

Interest Group Politics

Proseminar

1 Description

In the media, Lobbyists are often portrayed as an evil force only concerned with filling their pockets at the expense of the public. In the academic literature, interest groups are seen as an important factor in decision-making processes in modern democracies. In this seminar we will analyze the role of interest groups in shaping policy outcomes. This includes the analysis of lobbying activities and strategies, as well as the assessment of interest group efficacy. We seek to provide a balanced view of the risks and benefits of interest group involvement.

2 Time and Location

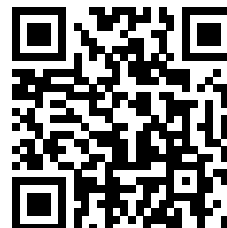
The seminar will take place on **Fridays, 15:15-16:45** in room **C 422** from 28 April to 28 July 2017.

3 Contact

University of Konstanz
Dept. of Political Science and Public Administration
AG Political Methodology
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78457 Konstanz

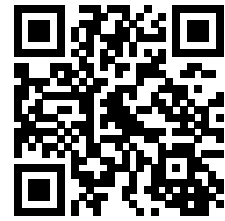
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Digital Business Card:



Office hours

Office hours are on *Thursdays*, 15:30-17:00 and on appointment. Please book an appointment on <https://www.canumeet.com/skoehler> or by scanning the following QR code with your mobile phone:



4 Learning Goals

After successful completion of the class, you will:

- have acquired an overview over the literature on interest groups
- be able to understand the role of interest groups in democratic processes
- will be able to analyze and assess the role of interest groups in political decision-making
- will be able to understand theoretical and empirical approaches to the study of interest groups

At the same time the class provides an introduction to Scientific work. Therefore you will

- be able to find relevant literature
- be able to cite according to Scientific standards
- learn how to read different kinds of texts
- be able to assess the relevance and content of articles
- be able to identify different types of scientific texts and understand their uses

5 Assessment

Summative

The final grade is a weighted average of the term paper (60%), a short presentation (20%), a literature summary (10%), and class participation (10%).

Term paper (60%)

The term paper is a written (review) essay of about 10-12 pages. In this essay, you will pick a research question which can be answered by summarizing *and* synthesizing existing literature. As such a review essay is more than simply naming people and describing their arguments. You could for example analyze why certain studies come to different conclusions on the same question or how likely there is a certain effect or criticize one article in detail, based on information provided in other articles. The topic of the essay is supposed to be related to the content of the class. The term paper is due on 15 September 2017, although you are strongly encouraged to not wait until the last day.

Presentation (20%)

Each student is supposed to present one of the readings in class at the beginning of the session. The papers will be assigned in the first session. The presentation should be no longer than 10 minutes. *The time limit will be strictly enforced.* The presentations should try to answer the following questions (if applicable):

- What is the research question which the author(s) try to answer?
- How do they answer the question?
- Which theoretical argument is the basis for the answer?
- Which empirical evidence is provided?
- Critique:
 - Is the structure of the paper adequate?
 - Do the hypotheses follow logically from the theory?
 - Is the experimental design appropriate to answer the question?
 - Is the data analysis appropriate to answer the question at hand?
 - Are there any open questions regarding the analysis?
 - Could the presentation of the results have been improved?
 - Do theory and empirical evidence support the answer to the research question?

Response paper (10%)

The response paper is a 1-2 page summary and criticism of one of the readings from class. It is due on 15 September 2017.

Participation (10%)

Class participation will count toward your final mark.

Formative

- Active participation in group work and discussions
- Literature list
- Peer Feedback
- Writing exercises

6 Literature research session

On **12 May 2017** we will have an *additional* session on how to find literature. This session will be run in collaboration with Ms. Heeg of the University Library. The session will take place in **J213** at **13:30**. *Participation is mandatory.*

7 ilias

Please register on ilias to get access to readings and other course materials. You can use the link https://ilias.uni-konstanz.de/ilias/goto.php?target=crs_649646_rcodecdKWmUTxk&client_id=ilias_uni (the link is active in the pdf version). The password required for registration is IGPKN1704. Please note that not all readings will be available online as being able to find literature is one of the learning outcomes of this course.

8 Twitter

In this class we will occasionally use twitter for discussions. You are expected to register an account on <https://twitter.com/signup> in case you do not already have one (or don't want to use your personal account). You may also want to have a look at the tweetchat online app on <https://tweetchat.com>. Please bring either a laptop or a smart phone to class to be able to use twitter.

9 Zotero

Zotero is a powerful literature management programme. Unlike most others it is free software and independent of the operating system you use. It can work as a standalone product and/or a browser plugin. The latter allows you to directly import references into a database, which you can use to manage your literature. Zotero can easily be synced across several devices. It can be downloaded from <https://www.zotero.org/>. There exist plugins for the typical office applications. Zotero can also easily export to bibtex for use with \LaTeX .

10 Literature management software

Apart from zotero, several other literature management software is available. Some require a license which is provided by the University of Konstanz. You can find more information on the website of KIM at <https://www.kim.uni-konstanz.de/en/literature/literature-management/> or follow the links (in the pdf document).

- Citavi
- Refworks
- Endnote
- Mendeley

11 General Literature on Lobbying

- Baumgartner, Frank R., Jeffrey M. Berry, and Marie Hojnacki. 2009. 'Lobbying and Policy Change: Who Wins, Who Loses, and Why'. Chicago: University of Chicago Press.

- Carpenter, Daniel, and David A. Moss, (eds). 2013. 'Preventing Regulatory Capture: Special Interest Influence and How to Limit It'. New York: Cambridge University Press.
- Dür, Andreas, and Gemma Mateo. 2016. 'Insiders versus Outsiders: Interest Group Politics in Multilevel Europe'. Oxford: Oxford University Press.
- Grossman, Gene M., and Elhanan Helpman. 2001. 'Special Interest Politics'. Cambridge: MIT Press.
- Kollman, Ken. 1998. 'Outside Lobbying: Public Opinion and Interest Group Strategies'. Princeton: Princeton University Press.
- Olson, Mancur. 1965. 'The Logic of Collective Action: Public Goods and the Theory of Groups'. Cambridge: Harvard University Press.

12 General Literature on Scientific Practice and Writing

- Adler, Mortimer J., and Charles van Doren. 2014. 'How to read a book (rev. ed.)'. New York: Touchstone.
- American Psychological Association. 2009. 'Publication Manual of the American Psychological Association (6th. revised ed.)'. Washington, DC: American Psychological Association.
- Booth, Wayne C., Colomb, Gregory G., and Joseph M. Williams. 2008. 'The Craft of Research (3rd ed.)'. Chicago: Chicago University Press.
- Plümper, Thomas. 2008. 'Effizient Schreiben (2nd ed.)'. München: Oldenbourg.
- Shively, W. Phillips. 2013. 'The Craft of Political Research (9th ed.)'. Upper Saddle River: Pearson Education.
- The Chicago Manual of Style: The Essential Guide for Writers, Editors and Publishers. 2010. 16th edition. Chicago: University of Chicago Press.
- Turabian, Kate L. 2013. 'Manual for Writers of Research Papers, Theses, and Dissertations (8th revised edition)'. Chicago: University of Chicago Press.

Useful Online Resources

- Turabian Quick Guide
- APA Style FAQ

13 Sessions

1. Introduction (28 April 2017)

Literature:

- The Chicago Manual of Style: The Essential Guide for Writers, Editors and Publishers. 2010. 16th edition. Chicago: University of Chicago Press. Chapters 14 + 15.

2. The Group approach to Politics (05 May 2017)

Literature:

- Bentley, Arthur F. 2014. 'Chapter X: Government.' In: Bentley, Arthur F. 2014 (1908). 'The Process of Government: A Study of Social Pressures'. Nabu Press, pp. 258-271.
- Truman, David B. 1971. 'Chapter 3: Groups and Government.' In: Truman, David B. 1971. 'The Governmental Process: Political Interests and Public Opinion'. 2nd Revised edition. New York: Alfred A. Knopf, pp. 45-65.
- Truman, David B. 1971. 'Chapter 8: Group Interests and Public Opinion.' In: Truman, David B. 1971. 'The Governmental Process: Political Interests and Public Opinion'. 2nd Revised edition. New York: Alfred A. Knopf, pp. 213-261.

3. The Group approach and it's critics I (12 May 2017)

Reminder: On this day, there will be an additional session on how to find literature. It will take place in **J213** at **13:30**. *Participation is mandatory.*

Literature:

- Schattschneider, E. E. 1975. 'The Semisovereign People: A Realist's View of Democracy in America'. Hinsdale, Ill.: Dryden Press.

4. The Group approach and it's critics II (19 May 2017)

Literature:

- Olson, Mancur. 1982. 'The Logic'. In: Olson, Mancur. 1982. 'The Rise and Decline of Nations: Economic Growth, Stagflation, and Social Rigidities'. New Haven: Yale University Press, pp. 17-35.

- Olson, Mancur. 1965. 'Chapters I + II.' In: Olson, Mancur. 1965. 'The Logic of Collective Action: Public Goods and the Theory of Groups'. Cambridge, Mass.: Harvard University Press, pp. 5-65.

5. Becker's Critique of Olson (26 May 2017)

Literature:

- Becker, Gary S. 1983. 'A Theory of Competition Among Pressure Groups for Political Influence'. *The Quarterly Journal of Economics* 98(3): 371-400.
- Becker, Gary S. 1985. 'Public Policies, Pressure Groups, and Dead Weight Costs'. *Journal of Public Economics* 28(3): 329-347.

6. Neopluralism (02 June 2017)

Literature:

- McFarland, Andrew S. 2007. 'Neopluralism'. *Annual Review of Political Science* 10 (1): 45-66.
- Smith, Martin J. 1990, 'Pluralism, Reformed Pluralism and Neopluralism: the Role of Pressure Groups in Policy-Making'. *Political Studies* 38: 302-322.

7. The Political Economy view (09 June 2017)

Literature:

- Lohmann, Susanne. 2003. 'Representative Government and Special Interest Politics: (We Have Met the Enemy and He Is Us)'. *Journal of Theoretical Politics* 15 (3): 299-319.
- Tullock, G. 1990., 'The Costs of Special Privilege'. In: Mueller, Dennis C. (ed.). 1990. 'Perspectives on Positive Political Economy'. Cambridge: Cambridge University Press.

8. Lobbying Parliaments (16 June 2017)

Literature:

- Baumgartner, Frank R., Jeffrey M. Berry, and Marie Hojnacki. 2009. 'Lobbying and Policy Change: Who Wins, Who Loses, and Why'. Chicago: University of Chicago Press.
- Kollman, Ken. 1997. 'Inviting Friends to Lobby: Interest Groups, Ideological Bias, and Congressional Committees'. *American Journal of Political Science* 41 (2): 519-544.

9. Vote buying (23 June 2017)

Literature:

- Groseclose, Tim, and James M. Snyder. 1996. 'Buying Supermajorities'. *The American Political Science Review* 90 (2): 303–315.
- Wright, John R. 1990. 'Contributions, Lobbying, and Committee Voting in the U.S. House of Representatives'. *The American Political Science Review* 84 (2): 417.

10. No session today (30 June 2017)

In this week there will be no seminar.

11. Lobbying and Information (07 July 2017)

Literature:

- Hall, Richard L., and Alan V. Deardorff. 2006. 'Lobbying as Legislative Subsidy'. *American Political Science Review* 100 (1): 69–84.
- Potters, Jan, and Frans van Winden. 1992. 'Lobbying and Asymmetric Information'. *Public Choice* 74 (3): 269–292.

12. Money in Politics (14 July 2017)

Literature:

- Ansolabehere, Stephen, John M. de Figueiredo, and James M. Snyder. 2003. 'Why Is There so Little Money in U.S. Politics?' *Journal of Economic Perspectives* 17: 105–30.
- McKay, Amy. 2012. 'Buying Policy? The Effects of Lobbyists' Resources on Their Policy Success'. *Political Research Quarterly* 65 (4): 908–23.

13. Regulatory Capture (21 July 2017)

Literature:

- Dal Bó, Ernesto. 2006. 'Regulatory Capture: A Review'. *Oxford Review of Economic Policy* 22 (2): 203–25.

- Webb Yackee, Susan. 2013. 'Reconsidering Agency Capture During Regulatory Policy-making' In: Carpenter, Daniel, and David A. Moss, (eds). 2013. 'Preventing Regulatory Capture: Special Interest Influence and How to Limit It'. New York: Cambridge University Press, pp. 292-325.

14. Essay Writing and Summary (28 July 2017)