

POLI 891, Framing
Prof. Baumgartner
Fall 2012

Questions for week 7, Maracus Neuman and MacKuen, *Affective Intelligence and Political Judgment*

Answer ONE of the following questions. Come to class prepared to discuss ALL of them. Essays should be limited to one page single spaced and should have perhaps one-third of the essay describing the issue and the rest analyzing it. It is preferable to go into detail on a small part of the issue, giving examples or illustrations, than to remain at a general level. The devil is always in the details.

Note: This week we will have Michael MacKuen in class at 6pm to discuss the implications of this book. So, for the first hour we will go through the book in terms of substance and research support, then when he arrives we can talk about bigger picture issues. Come prepared to ask questions and also to talk about how things might be updated; after all this book was published in 2000 so therefore the research dates to about 1998; almost 15 years ago.

1. The book is 7 chapters, 140 pages when we get to the appendix. Is that a possible dissertation model?
2. Is it funny to start a book about emotion with a chapter about “rational choice”? Provocative? What is their point in doing so?
3. Why is emotion often juxtaposed against “cool” rationality in western tradition?
4. John Kingdon (in another context) wrote that solutions sometimes come before problems. Here, the authors are arguing that emotion (affect) sometimes comes before reason. Which is more surprising? Why have others assumed the ordering was reason first and then affect after you have the facts straight?
5. Chapters 3 and 4 give a primer on research in neuro-biology. Is the book still valid today if some of this research may now be dated? What is the role / purpose of these two chapters?
6. Figure 6.3 displays the results of distinguishing between “complacent” and “anxious” voters in how they evaluate political candidates. Discuss the analysis leading up to this and the importance of the distinction.
7. (For all students, come to class prepared to discuss, but do not write your paper on this): Where do we go from here? What are the implications of integrating concern with emotion or the “monitoring system” with understanding framing?