

PLSC 541, Fall 2008  
Baumgartner

Questions for week 14

Readings: Rosenberg, *The Hollow Hope*

1. What is the research question that motivates this book? Could a similar book have been written about the Presidency or Congress? Can you name a similar one?
2. Compare Rosenberg, who focuses on a policy question rather than a single institution, with the more common single-institution approach. How much of Rosenberg's research is focused on the Court versus other social actors? To what extent do his conclusions rely on these comparisons? Could he have supported those conclusions with a fully court-centered research project?
3. Review Rosenberg's theory. How widely applicable is it?
4. Review Rosenberg's research. What did he do, exactly? What was the research design? Does it flow from the theory? Is it exhaustive, suggestive, or what? Are the measures appropriate? Is everything important to the theory included? Does he convince?
5. Is Rosenberg's study interesting only because of the theories, accepted approaches, and possible misconceptions in the literature established *before* the publication of his book, or could you read this as a stand-alone book about the social impact of the judiciary even if you did not know much of anything about the courts?