

Poli 891
Fall 2011
Prof. Baumgartner

Questions for Week 14 Dec 5

Readings: CPS 2011 introduction; Sigelman and Buell, Baumgartner and others 2 papers on France, Green-Pedersen and Mortensen

Questions:

1. Sigelman and Buell look at party focus in elections over a long period and show more variation over time than by party. In the CPS introduction we make much of that. Have the implications of this been tested much? How do research designs build in ignorance of this question?
2. The agendas project does not code for direction. Is that a fatal flaw for testing party effects?
3. Two papers on France focus on spending patterns and on lawmaking activities. Which approach is better suited for testing election effects?
4. Green-Pedersen and Mortensen focus on a new element: that the opposition in parliament can have a big impact on the agenda of the government. What other testable implications might flow from this?