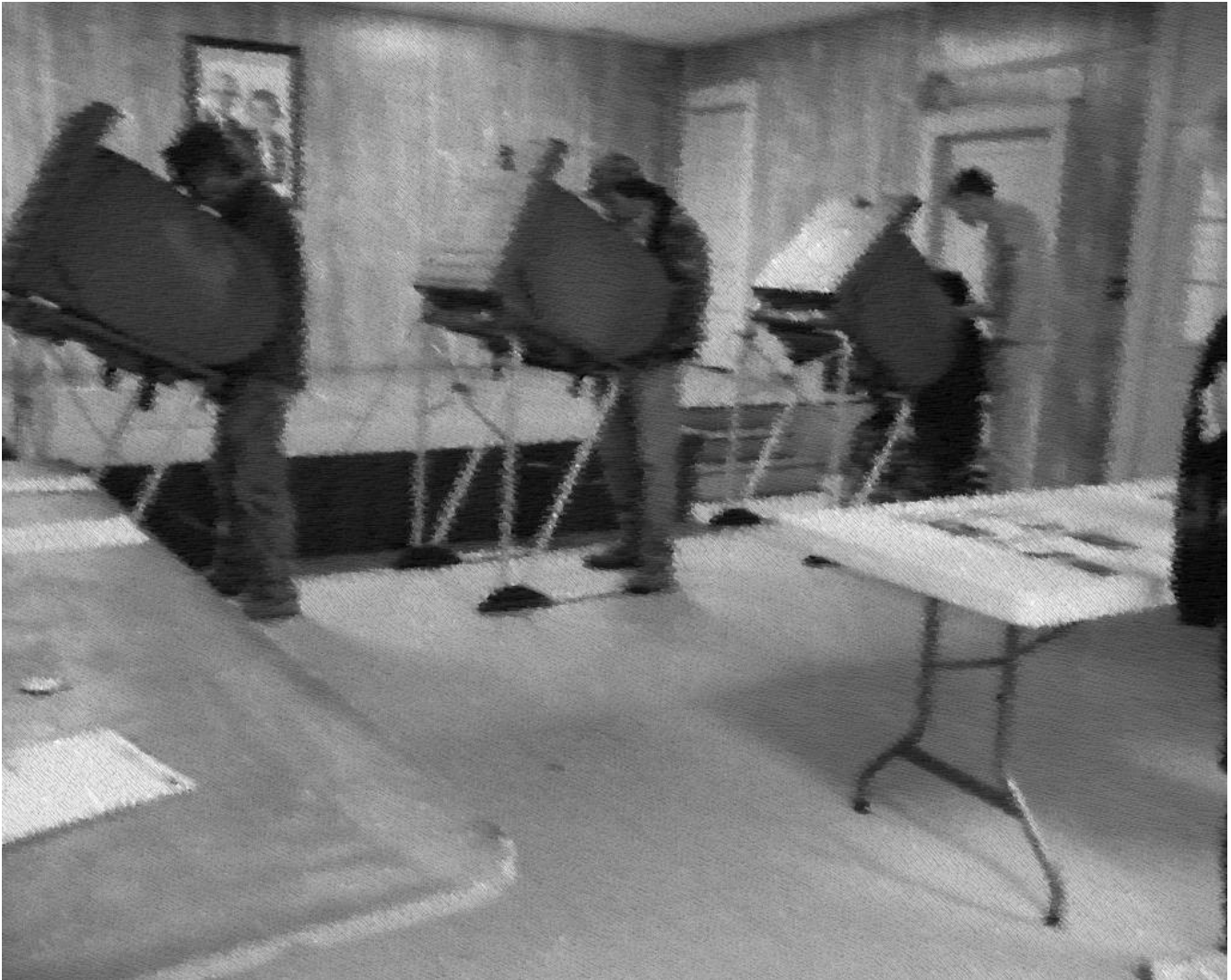


NEW AMERICAN POLITICS COURSE FOR SPRING 2008

POLA 618-01: Public Opinion & Voting Behavior

MWF 2:00-2:50 p.m. – Dr. Christopher N. Lawrence



Voters in Tennessee, November 7, 2006; image adapted from <http://flickr.com/photos/an0nym0usmuse/291891948/>

This course looks at the role of the *individual citizen* in democratic government in advanced industrial societies, focusing in particular on the United States and to a lesser extent on Western Europe as well. Among the questions we will attempt to answer: Where do citizens' opinions come from? What role do opinions and other factors play in citizens' decisions whether or not to vote, and who they vote for? How do civic engagement, ideology, reason, and emotion affect voters? And, finally, how do political scientists and other social scientists try to answer these questions?

While there are no formal prerequisites, having previously taken POLA 210 (American Government) or the equivalent, such as AP United States Government and Politics, is recommended.