

Poli 891
Spring 2010
Prof. Baumgartner

Questions for Week 10 March 29

Readings: Riker.

1. What does Riker mean by heresthetics? Why does he invent a new term? Is a heresthetician different from Kingdon's "policy entrepreneur?"
2. What do you think of the evidence Riker brings to bear in his cases? Discuss why he uses the case approach in this book.
3. Some of Riker's cases have to do with formal "agenda-control." Explain what this means, review the cases in class, and discuss the implications of this.
4. Some of the cases have to do with "rhetoric" or argumentation. Explain these cases and discuss.
5. Is Riker just an extension of Schattschneider? How could one say that, and in what ways does Riker go beyond Schattschneider?
6. Riker is the father of rational choice in political science. Yet in his work on heresthetics many of the implications are challenging to a rational choice perspective as it is typically used. Discuss.
7. Now that Riker has published this book based on some case studies, and illustrated these ideas, a logical next step in the literature would be some larger-scale tests. What would be some possible such research approaches?