

Instructions for the November 3, 2020 Lecture

All right People,

Time to give a nod to pluralist theory by examining the concept of interest groups. My experience has been that most, if not all government textbooks (whether for high school or college students) will typically have an entire chapter devoted to interest groups. I've always wondered why that was. No chapters on money in politics, or how capitalism might affect politics, just interest groups all fighting to get their interests on the government's agenda. Let's explore why that might be. Here's your schedule for the week:

Lecture 11. Interest Groups

Task 1: Read these instructions.

Task 2: Read Chapter 7 in the Heineman text (pp. 132-149)

Task 3: Watch the lecture presentation on "Interest Groups." They certainly exist...but are some more important or powerful than others?

Task 4: Read the article for your journal response (Money Still Rules US Politics: An Interview with Thomas Ferguson). You can find the question on the link titled "Lecture / Discussion Page" highlighted in yellow. After completing the response, you will have until the date posted on the assignments page to upload it to Canvas.

Task 5: Open the link for the video and watch *Golden Rule: The Investment Theory of Politics*. Sure there's lots of interest groups, but Ferguson asks us to see differentials in *power* among different groups. Should we? Or do pretty much all groups have the same power to influence government policy?

Task 6: Click the link titled "Discussion Board Question and Peer Responses for Video Presentation" and answer the question that I have posted in approximately one paragraph or so. Wait for other students to put their responses and then pick two students to respond to. The deadline for these responses will be posted on the Canvas assignments page. Don't be late....

So we're in November now. Paper's due in 2 weeks. Time to get serious....Next lectures will move us into the realm of policy. Very important stuff coming...

I will see you all then...

Kropf