

PLSC 541, Fall 2008
Baumgartner

Questions for week 3

Readings: Hall, Shepsle and Weingast, Krehbiel, King, and Poole and Rosenthal

Questions:

1. Explain the empirical scope of Hall's research. That is, what evidence did he collect? Is it enough for you to have confidence in the results?
2. In the years since Hall's research was done, much more information has become more easily accessible especially over the web. If one were to attempt to replicate or expand on this study today, what could one do? Make a proposal.
3. Hall differs from virtually all congressional scholars in focusing on levels of participation, or mobilization, rather than on roll-call votes. Is he right? Why haven't more others followed up on his approach?
4. Compare the insights and evidence of Shepsle and Weingast to Krehbiel. Critique and evaluate.
5. Compare King to the previous two articles. Is King correct, empirically? What are the implications of his approach and findings?
6. Poole and Rosenthal present some astounding findings. Is it possible that these are a methodological artifact, or do they have the facts straight?