

## THE NEW POLITICAL MAINSTREAM?

Prof. Rodolfo de la Garza  
Department of Political Science &  
School of International and Public Affairs/EMPA  
Fall 2003  
Saturdays 2:00-4:00

Charis Varnum  
1321 International Affairs Bldg.  
office hours: Wednesday 3-5

### Course description:

This course will examine the ways in which the political mainstream in the US has changed since WWII as a result of various influences. Factors to be considered include new populations (“new immigrants” such as Asians and Latinos), the changing role of old populations (e.g., women and African Americans), institutional developments, and the introduction of new issues into the political arena. We will explore how these influences interact, and attempt to answer the question of whether there is, in fact, a new mainstream in American politics.

In addition to considering specific populations, we will examine major policy developments relevant to our theme, including the Voting Rights Act, affirmative action, and immigration policy, as well as the evolving meaning of citizenship. Over the course of the semester, we will discuss such topics as the traditional political milieu, the role of the Congress and public opinion, and major institutional developments, including the extent to which institutions such as the courts (particularly the US Supreme Court) have participated in or led change. The course will involve guest lecturers, discussion, and two written assignments.

### Written assignments:

1. 10-page essay on a topic related to topics discussed in weeks 1-6 (midterm). Topic must be approved by instructor.
2. 20-page paper on a topic of your choice (final). Topic must relate to major themes discussed in the class and be approved by instructor.

### Course outline:

#### **September 6**

Political Milieu (Prof. Lieberman)

Mayhew, David R. 2002. *America's Congress: Actions in the Public Sphere, James Madison through Newt Gingrich*. New Haven: Yale University Press. Pages 129-167.

Skowronek, Stephen. 1997. *The Politics Presidents Make: Leadership from John Adams to Bill Clinton*. Cambridge, MA: Belknap Press of Harvard University Press. Pages 33-58.

#### **September 13**

Overview (Prof. de la Garza)

Skrentny, John. 2002. *The Minority Rights Revolution*. Cambridge: Belknap Press of Harvard University Press.

## **September 20**

Congress (Prof. Wawro)

Binder, Sarah A. and Steven S. Smith. 1997. *Politics or Principle?: Filibustering in the United States Senate*. Washington, DC: Brookings Institution. Chapter 5.

Krehbiel, Keith. 1998. *Pivotal Politics*. Chicago: University of Chicago Press. Chapters 1, 2 and 4.

McCarty, Nolan, Keith Poole and Howard Rosenthal. 1997. *Income Redistribution and the Realignment of American Politics*. Washington, DC: AEI Press. Pages 1-44.

Wawro, Gregory and Eric Schickler, "Majority Rule or Librum Veto?: Obstruction and Lawmaking in the Pre-cloture Senate" (manuscript)

## **September 27**

Courts (Prof. Cameron)

Epstein, Lee and Jack Knight. 1997. *The Choices Justices Make*. Washington, DC: CQ Press. Chapters 1, 3 and 5 (pp. 138-157).

Rosenberg, Gerald. 1991. *The Hollow Hope: Can Courts Bring about Social Change?* Chicago: University of Chicago. Pages 173-268.

Coffin, Frank Morey. 1980. *The Ways of a Judge: Reflections from the Federal Appellate Bench*. Boston: Houghton Mifflin. TBA

## **October 4**

Public Opinion (Prof. Shapiro)

Erikson, Robert and Ken Tedin. 2003. *American Public Opinion: Its Origin, Contents, and Impact*. New York: Longman. Chapters 3-7.

## **October 11**

Voting Rights Act and Affirmative Action (Prof. de la Garza)

A. A. Peacock. 1997. *Affirmative Action and Representation*. Carolina Academic Press. Pages 5-24, 173-200, and 127-172.

David T. Canon. 1999. *Race, Redistricting and Representation*. Chicago: University of Chicago Press. Chapter 6.

R. de la Garza and L. DeSipio. "Save the Baby, Change the Bathwater, and Scrub the Tub: Latino Electoral Participation alter Seventeen Years of Voting Rights Act Coverage," *Texas Law Review*. 71, #7, June 1993, pp. 1479-1540.

Louis DeSipio and Rodolfo O. de la Garza. 2003. "Reshaping the Tub: Incorporating Latino Issues into the Voting Rights Act," prepared for Columbia University/NYU Law School Conference on VRA Renewal.

midterm due

**October 18**

Urban Politics (Prof. Falcon)

Deier, Peter, Todd Swantstrom and John Mollenkopf. 2001. *Place Matters: Metropolitcs for the Twenty-First Century*. Lawrence: University Press of Kansas.

**October 25**

Gay Politics (Prof. Yang)

Bailey, Robert W. 1999. *Gay Politics, Urban Politics: Identity and Economics in the Urban Setting*. New York: Columbia University Press. Chapter 5 (pp. 97-136).

Button, James, Barbara Rienzo and Kenneth Wald. 1997. *Private Lives, Public Conflicts: Battles over Gay Rights in American Communities*. Washington, DC: CQ Press. Chapter 3 (pp. 58-102).

Rimmerman, Craig, Kenneth Wald and Clyde Wilcox, eds. 2000. *The Politics of Gay Rights*. Chicago: University of Chicago Press. Chapter 1 (pp. 1-28) and Chapter 2 (pp. 31-53).

Blasius, Mark, ed. 2001. *Sexual Identities, Queer Politics*. Princeton: Princeton University Press. Chapter 11 (pp. 286-318).

Riggle, Ellen and Barry Tadlock, eds. 1999. *Gays and Lesbians in the Democratic Process: Public Policy, Public Opinion and Political Representation*. New York: Columbia University Press. Chapter 11.

**November 1**

holiday

**November 8**

Women (Prof. Varnum)

Carroll, Susan J., ed. 2003. *Women & American Politics: New Questions, New Directions*. New York: Oxford University Press. Chapters 1, 4, 5, 6 and 8.

McGlen, Nancy E., Karen O'Connor, Laura van Assendelft, and Wendy Gunther-Canada. 2003. *Women, Politics and American Society, 3<sup>rd</sup> ed.* New York: Longman. Chapters 1 and 2.

Phillips, Anne, ed. 1998. *Feminism and Politics (Oxford Readings in Feminism)*. New York: Oxford University Press. Chapters 5, 6, 7 and 16.

**November 15**

Asians (Prof. Junn)

Lien, Pei-te. 2001. *The Making of Asian America Through Political Participation*. Philadelphia: Temple University Press. Chapters 1-3.

Junn, Jane. "Participation in Liberal Democracy: The Political Assimilation of Immigrants and Ethnic Minorities in the US," *The American Behavioral Scientist* (June/July 1999) pp. 1416-1437.

Lien, Pei-te, Janelle Wong and M. Margaret Conway. "Party Identification Among Asian Americans: Acquisition & Patterns" (manuscript)

**November 22**

Latinos (Prof. de la Garza)

Bean, Frank D. and Gillian Stevens. 2003. *America's Newcomers: Immigrant Incorporation and the Dynamics of Diversity*. Ithaca, NY: Cornell University Press. TBA

**November 29**

holiday

**December 6**

A New Mainstream? (Prof. de la Garza)

final due