Course Design:
This course introduces students to a broad scope of literature on interest groups in the U.S.. The course has two major goals. Our first goal is to become familiar with, discuss, and criticize theories about interest group formation and maintenance. Our second goal is to understand the role and impact of group's in the American political system.

To accomplish these goals, this course integrates an introduction to some of the traditional literature on pluralism and interest groups with an overview of how traditional questions and problems in those fields are addressed in more recent literature.

Knowledge of some basic facts will be presumed. Therefore, students without some coursework in American institutions from their undergraduate or graduate years may want to review relevant chapters from introductory American texts.

Reading Assignments:
Numerous books and articles will be read. Baumgartner and Leech’s Basic Interests, Kollman’s Outside Lobbying, Ainsworth’s Analyzing Interest Groups, Walker’s Mobilizing Interests Groups in America, Shipan’s Designing Judicial Review, and Rothenberg’s Linking Citizens to Government, have been ordered through FTX Bookstore on Baxter. All other reading material (both required and recommended) is in the main library or will be made available. We will develop the reading assignments to fit our interests and timetable. That is, assignments may shift from recommended to required or from required to recommended.

Requirements and Grading:
Students will be evaluated on the following basis:

Class Participation (@20%)
Students are expected to be prepared to discuss all assigned readings for the week. Two students will be asked to contribute discussion questions for each week's reading. Those students will guide that week’s discussion. Questions are due in my mailbox and each student’s mailbox by 1:30pm on the Monday before class. Questions should be typed.

Papers (@50%)
First, students will write seven short (1 page or less) summaries of the readings. These must be handed in before we discuss the material in class. Second, students will write one analytical precis addressing a key issue related to our analysis of interest groups. The text of the precis should be about three pages. Comprehensiveness is assured when you pick a narrow topic. Coherence is assured when the selections are integrated, rather than dealt with as purely independent pieces, and when the selections are related to an analytical puzzle at hand. Third, students will write a five to seven page research abstract and design. Which puzzles or conflicts in the literature deserve attention? Why? Choose one and specify how you will proceed. What data could be used? What data would have to be gathered? The abstract and design should be so carefully laid out that you could pick it up over the summer break and complete the project without losing your way. The design should be so compelling that you want to work on it before the end of this semester. Indeed, more advanced students may wish to proceed directly to the project.
Final Exam (@30%)

The final will consist of doctoral exam style questions.

Abbreviations:

Introduction:

Seminarians should read:
Ainsworth, ch. 1
Baumgartner and Leech, ch.s 1-3

Recommended:

The Collective Action Problem and Entrepreneurs

Ainsworth, ch.s 2 and 3
Baumgartner and Leech, ch. 4

Recommended:

Godwin. *One Billion Dollars of Influence*.

Hardin. *Collective Action*.

Moe. *The Organization of Interests*.

Wilson, J.Q. *Political Organizations*.

**Interest Group Maintenance and the Membership Calculus**


Ainsworth, “Modeling Efficacy and Interest Group Membership.” *Political Behavior*.

Walker, ch. s 1-5, 10


Recommended:


Chong, Dennis. *Collective Action and the Civil Rights Movement*.


**Interest Group Maintenance and Decision Making in Groups**


Rothenberg, All

Ainsworth, ch. 4


**Evolution and Access**

Ainsworth, ch. 5


Recommended:


Herring. 1929. *Group Representation before Congress*.

Odegard. 1928. *Pressure Politics*.


Skowronek, *Building a New American State*.

Hansen. *Gaining Access*.


**Lobbying in Congress**


Ainsworth, ch. 6


Baumgartner and Leech, ch.s 7 and 8


Recommended:


Dixit and Londregan. 1996. The Determinants of Success of Special Interests in Redistributive Politics. *JOP* 58:1132-55  

**Campaign Contributions and Congressional Lobbying**  
Ainsworth, ch. 9  

Recommended:
Sorauf. Inside Campaign Finance.
Gais, Improper Influence.
Wright, J.R. 1985. PACs, Contributions, and Roll Calls. APSR 79:400-414.

Lobbying the Judicial and Executive Branches

Ainsworth, ch. 7
Walker, ch. 9

Shipan, All Walker, ch.s 7 and 8
Baumgartner and Leech, ch.s 5 and 6

Recommended:
Berry. *Feeding Hungry People: Rulemaking in the Food Stamp Program*.
Kerwin. *Rulemaking*. 
Grassroots and Indirect Lobbying: Groups in the Electorate

Kollman, *Outside Lobbying*, All
Ainsworth, ch. 8
Walker, ch. 6

Recommended:
Smith, *American Business and Political Power*.
Gerber. *Populist Paradox*.
Goldstein, *Interest Groups, Lobbying, and Participation in America*.
Systemic Effects:

**Issues Related to Civic Duty**


**In what sense do groups promote or impede stability?**

Madison, Federalist #10


Recommended:

Dahl. *Preface to Democratic Theory*.

Dahl. *Who Governs?*

Garson, G. David. *Group Theories of Politics*.

Lowi. *The End of Liberalism*.

McConnell. *Private Power and American Democracy*.

Polsby, Nelson. *Community Power and Political Theory*.


Schattschneider’s *The Semisovereign People*.


**Policymaking and Policymaking Domains**


Recommended:


Freeman, J. Lieper.


Truman, ch. 16


Olson. *Rise and Decline of Nations*.


**Critical Overview**

Baumgartner and Leech, ch. 9

Ainsworth, ch 10


Salisbury, Dependent Variable

Women and the Interest Group Environment


A Look at Business and Politics

Smith, *American Business and Political Power*.