Course Summary:

Readings and other resources:
The following books are available for purchase at the Reed bookstore.


Abramson, Paul, John Aldrich, and David Rohde. 2006. *Change and Continuity in the 2004 Elections*. Washington DC: CQ Press. This is a standard reference for elections and electoral behavior research. Note that if you are going to buy this book, make sure you get the newest edition.


As befits an area of political science as dynamic as electoral behavior, the course will rely on recent journal articles and significant portions of other books. All books have been placed on reserve, and when there is only one copy in the library, we have also produced a second printed copy of the readings. If the book is not owned by Reed, there will be a reserve copy and an “honor” copy kept outside my office.

We will make use of an online guide to analyzing the 2004 Election, called “Setups”, available at this website: [http://www.icpsr.umich.edu/SETUPS/](http://www.icpsr.umich.edu/SETUPS/). The system uses the same online data analysis package that is taught in Soc211 and Pol210.

Websites that provide good sources for election results, electoral systems, public opinion, and voting behavior include

1. The Lijphart Elections Archive: [http://dodgson.ucsd.edu/lij/](http://dodgson.ucsd.edu/lij/) provides a wealth of election statistics and links to other archives. This archive contains the data used in Cox’s book.
2. Elections and Election Systems around the world, a comprehensive guide: [http://www.psr.keele.ac.uk/election.htm](http://www.psr.keele.ac.uk/election.htm)
4. Pollingreport.com provides all sorts of polling data, but only recent.
6. The National Journal’s website, available to Reed users, has one of the best sources of “inside the Beltway” information, campaign updates, “tip sheets”, and a wonderful archive of recent campaign ads http://nationaljournal.com/about/policycentral/
7. The National Election Study conducted at the University of Michigan is the premier academic survey dedicated to American electoral behavior. It is available either at http://sda.berkeley.edu, via a web-based statistics interface, or can be directly downloaded at NES home page: http://www.umich.edu/~nes/.

Class requirements:
- Class participation: 20% of course grade.
- Short assignments: 20% of course grade.
- Midterm paper: 20% of course grade.
- Final research paper: (15-20 pages) 40% of course grade.

Course Schedule

1. January 24: What is Political Behavior?

   a. Abramson, Aldrich, and Rohde. Part 1 (pg. 1-72)

3. January 31. The current state of the American political system

4. February 2: Empirical Exercise, our first take on the 2004 Election
5. February 7: Why do we hold elections? Models of representation

6. February 9: Rules of the Game 1: The diverse world of election systems
   b. Turn in a brief (2-3 page) memo, including empirical results, on either party polarization, the working class vote, or on economics and politics in the 2004 election.

7. February 14: Duverger’s Law and the impact of electoral laws on party systems
   a. Duverger, Maurice. *Political Parties*. Book 2, Chapter 1, Section I (dealing with two party systems), p. 206-228

8. February 16: Electoral laws, strategic Voting and strategic candidate entry
   a. Cox, Gary. *Making Votes Count*. Parts II and III.

9. February 21: Duverger’s Law, what does Cox conclude?

10. February 23: Empirical Exercise: Duverger’s Law, what do we conclude?
    a. Produce updated estimates for the ENP (Effective Number of Parties) for at least five countries, using Chapter 8 (especially Table 8.1) of Rein Taagpera and Matthew Shugart. *Seats and Votes: The Effects and Determinants of Electoral Systems*. Write a 1-2 page memo on your results and be prepared to discuss these results in class. You may work in groups of two on this project.

11. February 28: Election laws and election reform in the US?
    a. Thompson, Dennis. *Just Elections*. Introduction and Ch. 1

12. March 2: Election laws and election reform, proposals for change
    a. Each student will research one reform proposal (listed below) and provide a 2-3 page memo on the advantages and disadvantages of it.
       ii. “One Ballot One Oregon”: A proposal to reform the primary election system in Oregon. [http://www.oneballot.com](http://www.oneballot.com)

13. March 7: The “Michigan Model” of Voter Choice

14. March 9: Updates on the Michigan Model

   a. Replicate either Lau and Redlawsk or Kelly and Mirer model using 2004 data. Discuss results in class and turn in a five to seven page academic paper describing your results on March 23rd.

   a. Abramson, Aldrich, and Rohde. Ch. 8.

17. March 23: Empirical exercise, party ID and voter choice since 1972
   a. In class exercise. Using SDA, we will estimate the proportion of strong, weak, and “leaners” who voted for the other party’s presidential candidate since 1972.
   b. Midterm essay is due.

18. March 28: Presidential personality assessment


19. **March 30: Empirical Exercise, Trait and Affect in the 2004 Election**


20. **April 4th Issue Voting**


21. **April 6th Issues in the 2004 Presidential Contest**

   a. Abramson, Aldrich, and Rohde. Chs. 6-7.

22. **April 11th Election Forecasting**


23. **April 13th Forecasting models in 2004**

   a. Symposium on 2004 Forecasts in *PS: Political Science and Politics* October 2004. All articles are available here: [http://apsanet.org/content_13000.cfm](http://apsanet.org/content_13000.cfm)

   b. Produce your own forecast for the 2006 Midterm contests. Write a 1-2 page memo and turn in.

24. **April 18th Campaign Advertising and Voter Learning**


25. April 20th Movie day: viewing campaign advertisement  
a. We will view as a class campaign advertisements from the PBS “60 Second Candidate” documentary as well as National Journal’s Policy Central.


27. May 8th: Final papers due in my office