Government and Politics 474

Political Parties

Parties are a central feature of the American political system, but they remain poorly understood. In this class we will survey their role in contemporary politics in 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.


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, unannounced quizzes, a Senate race case study and class participation.

There will be six quiz days. Quizzes –which will be very brief- will not be announced, but will be focused on the readings assigned for that day. Students who miss a quiz without a medical excuse receive a zero for that quiz. Students may drop their lowest quiz grade, including zeroes from missed quizzes.

**Points Allocation:**

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

Midterm Exam 25%
Congressional Election Case Study 20%

Final Exam 35% (The final is cumulative, but the emphasis will be on material covered in the second half of the class.)

Quizzes 10%

**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](http://www.ugst.umd.edu/courserelatedpolicies.html)

**Laptops and Cell Phones:** The use of laptops in this class is strongly discouraged. If it is vital that you use a laptop please write me a note explaining your needs. The use of cell phones and other electronic devices is not permitted.

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**Schedule of Meetings**

**Introduction to Parties**

**Thursday January 26**th *Introduction*

**Tuesday January 31**st *What are Parties?*

Hershey, Ch.1 “What are Political Parties?”

Kathleen Bawn et al, “Theory of Parties” *Perspectives on Politics* (ONLINE)

**Thursday February 2**nd *Parties as the Founders Viewed Them:*


James Madison, Federalist 10 and Federalist 51 (ONLINE)

**Tuesday February 7**th *Parties Legitimated:*

Richard Hofstadter, *The Idea of a Party System*, Ch. 6 (ONLINE)

**Thursday February 9**th -NO CLASS

**Parties in the Electorate**

**Tuesday February 14**th *Party Identification and Voting:*
Hershey Ch.6, “Party Identification”

Brian Schaffner and Samantha Luks “This is what Trump Voters Said When Asked to Compare His Inauguration Crowd Size with Obama’s” The Monkey Cage Washingtonpost.com January 25, 2017.

Thursday February 16th Change in Party Coalitions:

Hershey Ch. 7 “Party Coalitions and Party Change”

Karol, “Party Position Change” Ch. 3-4

Tuesday February 21st Split-Ticket Voting and Divided Government: Causes.

Gary Jacobson, “The Persistence of Democratic House Majorities” (ONLINE)

Morris Fiorina,”Explanations II: Do Voters Choose Divided Government?” (ONLINE)


Thursday February 23rd The Polarization Debate:


Hans Noel. 2014. “Polarization is about more than just sorting, but sorting is polarization anyway” Mischiefs of Faction June 25,2014 (ONLINE)

Parties as Organizations

Tuesday February 28th State and Local Parties:

Hershey, Ch. 3 “The State and Local Party Organizations”

Thursday March 2nd National Parties:

Hershey, Ch. 4 “The Parties’ National Organizations”

**Tuesday March 7th Interest Groups in Party Politics:**

Barbara Sinclair. 2006 “From Fluid Coalitions to Armed Camps” in Party Wars (ONLINE)


**Thursday March 9th Parties and the Media**


**Tuesday March 14th Parties and Candidate Selection - Sub- Presidential Races:**

Hershey, Ch. 9 “How Parties Choose Candidates”


**Thursday March 16th Parties and Candidate Selection: Then and Now**

Lyford, Joseph 1959. “Candidate” (ONLINE)


**Tuesday March 21st NO CLASS - SPRING BREAK**

**Thursday March 23rd NO CLASS – SPRING BREAK.**

**Tuesday March 28th Parties in Presidential Nominations: The Evolving System:**


**Thursday March 30th Parties in Presidential Nominations Continued:**

Hershey Ch.10. “Choosing the Presidential Nominees”


Tuesday April 4th IN CLASS MIDTERM

Thursday April 6th Parties in Congress

Hershey Ch. 13. “Parties in Congress and State Legislatures”,
Sinclair, “Congressional Parties in the Policy Process” (ONLINE)


Tuesday April 11th Parties in Congress: Exploring Polarization


Thursday April 13th Parties and the Presidency


Tuesday April 18th Party Government, Divided Government and Public Policy

Barbara Sinclair “The President and the Congressional Party” in Rivals for Power (ONLINE)


CONGRESSIONAL ELECTION CASE STUDIES DUE IN CLASS TODAY!
**Thursday April 20th** *Party Reform: The Progressive Era:*

**Tuesday April 25th** *Machine Politics:*
“Daley: The Last Boss” (1996 Film)
Manning, “The Slatemaking Saga of Democrats- without Daley.” (ONLINE)

**Thursday April 27th** *Party Reform: The Modern Era:*
NY Times articles on Party-Selected Judges in New York. (ONLINE)
Ryan Enos and Eitan Hersh, 2015 “Party Activists as Campaign Advertisers: The Ground Campaign as a Principal-Agent Problem” *American Political Science Review* (ONLINE)

**Tuesday May 2nd** *Regulation of Parties:*
Jack Peltason, *Constitutional Law for Political Parties*” (ONLINE),

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

**Thursday May 4th** *The “Two Party System” and American Electoral Institutions:*
Hershey Ch. 2 “The American Two-Party System”,

**Tuesday May 9th** *Nonpartisan Politics*
Brian Schaffner, Matthew Streb and Gerald Wright, 2007. “A New Look at the
Republican Advantage in Nonpartisan Elections.” *Political Research Quarterly*. Vol. 60 240-249. (ONLINE)

Hershey (review) pp.37-38

**Thursday May 11th Responsible Parties?**
"Toward a More Responsible Two-Party System: A Report of the Committee on Political Parties" (1950) *American Political Science Review* (ONLINE)

Hershey, Ch. 15 “The Semi-Responsible Parties.

Final Exam: **May 17th, 2017 1:30-3:30 PM**