

Poli 891
Fall 2011
Prof. Baumgartner

Questions for Week 3, Sept 19. Write a one-page paper on one of the topics below and use these topic questions to prepare for class discussion as you do the readings.

Readings: Schattschneider, Downs, Peters and Hogwood, Cobb, Ross, and Ross, and Walker.

1. Schattschneider's theory should apply to personal relations as well as to politics. Give examples of personal and public conflicts that can be understood in this way.
2. Schattschneider does not explain HOW conflicts get expanded or restricted. What literature focuses on that? Does Schattschneider give much information on how one might predict how widely a given conflict will expand, or in other words who will win the battle over the scope of the debate?
3. What are the routes to agenda-access described by Cobb, Ross, and Ross? Is their set of models complete? What are the difficulties in applying this perspective? Can it be used as a guide for research? What routes are likely to be most common?
4. Downs was dead wrong: The environment never went away as a political problem. Evaluate the importance of this article in light of this. Why is his point still influential?
5. Discuss the methods developed by Walker in his article. Why were these not picked up more systematically by others? Or have they been? Can they be done more easily now, given electronic searches of various databases? How hard would it be to replicate his study today? Could you do it in an afternoon? A week?