

**Fall 2023**  
**GVPT 474 Political Parties**  
University of Maryland  
Tydings 2109  
Tuesdays & Thursdays  
11:00 am -12:15 pm  
Prof. David Karol  
dkarol@umd.edu

**Office Hours: Tuesday 1:30-2:30 PM in Tydings 3140P  
or by appointment.**

Parties are a central feature of the American political system, but remain poorly understood. In this class we will explore their role in contemporary politics, with attention given to both political institutions and the electorate. We will learn about parties' evolution over the course of U.S. history. We will explore topics such as shifts in party coalitions, parties' evolving structures, parties' role in policymaking, regulation of parties and trends in attitudes about parties.

**Books:**

Marjorie Randon Hershey. **Party Politics in America**, 18th Edition, Pearson-Longman.2021

David Karol. **Red, Green, and Blue: The Partisan Divide on Environmental Issues**, Cambridge University Press. 2019

Other readings will be available online.

**Course Requirements:** This is a demanding course. The most important requirement (and the best preparation for success) is coming to class having done the readings and ready to participate. Students will be evaluated via midterm and final exams, quizzes, a Senate race case study and class participation.

There will be ten quiz days. Quizzes –which will be brief- will *not* be announced, but will be focused on the readings assigned for that day's class. There are no make-ups and students must be physically present at the time the quiz is given in class to receive a non-zero grade. Students who miss a quiz without a medical excuse receive a zero for that quiz. However, students may drop their lowest two quiz grades, including missed quizzes. The quiz average for students who miss a quiz due to an excused absence will be calculated based on a revised denominator, e.g. their seven highest grades out of nine, instead of their eight highest out of ten.

**Points Allocation:**

Course participation 10% (based *not* only on attendance, but on involvement in class discussions in a way that shows you have done the readings.)

Midterm Exam 25 %

Congressional Election Case Study 20%

Final Exam 35%

Quizzes 10%

**Grading Scale:** A+ (100-97), A (96-93), A-(92-90), B+(89-87),B(86-83), B-(82-80),C+(79-77), C(76-73),C-(72-70), D+(68-67),D(66-63),D-(62-60) F(59 or lower). Averages are NOT rounded.

**Academic Honesty:** Plagiarism and other forms of academic dishonesty are unacceptable and will be dealt with severely. These issues are discussed here:

<http://www.ugst.umd.edu/courserelatedpolicies.html>

## **Schedule of Course Meetings**

### **Introduction to Parties**

**Tuesday, August 29,2023 *Introduction* CLASS IS ON ZOOM**

**Thursday, September 1,2023 NO CLASS**

**Tuesday September 5,2023** What are Political Parties?"

Hershey, Ch.1

Kathleen Bawn et al, 2012. "Theory of Parties" *Perspectives on Politics*

**Thursday September 7,2023 *Parties as the Founders Viewed Them***

Richard Hofstadter, The Idea of a Party System. Ch.1

James Madison 1787, *Federalist 10* and *Federalist 51*

George Washington. 1796. Farewell Address

**Tuesday September 12, 2023 *Parties Legitimated***

Richard Hofstadter, The Idea of a Party System. Ch. 6

**Thursday, September 14th,2023 *Party Identification and Voting***

Hershey. Ch.6, "Party Identification"

Alan I. Abramowitz and Steven L. Webster. 2018. "Negative Partisanship: Why Americans Dislike Parties, but Behave Like Rabid Partisans." *Advances in Political Psychology*. Vol. 39. Suppl. 1

Matthew Tyler and Shanto Iyengar. 2022. "Learning to Dislike Your Opponents: Political Socialization in the Era of Polarization." *American Political Science Review*.

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**Tuesday, September 19<sup>th</sup> 2023 *Change in Party Coalitions***

Hershey. Ch. 7 "Party Coalitions and Party Change"

Karol. "Party Position Change" Ch. 3-4

**Thursday, September 21st, 2023 *Polarization***

Samuel Abrams and Morris Fiorina. 2015. "Party Sorting: The Foundations of Polarized Politics"

Liliana Mason. 2018. "Losing Common Ground: Social Sorting and Polarization." *The Forum*. Vol. 16 No. 1: 47-66.

Hans Noel. 2014. "Polarization is about more than just sorting, but sorting is polarization anyway" *Mischiefs of Faction* June 25, 2014.

**Parties as Organizations**

**Tuesday, September 26th, 2023 *Formal Party Structure***

Hershey Ch. 4 The Parties' National Organizations

"The DNC has a Primary Problem" *New York Times Magazine* July 5, 2023

"Trump Allies Re-elected to Lead RNC as Party Faces Reckoning" *Politico* January 8, 2021

**Thursday, September 28<sup>th</sup> 2023 Formal Party Structure, ctd: State and Local Levels**

Hershey, Ch. 3 "The State and Local Party Organizations"

Watch Daley Movie on Youtube (link in Canvas/ELMS)

**Tuesday, October 3rd, 2023 *Interest Groups in Party Politics***

Theda Skocpol and Alexander Hertel Fernandez. 2016 "The Koch Brothers and Republican Party Extremism." *Perspectives on Politics*

David Karol. 2015. "Party Activists, Interest Groups and Polarization in American Politics" in American Gridlock.

**Thursday, October 5th, 2023 *Interest Groups in Party Politics: The Case of Environmentalism***

David Karol. 2019 Red, Green, and Blue: The Partisan Divide on Environmental Issues

**Tuesday, October 10<sup>th</sup>, 2023 *Interest Groups in Party Politics: The Case of Environmentalism Ctd & LGBT Rights.***

Red, Green, and Blue: The Partisan Divide on Environmental Issues, ctd.

David Karol. 2023. "How Does Party Position Change Happen? The Case of LGBT Rights in the U.S." *Political Research Quarterly*

**Thursday, October 12<sup>th</sup>, 2023 *Party Activism***

Ryan Enos and Eitan Hersh. 2015. "Party Activists as Campaign Advertisers: The Ground Campaign as a Principal-Agent Problem" *American Political Science Review*

Douglas Roscoe and Shannon Jenkins. 2021. "Amateur Hour: The Dominance of Purposive Benefits among Local Party Chairs" *Social Science Quarterly*

**Tuesday October 17<sup>th</sup>, 2023 *Parties and the Media***

Markus Prior. 2013. "Media and Political Polarization". *Annual Review of Political Science.*

Matthew Yglesias. 2022. "What if Fox Viewers Watched CNN Instead?" *Washington Post* April 5, 2022

**Parties and Candidate Selection**

**Thursday, October 19<sup>th</sup> 2023 *Parties and Candidate Selection: Sub-Presidential Races***

Hershey. Ch. 9 "How Parties Choose Candidates"

Joseph Lyford. 1959. "Candidate"

Matt Miller. 2014. "Mr. Miller Doesn't Go to Washington: A Candidate's Memoir" *Politico*. November/December

**Tuesday, October 24<sup>th</sup>, 2023 *Parties in Presidential Nominations: The Evolving System***

James Ceaser. 1979. Presidential Selection excerpts.

James Bryce. 1888. "Why Great Men are not Chosen President"

William Carleton 1957. "The Revolution in the Presidential Nominating Convention"

**Thursday, October 26<sup>th</sup>, 2023 *Parties in Presidential Nominations Continued***

Hershey Ch.10. "Choosing the Presidential Nominees"

Marty Cohen et al 2008. "The Invisible Primary in Presidential Nominations, 1980-2004" in The Making of the Presidential Candidates 2008.

Marty Cohen et al 2016. "Party versus Faction in the Reformed Presidential Nominating System." *PS Political Science & Politics*. Vol. 49 No.4: 701-708.

**Tuesday, October 31st 2023 IN CLASS MIDTERM**

## **Parties in Government**

**Thursday, November 2nd 2023 *Parties in Congress***

Hershey. Ch. 13. "Parties in Congress and State Legislatures"

**Tuesday, November 7th 2023 *Parties in Congress: Exploring Policymaking***

James Curry and Frances Lee. 2019 "Non-Party Government" *Perspectives on Politics*

**Thursday, November 9th ,2023 *Parties and the Presidency***

Richard Skinner. 2012. "Barack Obama and the Partisan Presidency: Four More Years?" *Society*. Vol. 49 No. 5 pp.423-429.

Daniel Galvin. 2020. "Party Domination and Base Mobilization: Donald Trump and Republican Party Building in a Polarized Era." *The Forum*. Vol. 18. No .2.: 135-148.

Frances Lee. 2008. "Dividers, Not Uniters: Presidential Leadership and Senate Partisanship, 1981-2004." *Journal of Politics*. Vol. 70 No. 4 914-928.

**Tuesday, November 14th, 2023 *Parties and the Courts***

Hershey. pp.340-346.

Richard L. Hasen. 2019. "Polarization and the Judiciary." *Annual Review of Political Science*. Vol. 22.: 261-276.

## **Party Reform**

**Thursday, November 16th 2023 *Party Reform: The Progressive Era***

Michael McGerr. 1988. The Decline of Popular Politics Ch. 1-3.

**CONGRESSIONAL ELECTION CASE STUDIES DUE TODAY!**

**Tuesday, November 21st 2023 *Regulation of Parties*** Tabatha Abu El Haj. 2023. “The Associational Rights of Political Parties” Forthcoming in THE OXFORD HANDBOOK OF AMERICAN ELECTION LAW (Eugene Mazo, ed.)

Court Cases:

*Elrod v. Burns* (1976)

*New York State Bd. Of Elections v. Lopez Torres* (2008)

**Thursday, November 23rd,2023 THANKSGIVING- NO CLASS**

### **The “Two Party System” in Perspective**

**Tuesday, November 28<sup>th</sup> 2023 *The “Two Party System” and American Electoral Institutions***

Hershey. Ch. 2 “The American Two-Party System”

Howard Scarrow. 1986. “Duverger’s Law, Fusion, and the Decline of American “Third” Parties.” *The Western Political Quarterly*. Vol. 39 No.4: 634-647.

*Timmons v. Twin Cities Area New Party* (1997)

**Thursday November 30<sup>th</sup>, 2023 *Nonpartisan Politics***

Peter Bucchianeri. 2020. “Party Competition and Coalitional Stability: Evidence from American Local Government. *American Political Science Review*. Vol. 114, No.4, pp. 1055-1070.

Brian Schaffner, Matthew Streb and Gerald Wright. 2001. “Teams without Uniforms” *Political Research Quarterly* Vol. 54 No. 1

Hershey (review). pp.37-38

**Tuesday, December 5th,2023 *Differences between the Major Parties***

Matt Grossmann and David A. Hopkins. 2015. “Ideological Republicans and Group Interest Democrats: The Asymmetry of American Politics.” *Perspectives on Politics*. Vol. 13. No. 1: 119-139.

David Karol. “Parties and Leadership in American Politics.” Pp.150-160 only

Davide Morisi, John T. Jost and Vishal Singh. 2018. “An Asymmetrical ‘President in Power’ Effect” *American Political Science Review*. 1-7.

**Thursday December 7<sup>th</sup> 2023 *Responsible Parties?***

"Toward a More Responsible Two-Party System: A Report of the Committee on Political Parties" (1950) *American Political Science Review*

Excerpts from the 2023 APSA Report "Beyond Red and Blue"

Hershey. Ch. 15. "The Semi-Responsible Parties."

**Final Exam: Wed, Dec. 13, 8am - 10am**