I. Introduction
This course builds on the topics covered in the fall semester class, delving in greater
detail into some active theoretical and empirical controversy in the study of the domestic
politics of the United States.

II. Contact and meeting Information
Professors
Sanford Gordon
19 W. 4th St., room 311
Office Hours: Monday 2-4pm, or by appointment
Phone: (212) 998-3708
E-mail: sanford.gordon@nyu.edu

Rebecca Morton
19 W. 4th St., room 329
Office Hours: Tuesday, 2-4pm, or by appointment
Phone: (212) 998-3706
E-mail: rbm5@nyu.edu

Class Meetings
Tuesday, 6:20-8:20 19 W. 4th, Room 102

III. Student Responsibilities and Course Grading

Participation: 20%
Participating in seminar is an essential component of satisfactory completion of the
course.

Presentations: 10%
In addition to normal participatory duties, each student will spend several of our meetings
providing a public good as presenter of a particular text or perspective, which will
include a 10-15 minute presentation at the beginning of the class.

Thought papers: 20%
Each student will write a one page, single-spaced paper each week, due by close of
business (5pm) on the day before class, unless a) the student is presenting that week; or
b) it is the week before the student is presenting. The paper may critically examine a
particular feature of a single reading, or draw comparisons among multiple readings for
that week. At the end of the semester, we will drop the lowest short paper score. (This has
the practical effect of permitting you to miss writing one paper.)

**Research paper: 50%**
A final research paper will count for 50% of the grade. Details will be discussed in class.
You should be thinking about your paper and discussing the topic with us by early to
mid-February. Note that if your research interest lies primarily in topics covered toward
the end of the class, you should be prepared to read ahead.

### IV. Weekly Schedule

**Week 1. January 16, 2007**
*Introduction and Orientation*

**Week 2. January 22, 2007**
*Elections II: Minor Parties and Independent Candidates*
- Hirano, Shigeo and James Snyder, “The Decline of Third Party Voting in the
- Steven Callander, “Duverger's hypothesis, the run-off rule, and electoral

**Week 3. January 29, 2007**
*Elections I: Timing and Sequence*
- Klumpp, T and Polborn MK, “Primaries and the New Hampshire effect,” *Journal
  of Public Economics* 90 (6-7): 1073-1114 August 2006
- Battaglini, Marco, Rebecca Morton, and Thomas Palfrey, “Efficiency, Equity, and
  Timing in Voting Mechanisms,” forthcoming, APSR,
  [http://www.nyu.edu/gsas/dept/politics/faculty/morton/NonAnon_APSR_Seq_Voting_5Dec06.pdf](http://www.nyu.edu/gsas/dept/politics/faculty/morton/NonAnon_APSR_Seq_Voting_5Dec06.pdf)

**Week 4. February 5, 2007**
*Minority Representation*
- Griffin, John D. and Michael Keane, “Descriptive representation and the
- Shotts, Kenneth W., “Does racial redistricting cause conservative policy
  outcomes? Policy preferences of southern representatives in the 1980s and
- Lublin, David and Steven Voss, “The missing middle: Why median-voter theory
  can't save democrats from singing the boll-weevil blues,” *Journal of Politics*, 65
  (1): 227-237 FEB 2003
- Shotts, Kenneth W., “Racial redistricting's alleged perverse effects: Theory, data,
Week 5. February 12, 2007
Public Opinion and Election Forecasting

Week 6. February 19, 2007
Public Opinion II

Week 7. February 26, 2007
The Media I: Impact

Week 8. March 5, 2007
The Media II: Bias

Week 9. SPRING BREAK

Week 10. March 19, 2007
Political Business Cycles
Week 11. March 26, 2007

Campaign Finance


Week 12. April 2, 2007

Legislative Bargaining


Week 13. April 9, 2007

Congress and Distribution


Political Control of the Bureaucracy


Week 15. April 23, 2007

Judicial Decision Making