

AMERICAN PARTY POLITICS

POL: 790:302:01

Spring 2014

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Class Time:

Monday and Wednesday

1:10 – 2:30 pm

Milledoler Hall 100

Office Hours:

Monday (10:30 – 11:30)

Wednesday (12:10 – 1:10)

*In front of Milledoler Hall

Course Description: Political parties are organizations which seek to get their members elected to government positions in order to determine who gets what, when, and how. The answer to these questions partially stem from the different beliefs and values articulated by the party's broader membership whom political parties must respond to in order to win elections. In this capacity, they serve a valuable role in our democratic process – enabling citizens to pursue and realize common goals more effectively than individuals acting alone. However, political parties also have a powerful influence over the definition and prioritization of societal “problems” and the “means” of solving them. On the one hand, political parties enhance our ability to engage in democracy. Given our individual constraints of time and interest, they serve a political socialization function and provide us with information necessary to make these complicated decisions. On the other hand, citizen desires may be manufactured, manipulated, or even ignored – clearly to the detriment of our democratic society.

The objective of this class will be to tackle these important questions along with many others. Political parties clearly matter and we will seek a better understanding of why, how, and to whom they matter. As such this class will critically evaluate the role of parties in American democracy from a variety of vantage points. We will seek an understanding of how political parties achieve power and what do they do with it once it is theirs. To that end, we will analyze their organization and structure, recruiting and mobilization, policymaking and fundraising, and most importantly – representation.

Understanding these dimensions requires an appreciation of historical context and trajectory. Therefore, this course will begin with an analysis of the origins, development, and evolution of parties throughout our history. In the process we will discuss the two-party system, the extension of suffrage, the electoral capture of various societal groups, and the role of political parties in our democracy. The second part of this course will focus more intently on the relationship between citizens and the party in the current institutional and cultural context. To that end we will discuss ideology and party identification, electoral behavior and realignment, partisanship and citizen apathy. My hope is that by the end of the semester, you will be able to evaluate the merits of political parties in our democratic society.

Required Text: None – They will be provided to you via Sakai

Recommended Text:

- John Aldrich – “Why Parties”
- Paul Frymer – “Uneasy Alliances”
- Seth Masket – “No Middle Ground”
- Brewer and Stonecash – “Dynamics of American Political Parties”
- Brewer and Stonecash – “Split: Class and Cultural Divides in American Politics”

Course Requirements: The class periods will consist of lectures that emphasize both the assigned readings and relevant current events. Each scheduled lecture period will have a reading(s) assigned to it. The expectation is that you will have completed that assignment prior to the lectures. The lectures are designed to bring together the information presented in the textbook and summarize it in a sensible manner. The lectures will not replace the need to read the book, nor will reading the book replace the material presented in lecture. Both will present novel information about American Party Politics that you will be expected to know.

Grading: Your final grade is a product of two components:

- **Exams:** Three (3) non-cumulative exams (25% each – total of 75%). They will consist of short and long answer essay questions drawn from the material covered since the last exam.
- **Critical Analysis Paper:** Students are required to complete a 10-12 page (double-spaced) paper which critically analyzes a topic related to American Party Politics. This paper will be worth 25% of your final grade and will be due towards the end of the term. More detailed instructions will be provided – but, the topic of your paper should relate to one or more of the issues covered in this course.

Make-Up Exams: If for any reason (medical or family emergency) you are unable to take an exam as regularly scheduled, you must obtain a note from your Dean in order to take a make-up exam and contact me immediately to let me know that you are unable to take the exam as scheduled. Absence from an exam because of travel plans will not be excused. No exceptions to this policy will be made.

Class Conduct: The classroom is a special environment in which students and faculty come together to promote learning and growth. It is essential to this learning environment that respect for the right of others seeking to learn, respect for the professionalism of the instructor, and the general goals of academic freedom are maintained. Student conduct, which disrupts the learning process, will not be tolerated and may lead to disciplinary action or removal from class per university policy.

Behaviors that interfere with effective teaching and learning, such as late arrival, leaving for the bathroom, early departures without instructor permission, talking to each other during the lectures, sleeping, playing with cell-phones, etc. will not be tolerated.

Absences: Students are expected to attend all classes; if you expect to miss one or two classes, please use the University absence reporting website <https://sims.rutgers.edu/ssra/> to indicate the date and reason for your absence. An email is automatically sent to me.

**Lecture Powerpoints will be posted on sakai, but you will need a password to access them. This password will be provided at the end of the lecture. This hopefully provides you with an incentive to attend class. DO NOT SHARE PASSWORDS!*

Sakai: Our class Sakai website will have a variety of resources to help you throughout the semester. You will find recommended readings, assigned readings that are not in the text book, and lecture notes (found in the “Resource” section). The Sakai site also contains a discussion forum and chat room. Please use these areas to post materials you may find to be helpful to others as well as any questions you may have about the course. If you have a question, chances are that other people will as well, so please post them in the chat room so everyone can benefit from them. I check the chat room periodically and will answer any questions then. Please also scan through the chat room to see if others have already asked your question.

To access the class Sakai website, (1) sign on to sakai.rutgers.edu, (2) sign in using your RU screen name, and (3) click on the class tab at the top of the page.

Syllabus **(*Subject to Change*)**

Wednesday (1/22) – Introductions, Syllabus, and Basics of American Government

Monday (1/27) – Founders, Factions, and Parties

- Madison - Federalist #10
- Washington’s Farewell Address (Pages 1-19)
- Dahl Chapter 2 and 3

Wednesday (1/29) – Why Parties?

- Aldrich Chapters 1 and 2

Monday (2/3) – Party Formation after the Founding and Jacksonian Democracy

- Aldrich Chapter 3 and 4

Wednesday (2/5) – Whigs and Republicans

- Aldrich Chapter 5

Monday (2/10) - Electoral Capture/Reevaluating Van Buren

- Frymer Chapter 1 and 2

Wednesday (2/12) – Reconstruction Electoral Capture

- Frymer Chapter 3

Monday (2/17) – Republican Domination Pre-New Deal

- Brewer and Stonecash (Dynamics Chapter 4)

Wednesday (2/19) – Review and Catch-up

Monday (2/24) – Exam I

Wednesday (2/26) - Ideology

- Downs – Chapter 7
- Converse (Recommended)

Monday (3/3) - Liberal Ideology

- Shalom – Chapter 4 and 5 (Recommended)
- FDR Speeches – “DNC Acceptance Speech” and “4 Freedoms”
 - o Recommended (“1st Inaugural Address” and “State of the Union”)
- Dewey Liberalism and Social Action – (37-48 and 60-66)
 - o Recommended (13-36, 49-60, and 67-93)

Wednesday (3/5) - New Deal Party Politics

- Brewer and Stonecash – Chapter 5
- Katznelson – Chapter 3

Monday (3/10) Great Society Era

- Brewer and Stonecash – Chapter 6
- Johnson Speeches – “Great Society and American Promise”

Wednesday (3/12) Rise of the New Right

- *Term Paper Topic Due Today!!!*
- Shalom – Chapter 3 (Recommended)
- Sumner – Chapters 1, 2, 9, and 10
- Friedman – Introduction and Chapter 1

Monday (3/17) SPRING BREAK

Wednesday (3/19) SPRING BREAK

Monday (3/24) – Reagan’s Revolution

- Brewer and Stonecash – Chapter 7
- Reagan Speeches – “To Restore America” and “City on a Hill”

Wednesday (3/26) – Politics Post Reagan and Review/Catch-up

- Brewer and Stonecash - Chapter 8

Monday (3/31) - EXAM II

Wednesday (4/2) - Scope of Conflict

- Schattschneider – “Semi-Sovereign People” (Chapters 1 & 4)

Monday (4/7) - Critical Elections vs. Secular Realignment

- V.O. Keys – “Theory of Critical Elections” (1955)
- V.O. Keys – “Secular Realignment” (1959)
- Carmines and Stimson – “Issue Evolution” (1981)
- Nardulli – “Critical Realignment” (1995)

Wednesday (4/19) - Class vs. Culture

- Brewer and Stonecash (from “Split” – Chapters 4 and 7)

Monday (4/14) - Class vs. Culture II

- Brewer and Stonecash (from “Split” – Chapters 8)
- Fiorina – “Culture War” (Chapters 2,7, and 9)

Wednesday (4/16) - Partisan Identification and Party Activists

- Hershey – Chapters 5 and 6
- Maisel and Brewer (Chapter 4)

Monday (4/21) - State Party Organization and Polarization

- Masket Chapter 1
 - o Recommended (Conclusion)

Wednesday (4/23) - Campaign Finance

- Heatherington and Larson (Chapter 4)
- Maisel and Brewer (Chapter 5)

Monday (4/28) – Review and Catch-Up

Wednesday (4/30) - *Term Paper Due!!!*

IMPORTANT DATES AND NOTES

Snow Closings – <http://campusstatus.rutgers.edu>

Add/Drop Period Ends – ???