

**Interest Groups
Political Science 314
Section 500, Fall, 2006**

Instructor: C. W. Wiggins
Office: 2081 Allen Building
Hours: M 4:30-6:00 & by appointment.
E-mail: E339CW@POLISCI.TAMU.EDU

Course Objective:

The purpose of this class is to arrive at a basic understanding of the role of interest groups in American politics. Prerequisite: Political Science 206 or approval of department head.

Required Texts:

Jeffrey M. Berry, *The Interest Group Society*, 3rd ed. (Harper Collins, 1997)
Alan Cigler & Burdett Loomis, *Interest Group Politics*, 6th ed., (CQ Press, 2002)

Exams and Grading:

Two exams will be given during the course. Each exam, scheduled for **October 11** and **November 29**, will count towards approximately one-third of the student's course grade. The second exam will cover only materials assigned or discussed since the mid-term. All exams will follow a short answer or essay format. Students must notify the instructor prior to an exam if they are going to be absent. Students will not be permitted to do additional tasks to improve their grade for the course.

Term Paper:

Each student will be required to prepare a term paper for the course. This paper should focus upon a particular interest group at the national, state, or local level which interests the student. Upon selection of a particular group after consultation with the course instructor, students should embark upon research to gather information about their group along the lines of group dimensions presented in the class or texts (also see attached suggested outline). The end product should be a typed term paper of at least 10 pages in length, plus endnotes and bibliography. Appropriate citations to sources of information should also be used in this paper. A minimum of 10 sources (at least 5 non-Internet) is required. This paper should be turned into the instructor by **November 15**. Students should also be prepared to present brief oral summaries of their research results during the class periods at the end of the semester. The paper will count toward the remaining one third of the student's course grade.

Course Outline:

The attached is an outline of the course showing reading assignments, dates, and probable lecture topics. Students are urged to keep up with their reading assignments. In addition, they are encouraged to keep informed on current development in interest groups politics by reading a daily newspaper and relevant periodicals.

--	--

Aug. 28 - Sept. 13	<p align="center">Introduction: Interests & Interest Groups Berry, 1-16; 44-63 C&L: 1-6, Cigler & Joslyn on Social Capital, 37-53</p>
	Internal Dynamics
Sept. 18 – 27	<p align="center">Types of Interest Groups Berry, 17-45; 218-236 C&L: Uslander on Ethnic Groups, 355-377; Hart on High Tech Lobbying, 293-312</p>
Oct. 2	<p align="center">Group Formation Berry, 64-80 C&L: 6-33; Casamayou on Breast Cancer, 79-94; Browne on Exchange Theory, 313-329; Patterson & Singer on NRA, 55-77</p>
Oct. 4	<p align="center">Group Resources Berry, 80-85; 186-217</p>
Oct. 9	<p align="center">Internal Dynamics/Governance of Groups Berry, 85-93</p>
Oct. 11	1st Exam
	Indirect Lobbying
Oct. 16 - 25	<p align="center">Public Opinion and Grass Roots Berry, 116-138 C&L: Bosso & Collins on Environmental Groups and Internet, 94-114; Brown & Walzer on Lobbying Press, 249-274; Leech, et. al. on Issue Definition, 275-292</p>
Oct. 30 - Nov. 8	<p align="center">Elections and Campaigns Berry, 139-161 C&L: Conway & Green on PACs, 117-140; Dwyre on Issue Advocacy, 141-159; Guth, et.al. on Religious Group Mobilization, 161-184</p>
	Direct Lobbying
Nov. 13 - 15	<p align="center">Congress Berry, 94-115; 162-168 C&L: Berry on Gridlock, 333-353; Kersh on Corporate Lobbyists, 225-248; Loomis on Techniques, 185-201</p>
Nov. 20	<p align="center">Executive Branch Berry, 168-175</p>
Nov. 22	<p align="center">Courts: Berry, 175-185</p>
Nov. 27	<p align="center">Concluding Observations Berry, 218-240 C&L, 381-391; Godwin & Seldon on Corporations, 205-224</p>
Nov. 29	2nd Exam

Suggested Interest Group Term Paper Outline

1. Introduction
2. Formation and Early History
3. Resources (i.e. Organization, Membership, Budget, Social Status, Leadership, Cohesion, Communication, Access, etc.)
4. Political/Legislative Programs (including organization for decision-making)
5. Lobbying, Organization (PACs) and Governmental Targets.
6. Influence/Success
7. Summary and Conclusion

Interest Group Information Sources

1. LIBCAT
2. Books on group, issue/policy area, interest group texts
3. Reference books
 - Directory of Associations
 - Washington Representatives
 - Political Action Group
 - Who's Who in Washington Non-Profit Groups
 - Lobbying Handbook
4. Information about public policies
 - Congressional Quarterly Weekly Reports
 - National Journal
5. Indexes
 - Readers Guide to Periodical Lit.
 - Public Affairs Information index
 - Social Science Research Index
 - Congressional Information Service Index
 - New York Times and other Newspaper
6. Federal election Service Reports on PACs (300-4249530)
7. Internet Sources
 - Your Group=s
 - Vote Smart
 - Federal Election Service

Copyright/ Plagiarism:

The handouts used in this course are copyrighted. By "handouts," I mean all materials generated for this class, which include but are not limited to syllabi, quizzes, exams, lab problems, in-class materials, review sheets, and additional problem sets. Because these materials are copyrighted, you do not have the right to copy the handouts, unless I expressly grant permission.

As commonly defined, plagiarism consists of passing off as one's own the ideas, words, writings, etc., which belong to another. In accordance with this definition, you are committing plagiarism if you copy the work of another person and turn it in as your own, even if you should have the permission of that person. Plagiarism is one of the worst academic sins, for the plagiarist destroys the trust among colleagues without which research cannot be safely communicated.

If you have any questions regarding plagiarism, please consult the latest issue of the Texas A&M University Student Rules, under the section "Scholastic Dishonesty."

POLITICAL SCIENCE 314 READINGS LIST

GENERAL

Nownes, *Pressure and Power: Organized Interests in American Politics*, Houghton Mifflin, 2001
Wright, *Interest Groups and Congress: Lobbying, Contributions, and Influence*, Allyn and Bacon, 1996
Lowl, *The End of Liberalism: The Second Republic. of the United States*, 2 nd Ed., Norton, 1979
Chubb, *Interest Groups and the Bureaucracy*, Stanford, 198')
Moe, *The Organization of Interests*, Chicago, 1980
Olson, *The Logic of Collective Action*, Schocktn, 1968
Mundo, *Interest Groups: Cases and Characteristics*, Nelson-Hall, 1992
Truman, *The Governmental Process*, Knopf, 1971

TYPES OF GROUPS

Agricultural

Browne, *Private Interests, Public Policy, and American Agriculture*, Kansas, 1988
Hansen, *Gaining Access: Congress and the Farm Lobby, 1919-198 1*, Chicago, 1991

Business

Mucciaroni, *Reversals of Fortune: Public Policy and Private Interests*, Brookings, 1995
Useem, *The Inner Circle: Large Corporations and the Rise of Business Political Activity in the U.S. and U.K.*, Oxford, 1984
Bauer, Pool, and Dexter, *American Business and Public Policy*, Atherton, 1968
Quirk, *Industry Influence in Federal Regulatory Agencies*, Princeton, 1981

Citizen/Cause

Berry, *Lobbying for the People*, Princeton, 1977
Bosso, *Pesticides and Politics*, Pittsburgh, 1987
Dalton, *The Green Rainbow*, Yale, 1994
Imig, *Poverty and Power: The Political Representation of Poor Americans, Nebraska, 1996*
McFarland, *Common Cause, Chatham, 1984* McFarland, *Public Interest Lobbies*, AEI, 1976
Piven, and Cloward, *Poor People's Movements*, Pantheon, 1978
Pratt, *The Gray Lobby*, Chicago, 1976

Civil Rights

Garrow, *Protest at Selma*, Yale, 1978
Meier and Rudwick, *CORE: A Study in the Civil Rights Movement*, Oxford, 1973

Ideological

Epstein, *Conservatives in Court*, Tennessee, 1985
Crawford, *Thunder on the Right*, Pantheon, 1980

Labor

Taft, *The A.F.L. in the Time of Gomper* , Harper, 1957
Taft, *The A.F.L. from the Death of Gompers to the Merger*, Harper, 1957
Greenstone, *Labor in American Politics*, Vintage, 1969
Foster, *The Union Politic: The CIO Political Action Committee*, Missouri, 1975

Freeman and Medoff, *What Do Unions Do?*, Basic, 1984

Professional

Zeigler, *The Political Life of American Teachers*, Prentice-Hall, 1967

Racial

Vose, *Caucasians Only: The Supreme Court, the NAACP, and the Restrictive Covenant Cases*, California, 1959

Lincoln, *The Black Muslims in America*, Beacon, 1961

Walton, *Black Politics, A Theoretical and Structural Analysis*, Lippincott, 1972

Religious

Reichley, *Religion in American Public Life*, Brookings, 1985

Hadden and Shupe, *Televangelism: Power and Politics on God's Frontier*, Holt, 1988

Hertzke, *Representing God in Washington*, Tennessee, 1988

Moen, *The Transformation of the Christian Right*, Alabama, 1992

Think Tanks

Smith, *The Idea Brokers: Think Tanks and the Rise of the New Policy Elite*, Free Press, 1991

Women's

Grimes, *The Puritan Ethic and Woman Suffrage*, Oxford, 1967

Githens and Prestage Eds., *A Portrait of Marginality The Political Behavior of the American Woman*, McKay, 1977

Boles, *The Politics of the Equal Rights Amendment: Conflict and the Decision Process*, Longman, 1979

Freeman, *The Politics of Women's Liberation*, McKay, 1975

O'Connor, *Women's Organizations' Use of the Courts*, Lexington, 1980

INDIRECT LOBBYING

Euchner, *Extraordinary Politics: How Protest and Dissent are Changing, American Democracy*, Westview, 1996

Hill & Hughes, *Cyberpolitics*, Rowman & Littlefield, 1998

LOBBYING

West & Loomis, *The Sound of Money: How Political Interests Get What They Want*, Norton, 1999

Richan, *Lobbying for Social Change*, 2 nd Ed., Haworth, 1996

Meredith, *Lobbying on a Shoestring*, 2 nd Ed., Auburn House, 1989

Birnbaum, *The Lobbyists*, Times, 1992

Birnbaum and Murray, *Showdown at Gucci Gulch*, Random House, 1987

Eastman, *Lobbying: A Constitutionally Protected Right*, AEI, 1977

INTEREST GROUPS & CAMPAIGNS

Rozell & Wilcox, *Interest Groups in American Campaigns*, CQ Press, 1999

Sabato, *PAC Power: Inside the World of Political Action Committees*, Norton, 1990

A Political System

Environment

1. Physical
2. Socio-Economic
3. Cultural

Feedback

Interests

1. Economic
2. Religious
3. Racial
4. Region
5. Safety
6. Ideological
7. Etc.

Informal Rules

Input

1. Demands
2. Support (Actions)
 - A. Interest Groups
 - B. Political Parties
 - C. Elections
 - D. Individual
3. "Withinputs"

Public Decision Making Agencies

1. Government
 - A. Institutions
 - B. Officials
 - C. Formal Rules

Outputs

1. Public Policies
 - A. Social Security
 - B. Health
 - C. National Defense
 - D. Welfare
 - E. Environment
 - F. Safety
 - G. Etc.

Impacts/Outcomes

Boundary

- ### Support (Attitudes)
1. Accepted Policy
 2. Socialization