This course is intended to be a core seminar in American Politics. The course covers the literature on individual political behavior in the United States. Topics include the nature and consequences of the public’s knowledge about politics, persuasion, political identity, ideology, values, tolerance, prejudice, public opinion, participation, and voting.

The course requirements are: (1) a term paper, which may be a research paper, a critical review and synthesis of the literature, or a prospectus and research design; (2) two short (4-5 pp) critical reviews on assigned topics—one based on readings from weeks 1-5, the other based on readings from weeks 6-10; (3) class participation, including leading discussions of the literature. If the term paper is a research paper, it may be coauthored. I am flexible about paper topics, especially for those whose first field is not American politics. I recommend Lodge & Tabor and Peréz for one paper and Achen & Bartels for the other, but any readings for the short papers are fine, including relevant readings that are not on the syllabus.

Campus Resources for Students - If you experience difficulty in this course for any reason, please don't hesitate to consult with me or your teaching assistant. If you have a disability that may prevent you from fully demonstrating your abilities, you should contact me as soon as possible so we can discuss accommodations necessary to ensure your full participation and facilitate your educational process. A wide range of services is available to support you in your efforts to meet the course requirements:

- Counseling and Psychological Services: (893-4411, ww.counseling.ucsb.edu) offers counseling for personal concerns, self-help information, and connections to off-campus mental health resources.
- Disabled Students Program: 893-2668; www.sa.ucsb.edu/dsp. DSP provides academic support services to eligible students with temporary and permanent disabilities. Students with disabilities may request academic accommodations online through the UCSB Disabled Students Program at http://dsp.sa.ucsb.edu/. Please make your requests for accommodations through the online system as early in the quarter as possible to ensure proper arrangements.
- If you are facing any challenges in food or housing and believe this may affect your performance in the class, you are urged to meet with a Food Security and CalFresh Advocate who is aware of the broad variety of resources that UCSB has to offer. See their drop-in hours at food.ucsb.edu. You are also urged to contact the professor if you feel comfortable doing so.

Gender and Sex Discrimination Policy and Student Support: Under Title IX, university students are protected from harassment and discrimination based on gender and sex. If a student feels uncomfortable or in need of support at any time related to their gender, sex, and/or sexual
orientation, please contact your instructor (me) and/or your TA immediately. UCSB’s Resource Center for Sexual and Gender Diversity (http://wgse.sa.ucsb.edu/sgd/home) is also available to advocate and be of and support to students.

All of the books are on reserve in the library. The articles are all on Gauchospace. The following books are required:

- Christopher Achen and Larry Bartels, *Democracy for Realists*
- Efrén Peréz, *Unspoken Politics*
- Marisa Abranjano and Zoltan Hajnal, *White Backlash*
- Sidney Verba et al., *Voice and Equality: Civic Voluntarism in American Politics*

The readings marked with * are recommended. The following abbreviations are used for journals:

- APSR: *American Political Science Review*
- POQ: *Public Opinion Quarterly*
- AJPS: *American Journal of Political Science*

**Weekly Topics**

1. **Introductory Discussion: Measuring Public Opinion** (January 4)


2. **Nature of Attitudes, the Survey Response, and Political Knowledge** (January 11)

   John Winkler et al., “Controlling for Acquiescence Response Set in Scale Development.”

* Philip Converse, ”Attitudes & Nonattitudes” in Edward Tufte, *The Quantitative Analysis of Social Problems*
* Howard Schuman & Stanley Presser, *Questions & Answers in Attitude Surveys*
* Scott Althaus, *Collective Preferences in Democratic Politics*
* W. Russell Neuman, Marion Just, and Ann Crigler, *Common Knowledge: News and the Construction of Political Meaning*

3. **Learning, Persuasion, and Framing** (January 18)

   Milton Lodge and Charles Taber, *The Rationalizing Voter*, chaps 1-4
   Efrén Peréz, *Unspoken Politics*

   * Howard Schuman & Stanley Presser, *Questions & Answers in Attitude Surveys*
   * Paul Sniderman et al, *Reasoning and Choice*
   * Benjamin Page & Robert Shapiro, *The Rational Public*
   * Ronald Inglehart, “Political Value Orientations,” in M. Kent Jennings et al., *Continuities in Political Action*
   * Ronald Inglehart, *Culture Shift in Advanced Industrial Democracies*

4. **Party Identification and Socialization** (January 25)

   Morris Fiorina, *Retrospective Voting in America*, chap 5

* Bruce Keith et al, *The Myth of the Independent Voter*

Paper 1 due

5. **Belief Systems, Ideology, and Self-interest** (February 1)

Eric Smith, *The Unchanging American Voter*, chap. 3

* Jennifer Hochschild, *What’s Fair? American Beliefs about Distributive Justice*
* Eric Smith, *The Unchanging American Voter*
* George Marcus et al., *Affective Intelligence and Political Judgment*

6. **Presidential and Congressional Elections** (February 8)

James Enelow and Melvin Hinich, *The Spatial Theory of Voting*, chaps 2-3
Jon Krasno, *Challengers, Competition and Reelection*, chaps 1-3, 5
Tali Mendelberg, *The Race Card*, chaps 1, 6, 7

* Warren Miller and Merrill Shanks, *The New American Voter*
* Samuel Popkin, *The Reasoning Voter*
* Steven Rosenstone et al., *Third Parties in America*, 2nd ed.
* Larry Bartels, *Presidential Primaries and the Dynamics of Public Choice*
* James Enelow and Melvin Hinich, *The Spatial Theory of Voting*
* Gary Jacobson, *The Politics of Congressional Elections*
* Kim Kahn & Patrick Kenney, *The Spectacle of U.S. Senate Campaigns*

7. **Voter Turnout and Participation** (February 15)

Sidney Verba, Kay Schlozman, & Henry Brady, *Voice and Equality*
Jan Leighley and Jonathan Nagler, *Who Votes Now?* Chaps. 2-3

* Steven Rosenstone and John Mark Hansen, *Mobilization, Participation, and Democracy in America*
* Kay Schlozman, Sidney Verba, and Henry Brady, *The Unheavenly Chorus*
* Paul Abramson et al, *Change & Continuity in the 2016 Elections*, chap 4
* Donald Green and Alan Gerber, *Get Out the Vote*
* J. Rusk "Political Participation in American: A review essay" *APSR* 70:583- (1976)
* Frances Piven and Richard Cloward, *Why Americans Don’t Vote*
* Larry Bartels, *Unequal Democracy*
* Raymond Wolfinger and Steven Rosenstone, *Who Votes?*

8. **Identity Groups, Political Parties, and Elections** (February 22)


* Walter Stone, *Candidates and Voters* Cambridge University Press, 2017

**Paper 2 due**

9. **The Rise of Conservatives, Polarization, and Race in America** (March 1)


Marisa Abranjano and Zoltan Hajnal, *White Backlash*


* Alan Abramowitz, *The Disappearing Center*

* Morris Fiorina and Samuel Abrams, *Disconnect*

* Christopher Parker and Matt Barreto, *Change They Can’t Believe In*


**Paper 2 due**

10. **Tolerance and Civil Liberties** (March 8)


* Donald Kinder and Lynn Sanders, Divided by Color (1996)
* Bob Altemeyer, The Authoritarian Specter
* Howard Schuman, et al., Racial Attitudes in America