

New Approaches in American Politics  
Political Science 904  
Prof. Ellie Powell

Seminar Schedule: Tuesday 1:20-3:20

Seminar Location: Ingraham 223

Email: [eleonor.powell@wisc.edu](mailto:eleonor.powell@wisc.edu)

Office Location: 216 North Hall

Office Hours: Tuesdays 10-12. Must sign-up online to reserve a spot (UW Scheduling Assistant)

Course Description: The focus of this course is on cutting-edge research in American Politics that explores new questions, with new evidence, new methods, and/or using new research designs. The purpose of graduate school is to become an academic and contribute to our scientific knowledge of political science. In this class, we're going to talk about concrete ways to do this in political science generally, and American Politics in particular. The goal of the course is that through dialog with this new work we can have constructive conversations about how to push our scientific knowledge further.

Requirements:

1. Come to class prepared to discuss the readings.
2. Actively participate in class discussions.
3. Lead two class discussions
4. 2 page paper proposal & presentation of proposal
5. Oral Presentation of Research Paper (15 min presentation; 15 min feedback)
6. 25 pg Research Paper due at the end of the semester.

Academic Integrity:

All papers should be your own independent work citing sources where appropriate. I strongly encourage you to review Wisconsin's policies regarding academic honesty. These policies will be strictly enforced in this class. In general, if you have any questions, please feel free to ask me.

Grading:

Class Participation	20%
Lead Class Discussion	10%
Paper Proposal and Presentation	10%
Oral Presentation of Research Findings	10%
Research Paper	50%
Total	100%

Outline:

Week	Date	Topic
1	9/12	Introduction – How to Think About New Research
2	9/19	Causality Part I: Thinking About Causality
3	9/26	Causality Part II: Designs, Methods, Tools
4	10/3	Measurement
5	10/10	Data and Tools
6	10/17	Ideas Presentation Day
7	10/24	New Study of Institutions
8	10/31	2016 Presidential Election: Authoritarianism, and Polling
9	11/7	Political Misinformation and Voter Competence
10	11/14	Group Consciousness
11	11/21	Race in American Politics
12	11/28	Grab Bag: Cool Papers
13	12/5	Research Presentation Day 1
14	12/12	Research Presentation Day 2
		Final Papers Due: 5pm December 20 <sup>th</sup> .

**Reading:**

**1. Causality Part I: Thinking About Causality**

Imai, Kosuke. 2017. "Causality" in *Quantitative Social Science: An Introduction*. Princeton University Press. [Chapter 2. Note, datasets mentioned in chapter are available here: <http://press.princeton.edu/qss> ]

Imai, Kosuke, Luke Keele, Dustin Tingley, and Teppei Yamamoto. 2011. "Unpacking the Black Box of Causality: Learning about Causal Mechanisms from Experimental and Observational Studies." *American Political Science Review*. 105(4): 765-789.

King, Gary. 1995. "Replication, Replication." *PS: Political Science & Politics*. 28(3): 444-452.

Broockman, David E. and Daniel M. Butler. 2017. "The Causal Effects of Elite Position-Taking on Voter Attitudes: Field Experiments with Elite Communication." *American Journal of Political Science*. 61(1): 208-221.

Butler, Daniel M. and David W. Nickerson. 2011. "Can Learning Constituency Opinion Affect how Legislators Vote? Results from a Field Experiment." *Quarterly Journal of Political Science*. 6(1): 55-83.

Valenzuela, Ali A., and Melissa R. Michelson. 2016. "Turnout, Status, and Identity: Mobilizing Latinos to Vote with Group Appeals." *American Political Science Review*. 110(4): 615-630.

## 2. Causality Part II: Design, Methods, Tools

Berry, Christopher R. and Anthony Fowler. 2016. "Cardinals or Clerics? Congressional Committees and the Distribution of Pork." *American Journal of Political Science*. 60(3): 692-708.

Brader, Ted. 2005. "Striking a Responsive Chord: How Political Ads Motivate and Persuade Voters by Appealing to Emotions." *American Journal of Political Science*. 49(2): 388-405.

Eggers, Andrew C., Anthony Fowler, Jens Hainmueller, Andrew B. Hall and James M. Snyder Jr. 2015. "On the Validity of the Regression Discontinuity Design for Estimating Electoral Effects: New Evidence from Over 40,000 Close Races." *American Journal of Political Science*. 59(1): 259-274.

Klar, Samara. 2014. "Partisanship in a Social Setting." *American Journal of Political Science*. 58(3): 687-704.

Sovey, Allison J. and Donald P. Green. 2011. "Instrumental Variables Estimation in Political Science: A Readers' Guide." *American Journal of Political Science*. 55(1): 188-200.

## 3. Measurement: Big Data, Text as Data, Networks

Bonica, Adam. 2014. "Mapping the Ideological Marketplace." *American Journal of Political Science*. 58(2): 367-386.

Caughey, Devin and Eric Schickler. 2016. "Substance and Change in Congressional Ideology: NOMINATE and Its Alternatives." *Studies in American Political Development*. 30: 1-19.

Grimmer, Justin and Brandon M. Stewart. 2013. "Text as Data: The Promise and Pitfalls of Automatic Content Analysis Methods for Political Texts." *Political Analysis*. 21(3): 267-297.

Henderson, John A. 2016. "[An Experimental Approach to Measuring Ideological Positions in Political Text.](#)"

Hill, Seth J. and Gregory A. Huber. 2017. "Representativeness and Motivations of the Contemporary Donorate: Results from Merged Survey and Administrative Records." *Political Behavior*. 39(1): 3-29.

Sinclair, Betsy. 2012. *The Social Citizen: Peer Networks and Political Behavior*. University of Chicago Press. [Chapters 1-2]

Tausanovitch, Chris and Christopher Warshaw. 2013. "Measuring Constituent Policy Preferences in Congress, State Legislatures, and Cities." *The Journal of Politics*. 75(2): 330-342.

#### 4. Data and Tools

Berinsky, Adam J., Gregory A. Huber and Gabriel S. Lenz. 2012. "Evaluating Online Labor Markets for Experimental Research: Amazon.com's Mechanical Turk." *Political Analysis*. 20(3): 351-368.

Boydston, Amber E., Jessica T. Feezell, Rebecca A. Glazier, and Timothy P. Jurka. 2014. "Colleague Crowdsourcing: A Method for Fostering National Student Engagement and Large-N Data Collection." *PS: Political Science & Politics*. 47(4): 829-834.

Coppock, Alexander, Thomas J. Leeper and Kevin J. Mullinix. 2017. "[The Generalizability of Heterogeneous Treatment Effect Estimates Across Samples.](#)" Presented at APSA 2017.

Hainmueller, Jens and Daniel J. Hopkins. 2015. "The Hidden American Immigration Consensus: A Conjoint Analysis of Attitudes toward Immigrants." *American Journal of Political Science*. 59(3): 529-548.

Hersh, Eitan D., and Clayton Nall. 2016. "The Primacy of Race in the Geography of Income-Based Voting: New Evidence from Public Voting Records." *American Journal of Political Science*. 60(2): 289-303.

Krupnikov, Yanna and Adam Seth Levine. 2014. "Cross-Sample Comparisons and External Validity." *Journal of Experimental Political Science*. 1: 59-80.

Street, Alex, Thomas A. Murray, John Blitzer, and Rajan S. Patel. 2015. "Estimating Voter Registration Deadline Effects with Web Search Data." *Political Analysis*. 23: 225-241.

Rhodes, Jesse H. and Brian F. Schaffner. 2017. "Testing Models of Unequal Representation: Democratic Populists and Republican Oligarchs?" *Quarterly Journal of Political Science*. 12(2): 185-204.

#### 5. Idea Presentation Day

#### 6. New Study of Institutions

Butler, Daniel M. and Adam Dynes. 2015. "How Politicians Discount the Opinions of Constituents with Whom They Disagree." *American Journal of Political Science*.

Caughey, Devin, Christopher Warshaw and Yiqing Xu. Forthcoming. "[Incremental Democracy: The Policy Effects of Partisan Control of State Government](#)." *The Journal of Politics*.

Fong, Christian. 2017. "[Expertise and Peer Cue-Taking in the U.S. Congress](#)."

Fournaies, Alexander and Andrew B. Hall. 2017. "How Do Interest Groups Seek Access to Committees." *American Journal of Political Science*. Forthcoming.

Glynn, Adam N. and Maya Sen. 2015. "Identifying Judicial Empathy: Does Having Daughters Cause Judges to Rule for Women's Issues?" *American Journal of Political Science*. 59(1): 37-54.

Montgomery, Jacob M. and Brendan Nyhan. 2017. "The Effects of Congressional Staff Networks in the US House of Representatives." *The Journal of Politics*. 79(3): 745-761.

Reeves, Andrew and Jon C. Rogowski. 2016. "Unilateral Powers, Public Opinion, and the Presidency." *The Journal of Politics*. 78(1): 137-151.

## **7. 2016 Presidential Election: Authoritarianism, and Polling**

Sides, John, Michael Tesler and Lynn Vavreck. 2016. "The Electoral Landscape of 2016." *The American Academy of Political and Social Science*. 667: 50-71.

Briony Swire, Adam J. Berinsky, Stephan Lewandowsky, and Ulrich K.H. Ecker. 2017. "Processing political misinformation: comprehending the Trump phenomenon." *Royal Society Open Science*. 1-21.

Gelman, Andrew, Sharad Goel, Douglas Rivers, and David Rothschild. 2016. "The Mythical Swing Voter." *Quarterly Journal of Political Science*. 11(1): 103-130.

Hetherington, Marc J. and Jonathan D. Weiler. 2009. *Authoritarianism and Polarization in American Politics*. Cambridge University Press. [Chapters 1,3,8]

Perez, Efren O. and Marc J. Hetherington. 2014. "Authoritarianism in Black and White: Testing the Cross-Racial Validity of the Child Rearing Scale." *Political Analysis*. 22(3): 398-412.

Searles, Kathleen, Martha Humphries Ginn, and Jonathan Nickens. 2016. "For Whom the Poll Airls: Comparing Poll Results to Television Poll Coverage." *Public Opinion Quarterly*. 80(4): 943-963.

Weber, Christopher, Christopher Federico, and Stanley Feldman. 2017. "[How authoritarianism is shaping American politics \(and it's not just about Trump\)](#)." *Washington Post*. May 10, 2017. [In the Monkey Cage blog]

## **8. Political Misinformation and Voter Competence**

Berinsky, Adam J. 2017. "Rumors and Health Care Reform: Experiments in Political Misinformation." *British Journal of Political Science*. 47(2): 241-262.

Cramer, Katherine J and Benjamin Toff. 2017. "The Fact of Experience: Rethinking Political Knowledge and Civic Competence." *Perspectives on Politics* 15(3): 754-770.

Flynn, D.J., Brendan Nyhan and Jason Reifler. 2017. "The Nature and Origins of Misperceptions: Understanding False and Unsupported Beliefs about Politics." *Advances in Political Psychology*. 38(1): 127-150.

Fowler, Anthony and Andrew B. Hall. 2017. "[Do Shark Attacks Influence Presidential Elections? Reassessing a Prominent Finding on Voter Competence.](#)"

Freder, Sean, Gabriel S. Lenz and Shad Turney. 2016. "[The Importance of Knowing 'What Goes With What': Reinterpreting the Evidence on Policy Attitude Stability.](#)" Working Paper.

Hill, Seth. 2017. "Learning Together Slowly: Bayesian Learning About Political Facts." *Journal of Politics*. 79(4).

Nyhan, Brendan and Jason Reifler. 2015. "The Effect of Fact-Checking on Elites: A Field Experiment on U.S. State Legislators." *American Journal of Political Science*. 59(3): 628-640.

## **9. Group Consciousness**

Condon, Meghan, and Amber Wichoswky. 2016. "[Inequality in the Social Mind: Perceptions of Status and Support for Redistribution.](#)"

Cramer, Katherine J. 2016. *The Politics of Resentment: Rural Consciousness in Wisconsin and the Rise of Scott Walker*. University of Chicago Press.

Michener, Jamila. 2018. "Social Class As Racialized Political Experience." *The Forum: A Journal of Applied Research in Contemporary Politics*. 15(1). [Requested from ILL.]

Weaver, Vesla and Tracey Meares. *Portals Project*. Book Prospectus and Media Coverage.

## **10. Race in American Politics**

Acharya, Avidit, Matthew Blackwell and Maya Sen. 2016. "The Political Legacy of American Slavery." *Journal of Politics*. 78(3): 621-641.

Davenport, Lauren. 2016. "The Role of Gender, Class, and Religion in Biracial American's Racial Labeling Decisions." *American Sociological Review*. 81(1): 57-84.

Enos, Ryan D. 2015. "What the Demolition of Public Housing Teaches Us about the Impact of Racial Threat on Political Behavior." *American Journal of Political Science*. 60(1): 123-142.

Gillion, Daniel Q. 2016. *Governing with Words: The Political Dialogue on Race, Public Policy and Inequality in America*. Cambridge University Press. [Chapters 1-3]

Sen, Maya and Omar Wasow. 2016. "Race as a Bundle of Sticks: Designs that Estimate Effects of Seemingly Immutable Characteristics." *Annual Review of Political Science*. 19: 499-522.

Weaver, Vesla M. and Amy E. Lerman. 2010. "Political Consequences of the Carceral State." *American Political Science Review*.

## **11. Grab Bag: Cool Papers**

Barber, Michael, Daniel M. Butler and Jessica Preece. 2016. "Gender Inequalities in Campaign Finance." *Quarterly Journal of Political Science*. 11(2): 219-248.

Farris, Emily M. and Mirya R. Holman. 2017. "All Politics Is Local? County Sheriffs and Localized Policies of Immigration Enforcement." *Political Research Quarterly*. 70(1): 142-154.

Fong, Christian, Neil Malhotra, and Yotam Margalit. 2017. "[Political Legacies](#)." Working Paper.

Grimmer, Justin, Solomon Messing and Sean J. Westwood. 2012. "How Words and Money Cultivate a Personal Vote: The Effect of Legislator Credit Claiming on Constituent Credit Allocation." *American Political Science Review*. 106(4): 703-719.

Martin, Gregory J. and Ali Yurukoglu. 2017. "Bias in Cable News: Persuasion and Polarization." *American Economic Review*. 107(9): 2565-2599.

Mummolo, Jonathan, Clayton Nall. 2016. "Why Partisans Do Not Sort: the Constraints on Political Segregation." *Journal of Politics*. 79(1): 45-59.

Rogowski, Jon C. 2014. "Electoral Choice, Ideological Conflict and Political Participation." *American Journal of Political Science*. 58(2): 479-494.