Assignments: Students are expected to write a one-page single spaced reaction paper to the readings each week to be distributed to all other students and the instructor by noon on Thursdays, or by 4 hours before our class meeting if we are meeting at some other time. Each student will also write a substantial term paper designed based on student interests and stage in the graduate program, in consultation with the instructor. Grades will be based on the quality of the written work, regular distribution of weekly reaction papers (on time, no late papers accepted) your participation in the discussions, and on your term paper. Given travel schedules and summer duties, weekly meetings may be adjusted as necessary. Normally, however, we will meet on Thursdays at 3PM for two hours. Note that because of difficulties in scheduling meetings, dates and times are sometimes irregular in the schedule listed below. Also note that we double-up on several occasions, covering two weeks in one 3-hour meeting. This will allow us to finish all the meetings by August 8, 2003. You can use the last couple weeks of the summer to finish your term papers.

Weekly topics and reading assignments

WEEK 1 (June 19)
Classes of agenda-setting:

WEEK 2 (June 26)
More recent work on issue-definition and its consequences:


**WEEK 3 (July 1, 10AM)**

**John Kingdon’s theory:**


**WEEK 4 (July 10)**

**The punctuated equilibrium model and its application to agenda-setting:**


**More on the punctuated equilibrium model:**


**WEEK 5 (July 16, 11 AM)**

**Strategic manipulation and instability:**


WEEK 6 (July 24)

Rational and cognitive approaches to human decision-making:

Issues of Framing:

WEEK 7 (July 31)

Dealing with multidimensional issues:

More on multidimensional issues:

WEEK 8 (August 7)

The social nature of political change; threshold models:
Media studies: