

Political Science 3170
Interest Group Politics and Lobbying
Spring 2006

Thursdays, OSH 255
12:25pm-3:20pm

Dr. Ronald J. Hrebenar
OSH 256F
581-6322

ron.hrebenar@poli-sci.utah.edu

I. Course overview:

This course is one of the core courses for the new **Minor in Campaign Management** offered by the College of Social and Behavioral Science and administered by the Hinckley Institute of Politics. The course offers both theoretical and practical information on the roles of groups and organizations in American politics. Some political scientists have stated that groups are the essential unit for understanding politics and public policy and that “when groups are adequately noted, everything is stated.”

We will begin with the sociological, political and economic forces which cause individuals to join together in group political activities. Later we will examine the relationship of group resources to group political power and then seeing how such group resources are converted into implementing strategies and tactics. Finally, we will link these lobbying efforts to a series of cases studies of how political influence is related to policy outcomes.

Course goals:

1. Become familiar with the important social science research on interest group politics and lobbying.
2. Understand the roles played by interest groups in the formation of laws and policy made by actors in all three branches of government.
3. Acquire the skills needed to organize and implement an interest group campaign in a sub-national political environment.

II. Required Books: (available at UU Book Store)

Hrebenar, Interest Group Politics in America (3rd edition)

Cigler, Interest Group Politics, (6th edition)

Rosenthal, The Third House (2nd edition)

Derthick, Up in Smoke (2nd edition)

(Recommended) New York Times (available free for students)

Either Salt Lake City newspaper (Tribune/Deseret Morning News)

III. Course Requirements and Grading

Midterm Examination	100Pts
Issue Tracking Project	100Pts
Research Paper	100Pts
Take Home Final Examination	100Pts
Attendance and Participation	50Pts

The **Midterm** will consist of a number of short answer questions taken from the Hrebenar, Cigler and Rosenthal assigned readings plus a very broad essay asking you to design a lobbying campaign for an interest group coalition.

The Issue Tracking Project requires each student to identify an issue before the Utah State Legislature in its 2006 session, attending hearings (if possible), monitor stories in the local newspapers on the issue, note letters to the editors relating to the issue, draft your own letter to the editor on the issue, contact your own state representative or senator on the issue and ask how he/she stands on the issue, carefully follow its progress through the legislature,, and then note the outcome of the lobbying process. Then, each student will write a report (to the sponsoring organization from the lobbyists point of view) including the legislative history, the strategies and tactics used by both supporters and opponents, and the politics involvedwith its passage or failure and finally, an evaluation of what could have been done better by both supporters and opponents. This report should be a minimum of 5 typed pages and a maximum of 10 pages in length.

The Research Paper is a relatively short piece (8-10 pages) of original research on the lobbying of a topic of national level concern such as national universal health care. The topic should be approved in writing by Professor Hrebenar and the written approval note should be attached to the final paper when it is turned in. The only topic I will not even consider is tobacco policy. All reference materials **MUST** be noted in the paper using the American Psychological Association's reference system and **NO** other system. The purpose of this paper is to produce a well written and polished piece of writing show you can research and summarize on policy issue and a lobbying campaign in a professional manner.

The Take Home Final Examination is based on the Up in Smoke book and requires each student to perform a critical evaluation of one side of the smoking and politics policy process over the past 60 years. I will select the side to be evaluated prior to the final exam announcement.

Assignments are due at the beginning of class on the dates stated in this syllabus or announced in class. Late assignments will be accepted only with prior consent of the instructor and significant point deductions are automatic on late assignments.

Regular, full time, on-time attendance is expected to be the norm in this class. Participation in class discussions on a regular basis is also the expected norm. You cannot hide in the back row and not participate.

Reasonable accommodation: Read the following statement and, if it applies to you, please visit the University's Center for Disability Services, 162 Student Union, or contact them at 581-5020 for information on how they can help you.

The University of Utah seeks to provide equal access to its programs, services and activities for people with disabilities. If you will need accommodations in this class, reasonable prior notice needs to be given to the instructor and to the Center for Disability Services to make arrangements for accommodations.

Plagiarism

Academic Honesty and Dishonesty

I sincerely trust and expect that academic dishonesty will not be an issue in this course. Unfortunately, it has become a very serious problem on many campuses, including the University of Utah and the Political Science Department. The purpose for including the following statement is to prevent any misunderstandings about what constitutes academic dishonesty and what I will do if I should encounter (or seriously suspect) it.

Academic honesty is expected. An act of academic dishonesty will result in the course grade of E and a recommendation of additional disciplinary action. In the event of suspected academic dishonesty, I may substitute a quiz, examination, or assignment for the work in question.

These are my guidelines concerning what constitutes a violation of ethical standards for course work. Any of these violations will be considered academic dishonesty and treated as such. These guidelines are in addition to any University-wide guidelines concerning academic honesty or dishonesty that may be in effect.

- 1. Cheating. The giving or receiving of any unauthorized assistance on any academic work.*
- 2. Plagiarism. Presenting the language, structure or ideas of another person or persons as one's own original work.*
- 3. Falsification. Any untrue statement, either oral or written concerning one's own academic work, work of another student, or the unauthorized alteration of any academic record.*
- 4. Original work. Unless specifically authorized by the instructor, all academic work undertaken in a course must be original; i.e., it must not have been submitted in a prior course or be submitted in a course being taken concurrently.*

Religious Accommodation Policy: See Policies and Procedures on the UU web page for details on this policy.

IV. Course meetings and reading assignments:

- Week 1: Jan 12 Introduction to Interest Group Politics and Lobbying.
Hrebenar, Chp 1-2
Cigler, Chp 1 and 2, 10 and 15
Rosenthal, Chp 1
- Week 2: Jan 19 Internal Group Leadership and Maintenance
Lobbying the State Legislature
Hrebenar, chp 3
Cigler, 3-5
Rosnethall, Chp 3-5
- Week 3 Jan 26 Lobbyists: The Care and Feeding of
Hrebenar, Chp 4
Cigler, Chp 11
Rosenthal., Chp 2
- Week 4: Feb 2 Strategies and Tactics
Hrebenar, Chp 5
Cigler, Chps 10, 12-14
Rosenthal, Chps 6-7
- Week 5: **Feb 9 Week at the state legislature: No class**
- Week 6: Feb 16 Grassroots Lobbying
Hrebenar, Chp 6
Rosenthal, Chp 8
- Week 7 Feb 23 Media Lobbying and IGs in Elections
Hrebenar, Chp 5
Cigler, Chps 6-8. 12
Rosenthal, Chps 9-10
- Week 8 Mar 2 Money and PACs
Hrebenar, Chp 7
Cigler, Chp 6
- Week 9 **Mar 9 MIDTERM EXAMINATION**
- Week 10 Mar 16 Spring Break No class**
- Week 11 Mar 23 Lobby laws and the First Amendment
Hrebenar, Chp 10
- Week 12 Mar 30 Research, Information, Think Tanks and Front Groups

- Week 13 Apr 6 When Government is the Lobby! Executive Branch and
Regulatory Agency Lobbying
Hrebenar, Chps 8- 9
Cigler, Chp 9
- Week 14 Apr 13 Judicial Branch Lobbying , PIGS, Foreign Lobbies
Hrebenar, Chp 11-12
Cigler, Chp 17
- Week 15 Apr 20 City, County Level Lobbying and Wrap-up Session
Hrebenar, Chp 13
Cigler, Chp 16, 18
Up in Smoke, (All for final take home exam)
Final Take home exam given out in class today

Take Home Final Exam due in Political Science office on April 27 prior to 5pm.