

# Political Science 367.01

## Lecture 3 Outline:

### Expanding Olson's Solution

1. Administrative Issues: The paper due date is January 29<sup>th</sup> (Monday).
  - a. Papers are due at the beginning of class Monday.
  - b. Questions? Please ask us!
  - c. The online readings...problems and solutions.
2. The Lecture: Was Mancur Olson correct?

#### I. A brief review of Olson

- A. Groups are difficult to form. Why?
- B. What does it take to get a group to form?
- C. This all seems pretty economic...is it naïve?

#### II. Rationality, revisited...

- A. Doing what it takes...the idea of instrumental rationality.
- B. Is an economic perspective on rationality an accurate one?
- C. What other types of benefits exist?

#### III. Solidary and Purposive benefits—the psychological components

- A. Learning to explain economically irrational behavior  
→ Duty...no, not that kind!
- B. Solidary benefits: A desire to be among individuals who have similar interests or beliefs.
- C. Purposive benefits: Derived from the ideological cause of the group, or taking value from its mission.
- D. The importance of psychology coupled with economy in group formation and perpetuation.

#### IV. The Life Cycle of An Interest Group Member (and those who quit)

- A. What brings them in the door? Is it enough to keep them there?
- B. Experiential searches—should they stay, or should they go?
- C. If they stay, what keeps them there? Will they leave anyway?

#### V. Summary and brief review