS 826 - Legislative Process

Main Argument:Legislators often must vote on complex issues that they do not fully understand. The authors show that legislators cope with incomplete information by taking cues from trusted peers who possess expertise that they themselves lack. The findings highlight the salience of expertise to legislators and the role that ties between legislators play in allowing Congress to reach informed collective decisions

Data: The data source is a dataset

Methods: Matched differences-in-differences design

Conclusion: Find that peers who have frequently cosponsor that legislator's bills in the past - that is, those who are close to the legislator in the legislative network studies by Fowler and others- respond by voting with the legislator on bills from his new committee's jurisdiction more often after the assignment than they did before.

The results show that this is a remarkably robust phenomenon.

Legislators take cues from members of the opposite party, in both the specialized, hierarchical House and the generalist, collegial Senate, and that cue taking survived into the present day in spite of mounting partisan polarization Fong (2020).

Reading 3

Class: PS 826 - Legislative Process

Main Argument: Does majority party control cause changes in legislative policymaking? The authors argue that majority party floor control affects legislator behavior and agenda control.

Data: Data is collected from roll call votes.

Methods: Natural experiment

Conclusion: The authors find that majority party control leads to (1) changes in the agenda, and (2) changes in legislators' revealed preferences. These effects are driven by changes in numerical party majorities on the legislative floor. The effects are strongest with Republican and non southern Democratic legislators Napolio and Grose (2021).

Reading 4

Class: PS 821 - Mass Political Behavior

Main Argument: Does information irrelevant to government performance affect voting behavior? If so, how does this help us understand the mechanisms underlying voters retrospective assessments of candidates performance in office?

Data: Collected from a dataset, and 2 survey experiments

Methods: experiment and survey experiments

Conclusion: The authors find that a win in the 10 days before Election Day causes the incumbent to receive an additional 1.61 percentage points of the vote in the Senate, gubernatorial, and presidential elections, with the effect being larger for teams with stronger fan support. In addition to conducting placebo tests based on postelection games, the authors demonstrate these effects by using the betting markers estimate of a teamates probability of winning the game before it occurs to isolate the surprise component of game outcomes. They corroborate these aggregate-level results with a survey that we conducted during the 2009 NCAA mens college basketball tournament, where we find that surprising wins and losses affect presidential approval. An experiment embedded within the survey also indicates that personal well-being may influence voting decisions on a subconscious level Healy, Malhotra, and Mo (2010).

Reading 5

Class: PS 821 - Mass Political Behavior

₇₉ Main Argument: David R. Mayhew examines U.S. presidential elections from 1788

₈₀ through 2004. He highlights the importance of incumbency advantage.

₈₁ Data: Data from a dataset

₈₂ Methods: Ran experiments from dataset

₈₃ Conclusion: He concludes that in-office parties have kept the White House two-thirds

₈₄ of the time when they have run incumbent candidates, but they have fared only 50-50 in

₈₅ open-seat elections Mayhew (2008).

₈₆ **Reading 6**

₈₇ Class: PS 821 - Mass Political Behavior

₈₈ Main Argument: In this article, Zingher assesses how the social bases of the

₈₉ American political parties have evolved over time. To accomplish this task, he first

₉₀ determines which social group memberships significantly influence individual vote choice

₉₁ with a multivariate analysis of ANES data. Then measure how many votes each politically

₉₂ relevant social group contributed to the party coalitions in each presidential election from

₉₃ 1952-2008. Then discusses how group contributions have changed over time and establish

₉₄ the demographic and behavioral causes of group contribution change.

₉₅ Data: Dataset

₉₆ Methods: Regression analyisis

₉₇ Conclusion: He finds that the party coalitions have been restructured as a result of

₉₈ groups. changing voting behavior and the changing ratio of groups in the electorate. The

₉₉ Democratic Party coalition has increasingly consisted of non-whites The Republican party

₁₀₀ has become more Southern Zingher (2019).

Reading 7

102   Class: PS 904 - Behavior and Economic Inequality

103   Main Argument: In this article, the authors seek to understand if and how

104 immigration and increasing racial diversity are shaping the partisan politics of individual

105 white Americans. They show that whites' views on immigration and Latinos are strongly

106 related to their core political identities and vote choices.

107   Data: Collected from surveys

108   Methods: Survey experiment

109   Conclusion: All else equal, whites with more anti-immigrant views or more negative

110 views of Latinos are less apt to identify as Democrats and less likely to favor Democratic

111 candidates Hajnal and Rivera (2014).

112 **Reading 8**

113   Class: PS 826- Legislative Process

114   Main Argument: Roll-call votes provide scholars with the opportunity to measure

115 many quantities of interest. However, the usefulness of the roll-call sample depends on the

116 population it is intended to represent. After laying out why understanding the sample

117 properties of the roll-call record is important, the authors catalogue voting procedures for

118 145 legislative chambers, finding that roll calls are typically discretionary.

119   Data: Collected from dataset.

120   Methods: Catalogue voting procedures for 145 legislative chambers.

121   Conclusion: The empirical and theoretical results confirm that inattention to vote

122 method selection should broadly be considered an issue for the study of legislative behavior

123 Roberts (2007).

Reading 9

Class: PS 800- Poly Sci as a Profession

Main Argument: Ideal theory is unable to provide useful real-world guidance and ignores decidedly non-ideal problems, such as gender and racial inequalities.

Data: N/A

Methods: Thought Experiment

Conclusion: Mills Concludes with two basic claims: Ideal theory, when used to represent actual reality has been disastrous for an adequate understanding of the real structures of oppression and exclusion that characterize the social and political order. The opting for ideal theory has served to rationalize the status quo.

Nonideal theory can better help us achieve a more ideal world and by virtue of realistically recognizing the obstacles to their acceptance and implementation.

The best way to bring about the ideal is by recognizing the non ideal, and that by assuming the ideal or the near-ideal, one is only guaranteeing the perpetuation of the nonideal Mills (2005).

Reading 10

Class: PS 800 - Poly Sci as a Profession

Main Argument: What is referred to as non ideal theory is all that there is, and it is many kinds of theory, not one of the many ways in which we learn about justice and injustice, and seek to answer questions of practical reason about what ought to be done in our political world.

Data: N/A

Methods: Thought Experiments, analysis of other literature.

147   Conclusion: Author denies the existence of ideal theory Levy (2014).

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