

Spring 2017  
Tydings 1108  
TR 2:00-3:15 PM  
Office Hrs: TR 3:15-4:00 PM or by appt.

Prof. David Karol  
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Tydings 3140P

## 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.

**Books:** Marjorie Randon Hershey. *Party Politics in America*, 16th Edition, Pearson-Longman. 2014

David Karol. *Party Position Change in American Politics: Coalition Management*, Cambridge University Press 2009.

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 will be dealt with severely. These issues are discussed here:

<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.

## **Schedule of Meetings**

### **Introduction to Parties**

**Thursday January 26<sup>th</sup>** *Introduction*

**Tuesday January 31<sup>st</sup>** *What are Parties?*

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

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

**Thursday February 2<sup>nd</sup>** *Parties as the Founders Viewed Them:*

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

James Madison, Federalist 10 and Federalist 51 (ONLINE)

**Tuesday February 7<sup>th</sup>** *Parties Legitimated:*

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

**Thursday February 9<sup>th</sup>** -NO CLASS

### **Parties in the Electorate**

**Tuesday February 14<sup>th</sup>** *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 16<sup>th</sup> *Change in Party Coalitions:***

Hershey Ch. 7 “Party Coalitions and Party Change”

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

**Tuesday February 21<sup>st</sup> *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)

Nicholas Goeder, 2012. “Not Gerrymandering But Districting: More Evidence on How Democrats Won the Popular Vote But Lost Congress” *Monkey Cage* Washingtonpost.com November 15 2012 (ONLINE)

**Thursday February 23<sup>rd</sup> *The Polarization Debate:***

Samuel Abrams and Morris Fiorina “Party Sorting: The Foundations of Polarized Politics” and Alan Abramowitz “The New American Electorate: Partisan, Sorted and Polarized” both in American Gridlock (ONLINE)

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 28<sup>th</sup> *State and Local Parties:***

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

**Thursday March 2<sup>nd</sup> *National Parties:***

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

Paul Herrnson. 2012 “National Party Organizations in the Twenty- First Century” in The Parties Respond. (ONLINE)

**Tuesday March 7<sup>th</sup>** *Interest Groups in Party Politics:*

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

David Karol. 2009. Party Position Change Ch. 2.

David Karol. 2015. “Party Activists, Interest Groups and Polarization in American Politics” in American Gridlock. (ONLINE)

**Thursday March 9<sup>th</sup>** *Parties and the Media*

Prior, Markus. 2013. Media and Political Polarization. *Annual Review of Political Science*. Vol 16. pp. 101-117.

**Tuesday March 14<sup>th</sup>** *Parties and Candidate Selection- Sub- Presidential Races:*

Hershey, Ch. 9 “How Parties Choose Candidates”

Hassell, Hans. 2015. “Party Control of Party Primaries: Party Influence in Nominations for the US Senate.” *Journal of Politics*. Vol. 78 No. 1 (ONLINE)

**Thursday March 16<sup>th</sup>** *Parties and Candidate Selection: Then and Now*

Lyford, Joseph 1959. “Candidate” (ONLINE)

Miller, Matt. 2014. “Mr. Miller Doesn’t Go to Washington: A Candidate’s Memoir” *Politico*. November/December (ONLINE)

**Tuesday March 21<sup>st</sup>** NO CLASS -SPRING BREAK

**Thursday March 23<sup>rd</sup>** NO CLASS –SPRING BREAK.

**Tuesday March 28<sup>th</sup>** *Parties in Presidential Nominations: The Evolving System:*

Ceaser, James. 1979. Presidential Selection –excerpts. (ONLINE)

**Thursday March 30<sup>th</sup>** *Parties in Presidential Nominations Continued:*

Hershey Ch.10. “Choosing the Presidential Nominees”

Cohen, Karol, Noel and Zaller, 2008. "The Invisible Primary in Presidential Nominations, 1980-2004" in The Making of the Presidential Candidates 2008. (ONLINE)

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

**Tuesday April 4<sup>th</sup> IN CLASS MIDTERM**

**Thursday April 6<sup>th</sup> *Parties in Congress***

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

Sinclair, "Congressional Parties in the Policy Process" (ONLINE)

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

**Tuesday April 11<sup>th</sup> *Parties in Congress: Exploring Polarization***

Sean Theriault. 2006. "Party Polarization in the U.S. Congress: Member Replacement and Member Adaptation." *Party Politics*, Vol. 12 No. 4: 483-503.

Danielle M. Thomsen. 2014. "Ideological Moderates Won't Run: How Party Fit Matters for Partisan Polarization in Congress" *Journal of Politics*. Vol. 76 No. 3.: 786-797.

Nolan McCarty, Keith Poole and Howard Rosenthal. 2009. "Does Gerrymandering Cause Polarization?" *American Journal of Political Science*, Vol. 53 No. 3, pp. 666-680

**Thursday April 13<sup>th</sup> *Parties and the Presidency***

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

**Tuesday April 18<sup>th</sup> *Party Government, Divided Government and Public Policy***

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

David Jones. 2014. "Partisan Control of Government and Public Policy" in CQ Guide to U.S. Political Parties. (ONLINE)

**CONGRESSIONAL ELECTION CASE STUDIES DUE IN CLASS TODAY!**

**Thursday April 20<sup>th</sup> Party Reform: The Progressive Era:**

Michael McGerr, 1988. The Decline of Popular Politics Ch. 1-3. (ONLINE)

**Tuesday April 25<sup>th</sup> Machine Politics:**

“Daley: The Last Boss” (1996 Film)

Manning, “The Slatemaking Saga of Democrats- without Daley.” (ONLINE)

**Thursday April 27<sup>th</sup> Party Reform: The Modern Era:**

Peter Clark and James Q. Wilson, 1961. “Incentive Systems: A Theory of Organizations” *American Political Science Review* Vol. 6 No.2 129-166. (ONLINE)

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 2<sup>nd</sup> Regulation of Parties:**

Jack Peltason, “Constitutional Law for Political Parties” (ONLINE),

Court Cases: *California Democratic Party v. Jones* (2000), *Washington State Grange v. Washington Republican Party* (2008), *New York State Bd. Of Elections v. Lopez Torres* (2008) (ONLINE)

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

**Thursday May 4<sup>th</sup> 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. (ONLINE)

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

**Tuesday May 9<sup>th</sup> Nonpartisan Politics**

Brian Schaffner, Matthew Streb and Gerald Wright, 2001 “Teams without Uniforms” *Political Research Quarterly*. Vol. 54 No. 1 pp. 7-30.

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 11<sup>th</sup>** *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**