

POLS 616: Interest Group Politics
Paul E. Johnson <pauljohn@ku.edu>

Blake Hall 207 1:00-1:50pm

Blake Hall 518 Office Hours: T&R 2:00-4:00

Course Webpage: <http://pj.freefaculty.org/ps616>

Topic The course is about organizations and their role in elections and representative government. The term “interest group” is anachronistic. (Someday, we will change the name of the course.) We prefer to call them “interest organizations” because that includes a broader set of agents.

Grading

1. (40%) Two Tests.
2. (35%) Final Exam.
3. (10%) “Handin Exercises”.
4. (10%) 5-10 page report on one political organization.
5. (5%) Attendance: A student must not miss more than 3 classes if full credit is to be earned.

Readings: Most required readings are drawn from these three fine volumes, which are available in bookstores everywhere

RA: Robert M. Alexander, *The Classics of Interest Group Behavior*, (Belmont, CA: Thompson Wadsworth, 2006)

LB: David Lowery and Holly Brasher, *Organized Interests and American Government* (New York: McGraw Hill, 2004)

RWM: Mark J. Rozell, Clyde Wilcox, and David Madland, *Interest Groups in American Campaigns: The New Face of Electioneering* (Washington, DC: CQ Press, 2006).

A few of the readings are not in these books. Some are on the Internet, some are articles drawn from miscellaneous books. Copies will be made available.

Students with Disabilities: The KU Office of Disability Resources (DR) coordinates accommodations and services for all eligible students with disabilities. If you have a disability and wish to request accommodations and have not contacted DR, please do so as soon as possible. Their office is located in 22 Strong Hall; their phone number is 785-864-2620 (V/TTY). Information about their services can be found at <http://www.disability.ku.edu/>. Please also contact me privately in regard to your needs in this course.

Daily Schedule

1. (8/17)Introduction: Start thinking about what kinds of organizations you want to study

2. (8/20). Kinds of organizations
 - (a) Type 1: labor union or labor federation
 - (b) Type 2: professional association
 - (c) Type 3: business trade association
 - (d) Type 4: “citizen’s group”

3. (8/22) Pluralism and the big picture
Read: LB Ch. 1

4. (8/24) **Handin Exercise (3 points)**: Remember: you are assigned to types of organizations. Find an Organization that fits within your type! Use the Internet or any other resources you can grab. Turn in 1 single-spaced typed page with YOUR NAME, the organization’s name, and anything you have been able to find out (so far) about where & how it was formed, where does it get money, how does it recruit members, and how active is it in politics.

5. (8/27) Suffering for historical purposes
 - (a) James Madison, “The Federalist 10” RA Ch. 2
 - (b) Alexis de Tocqueville, “Political Associations...” RA Ch. 3

6. (8/29) Truman: Potential Groups and Crosscutting Memberships.
 - (a) Arthur Bentley, “Group Activities” RA Ch. 4
 - (b) David Truman, “The Alleged Mischiefs of Factions” RA Ch. 5

I will make an outline available and about this: David Truman, “Group Politics and Representative Democracy,” Chapter 16 in *The Governmental Process* (New York: Knopf, 1951), which you are not required to read.

7. (8/31) Recruitment and Organizational Maintenance
LB, Ch. 2
Mancur Olson, “From the Logic of Collective Action,” RA Ch. 9

8. (9/5) **Handin Exercise (3 points)**: Find an example of a “Collective Action Problem.” Turn in 1 single-spaced typed page with YOUR NAME, and information to answer What is the collective good being sought? Who are the ‘potential beneficiaries’? Has action been taken to provide the collective good? By whom?

9. (9/7) Prisoner’s Dilemma as Description of the Collective Action Problem
 - (a) Check the Wikipedia! “Prisoner’s dilemma” http://en.wikipedia.org/wiki/Prisoner's_dilemma

(b) F. Heylighen, “The Prisoner’s Dilemma,” <http://pespmc1.vub.ac.be/PRISDIL.html>

If you want to know more about the PD, there is a very comprehensive and well done review on this website: Bjorn Brembs, “Chaos, cheating and cooperation: potential solutions to the Prisoner’s Dilemma”, <http://brembs.net/ipd/ipd.html>

10. (9/12) The Exchange Theory
Robert Salisbury, “The Exchange Theory of Interest Groups” RA Ch. 11
11. (9/14) **Discussion**
12. (9/17) Environmental Recruiting
Paul Johnson, “Interest Group Recruiting: Finding Members and Keeping Them” Chapter 2 in Allan J. Cigler and Burdett A. Loomis, Interest Group Politics, 5th edition, (CQ Press, 1998), pp. 35-
13. (9/19) Subsidies
Jack Walker, “The Origins and Maintenance...” RA Ch. 12
14. (9/21) **Handin Exercise (3 points):** Find an organization within your type, possibly the same one you investigated for exercise 1, but not necessarily. Turn in 1 single-spaced typed page with YOUR NAME, and information to answer, What benefits does it offer to prospects? Are they material, expressive, or solidary? How does the organization go about contacting prospective members?
15. (9/24) Institutions
Robert Salisbury, “Interest Representation: The Dominance of Institutions” RA Ch. 14
16. (9/26) **TEST 1**
17. (9/28) Don’t you ever take a day off?
18. (10/1) Schattschneider’s famous “Scope of Conflict” argument
E. E. Schattschneider, “The Contagiousness of Conflict,” RA Ch. 7
19. (10/3) Electoral Activity
LB, Ch. 4
20. (10/5) **Discussion**
21. (10/8) Who Wants What?
RWM, Ch. 1
22. (10/10) Political Parties and Groups
RWM, Ch. 2

23. (10/15) PACs and other electoral organizations
RWM, Ch. 3
24. (10/17) Campaigning.
RWM, Ch. 4
25. (10/19) **Discussion**
26. (10/22) The 527 Phenomenon
Richard M. Skinner, "Do 527's Add Up to a Party? Thinking About the 'Shadows' of Politics" *The Forum* 3(3): Article 5. Photocopy. Also Available online at The Forum or in pdf form: Skinner_527ShadowParties.pdf
27. (10/24) Some details
 - (a) Check the Federal Regulations I've collected for your review (see my website).
 - (b) 2007 Supreme Court decision on interest group advertisements: *F.E.C. v. Wisconsin Right to Life* Available on many websites, including the Court's own website: <http://www.supremecourtus.gov/opinions/06pdf/06-969.pdf> as well as other servers like <http://laws.findlaw.com/us/000/06-969.html>,
28. (10/26) **Handin Exercise (3 points):** find an organization (possibly same one that you found before) and create 1 single-spaced page (maximum!) explaining
 - (a) what the organization wants to change in public policy, if anything. If there are none, please explain why.
 - (b) what actions are used to pursue those goals, if any. If there are none, please explain why.
 - (c) what kind of organization is this (for tax purposes).
29. (10/29) Legislative Affairs
LB, Ch. 5
30. (10/31) Public Goods and Private Goods
R. Kenneth Godwin and Barry J. Seldon, "What Corporations Really Want from Government," Chapter 10 in Allan J. Cigler and Burdett A. Loomis, *Interest Group Politics*, 6th edition, (CQ Press, 2002), pp. 205-224. Photocopy
31. (11/2) PAC Influence Studies I
John R. Wright, "PACs, Contributions, and Roll Calls: An Organizational Perspective," RA Ch. 20
32. (11/5) PAC Influence Studies II
Richard Hall and Frank Wayman, "Buying Time: Moneyed Interests and the Mobilization of Bias in Congressional Committees" RA Ch. 22

33. (11/7) More Groups; Less Clout.
I will make a presentation about this article, which you are not required to read:
“The Paradox of Interest Groups in Washington, DC: More Groups and Less Clout,”
in Anthony King, ed, The New American Political System, 2ed (AEI , 1990)
34. (11/9) Corruption. A new favorite topic of mine.
35. (11/12) In Honor of Bill Browne: Niches and Confidants
William Browne, “Organized Interests and Their Issue Niches,” RA Ch. 19
William Browne, “Organized Interests, Grassroots Confidants, and Congress” Chapter 13 in Allan J. Cigler and Burdett A. Loomis, Interest Group Politics, 4th edition, (CQ Press, 1995), pp. 281-297. Photocopy
36. (11/14) Executive Affairs
LB, Ch. 6
37. (11/16) Judicial Affairs
LB, Ch. 7
38. (11/19) **Test 2.**
39. (11/26) Complaining about the “big picture”
Theodore J. Lowi, “Toward Juridical Democracy”, RA Ch. 16
40. (11/28) Jonathan Rauch, “From Demosclerosis,” RA Ch. 17
41. (11/30) Practical Reforms
LB, Ch. 8
RWM, Ch. 5
42. (12/3) More on Reforms, Course Evaluations
43. (12/5) Last Day: Final Exam Review