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. 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

Elections I: Timing and Sequence

Elections II: Minor Parties and Independent Candidates
Steven Callander, “Duverger's hypothesis, the run-off rule, and electoral competition,” Political Analysis, 13 (3): 209-232 Summer 2005

Week 4. February 6, 2007
Public Opinion and Election Forecasting

Week 5. February 13, 2007
Political Business Cycles

**Week 6. February 20, 2007**

*The Media I: Impact*


**Week 7. February 27, 2007**

*The Media II: Bias*


**Week 8. March 6, 2007**

*Campaign Finance*


**Week 9. SPRING BREAK**

**Week 10. March 20, 2007 (Note – this session may need to be rescheduled)**

*Lobbying*


**Week 11. March 27, 2007**

*Legislative Bargaining*


Week 12. April 3, 2007
 Minority Representation

Week 13. April 10, 2007
 Political Control of the Bureaucracy

Week 14. April 17, 2007
 Judicial Decision Making

Week 15. April 24, 2007
 Student Discussion