

PLSC 541, Fall 2008  
Baumgartner

Questions for weeks 10 through 13

Readings: Miller, Campbell, Mettler, and Soss

Questions:

For each of the next four weeks, the readings consist of just a single book, and three of them at least have a lot in common as they address issues of the feedback effects of public policies on citizen participation and attitudes toward government.

For each week, consider a paper along the following lines:

- a) Identify the main conceptual finding or argument that characterizes the research.
- b) Discuss and evaluate, briefly, the research approach chosen by the author. For example, each book is based on either a cross-sectional approach, an historical approach, or some other set of research activities that generate the empirical evidence. Describe the nature of the evidence and the linkage between the conceptual ideas and the operational evidence. Do this in maybe two paragraphs.
- c) Briefly propose another way to get at the same conceptual ideas but with a different research approach. Explain it briefly. Explain what this other approach would add to the literature, now that the other book has already been written.
- d) Do all this in no more than two pages! Brevity is a virtue, so get right to the point.