

POLS 541
Fall 2006
Prof. Baumgartner

Questions for Week 8, Oct 26.

Readings: Jones, Jones, and Simon.

1. What is bounded rationality? Be precise and complete.
2. If people are purposive and goal-seeking, are they therefore rational? Explain and be specific.
3. List the most important “non-rational” components of human cognition and decision-making, from this week’s readings.
4. What is the role of emotion in this literature? Is emotion rational?
5. Where do preferences come from? Are preferences rational?
6. How important is the complexity of a decision? Are some decisions simple enough that a rational model is a good approximation of how people approach it? At what point are decisions complex enough that we have to build this factor into our models?