

POLI 100E: Interest Groups

Agenda Topic 4: Theories of Interest Group Politics: Mancur Olson's *The Logic of Collective Action*

A. The Basics of Collective Action

- 1. The 2-Person Prisoner's Dilemma**
- 2. David Hume's Marsh Draining Example**

B. The Problem of Collective Action

- 1. The Free Riding Problem**
- 2. The Coordination/Contribution Problem**
 - a. "Battle of the Sexes Game"**
 - b. Repeated Play**

C. Mancur Olson's *The Logic of Collective Action*

- 1. Olson's Challenge to Pluralism – Free Riding, Coordination, and Conflicts of Interest**
- 2. Large Groups**
- 3. Small Groups**
- 4. The By-Product Theory**

D. What is Missing in Olson's Theory