This short course will introduce various aspects of the US and comparative policy agendas projects and is designed for graduate students and faculty members already involved in agendas-type research or for those interested in learning about the resources available and the techniques and skills most useful in analyzing the datasets. Presentations will range from general overviews of the projects to more advanced topics associated with particular analytic skills and techniques.

Registration is free but an advanced confirmation is required so we know how many will be in attendance. Those interested in participating should email Michelle Wolfe, the US project manager, at wolfemi@mail.utexas.edu before August 15, 2011.

1 to 1:30pm Introduction to the Short Course and Overview of the Agendas Projects, Frank R. Baumgartner (UNC-Chapel Hill)

1:30 to 2:00pm Current developments in the US Agendas Project, Bryan D. Jones and Michelle Wolfe (UT-Austin) (30 min)

2:00 to 2:30pm Developing policy specific measures of the public mood, Jim Stimson and Elizabeth Coggins (UNC-Chapel Hill)

2:30 to 3:00pm Building and Using the Pennsylvania Database: A Model for the States, Joseph McLaughlin (Temple Univ.)

3:00 to 3:10pm break

3:10 to 4:00pm Current Status of Agendas Projects in other Countries, Sylvain Brouard (SciencesPo Bordeaux), Martial Foucault (Univ. of Montreal), Lucie Spanihelova (Leiden Univ.), Jeroen Joly (Univ. of Antwerp), Isabelle Engeli (Univ. of Geneva)

4:00 to 4:30pm A Primer on Stochastic Process Analysis, Christian Breunig (Univ. of Toronto)

4:30 to 5:00pm Computer-assisted Topic Classification, John Wilkerson (UW-Seattle)

5:00 to 5:30pm Questions and discussion