

COVID-19 related provisions

Health Screening: Students who come to campus for face-to-face classes will be required to complete a daily health screening which will include temperature checks. If you have experienced COVID-19 symptoms and/or have tested positive within the past 10 days; or if you have had close contact (less than 6 feet for longer than 15 minutes while unmasked) with a suspected or confirmed COVID-19 patient within the past 14 days, you are not allowed to come to campus. Please complete the campus [online reporting form](#). A campus official will reply to provide guidance and information.

Safety Measures: Consistent with the Governor’s order and updated state public-health guidelines, face masks or cloth face coverings are required to be worn in public spaces on-campus and during in-person classes to reduce possible exposure to COVID-19 and prevent the spread of the virus. Physical distancing must be practiced by maintaining 6 feet of distance between individuals. Good hygiene of hand washing for a minimum of 20 seconds or using hand sanitizer is required. Please avoid touching your face with unclean hands. Disposable face masks will be provided to anyone who arrives to campus without one. Please see university website for the most updated information: www.fresnostate.edu/coronavirus

PLSI 155 – Interest Group Politics

Dr. Thomas Holyoke	Department of Political Science
Office: McKee Fisk 216	Credits for course: 3 units
Email: tholyoke@csufresno.edu	Time: TTH 11:00am – 12:15pm
Telephone: 278-7580	Location: Zoom virtual class
Office hours: TTH 2:00 – 3:30pm	

Course description: Please read this syllabus carefully, it is essentially a contract that I make with you and you are responsible for knowing all of the information in it.

This is a course on what is the outcome of one of the most important First Amendment rights Americans have – the right of association and petition of government for a redress of grievances. As Alexis de Tocqueville observed in the early 1800s, America is a nation of “joiners” where people naturally come together in groups to accomplish goals, whether those goals are political, social, or economic. In this course we will explore the propensities of Americans to join groups (as opposed to political parties), how the Constitution has

enshrined the right to assemble and petition in the structure of the government, a right abused by those who represent groups (i.e., lobbyists). We will also explore when and how groups successfully challenge the policy status quo (i.e., social protest movements) are essential for preserving democratic rights and freedoms.

To address these questions, we will explore several more analytical questions. Specifically, what is an interest group? Who joins them and why? Whom do interest groups represent and who are left unrepresented? Are interest groups actually influential in politics and policymaking? If so, how and why? Are interest groups a legitimate form of expression and representation essential to politics, or are they corrupting influence hijacking government at the expense of the electorate? If the latter is true, what should be done (if anything) about interest groups and lobbying in American politics?

Required course materials: There is one textbook for this course and it is required:

Thomas Holyoke's *Interest Groups and Lobbying: Pursuing Political Interests in America*, second edition. Routledge, 2020.

It is available through the university bookstore, though you may buy it from any place or use the first edition copies of the book. It will be available through Instant Access for students on Canvas, so you will need to opt out to avoid being charged for it.

Other readings for the course will be provided by me through Canvas.

Student Learning Outcomes:

- Analyze the structures of different types of interest groups
- Identify the different types of strategies used to gain influence with elected officials
- Identify the limits of interest group influence in a democratic society

Course requirements and grading: Every student is expected to read the assigned material and be able to discuss it in class starting on Tuesday of that week. To make sure this happens there will be four quizzes over the assigned materials. The dates of these quizzes are in the class schedule. Each quiz is worth 5 points so that all four constitute 20% of your semester grade. The quizzes will be on Canvas and you may do them when you want during a set period of days, but once activated, you will have only five minutes to complete it.

Most of your grade will come from three short papers and a final exam. Each paper is worth 20 points, or 20% of your grade. There will be more information on the paper

assignments later in the semester, and the due dates are listed in the course schedule. Your final exam is also worth 20 points.

It is your responsibility to take the final exam at its scheduled time. There is no excuse for not taking it at the scheduled time without a really, really good reason, and make-up exams will only be approved at my discretion. Airline reservations and other travel plans do not count as legitimate excuses. Do not make a reservation that conflicts with the exam days and times unless you are prepared to take a 0 for the exam.

Attendance (through Zoom) is not mandatory for this course, but it is difficult to see how you will learn the material and do well if you do not show up for the classes.

Student behavior: Classes are for learning, not for discussing personal issues with your friends. When you speak it should be to myself and the entire class and be related to the discussion at hand. Students must do all of their own work.

You may not record (video or audio) any part of this course without my permission.

University policies

Students with Disabilities: Upon identifying themselves to the instructor and the university, students with disabilities will receive reasonable accommodation for learning and evaluation. For more information, contact Services to Students with Disabilities in the Henry Madden Library, Room 1202 (278-2811).

The following University policies can be found at:

- [Adding and Dropping Classes](#)
- [Cheating and Plagiarism](#)
- [Computers](#)
- [Copyright Policy](#)
- [Disruptive Classroom Behavior](#)
- [Honor Code](#)
- [Students with Disabilities](#)
- [Title IX](#)

The following University services can be found at:

- [Associated Students, Inc.](#)
- [Dream Success Center](#)
- [Learning Center Information](#)
- [Student Health and Counseling Center](#)
- [Writing Center](#)

Course Schedule (subject to change if I believe it necessary)

Date	Course topic
Week one: January 21 (Thursday only)	Topic: Course introduction Reading: None
Week two: January 26 & 28	Topic: About interests and the history of American interest groups Reading: Chapter 1 Federalist #10 (James Madison)
Week three: February 2 & 4	Topic: Collective action Reading: Chapter 2 Quiz #1 on February 4
Week four: February 9 & 11	Topic: Social movement politics Reading: Chapter 3
Week five: February 16 & 18	Topic: Non-violent protest Readings: Epstein “Not You’re Parents’ Protest” Neumann “A Place for Rage” Kang “Our Demand is Simple” Paper #1 due on Thursday by 5:00pm

<p>Week six: February 23 & 25</p>	<p>Topic: Lobbyists and interest group Management</p> <p>Reading: Chapter 4</p>
<p>Week seven: March 2 & 4</p>	<p>Topic: Model of lobbying and lobbying strategy</p> <p>Reading: Chapter 5</p> <p>Quiz #2 on March 4</p>
<p>Week eight: March 9 & 11</p>	<p>Topic: Lobbying Congress</p> <p>Reading: Chapter 6</p> <p>Fitch, Chapter 5 (its short)</p>
<p>Week nine: March 16 & 18</p>	<p>Topic: Lobbying the presidency</p> <p>Reading: Chapter 7, pages 195-206</p> <p>Film: United States of ALEC</p> <p>Paper #2 due by 5:00pm</p>
<p>Week ten: March 23 & 25</p>	<p>Topic: Lobbying the bureaucracy</p> <p>Reading: Chapter 7, 206-223</p> <p>Quiz #3 on March 25</p>

Week eleven: March 30 & April 1	SPRING BREAK
Week twelve: April 6 & 8	Topic: Lobbying the courts Reading: Chapter 8
Week thirteen: April 13 & 15	Topic: Campaign finance Reading: Chapter 10
Week fourteen: April 20 & 22	Topic: Campaign finance Reading: None Quiz #4 on April 22 Paper #3 due by 5:00pm
Week fifteen: April 27 & 29	Topic: Representation and ethics Reading: Chapter 11
Week sixteen: May 4	Review
Final exam	Tuesday, May 11, 11:00am – 1:00pm